

Central High Register

Grad's work in *Home Alone 2*

By Kelly Roberts

Sandra Zimnicki, 1968 Central graduate, designs figurine elves. Recently, some of them appeared in the latest sequel, *Home Alone 2*.

In November, 1991, Christopher Columbus, director of *Home Alone* was touring the Enesco showroom of Sandra's display of figurines. He was very interested to find out who made all of the elves and the Christmas village.

About a week later, Sandra received a call from Sandy Veneziano, the art director whose previous works include *Father of the Bride* and *Gremlins*. She asked Sandra if she would be interested in using her elves in designing Duncan's Toy Chest, which was 14 feet high, in a scene in the upcoming movie, *Home Alone 2*.

Immediately, Sandra began working on the set of the toy store and was originally only supposed to design the exterior of the store.

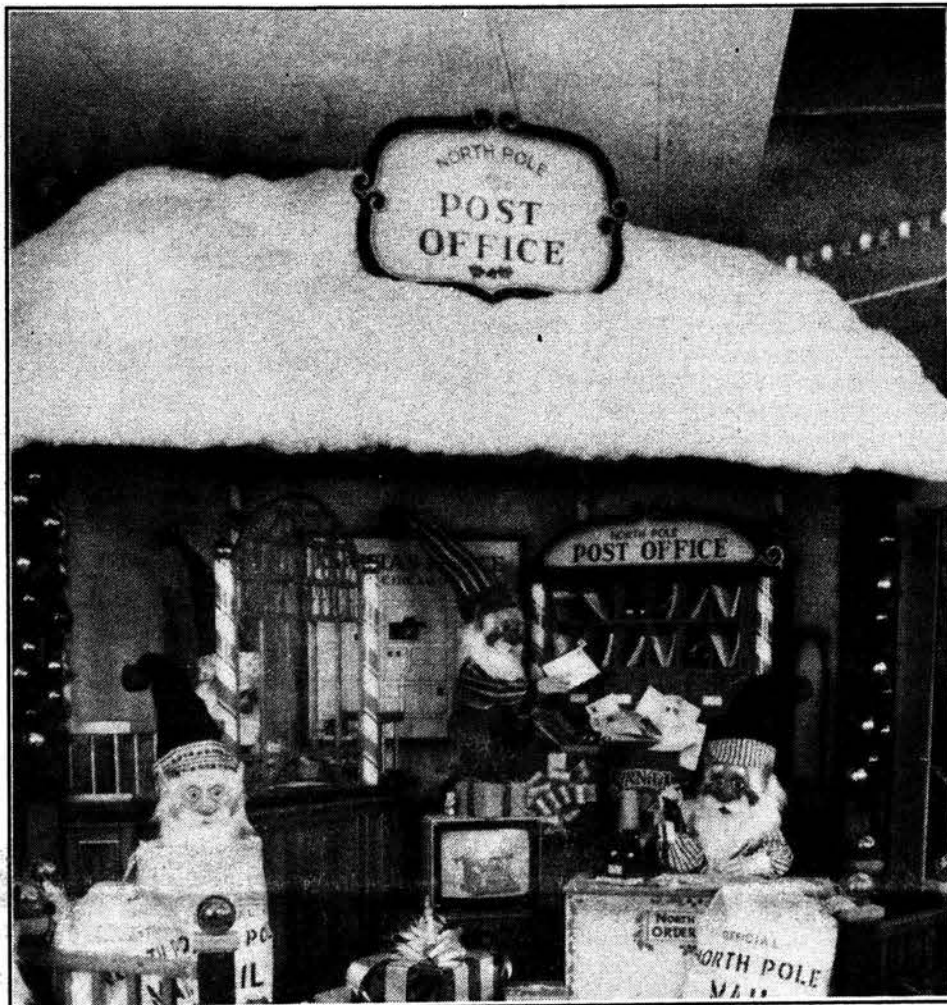
About 40 some of my elf displays went into the toy workshop. Several of my seven foot high ornaments, Christmas trees and a Santa workshop were all a part of my contribution to the movie," said Sandra.

After the exterior of the store was finished, Sandra was talking with the art director from 20th Century Fox and began explaining her ideas for the inside of the toy store. All of Sandra's ideas were used and eventually the set was completed. Sandra designed the characters from November, 1991, through February, 1992, for about three and a half weeks.

"I had a wonderful time working on the set. I met great actors like Macaulay Culkin and John Hughes as well as several other directors. I was invited to the premier showing and attended the cast party afterwards," she said.

"Ever since I can remember, my life in some way has always involved art," said Sandra Zimnicki, owner of Zimnicki Designs.

From the time Sandra was in first grade she has always loved drawing, painting,



North Pole Village: This village was made by Sandra Zimnicki. The elves in this display are animated. Photo courtesy of Sandra Zimnicki.

illustrating and creating all forms of art work.

"It all began when I was in kindergarten at Yates Elementary. My teacher assigned a wintery snow scene for the kids to draw. I guess she was impressed with my ability and told my parents to enroll me in classes at Joslyn Art Museum," said Sandra.

Determined that she had a gift for art, Sandra studied from first grade until 12th every Saturday at Joslyn.

When she came to Central, her freshman

art teacher, Ms. Zenaide Luhr, said, "We've been waiting for you," and from that moment on she was extremely involved in all aspects of art at Central.

"I was president of the Art Club, which at that time included around 20 or 30 kids. We did all of the posters for the plays and hand silk screened tickets for the proms and set design for the drama productions," said Sandra.

Her hobby was to draw portraits of individuals, especially those of famous

people.

"I got to be really good at drawing people's faces, and so Bobby Kennedy, former Attorney General of the United States, asked me to draw pictures for his campaign. Ethel Kennedy called me after his assassination and said the portrait I drew of him was still hanging in their living room," said Sandra.

In addition to Bobby Kennedy, Sandra has drawn pictures for the Beatles, Mick Jagger, and Bob Dylan.

After Central, she was sent to the Art Institute at Chicago on a full four-year scholarship that included \$800 for living expenses.

"The Art Institute really taught me how to be creative and innovative at the same time. After I graduated and got my degree to teach, I decided to start sending my portfolio to some of the bigger agencies down Michigan Avenue in Chicago," said Sandra.

Finally in 1976, Sandra and her husband opened their own company called Zimnicki Designs.

"I started my own company because I knew the free-lance work was more available and I finally had enough experience to begin my own designs and creations," said Sandra.

During this time, Sandra began to develop a very reputable clientele throughout surrounding areas of Chicago. In the early 80s, Sandra bumped onto a company called Creative Presentations, which builds animation sets for places like Disney and Universal Studios. Creative Presentations built several animated characters like E.T., The Hall of Presidents, and many more.

"When I came to work for their company, I learned how to design characters who could be transformed and animated. I have designed the Chucky Cheese theme, several amusement park character rides like lions, tigers, apes and monkeys," said Sandra.

In 1986, Orallyn Parks, a shopping center

Continued on page 5.

Recruitment open house makes changes

By Michelle Chandler

This year, Central is taking a new approach to the recruiting Open House for prospective students. The Open House will be held on January 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing teacher, said that the event will be held on a Saturday afternoon, so that it will not interfere with other activities. Mr. Gaylor said that the change was needed because the program has not been "as successful as we had hoped in the last couple of years." This year he is hoping that the time change will make it more convenient to attend for many parents and students.

