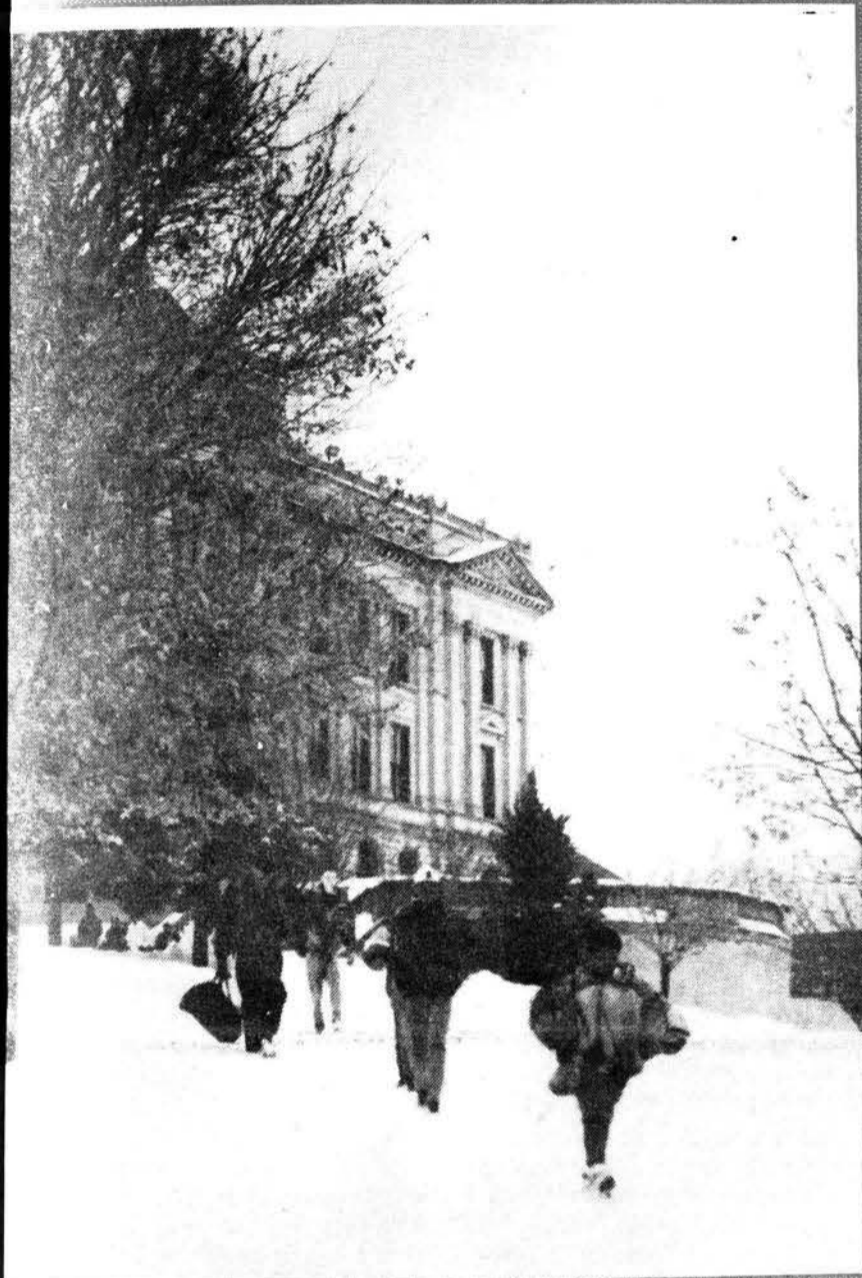


Central High Register



Walking in a winter wonderland: Central students traipse through the snow on a snowy day. For a story on who decides which day students are let out of school, see page 4. Photo by Mike Buckley.

Police officer expounds on his 'intense' work

By Alex Cooper and Rachel Kozol

Recently, reporters from the Register staff rode in a police officer's car in order to get a view of a police officer's job and what he/she faces every day.

Police officers and teens share some similar concerns. Both can confront unfair criticism by the media and public and each faces a wide variety of stressful daily decisions.

Officer Keith Miskie's six-year career as a police officer corresponds indirectly to the ways many young people live.

After high school, Officer Miskie dealt with challenging questions concerning his future. He graduated with a degree in criminal justice from UNO. He also held two jobs and joined the Marine Reserves.

His career as police officer included much physical and emotional preparation. At the Police Academy, he received classroom instruction for 17 weeks. "They do a lot of role playing there," he said. "They make a lot of situations a lot worse than what they seem. It's all very intense."

Officer Miskie was also required to spend 15 weeks with an experienced police officer.

Through his extensive training, Officer Miskie said there are no more problems in communicating with teenagers as compared to adults. He added that recently teens have been associated with numerous Chevy Blazer thefts. "It's almost an epidemic," he said of this.

Officer Miskie said much of Omaha's crime results from alcohol and drugs, two problems many teens often confront. He said that such abuses cause police officers to deal with a wide variety of crimes. "It's unpredictable," he said. "That's the best thing about this job, you never know what

you're getting yourself into."

Officer Miskie pointed out that this unexpectedness results in much media criticism. "It's easy for them to second guess us," he said. "They don't have to make split-minute decisions."

He added that it is easy for people who have had years to think about a situation to criticize an officer for an action that he had only several seconds to think about.

He related this to the recent shooting of Scott Baldwin by two female police officers. He also used quick action against two suspected robbers escaping from the Best Western Motel at 72nd and Grover. "Those are decisions you have to make real fast," he said.

"I don't think people have a good idea of what it is like to be a police officer," said Officer Miskie. "I don't think it's easy to portray a cop's life. I've never seen a movie

For a log of events on the police ride along, see page 10.

that's true to what happens," he said.

Officer Miskie said that *Cops* is the one TV series that is true to the job of a police officer. "It's not easy to portray the life of a cop in a movie," he said. "We don't get the publicity we deserve."

Officer Miskie said that police officers can be greatly misunderstood. "People see a blue uniform and don't think we're real people," he said, "but we have families too."

Two incidents of violence affected the life of Officer Miskie. "My whole goal is to go home the next morning," he said.

In the summer of 1988, he and his
Continued on page 5.

Post-Prom party being planned by PEP board

By Kelly Grace

A post-Prom party is being planned and is scheduled to place after this year's Junior/Senior Prom, April 17th. This post-Prom party will be the first of its kind since the last one Central hosted 5 years ago.

"Right now it looks like we'll be hosting it this year at the Ranch Bowl," said Mrs. Carol Pelan, coordinator of plans for the party. The idea of a post-Prom party, which has been brought up each year by the PEP committee, had failed due to lack of student and parent interest, as well as lack of money.

As of now, the cost of the post-Prom tickets, which will be sold separately at school, will probably be \$5 a couple. "You must be a junior or a senior to attend the party, and you don't have to

attend Prom to go," said Mrs. Pera.

"It should be a lot of fun if enough people go. If all goes well, we should have such activities as sand volleyball, pool, bowling, and a disc jockey will be hired for those who want to dance," said Mrs. Pelan.

Although details are still sketchy, the party looks like it will be held after Prom from 1 a.m. to about 4 or 5 a.m. Provisions concerning the party are still undecided.

Many students have mixed feelings concerning the activities. "I think it's a good idea. However, I'm not sure how many people would show up as opposed to how many people say that they're going," said senior Jenny Giaffaglione. "As long as they've got a disco ball, I'm there!" said Kristy Kun, senior.

1993 Graduation now to be held at Aksarben Coliseum

By Rachel Kozol

The May 24th commencement ceremony of the Central High class of 1993 will be unique in one significant way.

This class will be the first Omaha high school to use the Aksarben Coliseum for its graduation ceremony. "It's exciting to think of being the first school ever to graduate at Aksarben," said Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal.

Dr. Moller said that a study and planning committee, made up of staff members, parents, and senior class officers, found Aksarben highly favorable over other possibilities.

Dan Bagley, senior class president, and other senior class officers, also received much input from the student body.

Dan said that cost remained

a high priority. Renting Aksarben is only \$2200 as compared to \$2500 for using the UNO facilities.

The cost is generally paid for by ticket sales. Each senior receives four free tickets and others are purchased for one dollar.

Even though it is only \$90 to use the Civic Auditorium, Dan said that other problems had to be considered with this location. "The Civic was so big," he said. "It wasn't at all personable and was a reason to be disruptive."

"I have confidence in the maturity of the students," Dan said. "We all want this to be as good as possible since we're leaving."

He added that he doesn't expect his fellow classmates to behave as poorly as the class of '91 did.

Dan said that the final reasons for choosing Aksarben rest upon better sound system possibilities and parking availability. According to Dr. Moller, Aksarben will also seat approximately 5500 people.

Student opinion on the Aksarben choice remained mixed.

Juli Germer, senior, remained content on last year's choice. "I think UNO was a good location," she said. "I thought it worked real well last year."

David Cooperider, senior, agreed. "I don't want to tell my kids I graduated in the middle of a horse track."

But certain students are willing to try a new location. "I think it would be better at Aksarben because there is a lot more room," said Melissa Chambers, senior.

Inside

Mtv's Tabitha Soren discusses 'curveballs.' Interview with this reporter, see page 12.

Bilingual students benefit from second language at home. See page 6.

Unsigned articles are the opinion of the Register

Break, finals schedule needs simple revision

Presently Omaha Public Schools ends the first semester two weeks after the week and a half holiday break. The Register staff thinks this is an untimely and awkward end to the semester. We believe a more logical approach would be to end the semester before the holiday break.

The semester could be arranged to accommodate this by the elimination of various days off that are scattered throughout first semester. This decrease, along with a slightly earlier starting date, should easily comply with the state's policy of the required number of days needed in the school year.

This year, semester finals were given a week and a half after the long holiday break. This approach seemed to drag the semester into the new year and gave the feeling that it should have ended before the long break.

A four-day weekend was given as a semester break, but it did not seem like a definite end of the first semester, and a beginning of the second was achieved.

If the first semester was completed before the break, it would provide a more definite end. This year students and teachers had to call attention to school related material during this time. The time should be used for more of a vacation rather than a two-week work period.

Students could benefit from this schedule in many ways. Students would not have to be concerned with reports or assignments. The threat of finals on the students' return would not plague the break. The holiday break would become more of a vacation instead of a two-week study hall.

Teachers would benefit from this plan as well. It would give them a break from correcting assignments and reviewing various other school-related materials. They could use it as time to prepare for the next semester or as vacation time after a draining semester.

We believe it would be in the best interest of teachers and students to arrange the semester in this way. It would create a better arrangement mentally and physically for students and staff.

This schedule would be beneficial and could easily be accommodated. Students would not have finals on their return from the break as they did this year. The change from a vacation to a stressful end of the semester with finals would finally be avoided.

Teachers would not have to worry about preparing finals or have to deal with turning in grades.

Overall it would lower the stress and complexity of the semester.



Smoking lounge should be closed to protect student, faculty health

As more and more Americans are convinced of the dangers of smoking, several public buildings have begun to enforce smoke-free building policies. Recent studies have shown that these regulations, combined with treatment programs for addicts, have been immensely successful in their efforts to eliminate employee smoking, and, also, to eliminate exposure to dangerous second-hand smoke.

Certainly, the widespread success of these non-smoking programs indicates that such a program would also hold merit in application at the school. The Register feels that such a policy could be enacted by closing the teacher smoking lounge and providing an addiction recovery program for addicted students and faculty members.

Several arguments against the

teacher smoking lounge exist. First, the lounge presents an injustice since teachers are given the right to smoke in the school, while students are not allowed to do so. Students should not be expected to obey smoking laws if teachers do not.