The change in time is not the only part of the recruitment Open House that will

be different. Mr. Gaylor said that the program will have an entirely new format, including

tours of the building. The changes are being made "to allow future students of Central and their parents to feel more comfortable and knowledgeable about the features of Central High School," said Mr. Gaylor. The new format will also allow more communication between prospective

families and Central faculty. Dr. G. E. Moller, principal, said that the program

was not giving potential parents and students the opportunity to see what Central has, because the program was "quite unstructured." Approximately one-third of Central's faculty, along with many parents, are involved in the planning of the Open House program. According to Dr. Moller, the committee is

"I enjoy seeing the school get energized ... to show what Central's tradition...really means -Mr. Gaylor"

not only working to improve the recruitment Open House, but also the general recruitment program. Mr. Gaylor said that more teachers are getting involved all the time and that the committee has gotten many commitments from other teachers who are willing to work in specific groups within the committee.

The Open House program will also include more student groups, clubs and activities. According to Mr. Gaylor, these groups will be able to showcase what they do and how successful they are. Guided tours will be included, too. Mr. Gaylor said, "I enjoy seeing the school get energized by faculty and students working together to show what Central's tradition and excellence really mean."

Inside

Religion: Students voice their opinion about prayer in school, transferring from parochial school and interfaith relationships. See pages 6,7.

Deportation: Register's opinion of the deportation of two South High students. See page 2.

Unsigned editorials represent staff opinion

Compassion needed in deportation policy

For many immigrants from around the world, the Statue of Liberty's famed "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free..." has stood as a promise for a new beginning in the United States. However, in today's age of illegal immigration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and frequent deportations, this promise of refuge and freedom has been replaced by a threat of cruel treatment and repatriation.

This inhumanity in modern immigration standards is made glaringly obvious by the November 6 deportation of Augustin Antunez, 15, and Ambrozio Lopez, 17, from South High School.

Antunez and Lopez, both of whose parents are naturalized American citizens, were deported to Mexico without being allowed to visit their families or to receive financial assistance.

Although this action is entirely legal, and in some regards indicative of common procedure, the *Register* believes it was unnecessarily cruel and insensitive.

This method of immigration policy enforcement, the first of its kind according to the youth's attorney, should be avoided in the future. It is disruptive to students' educations. Additionally, it may discourage immigrants and legal aliens from attending school. This must be avoided since education is the key to assimilation and integration into society.

Several other details of this particular incident should have mandated a more compassionate policy and procedure by U.S. immigration officials. First the deportation of a 15 and a 17-year-old without parental or even financial care is highly objectionable. Neither of these youths would be allowed to live legally on their own in the United States, but, because of over-zealous enforcement of American immigration policy, they were forced to live in Mexico without provision for support.

Additionally, the *Register* objects to

the deportation since both Antunez and Lopez were in the process of obtaining permanent resident status in the United States. If the deportation had not occurred, both youths would have been granted this status in less than a year.

Certainly, local INS officials have more pressing immigration battles to fight than to take high school students from their school and deport them according to legal technicalities. Likewise, they have more reasonable and effective means of enforcing immigration policy to avoid disrupting successful families and forcing young adults to fend for themselves in unfamiliar nations.

If the Statue of Liberty's promises are to mean anything, immigration officials will concentrate on those more dangerous offenders and operate with compassion, so the injustice endured by Antunez and Lopez will not be repeated.



College bound students should be granted excused absences for college visitation

Many seniors take days out of the school year to visit colleges around the country. These trips often take one or two of the valuable days that count on the ten day absence policy that many teachers strictly follow. We at the *Register* think that the days missed for college visitation are important enough that they should not count as an absence. We feel that those days should instead be counted as a school related activity.

Those seniors who take time to visit a college should not be punished for those absences. It is a necessity that students be able to see colleges before applying because of the investment they are going to be undertaking when they decide on a college.

Presently, the 10-day absence policy states that a student that is absent more than ten days faces the possibility of losing credit for the class. Many teachers agree with this policy and strictly enforce it. It is not up to the teachers to worry about the problem, but it is the responsibility of the administration to assist the students with this.

If a student makes arrangements in advance, for assignments, tests, and other class related materials to be made up, he should be exempt from the 10-day policy. The absence should not be counted against the 10-day policy, but instead should be counted as if the student had taken a class field trip. If a student is responsible enough to make the necessary

arrangements, this would work without too much protest.

The school and students would do nothing but gain from exemption from the absence policy. It would help the school gain a reputation of assisting students in any way possible to further their college goals. The students would also benefit by seeing the colleges and gaining vital information in college planning from their visits.

A high school should be sensitive and flexible to the needs of college bound students. The school should try to make any resource possible especially when it is a simple courtesy absence that is important to the advancement of student's education.



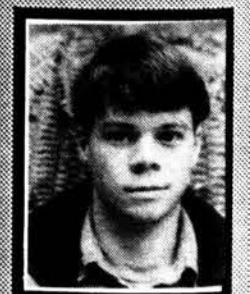
"It doesn't bother me."
Kenny Moten, 9



"Decorating the courtyard for Christmas has no religious meaning to me."
Amy Whitmarsh, 10



"I love the decorations."
Lashell Shields, 11



"Whoever feels that their religion is left-out can decorate the courtyard themselves."
Chuck Conboy, 12

Courtyard decorations stir student controversy

By Matt Truesdell

By Charles Muffly-Cunningham

This country was founded on the principle of religious freedom. This includes freedom to practice one's religion and to be free from undue pressure to accept another's religion. This freedom is violated by public Christmas decorations.

Some argue that removing the decorations is an infringement of Christian's rights and that having them does not hurt anyone. This is not true. Religion of any form can be freely practiced outside of school. Christians should not be affected by the absence of religious symbols from school. A person who loses faith because there is not a tree in the courtyard needs more than just a decoration to strengthen their beliefs.

As for the argument that having decorations does not hurt anyone, nothing could be more wrong. In many cases, when someone has a religion forced upon them, it can cause extreme discomfort. The Judeo-Christian majority likes to believe that public, organized celebration and worship does not incite feelings of pressure. However, many times, public religion appears to be a situation of pressure toward acceptance.

The best reason not to have Christmas decorations in the courtyard is that Central is a public building. The school is supported by taxpayers of all faiths. Religious decorations at Central are a slap in the face to those who disagree with Christian culture yet are forced to pay to support holiday displays.

I am no Scrooge, no Grinch, no humbug. I will have a tree in my living room and will celebrate Christmas with my family this year as I have all my life. Yet I think that people must be sensitive to the beliefs and rights of others.

There is a new "fad" sweeping throughout the U.S. — the wave of political correctness. Today's society is becoming more conscientious of minority religions and nonreligions (atheism). From this new respect there has grown a concern about whether or not certain practices, such as putting up Christmas decorations in public schools should be done.

Many liberals and constitutional fundamentalists believe in absolute separation of church and state, which the decorations would violate. They argue that the decorations might offend other groups. Another point of opposition is that these decorations would present a bias toward a religious group.

In the face of this opposition, proponents offer many reasons to support Christmas decorations in school. First, the U.S. Constitution gives the right of freedom of speech, thus allowing the decorations under the First Amendment. Secondly, the country's heritage and present culture is predominantly Christian and, therefore, we should allow the decorations to honor our heritage. Yet another argument is that since Christianity is recurrent in many non-religious areas then the public display of Christmas decorations would be a token recognition.

Most importantly, Christmas has lost its original meaning, the celebration of the birth of Christ. Today, when people pass decorations, they think about how many presents they are going to get, not about religion.

There is only one resolution to this debate and that is that there should be decorations in the courtyard.

forum

Absolute Uncertainties

by Thad Domina



TV War II: the Somalian crisis

The screen fades to an artificially lighted African night as the Indian Ocean calmly laps into a third-world harbor. Suddenly, the calm is broken as three rubber rafts, filled with Navy SEALs comes into sight — the elite of an American effort to restore order, peace, and security to the weakened, malnourished citizens of a hunger and violence-torn Eastern African nation.

It can only be one of two things — Chuck Norris' dramatic return from retirement, or TV War II — Operation: Restore Hope.

Of course, the latter is true, it's the highly hyped American effort to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Somalia.

As the conflict begins, televisions flood American homes with visions of starving Somalians and glorious American soldiers bravely coming to their rescue. This media coverage neglects the real issues, however, by presenting this unrealistically clear picture of Somalian weakness and American strength.

Certainly, it is true that the motivation for the Somalian rescue effort is historic — and laudable. Never before have American troops entered foreign soil to prevent mass pestilence. No criticism can be made of motives that are so humane.

But the popularity of this action is based upon Hollywood glamor instead of concern and reason, and accordingly, its success is likely to be as artificial.

Americans in general, and many of the most vociferous supporters of American involvement in Somalia have been convinced that the matter is as simple as clearing the way for relief agents and providing for the survival of innocent victims of famine. Unfortunately, it's not that simple — the issues at hand range from African attempts to regain cultural identity after centuries of colonialism to a fundamental conflict between technology and natural progress.

In fact, in the face of these greater issues, starvation is a minor problem in Somalia, since only 5% of the population is threatened.

These complex issues make the Somalian conflict a military and social puzzle that Western interventionists are entirely unable to solve. The truth of the matter is, in fact, that American forces cannot be sure of the enemy in such a conflict, and can, by no means, engage in a successful attempt to create order and security in Somalia.

By excluding this important information from its steady barrage of images and sound-bites, the electronic media has neglected truth in favor of sensationalism and discounted reality to insure high ratings.

Americans must now begin to fight this propagandist coverage and demand thoughtful, honest reporting. The time has come for the media to replace its phony, sound bite communication with principle and reason.

"Musical arrangement flawed"

In response to the article appearing in the 25 November Register entitled "Musical sees changes," I am offering a body of material that refutes and otherwise elaborates upon some of the material therein.

Numerous statements appeared that are simply not true. The most glaring error appears in the remarks attributed to Mr. David Finch, vocal music teacher that the music and drama departments split because "Mrs. Pegi Georgeson did not have the time to direct the musical." From 1976 to 1991, I not only had the time but was eager and excited about my sixteen opportunities to direct the musical. It was my job; and, to my knowledge, they were all high quality, successful productions.

A number of years prior to my arrival at Central in 1976, the vocal music teacher had sought the drama teacher's help, and they joined forces, making the musical an all-school production. Even though drama is technically part of the English-language arts umbrella, this arrangement was a compatible one.

Last year, I had complete responsibility for the musical

because of the turnover in the music department. After the musical was over, Mr. Finch expressed the opinion that he could handle the musical without a drama teacher's help and convinced Dr. Moller to place the directorship of the musical solely

"Public school is not the place to celebrate Christmas."

Throughout my entire life, I have had to deal with being a religious minority in a primarily Christian school system. I have never had any problems with insensitivity, except when it came to those "Winter Programs" at which the kids sang songs like "Silent Night" and I refused to sing.

My religion is not Christianity. That does not mean that I am prejudiced or that I am uninterested in what others believe. It does, however, mean that I do not believe in celebrating Christmas and that I do not believe that the public school is the place to celebrate it. Even provided "balance" by singing Jewish songs or hanging Hanukkah decorations does not solve the problem.

The Constitution clearly states, in the First Amendment, that there is to be a separation between church and state. I, for one, question whether or not that law is being obeyed, especially around the "holiday season."

Nikki Paley



Letters To The Editor

in his hands. Mr. Finch then hired Curtis Leach to direct the musical for \$500, employing an outsider to do what I had done for sixteen years with complete effectiveness.

I felt it necessary to write this letter to clarify that which had suffered obfuscation and to make the record an accurate one. I love directing, particularly a musical comedy. I am truly sorry if my absence from this year's production caused a hardship for the students, for they are the ones paying the price. The decisions were not mine.

Mrs. Pegi Georgeson

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news BRIEFS

Students participate in annual math day

On Thursday, November 19, 12 members of the Central Enrichment math class went to Lincoln for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln's annual Math Day. Central scored third in the state and 9 members of Central's team took a second test and three members scored out of the top ten in the state. Jason Hui, senior, ranked second in the state. Members of the Math team who went to Lincoln were juniors Brandon Steenson, Deann Hui, David Lawler, and seniors Michelle Dowd, Sydney Foster, Michael Rolfeigh, Adam Yale, Ric Fenton, Mary Campbell, Jason Hui, Mindy Drake and Lisa Harden.

Decathlon members study for competition

This year the Academic Decathlon team has expanded. It now is a zero hour class, which counts as a credit as well as an extracurricular activity. The class is made up of 17 students that are split up into three groups according to their total GPA.

The class focuses on every major subject and spends a few weeks studying each topic. The class is set up a little differently than most classes because they have the same teacher for every subject.

The Decathlon team has yet to be decided. While there are 17 students in the class, only 12 will be chosen for the team.

Students give time, help Honey Sunday

On November 22, students involved in National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America and Student Council went door-to-door selling honey for the Greater Omaha Association of Retarded Citizens (GOARC) and the Madonna School for Exceptional Children.

The 28 students sold over 500 bottles of honey, earning \$1079.20 for the charity organizations. "The money earned was given to people with difficulties and their families," said Mr. Bob McMeen, co-sponsor of National Honors Society and Central guidance director.

"I was very pleased that these students gave up a part of their Sunday for this worthy project," said Mr. McMeen.

UNL contest draws student artistic talent

The Annual Scholastics Art Competition sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln will be held in Lincoln this year. Central's art teachers will enter students' best portfolios, artwork and pottery in the competition.

The deadline to enter pieces of art is January 11 through 14. "We want to have all of our entries done before January 9, so they [the students] can concentrate on finals," said Larry Andrews, art department chairman.

The competition opens in February and is on display for several days before winners are chosen. The awards will be received on February 13.

By Laura M. Dunham, Judy Engler and Wendy Revers

Alvin Law speaks at assembly about attitude

By Kristen Perry

"When the going gets tough, you go for it. . . . You don't have to be tough to succeed," said Canadian Alvin Law when he visited Central on December 2 to speak to the entire student body about his life without arms and his attitude. Mr. Law also spoke at Burke High and Beveridge Junior High.

Mr. Law was born without arms because of the fertility drug Thalidomide. He uses his feet for everything, including driving a car.

Mr. Law told the students that it took an incident in a car to change his attitude and stop feeling sorry for himself. He said he realized that for things to change, he had to change himself. He also said that people seemed to view him differently once he changed his self image.