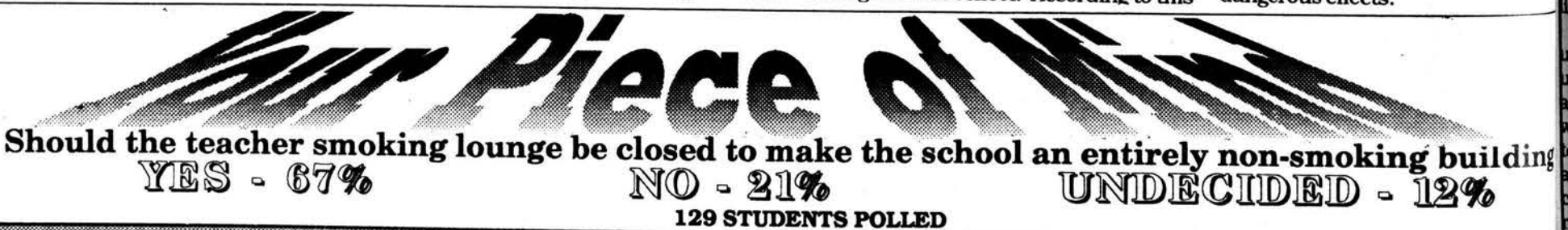
More importantly, however, the lounge presents a health risk to both students and teachers. Teachers who do not smoke are forced to endure second-hand smoke if they enter the smoking lounge. Even students in the courtyard can frequently detect the smoke coming from the lounge. Both of these exposures to second-hand smoke are very dangerous. In fact, some studies contend that the impact on the victim's health is nearly as great as the impact of first-hand smoking.

These dangers justify an administrative policy banning smoking throughout the school. According to this

policy, teacher smoking would be placed on an equal level with student smoking and the health dangers would be eliminated, insuring a healthier faculty and student body.

However, since cigarettes are as addictive as heroine, this policy could succeed without classes and treatment offerings for students and teachers. These classes will insure the effort's success and reduce resistance from smoking teachers. Reduced teacher smoking will also provide a better example for students, possibly reducing smoking among them.

Combined, a non-smoking policy and addiction recovery classes significantly reduce the dangers of smoking among students and faculty members by reducing smoking and its dangerous effects.



"Yes. Its hypocritical, they should be setting a better example for students."
-Julie Bush, 9

"Yes, because teachers set examples."
-Nikki Paley, 10



"No, I think several members of the staff couldn't handle it."
-Mark Horton, 11

"An institution that prides itself on making our lives better should practice what it teaches."
-Meg Allen, 12



"If teachers are able to smoke in school, students should have their own lounge to smoke in school, too."
-Roger Russell, 12

"No, smoking is still legal in the United States for anyone over the age of 18."
-Mrs. Brabec



Shooting it out over Gun Control

By Andrea Davis

By Michael Rolleigh

forum

When I forgot my house keys about a year ago, I broke into my house through the window. I heard a knock at the door. I went to answer it but saw nothing until I noticed several police cars lined up outside my house. I opened the door and a policeman instructed me not to go out, as "there were a lot of cops guns out there."

I checked my I.D. and they and left, but the incident was shaken. Was the threat of handgun homicides as being in metropolitan centers and suburban communities. In 1988, there were 9000 handgun murders in America. In 1989, Washington D.C., the "seat of democracy" had more than 400 homicides, which set a new record for our capital. Many of the large population centers in the U.S. have up to 10 times the murder rate of all of Western Europe.

Although the constitution guarantees the "right of the people to keep and bear arms," in the second amendment, this became a great of handgun homicide non-existent. This was at a time when people used guns to hunt for their food, and when the people may have depended on a militia, which are two things that we do not have today.

Handgun control is not reasonable. It is not calling for a ban on guns, but only limitations.

It would not be unconstitutional or unreasonable to require that an application be made for a firearm which would ask the applicant to give his or her age, residence, and any prior criminal convictions. Likewise, it would be unreasonable to require buyers to wait for a week to days to purchase a firearm.

One of the greatest problems in America today is the excess of government bureaucracy. There is simply too much government in everyday life. Everywhere you look, examples of government interference abound. Even the little restrictions start to add up after two centuries of accumulation. This makes the more significant restrictions all the more terrifying. Gun control is a perfect example.

Regardless of my personal view concerning guns, I have no right to impose my will upon others. The problem is akin to censorship. What right does the government have to make decisions for my own benefit? Obviously, some restrictions are logical. Convicted felons and the criminally insane certainly forfeit their right to bear arms. There is no reason, however, for others to waive this right.

Restrictions must be curtailed. Everybody has something that they want restricted. Issues range from abortion to censorship to economic policy. If the government continues to insist upon restricting individual rights rather than protecting them, freedom in America will become an oxymoron.

The founding fathers of our nation guaranteed this right in the second amendment to the Constitution. Interest in firearms has not waned over the years, evidenced by the growing membership of the NRA and other anti-gun control institutions.

The simple truth is that guns are merely tools, albeit powerful tools. When used by law-abiding citizens, they are harmless to humans. When used by criminals, they can be dangerous. Guns respond only to the intentions of the users. It is the desire to commit crimes that needs to be examined, not the accessibility of the tools. No easy answer exists to the problem of crime in America. Society needs to address the problem at its roots, and not at the surface.

Absolute Uncertainties by Thad Domina



Hillary Clinton: First Woman, not First Lady

On January 20, 1993 Chief Justice William Rehnquist inaugurated Bill Clinton as President of the United States. While the inauguration occurred as expected with partying, promises, and high expectations, the new administration began with little hope for radical change. One part of the event and the upcoming administration is particularly notable, however. Bill Clinton was the first of the United States' forty-two presidents to be inaugurated without a First Lady at his side.

Sure, Clinton is married, and sure, Hillary was there, but the term First Lady is a misnomer for Hillary Clinton. Perhaps First Woman would be more appropriate.

The point is that Hillary Clinton is the first president's wife to have a life so visibly independent of her husband's. In fact, the Clinton family's 1991 tax report indicates that Hillary was the family's primary wage earner, claiming nearly four times Bill's taxable income.

Hillary's independence

stretches beyond the realm of finance, too. She has voiced views contrary to those of her husband's (before the campaign, of course) and has been active in many ways without Bill's assistance. As an attorney, Hillary has built a career outside of the home and enjoyed great success in this field and many others.

Unfortunately, however, this information is coming to most Americans as a great surprise. Caught in stereotypes created by the Ozzie and Harriet myth, many scoff at the idea of a woman's liberation from domestic chores to wider concerns. This "a woman's place is in the home" attitude has fueled the patriarchy for centuries, throughout the Western world.

While Hillary Clinton's apparent rejection of the patriarchy is notable, it is only a stepping-stone in the fight for equality for women. Most women today still feel enslaved by men, forced to work in the home or for diminished wages, unable to voice their beliefs in a fair forum, and

threatened by sexist violence. Moreover, many are compelled to reject the fight for fair, equitable treatment since they have been brainwashed by a lifetime of anti-feminist propaganda.

The fact that Hillary's apparent independence can be perceived as an advancement of the woman's liberation movement underscores the problems of sexism still facing Western society. When we remember that we are celebrating a wife of a powerful man as an example of a woman's liberation, rather than an independently powerful woman, we realize that the goal of equality is still far from accomplished. A world shocked by a president's independent wife, or any other sort of independent woman, is certainly still far from accepting the ideal of absolute equality.

While Bill Clinton's promises of social change and reform may never bear fruit, women throughout the U.S. will benefit from the inadvertent change that Hillary Clinton brings to the nation.

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my disappointment in the audience at the matinee performance of *Hello Dolly*. First, I apologize to all of the performers in the musical on behalf of the student body. I feel the actions of students were completely inappropriate. After all the work and effort put into the performance, it sickened me to see students showing their appreciation by throwing objects at the stage and the performers. I would prefer that the school matinees were cancelled than place our actors, actresses, and musicians in this type of situation again.

Daemon Bagley

Dear Editor,

The poll, "do school sponsored holiday decorations violate separation of church and state standards?" interested me since it reminds me of commentary from *On Separation of Church and State* by D. James Kennedy.

In this book, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, is quoted: "The wall of separation

between church and state is a metaphor based on bad history.... It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned."

According to this book, statement after statement from the founders reflect that all they meant by the establishment clause of the First Amendment was that the U.S. should not establish a national church.

but to prevent a state church.

Thus, what is needed in Central High's courtyard during the holidays are decorations reflecting the different faiths of all Centralites.

Mark Rosenquist
1992 Central graduate

Submitted for examination by editor and readership:



Letters To The Editor

"The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao. The name that can be named is not the eternal name. The nameless is the beginning of heaven and earth. The named is the mother of ten thousand things. Ever desirous, one can see the

mystery. Ever desiring, one sees the manifestations. These two spring from the same source but differ in name; this appears as darkness. Darkness within darkness. The gate to all mystery."

-Lao-Tzu (paraphrased)
As soon as words are spoken and opinions formed, the Way is obscured.

Matthew Pattison, senior

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- Principal.....Dr. G.E. Moller

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news BRIEFS

Students interviewed about political opinions

What are Central student's reactions to President Bill Clinton's decision to place his daughter, Chelsea, in private school? A reporter from channel 7 news came to Central on January 6 to ask this question. Kristen Perry, Bill Tice and Briana Hool, juniors, and Jennifer Priesman and Lauren Webb, seniors, were interviewed. The reporter sought reactions from Central students, Brownell-Talbot students and representatives from the Teacher Administrative Center (TAC).

Some interviewed said that it was kind of hypocritical for him to put his daughter into a private school since on his platform he was stressing education and our public schools. However, others felt he made the decision for Chelsea's safety.

Landmarks Inc. to sponsor contest

Landmarks, Inc. is sponsoring a photo/essay and art/essay contest for all Omaha junior and senior high students. Students who wish to enter should take a photo or draw a picture of a memorable building in the Omaha area. Students should write an essay describing the building's history and importance to Omaha.

Prizes will be awarded for the three top entries. First place will receive \$100, second will receive \$75 and third will receive a Joslyn sweatshirt. All prize winners will receive a Landmarks membership.

Central to participate in All-City Music Festival

The Annual All-City Music Festival will be held February 11-13. Central will be represented by a choir, a band and an orchestra. Rehearsal for each group will be in different schools; the choir at Benson High School, the band at Bryan High School and the orchestra at Central. "Each of the groups will rehearse Thursday evening, all day Friday and Saturday morning. The Final Concert will be held February 13, Saturday evening at the Civic Auditorium," said Mr. David Finch, vocal music teacher.

Academic Decathlon triumphs at regionals

Central's 1993 Academic Decathlon team placed first overall in the regional competition held at Northwest High School on January 23.

The team consists of seniors Mary Campbell, Mindy Drake, Matt Pattison, Michael Rolfeigh, Sarah Moss, Vanessa Strazdas, Sidney Foster, Sarah Rennard and Krisy Kun, and juniors Brandon Steenson, Kristen Perry and Aaron Tye.

The Decathlon team placed second in the Super Quiz event, but other individual point totals brought Central to first place overall. Most team members won several individual medals, as well.

By Laura M. Dunham, Kristen Perry and Wendy Revers

ROTC's inspection finished

By Kelly Grace

"They told us that we did an exceptionally good job. So naturally I'm assuming we did very, very well," said senior Army Instructor Richard Yost. Major Yost is head instructor of Central's ROTC unit. The unit was inspected on December 8, and results from the inspection are due back in February.

The ROTC cadets prepared thoroughly for the inspection by drilling, wearing uniforms once a week and reviewing the curriculum learned in ROTC. The inspection looks at the senior cadets who have been in ROTC for the past 4 years.

Cadets study a variety of subjects. They learn such techniques as First Aid, map reading, military history, drill, instructional technique, weapons safety and marksmanship.

The federal inspection is very important to the ROTC program, and much planning goes into preparation for the inspection. "It varies each

year who inspects us. Last year a committee from Fort Lewis Washington came to inspect us and this year members from Creighton Universities Active Duty ROTC cadres," said Major Yost.

ROTC offers many benefits to high school students involved. Eligibility for nationwide scholarships based on leadership performance is one benefit. "We have about ten percent of our graduating cadets pursuing careers in the military each year. By just being in ROTC, they can get up to \$190 in pay increase a month in the Army, Navy, Air Force or the Marines. They must be in ROTC for 4 years though," said Major Yost.

In February the program will get the results back from the federal inspection. Major Yost and his cadets remain positive about the outcome. "This is an excellent group of cadets and we're pretty sure that we scored very well," said Major Yost. Seven other public school's ROTC cadets are being inspected also.