Using his feet enabled him to be a normal person, Mr. Law said. He also said that his parents made him do everything his brothers did, such as mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, taking out the

garbage and doing the dishes. Mr. Law said that at first this was confusing, but he now realizes that his parents wanted to treat him "like a normal kid."

Learning to play the piano and the drums also helped Mr. Law to feel more normal. However, he said that he often felt like people were making fun of him when he played the piano for them. He said that he adopted the attitude that he didn't have to do anything well, that people would be amazed at the things he could do and would feel sorry for him.

Doctors kept giving Mr. Law artificial arms,

he said, but they didn't realize that he wasn't missing his arms because he never had any to begin with. Mr. Law said that the artificial limbs restricted him more than helped him and did not solve his problems. He said he began to think that he would only be "normal" if he had arms but finally decided to "break the rules" and use his feet.

"I'm not cursed," he said, "I'm blessed." He believes that he has the right attitude

for success. Mr. Law told the students to "take the advantage of being a

Mr. Law adviced shortly after he went on the road to bring his message about motivation and self-image to people. Dr. G.E. Moller, principal, he wanted to bring Mr. Law to Central for just that purpose. He said he thought Mr. Law could "get kids to see maybe their problems aren't so bad all." He also said that Mr. Law "marvellously well-adjusted person" symbolizes what someone can do overcoming their problems by their own strength.

"I was really impressed," said Mowery, junior, about the presentation. "He got a standing ovation—that usually happen at high schools." Katrin Romberg said that she liked the way Mr. Law "gave the students something to think about" and said she really earned the ovation he got. She said she was impressed with the way he showed students that "you don't have to look good to be happy."

Dr. Moller said he was "very pleased with the assembly." He also said "too bad [students] had to stand in the balcony." Dr. Moller also said he was very pleased that the students were receptive and courteous to Mr. Law.

When the going gets tough, you go for it. -Alvin Law

Deportation of South High students shocks, upsets

By Daniel Franck

On November 6, Augustin Antunez, 15, and Ambrosio Lopez, 17, were taken from South High by Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) officials because of their status as illegal aliens.

Both students are children of naturalized citizens and had filed for permanent residency. Their request for residency is still being reviewed.

The INS officials went to Augustin's and Ambrosio's classes to obtain them. They presented warrants for the apprehension of the two students to South High administration. Current OPS policy allows government officials to remove students from class if they have credentials and a warrant.

Students at Central have varied

opinions on the incident. Many students have expressed that they feel students should not be removed from class. "You can't arrest someone at work," said Kirstin Keel, junior, "so you shouldn't be able to arrest someone at school."

Jon Ripp, sophomore, feels that INS "should have at least informed their parents first." Sarah Rennard, senior, feels that INS was wrong because "they left their family behind."

As of now, Dr. Ron Burmood, human relations director for OPS, is answering all questions about the incident. "OPS felt that it would be best if only one person commented on the occurrence," said Dr. Burmood.

"We were not aware that INS would be coming," said Dr. Burmood. "We were not even aware that the students were not

citizens as that is not a requirement of being a student."

"We have talked to the police and they agreed to get students out of class only as a last resort," said Burmood. "We have since talked to James Cole, district director for OPS, and he agreed that in the future would call before coming. Mr. Cole stated that INS officials had previously tried to obtain the students at their homes." Mr. Cole was not available for comment.

The parents of the two students are awaiting word on whether or not their sons will be permitted to return to Omaha. The students are now staying in Mexico. Ambrosio is staying in a hotel and Augustin has been living with his grandfather.

Flu season attacks 'earlier than usual'

By Judy Engler

It is that time of year again. Time to take those old winter coats out of the closet and pack up the shorts. Time to spend your morning scraping the windshield on your car that won't start. And yes, time to catch the flu or worse.

According to Mrs. Denman, the school nurse, more students are missing school than usual. "It usually doesn't hit until about December but this year it started earlier than past years," said the nurse.

The most common illness at this time is the flu with symptoms ranging from upper respiratory problems, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Some students who have missed school because of illness are a little uncomfortable with the ten-day absence policy. While there are some students who miss school because they don't feel like coming, there are some students that cannot come because of health related problems.

"I was sick all this past week, but I came to school because I have already missed so many days," said Martha Karlstad, junior. "I think [the absence policy] is stupid. If you're sick

you're sick."

Although the flu is very common, there are some students who acquire more serious illnesses. April Hartman, senior, is one of those students. She had a serious case of pneumonia that lasted six days, because of which she was forced to miss five days of school.

"I got sick because I overworked myself," she said. "I then pushed myself even harder by trying to go to school because I did not want to miss any more days, which caused me to literally hit the floor. I was lucky I didn't have to go to the hospital," April said.

One difficulty in being sick from school is that if over ten days are missed, a chance exists that grades will not be appealed. Who decides what is excusable and what is not? Do school officials take into account students' reasons for being gone from school?

This is a problem that many students have encountered. "I would hope that they would take into account when someone is that ill," April said. She said, "I haven't had any problems. In fact, my teachers were really cool about it."

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Whistling in the Dark

by
Chris Becerra



On the vicious Christmas cycle

I'm a little apprehensive about this upcoming Christmas. For starters, this will be the first Christmas my family will open gifts under a real tree. You see, for as long as I can remember, we've always dragged out the massive petroleum-based plastic Christmas tree with its wire branches and metal trunk. It was perfect once it was assembled; no strange deformities of nature like you get with a real tree. And it was sturdy, too. Why, we could even hang my little sister's festive two-pound, handcrafted, potpourri wood chip that she made in Girl Scouts and the tree would only lean slightly to one side.

This year my parents are going for that "real Christmas" thing. They didn't even buy shiny silver garland for the tree this year. No, this year they did the unforgivable — not only did they bring a strange tree into the house, but they chose to lace it with beads. Beads! A string of beads as a Christmas decoration. Just what ever happened to the virtues of tackiness anyway?

Obviously, my parents were inspired by their visits to the mall because, "None of the big trees in the mall have garland. They're all decorated with beads or artificial snow." So all of a sudden malls are the outlet of creativity in my family and the dictator of acceptable Christmas decor.

It's not as if we always overdo

it during the holidays; we never joined in the "light wars" like some families in my neighborhood. These houses have got it all; lights on the trees, glowing santas, prancing reindeer, singing robotic choir boys programmed to go into a medley of carols every half hour and irradiated nativity scenes. But I've already decided that the house with the life-size, beaming crucifix rising from the top of it is the best. During the Christmas season, houses can look more like a nuclear reactor than home overcome with Christmas spirit.

Christmas just used to be such a big deal. My parents used to go out of their way just to make us kids believe in Santa Claus. They used to send out my older brother and sister to throw snowballs on our roof to simulate the sound of reindeer cascading down upon our home. Then, just after dinner, we'd all go down into the basement to wait for Santa to leave his gifts for us, usually played by our neighbor. We're not a very orthodox family; we always open our presents on Christmas eve. I imagine them now, my family all huddled in a tight little circle like a football team, mapping out their plays.

Then they'd all charge off and fool us little kids into believing some guy we'd never met before would bring us toys. Well, I was fooled.