Enrollment policy "unfair"

By Kristen Perry

"We see [restrictions] are necessary, but we are still concerned," said Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal. His concerns come from restrictions placed on Central that limit the recruitment activities the school can hold.

Dr. Moller said that originally the restrictions were as far as they could be, until the last couple of years. He said that as other school's options were increased, Central's recruitment has stayed the same.

This has hurt the quantity and quality of students attending Central. "We need more leaders," he said. "They boost other students' images of the school."

Recruitment policies are made by a committee that annually reviews enrollment in each of Omaha's high schools.

Ever since the 1976 desegregation ruling, the committee's main goal has been achieving racial balance in the schools, said Dr. Ronald Burmood, OPS Director of Student Services.

Dr. Moller said another reason Central's recruitment has been limited is because seven or eight years ago, the magnet schools were not very successful in attracting students.

Many people have expressed concerns that the enrollment policy is unfair. Many people feel that North High's recruitment should be restricted as well because North has attracted a greater

percentage of students in the past few years.

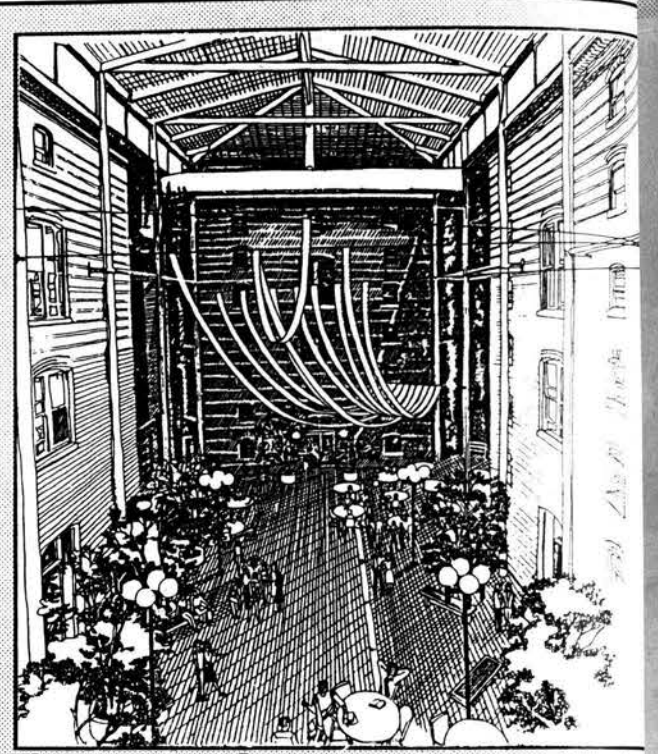
However, Dr. Burmood said North's increased enrollment is only a two year pattern, not a several year tradition. He did say, however, that the committee will look at ways to adjust North's recruitment and enrollment if the pattern continues. "This won't be done until a pattern is established, though," he said.

Central's recruitment will not be changed as long as enrollment is healthy, said Dr. Moller. "If anything, it might be even more restrictive," he said. He thinks restrictions create problems. "Some prospective students think Central isn't interested in them because we don't bring workshops to their junior highs," he said.

However, Dr. Moller is "optimistic" about this year's recruitment. "We will recruit as vigorously as we can within our guidelines," he said.

Central has replanned most recruiting activities. Open House, which will occur on January 30, was redesigned. "It's quite different," Dr. Moller said. More teachers will be involved and more information will be provided in a "graphically better" way. Visitors will be given the opportunity to view slides and take guided tours of the building. Many students will be in the building to give first-hand information. Also, Open House will be held on a Saturday afternoon instead of a school night.

"We see restrictions are necessary, but we are still concerned."
--Dr. Moller



The courtyard: Original plan by the architect.

By Kelly Roberts

Have you ever wondered why there are eight colored flags hanging from the ceiling of the courtyard? Many Central students say that the flags help to make the courtyard look brighter, and some feel that it helps the acoustics during passing periods and lunch.

"But the truth of the matter is," said Dr. G.E. Moller, principal, "during the renovation of the courtyard, Dana Larson Roubel and Associates, the architects, drew them into their finished product specified the size, and ordered their completion."

Originally the architects felt that the flags would add color and pizzazz to the otherwise empty courtyard. The problem with installing the flags, was that Central did not have enough money allotted to pay for their construction.

"In light of the fact that we did not have enough money, we just weren't going to be able to put the flags in until the reunion class of 1932 came up with a great idea," said Dr. Moller.

The reunion class of 1932 heard about Central's dilemma and offered to collect donations of \$1600, to cover the cost of

the eight flags. "Amazingly enough, the reunion class contributed the money needed to get the flags, as a token of gratitude for collecting the money, inscribed their graduation year on the first flag," Dr. Moller.

Succeeding reunion classes were interested in how they might get to graduate on a flag.

Dr. Moller decided to do this as a way to collect money for the scholarship endowment, that any class could put their graduation year on a flag after they donated \$1,000 to the scholarship fund.

Dr. Moller also said that the graduating class of 1993 was interested in getting their year put on a flag first they would have to purchase a flag approximately \$400 and then donate \$1000 to the scholarship fund.

Meghan Stanek, senior, said, "The flags brightened the courtyard up immensely, but I'm not sure the graduating class could afford the cost."

Snow day decided from conditions and forecasts

By Daniel Franck

"Due to the five feet of snow left by the blizzard yesterday every school in Nebraska is closed...except Omaha Public Schools." All though this statement is an obvious exaggeration, many students feel it is not too far from the truth.

The Nebraska Legislature requires that students be in class a minimum of 1080 hours. The total as of now is well over 1100. The hours allotted for emergency dismissal roughly equal eight to nine days.

Mrs. Winnie Callahan, the OPS public relations director, said that "school closings are a very complicated matter. Several people are involved."

The criteria for closing schools is decided upon well before the snow ever comes. Members of OPS hold meetings with several parent groups to find out the parents' concerns

about bad weather.

When winter finally hits Omaha, OPS begins to look at the weather forecasts closely. "If a forecast calls for rain or snow overnight, we begin the decision making process," said Mrs. Callahan.

At 3:30 A.M., OPS directors go out and check conditions of roads. It is often the case that the roads are drivable, but side roads are impassable, said Mrs. Callahan.

Early closings are based almost entirely on forecasts. "The weather may be fine in the morning, but a blizzard could start at 2:00 P.M.," said Mrs. Callahan.

Mrs. Callahan stressed that OPS always works "about safety first." School closings exist because parents are worried about the well-being of our students.

Central students indulge in many types

By Andrea Davis

Gambling may not be an activity usually associated with high school students, but it does have many high school age participants.

"I don't know the statistics here, but in New Jersey, casinos have to turn away generally thousands of kids, which is quite a staggering number," said Wally T. of Gamblers Anonymous, who will not give his last name because he belongs to an anonymous group.

This seems to be catching on in Omaha also. "We have a lot of 18 to 21-year-olds," said an Aksarben worker. "But we I.D. anyone who looks suspicious."

There are many types of gambling, such as keno, dog races, horse races and betting on sports, all of which are illegal for students under 18. "We have a 'nit through his job. "I started gambling usually always with," he said.

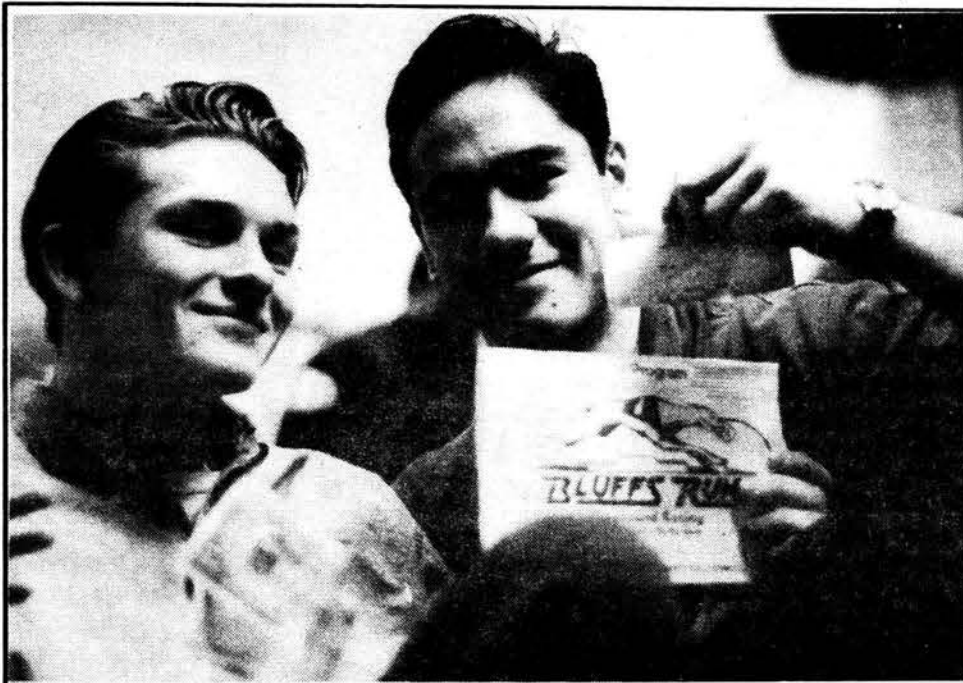


Photo by Tim James
to the casino there were still problems. "We don't get into casinos but there was a sheriff there so we had to leave," said Nick. "I also play poker occasionally," said Nick. He started playing poker eight grade.

Gambling at Bluffs Run: Jerry Anderson (left) and Nate Heimuli (right) show their winnings from Bluffs Run.

Student driving difficult during winter

By Katie Cleary

This winter's iciness and snow has created driving problems for Central students. One Central student said that he was driving eastbound, lost control, and ended up in the ditch and in the bound lanes. "Luckily, no cars were crashing," he said.

To winterize your car for the winter, the main thing is to have your car serviced," said Skip Larsen, service manager at Buchanan's Amoco station located at 50th and Dodge.

Service your car includes checking battery, charger, oil, belts, hoses, freeze and tire conditions.

Some Central students do not winterize their cars, but some do. Ann Pelan, senior, said she has a bag of kitty litter in her car for traction, scrapers and a blanket. "My dad wants me to check the oil and

windshield wiper fluid every other day," she said.

Tommy Huey, senior, said that "previous experience did not help," so he did not winterize his car.

Mindy Marlin, junior said she winterizes her car by putting sand bags in the back and putting snow tires on her car.

Many Central students have had problems driving in the snow and ice. Brandon Steenson, junior, said that he had an accident where he slid on the ice, hit a fence and broke out a taillight.

Ric Fenton, senior, said that he has problems getting up his driveway. "My driveway is one big sheet of ice and so you can't turn."

He said that he had hit some bushes along his driveway. "I have to get a running start to get up my driveway by running the stop sign across the street from my driveway," he said.

Dave Lawlor, junior, said, "If you stay on the main streets, you're fine, but once you get off onto the side streets, then you slide around a bit."

Some Central students are afraid to drive in the snow. Julie Benton, junior, said that she is not afraid to drive anymore. "The first time it snowed, I was scared to drive because I was sliding all over. I wrecked the wheel alignment on my car," she said.

Ric said that he likes driving in the snow. "It's fun. I like to purposely fishtail on the street," he said. Tommy said, "I have faith in my ability as a driver."

Parents' restrictions differ for whether their children drive when the weather gets really bad. Dave's parents tell him that he "can't go out because it's too icy," he said. Jessica Larkin, sophomore, said that her mom lets her use her judgement. "If it's bad, I won't drive," she said.

Officer talks of 'intense' work

Continued from page 1.

partner received a call from a woman who was being physically beaten by her husband. Officer Miskie tried to subdue the husband, but he resorted to violence and struck Officer Miskie on the head with an ax handle. He served one year in jail.

During the Christmas of 1990, Officer Miskie was called to a bar because a man, who escaped from his jail work release, had been spotted.

When Officer Miskie arrived, he had to chase the man through the bar, out the back door and down 25-30 stairs.