Then, one day, it happened. Christmas changed. My parents

sat me and my little sister down. "Kids, there is no Santa Claus. Come on, think about it. A guy who can make reindeer fly and make elves work for him for no reason except to see kids gush over their new gifts? It just ain't happening, kids."

I wouldn't believe it. My little sister just said, "oh," and walked away, but I screamed and kicked and cried and called my parents liars. So my sisters got together, looked up Santa Claus in the World Book Encyclopedia and brought their findings to me. "Look Chris," they said. "Saint Nicholas, a mythical character." I was dumbfounded, and since then, Christmas has never been the same.


So what? you're saying. Whose Christmas didn't change when they found out they had been lied to and made to look like a fool? Where is this leading? All I can say is that those of us who celebrate Christmas will grow up to be adults and become a cog in the vicious Christmas cycle. I'm not kidding. We'll lie to our children, hang up all their crafts and over-deck the halls. Then, ever so gradually, we'll slack off; we'll buy designer ornaments for our real trees and give our kids pants.

Ah well, all I can say is that I'm happy to be getting out of school for a while, even if it is just to wish for those days of childhood ignorance.

Happy Holidays. Ho, ho, ho.

We had hoped to print an interview with Robin Williams about his new movie, *Toys*, in this space. But, unfortunately, we forgot to ask him, so in its place we present the first semester final exam schedule.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12 (ODD DAY)	
Period	Time
3	9:06-10:06
8	12:13-1:13
10	1:50-2:50
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13 (EVEN DAY)	
Period	Time
1	8:00-9:00
4	10:02-11:02
9	1:13-2:13
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14 (ODD DAY)	
Period	Time
0	7:00-7:56
2	8:38-9:38
5	11:00-11:28
6	11:32-12:00
7	12:04-12:32



Stanley's List of Undesirable responses to the SAT and ACT

- 1) fear
- 2) loathing
- 3) avoidance
- 4) giddy laughter
- 5) closet weeping
- 6) resignation
- 7) butterflies
- 8) an habitual longing to be on airplanes
- 9) false bravado
- 10) binge studying

Stanley's List of Desirable responses to the SAT and ACT

- 1) confidence

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Senior helps in "room" of shale

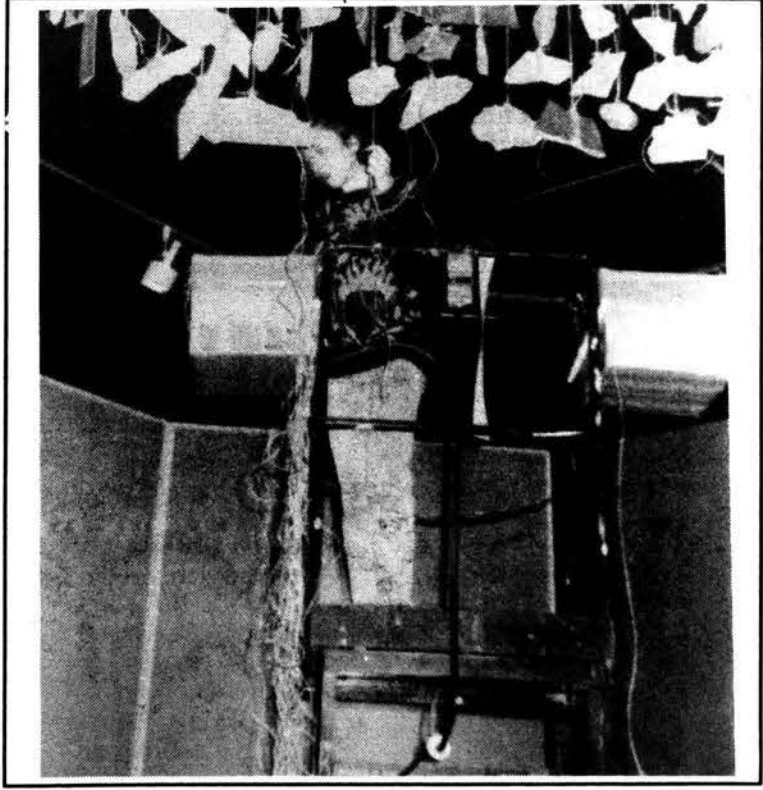
By Ben Fenner

Genisa Zaremski, senior, was hanging rock. Over Thanksgiving break Genisa gave a hand to Catherine Ferguson, a local artist, in setting up her installation at Joslyn Art Museum.

Genisa spent four days at Joslyn helping Mrs. Ferguson hang shale from the ceiling, creating a 15 1/2 foot tall by 14 foot wide "room" of shale. Genisa was invited by Joslyn to help Mrs. Ferguson after she submitted slides of her work to the museum. Her interest in art began when she was three years old and she plans on pursuing it as a career.

"[Genisa] had many ideas which helped us do things more efficiently," said Mrs. Ferguson, who said this was the first time she's worked with a high school student.

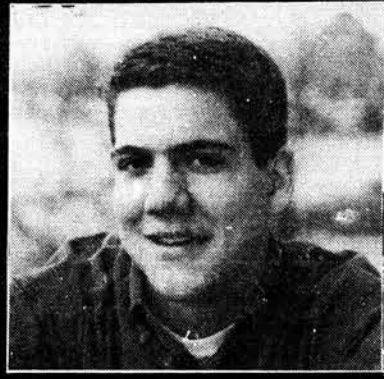
The installation is a full room in the museum with thin pieces of shale hanging from the ceiling. They start high in the center then slope down, lit only by soft, firey bulbs, creating the feeling of a "cave within a mountain."



Just hangin' at Joslyn: Genisa Zaremski, senior, helps set up an installation on view at Joslyn.

This installation will be just one of seven, all done by local artists, on display at Joslyn through January 31.

Penalty Shots
by
Tim James



Drugs in a sports-minded world

The signs are everywhere at sporting events. Budweiser. Marlboro. Miller Lite. Red Man. All of this advertising is used to sell drugs through a sports medium.

The signs are also evident in this country. Statistics show alcoholism causes family problems, abuse, homicides and drunk driving accidents. Smoking is noted as the deadliest disease in the country through different forms of cancer, heart disease and emphysema.

Since sports dominate this American culture of ours, we have subconsciously over time accepted drug advertising along with the drugs that kill hundreds of thousands each year.

In these days when many kids want to be like their heroes and imitate them, it can sometimes lead them into unsafe territory. Many of them are impressionable and are swayed into believing that drugs won't hinder their performance. They look at the people in the stands who make fools of themselves and are kicked out after having a few too many. They also see their heroes out on the ball diamond spitting tobacco and failing drug tests.

The problem is not only that it is socially acceptable to use these drugs, but it is advertised that the products are expected to be used. Think about it. They are glamorized to the point where naive people are convinced that they can't enjoy themselves at an event unless they have a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

It's disappointing to see that so many beer and cigarette companies have the monopoly on sponsoring sports events. Boxing and Budweiser now seem to go hand in hand. Next spring the expansion baseball team, Colorado Rockies, will be constructing their future ballpark with the name of Coors Stadium.

The same trend is also here in the Omaha spectrum of sports. Last year, the Racers used 50-cent night on beer, pop, and popcorn to attract large crowds. Even their dance squad, the Silks, is sponsored by Miller Genuine Draft.