While Officer Miskie was still on the stairs, the man shot at him four times and missed each time.

Officer Miskie could not shoot back for fear that he might hit the apartments toward which the man was running. The man was later caught by the police.

Officer Miskie said that people expect police to put up with assaults. He realizes it is a risk he must take, but he said that police officers feel the same way as other people do.

Officer Miskie said that police officers consider many things before resorting to force.

"There's a lot of things to think about before you use that gun," he said. "People can't realize what it's like to be a police officer."

Officer Miskie deals with many threats from arrested criminals. "I don't take them too seriously," he said. "If I worried

about it, I'd add a gray hair everyday." He also said that many people fear retaliation in placing their complaints and refuse to seek help.

According to Officer Miskie, his work involves many psychological traumas. "You never know the right thing to say to people," he said. "I'm not a social worker."

Officer Miskie said that police officers can witness much sadness in the lives of others.

He has seen people live among cockroaches due to extreme poverty. One man Officer Miskie dealt with was so incompetent he could not sufficiently take care of himself.

Police officers can commit a person they believe to be harmful to themselves and others.

That particular man was committed by officers, but he was released from the hospital and later slashed a woman across the face.

"A person's whole life is changed right there," he said. Police officers oftentimes witness autopsies.

Officer Miskie said that the worst incidents involve the innocent. "The hardest thing is when you see children hurt," he said.

Officer Miskie loves it when people help the police. He said that it is impossible for the police to take care of everything themselves. Officer Miskie concluded that many Omahans are fighting crime and that he expects things to improve.

Computer lab able to connect with the world

By Judy Engler

The foreign language lab, which was put into use December, 1991, now has a satellite dish. The satellite dish will enable foreign language classes to interact with students from around the world.

Mrs. Daryl Bayer, foreign language department head, said that the program "will help students to become culturally and politically aware of each other." The program will hook up a classroom here with a selected classroom overseas.

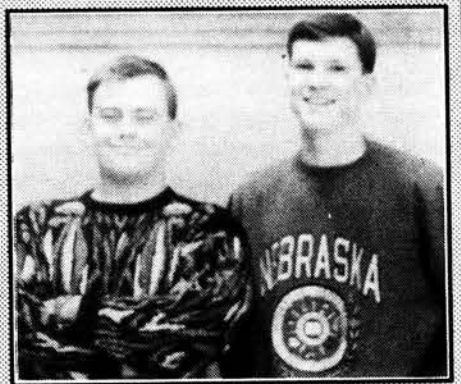
The classes that will be able to have access to the lab are all the foreign language classes and specific programs that will be taped for the social studies department.

The foreign language classes include French, German, Spanish, Latin, Japanese and Russian. Mrs. Bayer hopes that they will be able to communicate with all of these countries plus some other ones.

Even though other magnet schools in the OPS district have the capability to set up this program, Central is the only school that has the program.

"Eventually, we would like to be able to hook up two other foreign language classrooms besides the one that is already available. Also we would like to put a station in the library, which would give the whole school access to the program."

news BRIEFS



Jeff Berg and Kevin Cody

Two seniors nominated for military schools

"After a vigorous application process, we were finally nominated," said Kevin Cody, senior. Jeff Berg, senior, and Kevin Cody have both been nominated by Nebraska senators and congressmen to attend various U. S. military academies.

Jeff was nominated by Sen. Bob Kerrey, Sen. James Exon and Rep. Peter Hoagland to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Kevin was nominated by Kerrey and Hoagland to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and was nominated by Hoagland to attend Westpoint Military

Cookies now sold in courtyard

Cookies, cookies, cookies. Up until now, Central's marketing department and DECA have been the only ones selling them. That has changed because of the fact that the same company that DECA uses, Otis Spunkmeyer, has made a contract with the OPS district. Cookies are now provided, starting January 13, to every school in the OPS district during all lunch periods.

"It doesn't really bother me," said Mrs. Alice Bunz, business department chair, "as long as it doesn't interfere with our cookie sales."

According to Mrs. Vicki Wiles, marketing teacher, "It might help us attract more business. Since they only sell them during lunch, it might help our business in the morning."

The cookies in the courtyard are exactly the same as marketing cookies, except for the price. DECA charges 35 cents, while the OPS program charges 30 cents. Peggy White, cafeteria supervisor, said, "We have profited a lot more than the previous company we used. Yesterday we sold 320 cookies whereas we only sold about 60 cookies daily with the other company."

O-Book wins Yearbook award

The 1992 O-Book has been selected this year as a finalist for the 1993 Yearbook Yearbook. The Taylor publishing company, which publishes Central's O-Book, issues the award to the school with a yearbook that excels in design and copywriting excellence.

By Wendy Revers, Judy Engler and Kelly Grace

Students, edu

By Judy Engler

The Career Center is "the best kept secret in the school district," said the Career Center's principal, Mr. M. C. Decker. The Career Center, located in the old Technical High School building has been in operation for five years. The Career Center offers a variety of classes in different skills that are not normally available and supply a lot of high-tech equipment. Eleven different classes are offered in several different areas including radio and T.V. broadcasting, automotives, electronics, printing, photography, academy of finance and broadcast journalism.

Keilan Wright, Central junior, enjoys his experience at the Career Center. "It is very educational. I love the class, I learn a lot, and my teacher, Mr. Ray is very nice." Keilan is enrolled in radio and T.V. broadcasting. He plans on using the knowledge he gains in this class towards a career in the radio field.

"The learning environment is

By Kelly Grace

"They told us that we did an exceptionally good job. So naturally I'm assuming we did very, very well," said senior Army Instructor Richard Yost. Major Yost is head instructor of Central's ROTC unit. The unit was inspected on December 8, and results from the inspection are due back in February.

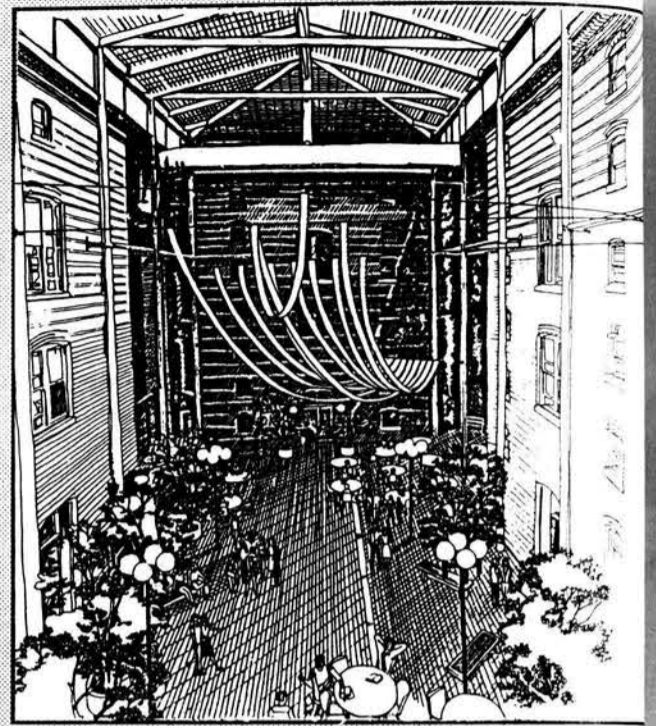
The ROTC cadets prepared thoroughly for the inspection by drilling, wearing uniforms once a week and reviewing the curriculum learned in ROTC. The inspection looks at the senior cadets who have been in ROTC for the past 4 years.

Cadets study a variety of subjects. They learn such techniques as First Aid, map reading, military history, drill, instructional technique, weapons safety and

year who inspects us. Last year a committee from Fort Lewis Washington came to inspect us and this year members from Creighton Universities Active Duty ROTC cadres," said Major Yost.

ROTC offers many benefits to high school students involved. Eligibility for nationwide scholarships based on leadership performance is one benefit. "We have about ten percent of our graduating cadets pursuing careers in the military each year. By just being in ROTC, they can get up to \$190 in pay increase a month in the Army, Navy, Air Force or the Marines. They must be in ROTC for 4 years though," said Major Yost.

In February the program will get the results back from the federal inspection. Major Yost and his cadets remain positive about the outcome. "This is an excellent group of



The courtyard: Original plan by the architect.

By Kelly Roberts

Have you ever wondered why there are eight colored flags the reunion is scheduled to start next year

the eight flags.

"Amazingly enough, a

the reunion cla

contributed the mo

is scheduled to start next year

Bilingual students benefit from second language at home

By Rachel Kozol

Most Central students experience foreign cultures from books only, but some live and breathe them among their everyday lives. Edie Anderson, Jason Hui, and Hope Nguyen, seniors, show this exception in various ways.

Edie Anderson says her Panamanian roots reflect Hispanic and American similarities and differences.

Edie's parents met at an army dance in Panama City while Edie's father was stationed at the city's U.S. army base in 1969. They lived in Iowa for a year and in Yutan, NE until Edie was twelve.

Edie and her mother still speak Spanish today. "I know the language real well," said Edie. She currently takes Spanish classes and she visited Panama City two summers ago.

Due to cultural differences, Eddie faced prejudice in Yutan. "They used to call me 'chink' in Yutan," she said. "They were

racially uneducated."

Edie said the lack of strong prejudice in Omaha results from one thing. "Kids in small towns are closed-minded and listen to their parents who are also very closed-minded," she said. "You don't see a lot of that in bigger cities."

Edie added that her Omaha friends respect her culture as she does. "I'm proud of my heritage. You don't find many Panamanians in Omaha."

Jason Hui faced similar experiences in more ways than one.

Jason's parents met in Hong Kong while Jason's dad worked in the city. Mrs. Hui was originally from Indonesia; Mr. Hui grew up in Canton, China.

Jason said one reason for the move was the Chinese government. "We have more choice politically in the United States," he said.

Jason also said that his parents remain close to their past beliefs. "They have many

philosophies from the old country that they want me to carry on," he said.

Jason's family still speaks Chinese at home and eats Chinese food regularly.

Jason says his relatives believe in the family first. "They're very protective. They always want to know where you are and who you're with."

With big and small cultural differences, Jason has dealt with prejudice. "When I was younger I faced prejudice but now people handle themselves better," he said. "If they're racist, they don't show it directly."

Jason said his friends respect his history. "They think it's cool," he said, "but I'm not sure if they

really understand it."

Jason said that he will always remain drawn to his roots. "My heritage is mine. I'm proud of who I am and where I come from."

Hope Nguyen also has strong ties to her past.

Hope's parent's met in Saigon, Vietnam. Hope's mother and dad's family came to Pennsylvania where Mrs. Nguyen worked in a Catholic organization for a year. Mr. Nguyen united with the family nine years

Her family regularly speaks Vietnamese at home. They eat their native food on a regular basis. "It's much more nutritious," she said. "I grew on vegetables."

Hope also stressed her family's religious differences. Despite the strong Buddhist and Confucian backgrounds in Vietnam, her family grew Catholic.

Hope contrasted Vietnamese and American culture. "Vietnam is much more simplistic," she said. "It is considered a third world nation. There is no fight for luxuries."

She also said families differ in the two countries. "My parents are more concerned. The family always stays together," she said. "The family is extended. I consider relatives throughout the world, not just in Omaha."

With such differences, Hope said that friends don't always understand her strict upbringing. "I think they try to understand but sometimes can't," she said.

My heritage is mine. I'm proud of who I am and where I come from.

-Jason Hui

Teens raise money to send clothing and toys Students help Hurricane Andrew's victims

By Michelle Chandler

On August 23-24, Hurricane Andrew devastated many citizens of Florida, and on November 6-7, Centralites Michelle Stone, junior, and Tom Johnston, sophomore, were doing their part to help the victims.

Michelle and Tom are members of the Nebraska Offsprings, a junior branch of the National Campers and Hikers Association. Michelle is the president of the organization.

Idea to help

Michelle said that she had heard that clothes donated to hurricane victims were not being delivered to the people most in need of help, so she had the idea to send some through the group.

Michelle called the district director of the NCHA in Florida. The director, Mrs. Jean Skillman,

told her that if the Offsprings sent the clothes to her, she would see that they were delivered by local teens to the areas that needed them the most.