At Lancer hockey games, tanked jocks give blood curdling yells demanding the

referee's death. I'm not saying that all Lancer fans drink at games, but beer does attract the crowd. The biggest evidence is when half the stands make a mass exodus at intermission for the concessions.

Even the signs in the outfield of Rosenblatt stadium indicate our society loves food, t.v., beer, cars and smoking. The famous Marlboro man (he recently died of cancer) rides above 10th street while we look at the scoreboard that has Miller Lite plastered over the top of it. Have you ever noticed that it seems like beer vendors come around twice as much as the soda and Super Rope sellers?

But please, "Know when to say when." Even though the designated drivers get people home safely, the drunkenness doesn't end at the exit gate. Drinking goes beyond the ballpark, jeopardizes lives, and interferes with home life.

On the professional level of sports, I believe random drug testing should be mandatory in all leagues and levels. Steroids ought to be prohibited along with all other foreign substances.

Steroids teach young athletes that they can cheat to gain higher prominence in their sport. Athletes only use them as a way to get somewhere else with less effort. High school athletes use them to earn college scholarships and to gain attention from peers. This, in return, puts more stress and pressure to succeed on themselves. Lyle Alzado, Tony Mandarich and Dexter Manley are all examples of failures because of their steroid abuse.

What is hypocritical about professional sports is how they can allow players to come back multiple times from drug suspensions. Steve Howe of the New York Yankees, returning from his seventh cocaine and drug suspension, was recently given a two-year, four-million dollar contract. Just simply ludicrous.

It appears that wherever a sports fan goes these days, he is constantly bombarded with beer and tobacco advertising. It's a trend that hopefully will be broken if executives see the detrimental effects it has on spectators. The monopoly of drug advertisers should be stopped.

Sports Briefs

Wrestling

The Central wrestling team placed eighth in the Vern Ekfelt Invitational tournament took place on December 3-4 at North High School.

Five team members placed individually in their weight classes. Jason Brilz, sophomore, placed second; Demetrius Richards, senior, placed third, Jeff Casady, junior, and Ty Sievers, sophomore, placed fourth.

Head wrestling coach Gary Kubik said, "I think that we did quite well and a lot of positive attitudes." According to Coach Kubik, the team is optimistic about the rest of the season.

Jason Brilz said that his personal goal is to be one of the top four wrestlers in the tournament this season.

The team hosted a double dual against Papillion-LaVista and Bellevue West on December 8. They outscored Bellevue West 46-19, but lost to Papillion-LaVista 50. Their next meet is the Creighton Prep Invitational on December 31 at Creighton Prep.

Girls' Varsity Basketball

The Lady Eagle girls' varsity basketball team are having a rough time of it but still manage to hold their heads up. "It's hard to keep the enthusiasm up and relatively inexperienced players. I think, though, with hard work and dedication we'll do better as the season progresses," said Coach Stan Standifer.

The Lady Eagles, who are currently holding an 0-4 record, have suffered the hands of a tough Bellevue East squad, Lincoln East, Bryan and Millard.

Plagued with inexperience and injury, the team is still striving to keep a positive outlook for the season. "We're very frustrated right now, but we do have the potential to win. We just need to start winning," said sophomore Jackie Jacobsen.

"The team really gets along well with each other. They really are a great group of girls to work with," said Coach Standifer.

Key players on this year's varsity squad are returning starter Jade Turner and junior Laura Dinges. Other starters on the team are Marquisha Peterson and sophomores Savatri Naraine and Jackie Jacobsen. Mr. Harry Bryson is assistant coach of the team as well as head coach of the junior varsity team. Other players include Nikki Hollingsworth, Michelle Fogarty, Dychelle Brundt, Blazevich, Brooke Bahr, Stephanie Huff and Nicole Benson.

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball

The girls' junior varsity basketball team is having its share of frustration but still remains positive about the rest of the season. "We're just going to try to stick together as a team. We really look forward to every game," said Dy'Chelle Brundt.

The J.V. Eagles have dropped to an 0-4 record to match that of the varsity team but look ahead to a positive season. "We've got a very young team this year, but still keep their heads up and in the game," said Coach Harry Bryson.

"We really get along well and work together as a team. We've played some of the toughest teams in the league, and I think we definitely have some wins in us," said junior Stephanie Huff. Stephanie has been hindered with a reoccurring knee injury that has left her unable to play.

The team will continue to play hard and are hopeful to win over Northwood Benson this season.

Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball

The boys' junior varsity basketball squad opened their season with a 1-2 record and according to Coach Steve Peterson, they were "all real close." The team lost to Bellevue East 45-57, was defeated by Lincoln East 43-52, and beat Millard North 48.

"We lost the first two games on the road, but we came back to win our third game on a last second shot against Millard North," said Coach Peterson.

Ryan Shoener, junior, said that the first two games were "difficult because we were still learning how to play with each other, but now we are jelling as a team."

"I'm very pleased with the team's attitude, balanced scoring, and rebounding improvements. They are making a lot of progress this year, and these close games will prepare them well for varsity next year," said Coach Peterson.

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Varsity basketball team climbs to the rankings

By Tim James

Varsity boys' basketball jumped into Metro prominence with a 3-0 record in their first two games. These wins also earned them a spot in the Herald Class A Top

in their matchup with Millard North 84-72 in the first quarter of the game. Turrane led Central with 27 points and senior Dontavis Johnson added 25 points in the win.

The Civic Auditorium will host the Metro Holiday Tournament from December 28-31. Central's first round game is against Northwest on December 28. Photo by Tim James.

the Bryans loss], but we played like a team against Millard North and pulled it off."

In the first weekend of December, the varsity team opened the season with back to back wins. They defeated host Bellevue East 63-57 after trailing by 10 in the first quarter. Central has been trailing after the first quarter in their first four games.

The Eagles recorded their second victory of the year in a 72-68 overtime win against Lincoln East the following night.

"We didn't make many free throws near the end of regulation, but in the overtime we learned how to shoot in pressure," said Coach Behrens.

Central's first round game in the Metro Holiday Tournament is against Northwest, December 28. Coach Behrens is focusing on rebounding and defending the "guard core" of Northwest. "Our main objective is to run the ball and pressure on defense," he said.

"We're doing better than anyone in the Metro expected, and we're proving that we will be a contender this year in post-season play," said Jeff Berg, senior.