In October, Michelle put a plea in the Nebraska Calling, a newspaper of the Nebraska branch of the NCHA, asking members to donate clothes.

Need for supplies

Michelle said that she saw in newspapers that children needed toys for Christmas.

She decided to speak to the other teens in the Offsprings and see if they were interested in using some of the money they had earned through fundraisers to buy some presents for the children.

Raising funds

Michelle approached the members of the group at a state meeting in Grand Island. They

decided to take 50 dollars from their funds and challenge the state general membership to either meet or double their funds.

The group voted to double the amount. Then they passed the hat, and their \$150 grew to \$300.

One of the members of the organization worked at a Kmart, and obtained a 15% discount on all non-sale items in the store. The Offsprings bought 105 toys for the children.

Free shipping

The Stones packed the clothes and toys into 11 boxes and returned to Omaha. They called the United Postal Service and the service volunteered to send all 11 boxes to Florida free of charge.

The NCHA is an international organization, with members in Canada and all 50 of the United States.



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Central students indulge in many types of gambling

By Andrea Davis

Gambling may not be an activity usually associated with high school students, but it does have many high school age participants.

"I don't know the statistics here, but in New Jersey, casinos have to turn away generally thousands of kids, which is quite a staggering number," said Wally T. of Gamblers Anonymous, who will not give his last name because he belongs to an anonymous group.

This seems to be catching on in Omaha also. "We have a lot of 18 to 21-year-olds," said an Aksarben worker. "But we I.D. anyone who looks suspicious."

There are many types of gambling, such as keno, dog races, horse races and betting on sports, all of which are illegal for students under 18. "We have a 'pit boss,'" said the Bellevue Keno Lottery. "If people look under age, he will ask to see adequate I.D. If they don't have it, he asks them to leave."

The Cabana Keno and Aksarben keno casinos have similar policies. Bluffs Run allows people of any age, as long as they are accompanied by someone who is 18 or over, but I.D. must be presented to bet on the races.

One method of gambling for students is through a bookie. "I bet on my favorite [sports] teams quite a bit," said Nick Perzani, junior, who met his bookie

through his job. "I started gambling through Nick when I was about 14," said Josh Dilozenzo, junior.

Students can also get into casinos. "They know you're not 18, but they just let you in," said Ben Perlman, junior. Matt Failla, senior, plays keno with his parents and his girlfriend's mom. "Sometimes they let me go along, and I get to spend time with the family," he said. He plays keno at Doc and Eddy's.

Ben and Nick had trouble once when they tried to get into a casino. "The security guards stopped us, but they didn't call the police," said Ben. Even when they got in

usually always win," he said. The penalty for under-age gambling is "just a slap on the hand," said an Omaha Police Officer. They can either be fined or put on probation. Most are not caught.

Most of the students gamble once or twice a week, and the amount of money they bet and win varies. "I bet about \$10 to \$50 a week, more than that if I want," said Nick. "I break about even on ball games."

Matt says that his winnings average out with how much he puts into gambling. "Sometimes I win a lot of money, but then sometimes I don't," he said. Nate Helmutt,

senior, said that he also wins a lot of money. "I mainly play for entertainment," said Nick. Josh says that he plays for both money and the entertainment. "It also gets you more into the game," said Nick.

Although they know it is illegal, gambling provides them with a leisure activity. "It is illegal, but I've never run into any real trouble," said Nick, however, "My bookie doesn't want me to give out his name."

Nate gambles at both Aksarben and Bluffs Run, where he recently won \$94. He does not gamble illegally, though. "I've been gambling since the age of 18," he said.

While gambling can be just "fun," it sometimes develops into an addiction, then organizations like Gamblers Anonymous can help. "Locally we have only a few teen members, but there are many that need help," said Wally, of Gamblers Anonymous.

Wally said that the program for young people is basically the same as it is for adults. "We realize that we have a problem which we cannot change by ourselves. In the Omaha area, there are meetings five times a week, and the usual attendance is between 5 and 25 people."

"Gambling is the hardest problem to spot," said Wally. "You can tell if someone is on drugs or alcohol, but gambling is so hidden and hard to comprehend." A person is considered to have a gambling problem when it becomes an addiction and when the gambler can't cope with it anymore. Most, he said, have to hit rock-bottom, like stealing money to gamble, before the person will get help.

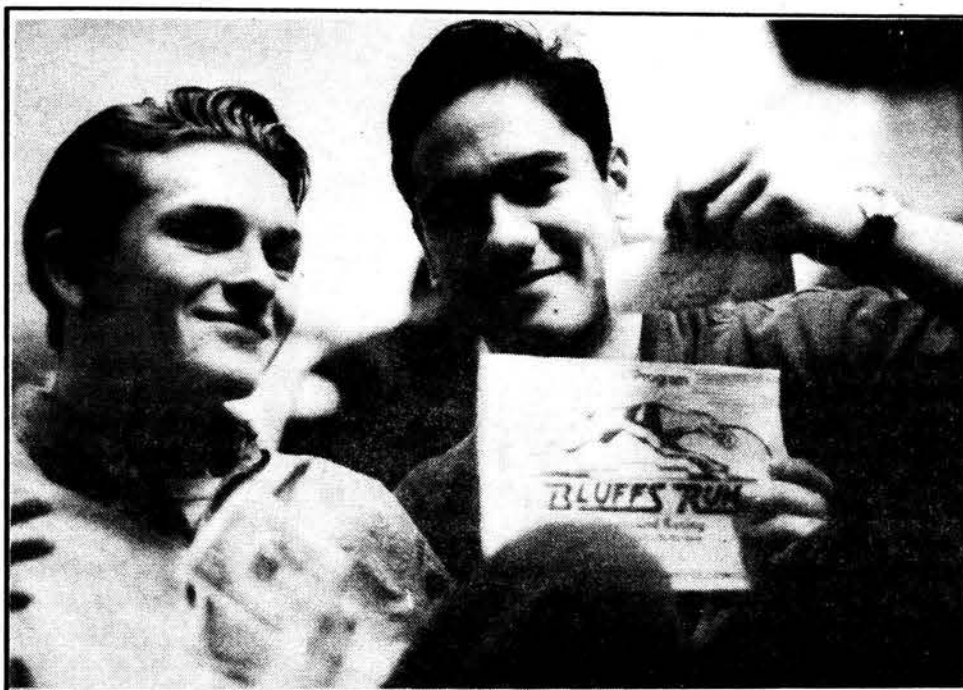


Photo by Tim James

Gambling at Bluffs Run: Jerry Anderson (left) and Nate Helmutt (right) show their winnings from Bluffs Run.

Tattoos and nose piercing, painful but worth it for some Central students

By Anna Thomas

What do Cher and Lisa Bonet have in common with several Centralites? No, it's not their own fitness video and an appearance on the Cosby Show. It's tattoos and pierced noses!

Walking down the hall you can often spot a tattooed arm or a pierced nose, but have you ever wondered exactly why these people do this?

Tattoos are thought of in a variety of ways. Ancient tribal people considered tattooing a form of artwork that simply used the body as medium. In more modern times some people look upon tattoos stereotypically as sleazy or lower class.

Joe Armetta, senior, has a tattoo of Yosemite Sam on his upper left shoulder. He said he got his tattoo "as a symbol of individuality...it will remind me of what a stupid and crazy kid I used to be."

Joe said he probably will regret the fact that he has a tattoo later in life, but "I knew what I was getting myself into before he stuck the needle in." He added, "I mentally prepared myself to accept the fact that it will be there for the rest of my life. So it won't bother me, and I won't bother myself about it."

Joe's mother had a different opinion. She disapproved "at first, but then she realized she couldn't tell me to find the receipt and take it back. My dad just laughed when I told him."

Joe's tattoo cost \$60.00 and he said "the coloring hurt a little."

Daryl M., an employee at

American tattoo who declined to give his last name, said "It hurts to a certain degree, but nothing you can't stand."

Willie, another American Tattoo employee who chose to remain last nameless, said, "It's pretty miserable." Willie's right forearm is almost entirely tattooed.

At American Tattoo, the most inexpensive tattoo is priced at \$25, but prices range up to and over \$100. "In Las Vegas prices range from \$100-\$150 per hour, but prices vary everywhere," said Daryl. He said the average prices run anywhere from \$40-\$60 per hour at the average tattoo parlor.

The only requirements needed to get a tattoo at American tattoo is you must be eighteen and not intoxicated. "We do not tattoo minors," said Daryl. "Sobriety is required," added Willie.

Willie said a lot of people do come in intoxicated, but that often people who you wouldn't expect to have a tattoo come in also. "We get a lot of doctors and lawyers," he said.

Daryl said the most common place people get tattoos is the arm, but occasionally people request to get tattooed in a strange area. "The weirdest place I ever tattooed was the inside of

someone's mouth," he said. The employees at American Tattoo use a type of sterilization called autoclave sterilization. "It's the same type of sterilization used by doctors and surgeons for their equipment," said Willie.

Another trend that is growing in Central's student body is nose piercing. Eric Rinn, junior, pierced his nose his freshman year by himself, using a carrot and a needle. "I was bored," he said. "My mom was disappointed with my irrational behavior and made me grow it out," said Eric. He

said, "It didn't hurt that much because I numbed it with ice first." Quatesha Kern, senior, also has a pierced nose. She and two of her friends decided to do it a few days before school started. They did it for a "new senior look."

They used a kit purchased at a beauty salon for the procedure. The kit contained two earrings and a piercing gun. "It hurt really bad...it's very painful," Quatesha said. "The worst part is trying to keep it clean so it doesn't get infected...it's also kind of hard to blow your nose..." she said. Quatesha doesn't have to worry about regretting the pierced nose later, since she can simply grow it out. "I like it," she said. "I think it looks good."

... it will remind me of what a crazy kid I used to be. - Joe Armetta

Teen parents want day care

By Kristen Perry

"Schools should provide day care for students if they [school systems] want their students to continue in school," said Mrs. Gloria McGrath-Aden, OPS supervisor for home economics and teen parenting. Mrs. Linda Milliken, Central's home economics and teen parenting department head, said, "I think [day care] is necessary. It should be available for all students."

Several teen parents at Central also said that a school-sponsored day care program would be helpful. Senior Sherry Latta's son Christopher is two and a half years old. Although her parents and the father both help with caring for the child, "[the parents get] sick of taking care of him by the time I get home from school."

Sherry also said that "the child comes first," and that it is hard to do homework and watch her child at the same time. "Half the time, I don't do my homework," she said.

"Central itself could offer a day care. [It would] save a lot of trouble," said Jennifer Barnett, senior, whose daughter Devon is seven and a half months old.

Both mothers said that the most difficult part of being a parent is trying to balance parenting and schoolwork. They agreed that having a school-sponsored day care would help with their problems.

Sherry also said that the lack of available day care for teen parents is the reason many students drop out of school.

OPS does offer a day care program for students through the government, assisted Head

Start program. However, this program is only open to North High students and students from three designated alternative high schools. Mrs. McGrath-Aden said that the program fills too fast to allow students in from other schools. However, she also said that OPS has seen the need for a second day care in south Omaha. She said that more students could be served this way. According to Mrs. McGrath-Aden, the day care is currently at capacity with 41 children ranging in age from six weeks to three years.

Mrs. McGrath-Aden said that the day care program is open to both male and female students. The only requirement is that the parent be enrolled in the Teen Parenting class.

The day care is free of charge and even provides transportation for the child to get to the day care and for the student to get to school.

The goal of the day care program is to keep teen parents in school, to help teen parents develop positive parenting skills, and to help teen parents look towards being self-sufficient and have healthy children. The program also provides counseling services, career direction counseling, and health services for the teen parents, said Mrs. McGrath-Aden.

These goals also exist in the teen parenting class at Central, said Mrs. Milliken. Central's teen parenting class deals with three areas: parenting, self-awareness or self-esteem and the dual role responsibilities of being a parent, going to school, and possibly having a job, she said.

Central's accessibility causes problems for students, teacher

By Anna Thomas

On occasion you have probably noticed a person or two on crutches or with some other difficulty around Central. Have you ever wondered what problems and difficulties they face?

Michael Rolleigh, senior, recently had knee surgery and is required to walk on crutches. He experiences a variety of problems, but his biggest complaint was having to use the elevator. "Waiting for teachers to open the elevator can get tiresome."

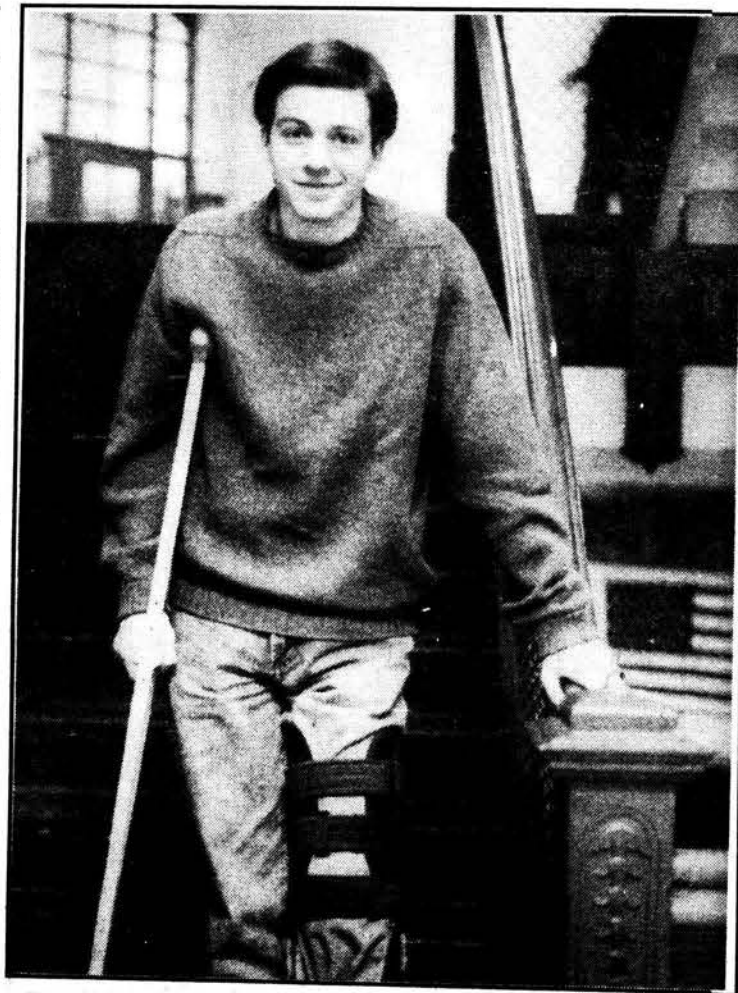
The school gives elevator keys to students who have long term problems, but if a student is only going to be on crutches or in a wheelchair temporarily, they are required to have a teacher unlock the elevator for them. This can cause a variety of problems. For example, if a student leaves a class early in order to be on time to another class, he or she may have to interrupt a teacher's lesson in order to get on the elevator.

Michael's other big problem was not an issue of school accessibility. It was simply the weather. "The snow and ice around the sidewalks make getting from the parking lot to the school difficult," he said. "Overall, the school does an efficient job of providing access," said Michael.

Sara Swisher, a junior who is also on crutches for knee surgery, has similar problems. She also dislikes having to wait for a teacher to unlock the elevator. Sara also said she doesn't like "having to have people help me." She said this happens often because the doors in the hallway are often closed and she cannot get her own lunch.

Matt Ave-Lallemant, senior, has slightly different problems. Matt uses a walker. He said that although he has adapted to most of the problems he has had, some things are a pain. He has an elevator key, but there is only one way to enter the building and not have to go up any stairs. Matt also said, "When the elevator breaks down, I'm stuck where I am."

Physical obstacles are not Matt's only problem. "I can't take a class on the fourth floor." This is because the elevator goes to the fourth floor, but



Here I come!: Michael Rolleigh, senior, tries to hobble down the stairs. Photo by Mike Buckley

only to the cafeteria. "If I really wanted to take one [a class on the fourth floor] I'm sure they'd do something." Dr. Moller said that arrangements would be made.

Both Matt and Sara agree that having the elevator only on the three side is an inconvenience. "It would be a good idea to have another elevator on the one side," said Matt.

Michelle Queen, junior, was on crutches for two weeks because of a foot injury. "The hardest thing was trying to maneuver down the halls." Michelle also complained of waiting for a teacher to open the elevator.

Mrs. Vickie Anderson, Central Spanish teacher, was injured and required to use a wheelchair. One of her big complaints was the little metal strips placed in every doorway. She said it was difficult to enter a classroom because if the chair's wheels were not aligned properly, the wheelchair would not go over the metal.

"I don't think Central is very accessible," said Mrs. Anderson, "but it's not like Central's the only building." She said that during her time in the wheelchair she noticed that many buildings that said they were handicap accessible, really weren't. Despite problems at Central, Mrs. Anderson said she noticed that "people were extremely helpful" and did a lot to make her day easier.

Reporter tries wheelchair

By Anna Thomas

On Friday, January 8, I spent the school day in a wheelchair. The Register staff is aware of the fact that this is not an entirely accurate portrayal of what it is truly like. My objective was to simply increase awareness of the changes that would occur with life in a wheelchair, and to experience how accessible Central High

I began my adventure zero hours. My first discovery, although it may seem insignificant, is that tables in my marketing class are too low for a wheelchair to fit under. This was also true of all the desks in my classes. This meant that I had to use a lapboard to write and sit either in the aisle of the class or off to the side.

Next, I had to attend the junior auditorium homeroom that was held that day. By the time I reached the elevator and found the ramp leading to the auditorium, I was late. I decided not to go down the aisle to my class row because the ramp looked a little too steep.

Surprisingly enough, I was on time to three classes. The major problem was that the elevator was on the three side, and most of the classes and my locker are on the one side. Also, if I wanted to get a drink or go to the bathroom I had to go to the four side, because that is the only side with handicap accessible drinking fountains and restrooms.

My biggest difficulty was getting to physics. Apparently Central has never had a student in a wheelchair that has wanted to take physics because the route I had to take was...interesting, to say the least.

I began by meeting Mr. George Taylor, one of the security aides, by the "C". He accompanied me in the elevator up to the cafeteria. Here I had to wait for over five minutes until Mr. Taylor located a custodian

Special need siblings

Students experience positive and negative aspects

By Julie DeWitt

For some Central students, having a handicapped sibling can result in extra responsibility around the home, and sometimes problems. However, there are also many positive things about having siblings with special needs.

Andrea Nanfito, sophomore, has a brother, Josh, who is 14 and has Fragile X. Fragile X, according to experts, is the leading genetic cause of mental retardation. Symptoms of Fragile X vary from mental retardation to learning problems of various degrees.

Josh attends special classes at Beveridge Junior High School. Andrea said that there aren't that many things she and her family have to do for Josh. "If we leave for more than 15 or 20 minutes, someone has to stay with him," she said. "He can't tie his shoes yet."

Andrea said that there are few things about Josh that she doesn't like. "He can be annoying at times. He'll see a movie and say lines and sing songs from it all the time," she said. "He

has a good sense of humor," she said. "He can make you laugh if you're in a bad mood."

"Sometimes he gets more attention than my brother and me, and he doesn't have to do as much around the house," Andrea said.

Andrea said that sometimes she asks herself "Are people going to like me because my brother is handicapped?" But Andrea has an answer to her question: "If people have problems with my family, then they aren't worth having as a friend."

Andrea said she appreciates all of the good things about Josh and agrees that her family is different. "If you have a brother or sister who is handicapped, you aren't like every other family in America," she said.

Pam Ronne, senior, has a brother named Jeff who is handicapped after a brain-damaging car accident. Jeff is 31 and does not live with Pam and her family but at a rehabilitation center that is part of a program at Immanuel Hospital.

At the time of the accident, Pam said that her life suddenly changed and she had to

take on added responsibility. "You had to put yourself second and put him first," she said. "He was really dependent on everyone."

Pam said that her brother went through major personality changes after the accident. "He's not the same as he was before. You want him to be one person and he's a different person. He gets mad at me and he doesn't know why. It's because he can't be who I want him to be," Pam said. She said that she and Jeff were really close before the accident. "We're still really close. I guess I'm closer to him now," she said. "He's really protective of me. I'm really protective of him."

Pam said that though Jeff's accident was a terrible tragedy, she has learned a few things from dealing with it. "It's made me more aware," she said. Pam said that if she sees someone making fun of a handicapped person, it makes her really angry. "I stick up for everyone now," she said.

"I realize how lucky people are now, how lucky I am," Pam said.

OBSTACLES



Artwork by Sarah DeWitt

Experiences day in wheelchair covers difficulty

...y to the storage room. I went through two very unused storage rooms allway that led to the art room leading up to it step to wheel up. I then through the art room and a tunnel. I came out into physics class. At both this hallway I had to get wheel chair to go up and stairs. This was the only day that I cheated out. I was fifteen minutes physics. Dr. Moller said

have someone either lift them down the stairs to get lunch, or just have someone buy it for them. Either way it's a big hassle. These were just a few of my physical obstacles. Another interesting aspect of my day was the reaction of the people around me. Many people would offer me extra help, such as holding doors and moving desks out of my way, but many people would also pretend like I wasn't there. It was fascinating to see the difference in the way people treated me. The only people who acted like



Anna Thomas, junior, contemplates a difficulty spending a day in a wheelchair. Photo by Chris Becerra

...re zero hour. though it may is that the ng class are r to fit under. all the desks meant that I d to write on aisle of my e. d the junior m that was e time I took d the ramp rium, I was go down the because the o steep. n, I was only The main elevator was most of my r are on the n room I had because this handicapp untains and was getting ty Central d in a nted to take ute I had to, to say the

they usually do were the people who knew I was doing this for a story. Friends of mine would run up to me and ask me what had happened. People who recognized me would just kind of smile questioningly. The people I didn't know were by far the most interesting. Some would go out of their way to make my time easier, but others would speed up in the halls so as not to have to open the door for me. I realize this story is not entirely accurate. I'm sure I would encounter a lot more problems if I were in a wheelchair for an extended period of time, or even permanently. This experiment was just to give myself and other people a small taste of how not having the use of one's legs can greatly affect even the simplest daily activities. I'm glad I had a chance to take part in this story. I now have a greater sense of the treatment of people in wheelchairs and the problems they face.

Blind Central graduate enjoyed relatively normal high school life

By Julie DeWitt

Sonja Grayer graduated from Central High School in 1983. What is significant about that is the fact that Miss Grayer is blind.

Miss Grayer found that Central was accessible to a blind student "for the most part." She found that getting around the school wasn't all that hard and that like the other students, Miss Grayer's worries revolved mostly around her studies. She said that she did not ride the elevator or have many other special privileges. "I used the stairs," she said. "I got the full Central experience," Miss Grayer said. Few changes

would read the test questions to her and then she would give her answer. "For my family to tell them (teachers) not to treat me differently was kind of a contradictory statement," she said.

"surprised" to find that she encountered more problems in college than she did in high school. "The college instructors don't know as much about my situation," she said.



Beautiful music: Sonya Grayer, a Central High graduate, plays the piano. Photo by Chris Becerra

Mr. Bob McMeen, head of the counseling department at Central, had Miss Grayer for a Cappella choir and voice class when she was a student. Mr. McMeen got to know Miss Grayer and said that he learned many things from her. "I learned to describe a

had to be made for Miss Grayer to take classes at Central. "Most teachers didn't have any problem knowing they were going to have a blind student in their classes," she said. "I worked through an OPS program that helped me transfer by books onto cassette or into Braille," she said. Miss Grayer said that one of the most important things she and her family stressed to the faculty at Central is that they "not treat me differently." Miss Grayer said that her teachers wanted to be cooperative, but that "it can be difficult having different students with different needs." When Miss Grayer took tests in class, she had to have extra time. She said that a student

"The teachers weren't supposed to do anything special for me, yet I needed extra time on tests and things like that."

During her classes, Miss Grayer would record lectures or else take notes by typing on a Braillewriter, a device that allows a typist to type in Braille.