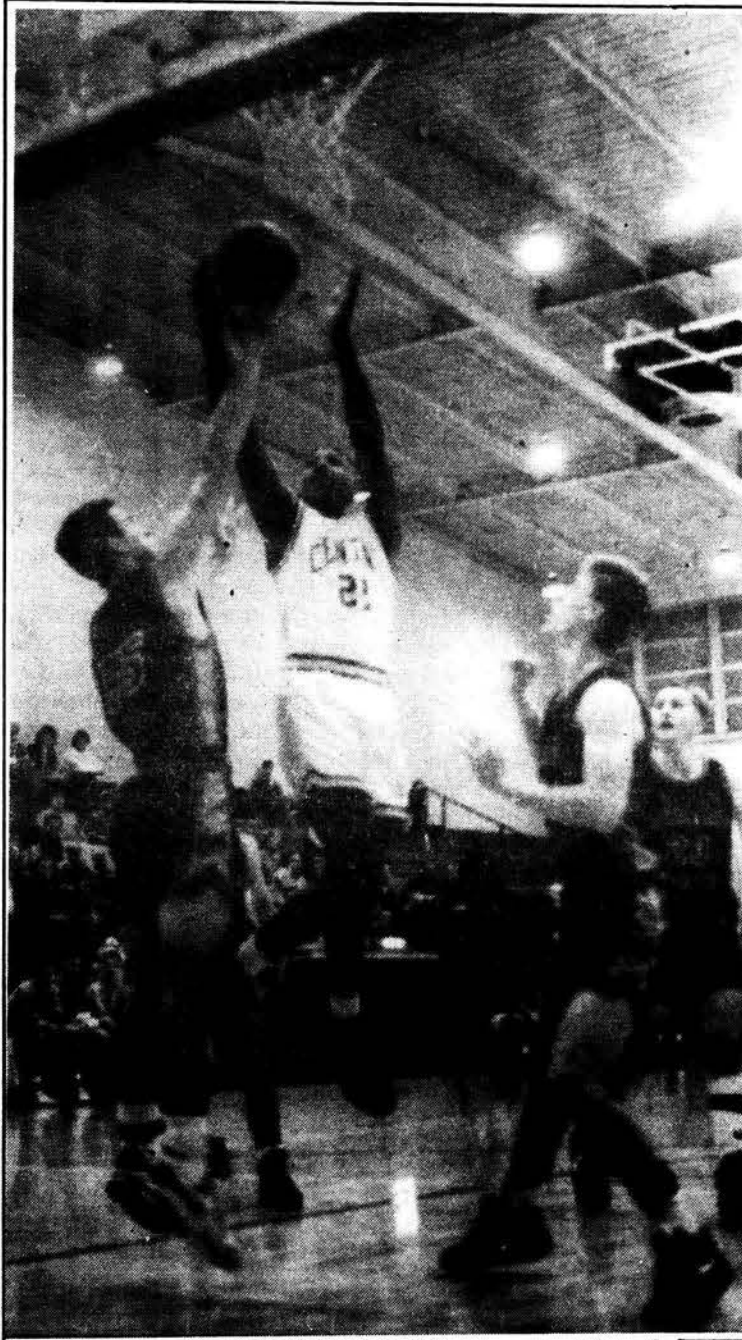
Jerry Anderson, senior, said that they have "really improved since last year. If we really crash the boards against the bigger teams, we'll have a better chance to run our offense and win."

Dawson, senior, led with 27 points and 9 rebounds against Millard North. Johnson, senior, also had 25 points in the game and 6 shooting from the 3-

days before the Millard victory. Central suffered a loss of the season against Bryan, 64-75 on December 10.

quickness and height said Coach Behrens. "We're the strongest inside we've played so far this year."

Anderson, senior, said, "We've been playing great so far. We had our letdown



Taking it to the rim...

Senior Turrane Dawson drives past defenders in the lane for a layup in a recent varsity game against Millard North. The Eagles gained their third victory of the year 84-72 in the game. Turrane led Central with 27 points and senior Dontavis Johnson added 25 points in the win.

The Civic Auditorium will host the Metro Holiday Tournament from December 28-31. Central's first round game is against Northwest on December 28. Photo by Tim James.

Eagle soccer team plays indoors

By Christy Shearer

This winter many Central students are hanging up their coats and staying inside to play and watch indoor soccer. Indoor soccer has attracted players and fans from many area high schools.

Soccer players from Central's varsity and junior varsity teams participate in the Olympia Soccer Club. These players make up two teams, the Olympia Blitz and the Olympia Comets.

In their first game, the two teams from Central played each other. The Olympia Blitz won the game 8-2. Kelly Moyer, junior and Blitz team member, said, "It was a good game and a good way to start off the season." Kelly Verzani, freshman and Comet team member, said, "Even though we lost the game, we are learning a lot and improving our skills."

Indoor soccer involves the same skills as outdoor soccer, but a few differences in the rules exist. Six players, instead of eleven, compete on the field at a time. The field and the goal are smaller in size, and the players are allowed to use walls for passing and scoring.

Kelly Moyer said, "Indoor soccer allows soccer players to work on their skills and condition for spring." Jenny Berg, junior and Blitz team member, said, "that the teams that compete learn to work together, which will help them during the spring season."

Lancers popular among Centralites

By Jon McDonald

The Lancers are a semi-professional hockey team located in Omaha. The players on the team are given room and board for free, but are not paid a salary. Many Central students enjoy attending Lancer games, according to Abe Bakhit, senior.

Abe, who has played Gladiator hockey for eight years said he has "mixed" feelings about the Omaha Lancers. "They're pretty good, but their new uniforms are really ugly," he said. Abe also said that he thought that the Lancers had a very interesting history.

"They [the Lancers] made one goal in their first season, but still made Sports Illustrated, too bad it was for being so awful. However, three years later they went on to win it all," said Abe.

"I like to go to games," said Abe, "because of the fights. I remember one game last season when there were fights on both the ice and in the stands at the same time. I didn't know where

to watch."

Steve Tomps, junior, said last season he attended the game against Thunder Bay, which the Lancers won and that he loved it [Lancers hockey] then, but now they need improvement. "They lost too many players."

Pat Oakes, sophomore, said, "I love hockey. The Lancers are my favorite team." Pat also said that although he, "didn't get to go to many games," he still considered the Lancers "one of the best."

Jeremy Harkness, senior, said that, "I don't know a lot about them [the Lancers] but they sold out for the season so they must be good."

Senior Shannon Malone has a Lancer defense player who lives with her family, Dale Hooper, 20. Shannon said that she loves hockey because, "it's such a fast-paced, bloodthirsty sport." Shannon said, "He is a cool guy." The Malones were called and asked by the team sponsors if they could host a Lancer. The Malones said yes. Amy Groebek,

senior, also has a Lancer player living with her family.

"The crowds have changed," said Jen Walters, senior. "Lancer games are now attended by people who go because its popular. I liked to go a lot more before the crowds changed. I used to follow the Lancers out of town, but not anymore."

Other Centralites shared Jen's opinion of the current Lancer team. "I like hockey as a sport, but I just don't like the Lancers because of their poor attitudes, towards the sport," said Marni Speck, senior.

Dana Cocetti, junior, said that she, "dislikes the Lancers because they're too cocky." Dana has not attended any Lancer games this season because of the Lancers' attitudes.

According to Jen, the Lancers "play on weekends when they're in town, usually on Fridays and Saturdays or on Saturdays and Sundays. However, this season they are also playing sometimes on Wednesdays and Thursdays."

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Central junior boxes for Golden Gloves championship in Omaha

By Amber Wood

When he was just thirteen, Eric Rinn, junior, received a Christmas gift that has traveled throughout his three-year odyssey of becoming a champion in the Golden Gloves city amateur boxing tournament. It was a heavy duffel bag.

The Central High junior knocked out the favored John Campbell from Sioux City in the second round to claim the Junior Welter Weight Championship. It was Eric's third fight. When he entered the ring to face Campbell, Eric said he was nervous, tense and scared out of his mind. "It feels like you can't move your body before any fight," he said.

"Boxing is about 85 percent mental and 15 percent physical. You have to be ready, relaxed, calm and hyped all at the same time when you step into the ring," said Eric.

Eric's record stands 3-1-1, and to earn a winning record, he must train five days a week for two hours a day, year-round. The boxing season lasts from October to March and culminates with the Golden Gloves, touted as the

"Super Bowl" of amateur boxing.

"The whole season is geared towards the Golden Gloves. Conditioning is pretty much the gist of the whole season, up until the two months before the Golden Gloves," said Eric.

"After that, you get into a lot of speed work and technique; it's the hard training," said Eric.

Eric trains at the Downtown Boxing Club at 24th and Harney, but before stepping into the ring, Eric had to "spar" with his mother, Becky Stalzer. She was against her son boxing but consented because she felt he could vent his anxiety and develop his upper body strength.

Mrs. Stalzer realized her son had taken his boxing seriously when he started coming home from training sessions with bruises and marks on his face. She never watched her son box until he fought Campbell for the championship.

Despite her son's success, Mrs. Stalzer doesn't want her younger son, Adam, to get involved with boxing. "I should hope not, one's enough," she said.

This season, Eric will be a contender in the Golden Gloves

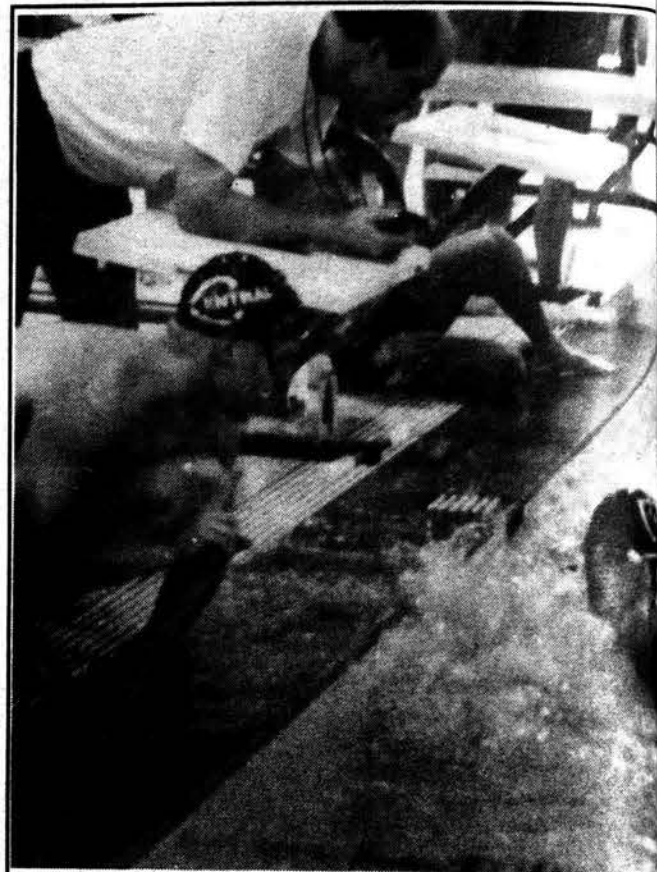
and can advance to the regionals if he defends his title. Last year, Eric was ineligible for a Regional berth because he contended as a novice. In order to qualify for the Regionals, a boxer must have a minimum of six prior fights. Last year, Eric had only two.

Eric is committed to his sport. He plans to work towards a boxing career and this year his goal is to retain his Golden Gloves crown. No longer a novice, Eric has already experienced the ups and downs of boxing.

"After winning you feel great; you forget about any pain, you're so excited and thrilled," he said. "After losing a fight, I go home and work out, try to get out my frustrations and work on what I did wrong."

Eric's favorite boxer is Julio Caesar Chavez, but he said he doesn't pattern his style after Chavez or any other fighter.

"I don't have anyone's style. It's pretty much my own. No two fighters have the same style, everyone's different," he said. Eric's next fight is scheduled for January 23 and 24 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.



Urging victory: Ryan Bayse cheers Todd Reiser on Bryan High School coach checks his time. Photo by Mike B.

Swimming strokes for victory in invitational

By Leah Musselman

Central's girls' swim team took off this season with a big win over Omaha North at their first meet on December 3. The team shot North out of the water outscoring them 131 to 49 at McMillan Junior High.

The boys' swim team suffered a close loss against North being outscored only 82 to 77. The team lost by half a second in the last relay, but outscored North at the OPS Holiday Invitational. The Eagles rebounded at that Invitational on December 10, taking first place for the fourth year in a row.

The relay team of Todd Reiser, Jon Wendt, Ryan Bayse, seniors, and Dave Schneiderwind, junior, took 1st in the 200-yard relay with a time of 1:50.84. The team of Todd, Jon, Ryan, and Brian Alseth, junior, placed first in the

400 freestyle relay with a 3:52.61.

At the Invitational Todd placed first in the 200 freestyle with 1:58.32 and placed 2nd in the 100 backstroke with 1:15.76. Jon also received a first honor in 500 freestyle with 5:45.76.

The girls' OPS Invitational place December 12 at medalists for the girls' are and team captain Julie Juniors Gretchen Pfeiffer and Nolte, and sophomores Neary and Cate Townley team placed 1st in the Invitational for the 4th year in the past.

Both girls' and boys' won their meet on December 10 with Roncalli and Omaha High schools. Jon said the win, "the teams are to come together. We're down and our times are better."

Varsity Basketball Schedule

December 26-31 METRO HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT
Boys' at Civic Auditorium
Girls' Tournament at Central

January 8 at Papillion-La Vista

January 9 BENSON

January 15 GROSS

January 22 at Ralston

January 23 SOUTH

January 29 NORTHWEST

January 30 at Lincoln High

February 4 Varsity Girls' & JV, MARIAN

February 5 Varsity Boys' & JV, PREP

February 6 at Westside

February 12 MILLARD SOUTH

February 19 at North

February 22-25 Girls Districts

February 26-27 & March 1-2 Boys Districts

March 3-6 Girls State Tournament

March 11-13 Boys State Tournament

Both boys' and girls' games unless noted

Boys' volleyball starts on second season

By Jon McDonald

Although the boys' volleyball team lacks the title of "a school sanctioned sport" they are entering their second year of existence at Central.

Because of the large interest levels last year, the boys' volleyball team was formed to allow the males at Central high the opportunity to participate in a volleyball league. The team placed third overall last year.

There are two practices per week that are attended by the members of the team. Boys' volleyball games are held on Wednesdays. The Central team has two separate teams, with a total of twenty-eight members.

Games are played against "many other area high schools," said Kyle Hovorka, senior and a returning member of the volleyball team. "The Lincoln schools have a lot of good teams, but we also play against Burke, North and other high schools in the area," Kyle said.

Kyle said that he "feels very confident" about the season. "We have lots of younger kids starting this year, so Central should still

be competitive even after this year's seniors leave. Experience is the key to this team; we're going to dominate," said Kyle.

The boys' volleyball team is paid for by the team members. "We get to use some of the girls' equipment, but we have to pay some money before each game ourselves," said Kyle. The school does not pay for any of the expenses of the boys' volleyball team.

The team will play its first

game, a pre season match, on January 9. The first actual match played by the team will be on January 13, according to Craig Lee, senior. Craig said, "Even though it [Boys' Volleyball] is not school sanctioned, the matches are really competitive between the schools."

The coach of the boys' as well as the school sanctioned girls' volleyball teams is Central marketing teacher Mrs. Vicki Wiles.

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