"Most teachers were pretty receptive to the Braillewriter in high school," she said. However, Miss Grayer is now attending college and said that the Braillewriter "bothers" some of her college teachers. Instead of using the machine, she tapes her notes.

Miss Grayer attends the University of Nebraska at Omaha and said that college is "so far so good." She said that she was

plate as you would describe the face of a clock," Mr. McMeen said about the times he went out to dinner with Miss Grayer. "She went to the state music clinic two years in a row, and we went out to dinner a few times," he said.

Mr. McMeen said that Miss Grayer was a very good singer. "She had perfect pitch. She could sing any pitch you asked her to sing," he said. Mr. McMeen said he has only encountered one other student in his twenty years at Central with perfect pitch.

Miss Grayer likes to play the piano in her spare time. "I took lessons for about a year, and then I taught myself from there," she said. Miss Grayer is currently majoring in vocal music.

Businessman helps students through 'Yanney Kids' program

By Rachel Kozol

The Register recently interviewed Michael Yanney, businessman, in order to give students a perspective on his program, "Yanney Kids."

Omaha businessman Michael Yanney said that the educational, racial and economic barriers complicate the futures of Omaha's youth.

He called on business leaders of the Omaha Rotary clubs and the Omaha Public School district to become involved with these prominent problems.

Mr. Yanney emphasized the Omaha community's need for personal dedication. "I think that each of us must come to understand that the changes must take place within our society."

Mr. Yanney and the American First Co., started a program three years ago called Yanney Kids at McMillan Junior High.

The principal and counselors selected 20 students who were doing unsatisfactory work and had discipline problems but had the potential to succeed.

Mr. Yanney promised these students that if they behaved and received improved grades, he would sponsor recreational activities and award them college or technical scholarships.

15 students are still active in the program. A similar program exists through the U.S. West telephone company.

"I'd like to see as many companies as possible involved," said Mr. Yanney, "but it must be on a personal level." His company provides private counselors for the students.

Central sophomore Esperonza Riveria, a participant in the program, said the guidance was very helpful. "My counselor is really nice and she encourages me." Since joining the program, Esperonza said her grades have gone from good to better. She is

also a member of the Latino School Alliance. She plans on pursuing a career in art.

According to Winnie Callahan, spokeswoman for OPS, the schools will benefit from Mr. Yanney's program. "I think it will be extremely successful, if there's one to one contact," she said. "That's the key."

Ms. Callahan said Mr. Yanney's demand for educational reform is strongly linked to a child's social situation. She said that the home and a student's

between high and low achievers, developing a school atmosphere that assures the student comes first, and in making OPS elementary and secondary schools among the best in the nation.

Mr. Yanney said that OPS has been more than adequate in their support. "The schools have been working with us very well," he said. "We are extremely happy with the cooperation they have given us."

Mr. Yanney also said it was

and social failure.

Esperonza said that racial and economic barriers lack strong visibility at Central. "You can't tell a student's family income unless they boast of it," she said.

Mr. Yanney stressed the importance of the Omaha community to lessen these economic gaps. "Our political leaders have been irresponsible and the citizens must take the leadership in changing it."

Mr. Yanney said that Omahans pay \$50 to 70 million a year in taxes. A majority of this money goes towards housing subsidies, food stamps, overcrowded jails, and busing. He added that the results are not there.

Mr. Yanney stressed that through programs like his, positive results will occur. "Omaha is probably one of the few cities left where all our programs are still quite manageable," he said.

Mr. Yanney said that YMCA, Omaha Housing Authority, and The Boys Clubs are examples of organizations that have taken the initiative to improve Omaha.

Ms. Callahan called for recognition of Yanney's work. "The world needs more Michael Yanneys."

Esperonza supported this by saying her friends lack knowledge about the Yanney Kids program.

Ms. Deeb agreed that the program would benefit the community. "He would give a great deal of hope to young people."

Esperonza said the results of the program will be worthwhile throughout her life. "It exposed me to new things and brightened my horizons."

Mr. Yanney concluded that community work gives him personal satisfaction. "I always felt that if I could do anything, I'd give more than I received," he said. "I hope I maintain that belief for the rest of my life."

"I always felt that if I could do anything, I'd give more than I received. I hope I maintain that belief for the rest of my life."
- Michael Yanney

peers directly affect performance at school.

"Doing well in school is low on the totem pole of a student who is just trying to survive," she said. "It doesn't matter how good the school is."

Norma Deeb, principal at McMillan Junior High, said Mr. Yanney's work against social and educational ills through personal guidance motivates students. "Everyone needs a champion—someone to look up to," she said.

Ms. Callahan agreed. "Many young people go through school without anyone taking an interest in them," she said. "Unless someone does something, the system will fall them," she said.

Ms. Callahan said that Mr. Yanney's goals could correspond with the ones OPS has set individually. They include: improving academic achievement for all students, reducing the gap

the responsibility of the community to reduce racial and economic gaps. "We must successfully develop this city into a melting pot of all races."

Ms. Callahan said that the schools contain a strong portion of any city's racial tensions. "The schools mirror so much of our society," she said. "Prejudice is well and alive."

She also added that schools hold the greatest ability to lessen such barriers through education. "School is the opportunity for many young people who were pre-destined to certain ideas to break free of them," she said.

Ms. Callahan said that OPS has reduced racial tension through cooperative learning programs, extra-curricular studies, and multi-cultural classes.

Ms. Deeb said that racial and economic backgrounds are not relevant excuses for educational

Special Education tries to 'reach all needs'

By Alex Cooper

Many students whom one sees at Central may be in special education even though they do not appear to have a learning problem.

Mrs. Judy Storm, head of the special education department, said that some of the brightest students speak with a lisp and may be in some type of special education course.

Nebraska declares that it is the duty of the board of education to provide special education programs for all students who could benefit from such a program.

Special education includes all types of students who may exhibit different disabilities or handicaps. Some of these handicaps include behavioral disorders, hearing impairment, orthopedic handicap, learning disabled and speech language

impaired.

One must be tested to see if one is qualified to be enrolled in a special education class. Mrs. Storm said that teachers recognize a student who has some type of learning problem and report it to the administration.

If that student qualifies for special education, he or she is placed in the level that best suits him. Mrs. Storm said that a student is put in the special education class that meets the individual needs of that student. She said, "Some students are struggling in school who do not qualify for special education classes."

Mrs. Storm said that the content and the curriculum are the same for the special education classes at Central. "The main difference is the technique and approach used in teaching the

curriculum," said Mrs. Storm. Some people just need a "double dose" of the material.

For example, the tenth graders in special education classes read the same literature book and novels that tenth graders in mainstream classes read, such as *The Outsiders*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *Julius Caesar*.

Mrs. Storm said, "We try to reach all needs." She said that some students learn through seeing and some through hearing. The special education department has some books on tape so that students may listen to the book while reading it.

Mrs. Storm reads all of the stories and books the class reads orally and assigns the students the discussion questions at the end just like mainstream classes. She also gives her students a vocabulary list that they must know for each

story. Mrs. Storm assigns her classes a weekly composition.

Special education math teachers also use the same curriculum as mainstream classes. Mrs. Storm said that they "slow the pace down a little bit" to meet each student's learning style.

The transition concept is very important to the special education classes. This concept is to prepare the students for what comes next after high school, whether it is work, apprenticeship programs, or college.

Ms. Cindi Newberg, special education teacher, said, "Our goal is to increase the independent employability because there are not many general labor jobs available now." Many students take several mainstream classes along with some special education

Reporters witness crime on the street

By Rachel Kozol

The following is a log of events that occurred when Alex Cooper and Rachel Kozol rode along with a police officer.

Even though we didn't see any drug busts or shoot-outs, spending the early morning hours of January 9 in an Omaha police cruiser was both an educational experience and an exciting one.

At 11:30 p.m., we arrived at the police station located at 10th and I Street. The police officers first perform several tasks before embarking on their shifts; these include taking roll-call, signing subpoenas.

It was 12:02 a.m. when we got off in cruiser 671. First, Officer Miskie completed a daily log records the mileage of the cruiser. A daily log is often used in internal affairs to trace a complaint.

Next Officer Miskie received a call concerning an attempted theft at 26th and Douglas. "If we ride-alongs, we could not get at the scene of the crime first," he said by the time we got to the apartment complex, two squad cars were already taking action.

Two residents at the location allegedly caught the suspect criminal attempting to steal a Dodge Omni. Radio records stated that the arrested man was previously convicted and considered extremely dangerous.

Our next stop was the Orient Rug Palace located at 72nd and Jones. Besides the theft of merchandise, the burglars broke the northern window.

The suspects unwittingly left behind a glove and tire while fleeing in their '87 pickup. Officer Miskie pointed out that the crime lab could lose the prints marks due to snow. The suspects both wore Central Eagle jackets.

It was now 3:30 a.m. and the end of our journalistic inquiry. Even though the weather caused a slow shift, it was truly a worthwhile experience by the incidents we witnessed.

classes. "We want to move students to mainstream classes," Mrs. Storm said. Mr. Tim Herbert, special education teacher, said that it is possible for a student to test out of special education altogether. Some students may be in all mainstream classes, but might need additional tutoring for a certain subject.

"Students in special education are encouraged to give more input," said Mrs. Storm. The numbers of students in special education classes are smaller than those in mainstream classes, which allows more interaction between each student and the teacher.

"We have high expectations," said Mrs. Storm. Students enrolled in special education earn the same credits and receive the same diploma as mainstream students. Mrs. Storm said that special education students can be successful at Central.

Teachers honored with Buffett Award

By Michelle Chandler

Seven Central teachers have achieved the honor of being recipients of the Buffett Award during the past five years it has been given. Those teachers are: Mr. John Waterman, Mr. T.M. Gaherty, Mr. Dan Day, Mr. John Keenan, Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, Miss Rita Ryan, and Mr. Ed Waples.

The winners of the award are chosen by a committee that reads letters of recommendation. Both former and current students and their parents have written recommendations for teachers whom they thought were deserving of the award.

“Too often, teachers who are truly deserving... do not get a nomination.”

--Mrs. Valdrighi

Colleagues have also written letters. In fact, Mr. Daly said that receiving the award had made him "pause to consider other teachers who deserve it and write letters because [he] thought it was a worthwhile thing to do."

Award from being a great honor, the award means receiving a \$10,000 check. However, Mr. Keenan said that the recipients are warned when they are informed that they won the award that they should not expect to be able to spend \$10,000 because taxes take out around \$3,000. The remaining \$6500 was put to practical use by some teachers, but some, such as Mr. Daly "blew it" on somewhat frivolous items. Mrs. Valdrighi and Mr. Keenan used some of the money to help their children through college or medical school. Miss Ryan bought a red convertible and gave a pizza party for her Latin students at Elmwood Park. Mr. Daly said that he took an extended family vacation, bought a new top for his convertible and went on a helicopter ride

with his award money. Mr. Gaherty used the money to pay for his daughter's wedding.

The teachers were recognized for their achievement at a banquet. Before the banquet, the names are released in the newspaper, but between the publication of the paper and the phone call informing

the teachers that they have won the award, the names of the recipients are confidential, with the exception of the recipients and their spouses or other close family members. The reactions of the teachers, upon receiving the informing phone call, have ranged from amazement and honor to disbelief. Mr.

Gaherty and Mr. Keenan both said that they thought someone was trying to play a joke on them.

Mrs. Valdrighi said that winning the award made her realize "the truth that there are many wonderful students who value education and are willing to work to achieve excellence under a demanding teacher, and when one hears about lazy teens who do not care about the future, that simply is not a true generalization." Mr. Waples said that the award was especially meaningful because his father had just died a few months before he was notified of his achievement. He felt that the award was in some way a reflection on his parents and their patience and effort on his behalf.

All the teachers feel that winning the Buffett Award is a great honor. Mrs. Valdrighi feels that "too often teachers who are truly deserving [of the award] work with those who may not be the most apt to write a letter [of recommendation], so they do not get a nomination."



English first: Mr. Martin helps his students. Photo by Mike Buckley

Teacher writes creatively, encourages student writing

By Andrea Davis

Mr. David Martin, English teacher, finds grading compositions is more than an after school chore. He is the teacher of three sophomore and two junior English classes at central, a research paper class and a journal writing class at UNO, and a research paper class at Metro Community college.

"It seems like eight composition classes," said Mr. Martin. "It is very time consuming."

Morning Person

In order to get all of the grading done, Mr. Martin gets up at four in the morning. "I'm a morning person," he said. "For every hour I work before noon, it seems like I've done two hours of work." He also spends many Saturdays and Sundays.

"I work a lot of seven-day weeks," said Mr. Martin. "But I'm a pretty fast reader." He took a speed reading class to help himself be a faster reader.

15 Years

He has been teaching English for 15 years, and has spent the last ten years at Central. He taught at South High School also. "Teaching is an art," he said. "To say the right thing at the right time comes with practice and experience." He says that writing is also an art. "It's like painting or sculpting, if you stay with it long enough, you can see art developing and you want to do more."

Dreaming in English class

His own interest in writing began when he was in high school English class. "Dreaming is acceptable in English class," said Mr. Martin. Because his English teachers encouraged him to dream, it became his favorite class, and he began to love writing. He says that writing "opens windows in a stuffy room" for him.

Learning from students

Mr. Martin says that he is able to learn from his students and when he stops learning from them he will no longer teach. "It is fun to watch the students develop and become skillful writers," he said.

He also presents his writing to his students for them to critique. "My students love it when the table

turned," he said.

'Keep a journal'

Mr. Martin stresses to his students that keeping a journal is one of the most important steps to becoming a good writer.

Last year, he made a New Year's resolution to write in his journal every day, which he has done. "Even if I don't have much time I jot down a line or two each day," he said. "Every good writer keeps a journal where he or she can collect and store things"

Slaying the 'dragon'

Another problem he helps his students overcome is what he calls "slaying the dragon." This "dragon" is writers block. "The secret is to keep the hand moving and not to let the hand stop the flow of creativity," said Mr. Martin.

"A lot of times peoples egos stop them from producing. They think they are not good enough or that they won't be accepted."

Newsletter

Mr. Martin produces an eight-page newsletter called Fine Lines, which contains prose and poetry from high school and college students. The cost of the newsletter is ten dollars per year and they put it out three to four times per year.

Mr. Martin has published some of his writing in that publication and also in the Nebraska English Journal. "I really like creative writing. It helps me grow," he said.

Helped former students

He is able to see the results of his teaching through his students. He receives poetry from a former student who is stationed in Greece.

He says that one student decided not to kill herself because she was able to express herself. "She learned to write her problems down and deal with them that way," said Mr. Martin. A student who had not been speaking to his parents for six weeks, wrote them a letter, and they worked their problems out.

Mr. Martin sums up writing with a pun. "The secret to being a good writer is to learn to affix the seat of your pants to a chair; The

“The secret to being a good writer is to learn to affix the seat of your pants to a chair. That's what I call the Bottom Line.”

-Mr. Martin

Students continue long family traditions of attending Central

By Kelly Roberts

This year many students are continuing the legacy of their parents and grandparents by attending Central. Several students mark second, third and even fourth generations experiencing much of the same scenery and academic excellence as their parents.

Fourth generation student, David Blalac, senior, remembers memories about Central with his father, George Blalac, who was a manufacturing representative, who ended in the 50's.

"At that time there were at least 200 kids in the study hall and still only two teachers supervised everyone," said David.

"My father also said that there used to be a tunnel which extended beneath the courtyard, where people were able to walk and from their classes," said David.

David's father remembers that the teacher's offices located in the stair wells used to be bathrooms, and the actual offices were located beneath them.

"The students used to throw smoke bombs in the toilets. Most teachers hoped they were fortunate enough not to get an office beneath one of the bathrooms," said David.

Another senior, Katy Flemming, and her sister Molly Flemming, junior, are second generation Central students.

Their father, John J. Flemming, now admissions director at University of Nebraska at Omaha, graduated from Central in 1966, and remembers many parts of the school that Katy and Molly remember now.

"My dad swam for Central and was involved in many clubs," said Katy. She also said that he had many of the same teachers that she has.

"Mrs. Fellman, French teacher; Mr. Keenan, English teacher; and at that time Dr. Moller, the vice principal, were all here at Central when my dad went here," said Katy.

Another student, Ruth Carlson, sophomore, is a second generation student at Central. Her father, Mr. Carlson, attended Central from 1939-43 and experienced the outbreak of World War II.

"I can remember Fred Hill (former principal) calling all of the students into the auditorium, the morning after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to listen to the president declare war over the radio," said Mr. Carlson.

When Ruth's father attended Central ROTC was very popular and there was nearly 100% enrollment, because everyone was determined to help support the war.

"I remember that no girls were allowed to join ROTC and at that time there was a rifle range behind the auditorium where we all practiced," said Mr. Carlson.

Another Central student, Kara Willits, junior, is a third generation student. Her grandmother, father and mother graduated from Central. Her mother, Elaine Willits, graduated in 1966. Robert Willits graduated in 1965 and remembers that many parts of the school have drastically changed since then.

"The building was completely different then. The courtyard had no top and was closed off in the winter," said Mr. Willits.

Also the reason why the stairs run on both sides of the halls was because of the bathrooms, he said. "The boys walked on the right hand side and the girls stayed on the left stairs," said Mr. Willits.

MTV's Tabitha Soren discusses 'curveballs'

by Ben Fenner

Who is Tabitha Soren? What makes an MTV reporter/anchor woman tick? And what is it like interviewing president George Bush on the back of a train? Fortunately, Ms. Soren was in Omaha over the holidays and had some time to answer these questions as well as many others like them.

The early years

Let's start at the beginning. Ms. Soren's first brush with journalism came in high school where she worked on the school newspaper. "It was there I got involved with journalism," said Ms. Soren, who went on to get a bachelors degree in journalism at NYU. It wasn't until college that she worked with television, on a cable access show. It was also during this time when she interned at MTV, not knowing that she would later be seen weekly on the network.

MTV

Ms. Soren's official title at MTV is reporter and anchor, and she can be seen doing both of these on the "Week in Rock," a weekly news show on MTV. "I share the responsibility with Kurt Loder," she said. "It's kind of like, 'whoever



Discussing her career: Tabitha Soren sheds some light on politics and gives something besides music to the MTV generation.

wants to host it this week, will." It's not, unfortunately, so easy interviewing the president of the United States.

Talking with President Bush
"Interviewing President Bush was like combat warfare. Right

before I interviewed him, he found out [by looking at the projected electoral college votes] that he was going to lose the election," said Ms. Soren. So not only was he talking to some reporter from the "teeny-bopper" network, but

he knew he was going to lose.

The interview Ms. Soren is referring to is the one she conducted with Bush on the back of a train. It was very hard to get him to talk, she said, because "he kept waving to people on the sides of the track." Not only did Bush throw Ms. Soren this "curveball," she said, but he also insisted that she not ask him about the Iran-Contra affair.

"On any other occasion I would have refused such a request," said Ms. Soren, stating that it infringes upon the right to

freedom of the press. "It was the only chance I had to talk with him, and I thought people would want to know about more than just the Iran-Contra affair."

"In this job you have to be pushy," said Ms. Soren. "I had only ten minutes with Bush and had so much to ask him." After seven minutes, Bush's political advisor tried to cut her off. She

kept going and was signalled at eight minutes. She again kept firing questions and got a little over ten minutes in.

Clinton's MTV career
President elect Bill Clinton, the other hand, came into the studio for a show and, although

“ “ Interviewing President Bush was like combat warfare -Tabitha Soren ” ”

Future Plans

Ms. Soren will be at MTV in November when her contract expires. She knows she will not cover music and is now working with the Today Show as a "contribution correspondent" doing monthly pieces on subjects such as "Why the Youth of Today are Re-energized with Clinton" and "The Hunger Felt in Somalia."

Corner 'O' Reviews

For all of you trashy movie connoisseurs, we review the best, or worst, out there.



For those who don't like obnoxiously bad movies, we've got the new ones now in theaters.

Old Movie Dept.

Piranha II: The Spawning

By Willie Bogue

The only consolation I have after watching *Piranha II: The Spawning* is that I never saw *Piranha I*. The only thing that kept me awake during this horrifically annoying movie was wondering how the piranha managed to fly with such unflinching accuracy.

Piranha II stars a school of evil piranha that was bred (by an evil government agency) with flying

fish. The director never tells us exactly why the government wanted to produce a mutant strain of flying piranha, because that might make the movie more interesting. Along with a pair of wings that any bird would be happy to have, the piranha possess amphibious lungs that allow them to exist in water, air, or a corpse's chest cavity. The piranha usually live in a sunken submarine just off the coast of an island that houses Club Elysium,

a summer vacationing spot for lots of dislikeable people.

Every so often the mutant pack of piranha will sail out of the ocean and nibble an unsuspecting tourist to death, then the protagonists blow up the submarine and kill all the piranha. It's just that simple. No confusing plot twists, no surprise ending, no action-packed fight sequences, no beautiful underwater scenes, nothing. Just airborne fish.

Flourished

Amy Fisher

Aladdin

The Simpsons

Coffee shops

Batman

Denim shirts

Trolls

Seattle

Gambling (CasinOmaha & Bluffs Run)

Rush Limbaugh

Died

Leona Helmsley

Cool World

Royal Family

Malls

Superman

Biker shorts

Koosh

Minneapolis

Aksarben

Geraldo

Alive is a beautiful movie... and it is true

By Ben Fenner

Alive is a very intense movie about a Brazilian rugby team who crash in the Andes. With nothing to eat but chocolate bars and each other, these people's will to survive is tested as they encounter such dangers as avalanches and malnutrition. Sixteen people survived for more than seventy days in the freezing weather. The majority of these days were spent in the broken

“ This is an amazing movie based on an amazing story. ”

survival but also discovery. These young men start their journey with a frivolous attitude towards life, perhaps even taking it for granted. Once faced with the end of their lives, many look inside themselves and find out who they really are. Many, under such a traumatizing experience, claimed to have seen god and found inner peace.

So go, call your friends and family, and, darn it, see this movie. This film deals not only with

Thespians work at Gifford

By Jenny Priesman

Six Central students are members of a new Thespians Society sponsored by the Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre. Debbie Spencer, senior, Melanie Green, junior, Kate Duggan, junior, Sarah Gilbert, freshman, Anna Perilo, freshman, and Kate Ross, freshman, are involved.

Michael Wilhelm, staff advisor for the society, said that the group was created six to seven years ago. The group was named the Teen Guild, he said. "In the last two years, the Teen Guild expanded to work with other organizations, including International Thespians and Boy Scout Explorers," he said.

The separate Thespians Society was not created to compete with other area high school societies, said President Tanya Arens. "Not all schools have Thespians, so we chose to work with the Gifford," she said.

Debbie Spencer joined the second society to gain experience. "I need things on my resume" for college, she said. The additional activities will help her gain "a lot of experience," she said.

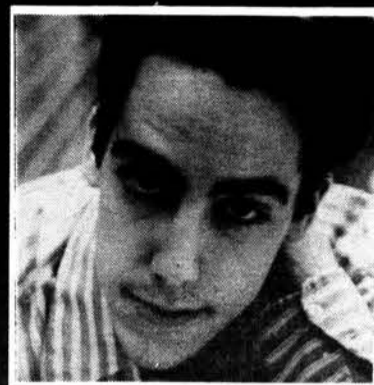
Kate Ross joined the Gifford society because "as a freshman I didn't have enough points to be in Central's" society, she said. Central requires a certain number of points from Central productions to join Thespians, she said. The Gifford, because it is not associated with a specific school, does not, she said.

The Thespians provide "kids with an opportunity to learn more about theatre," Mr. Wilhelm said. "All areas of theatre are emphasized," he said, including costuming, creating characterizations, writing resumes, styles, periods, marketing and directing. "It gives these kids the chance to meet with other kids who are also interested in theatre."

Whistling in the Dark

by

Chris Becerra



My non-grandma grandma

For most people, when they hear the word, "grandmother," they recall images of ginger snaps, pies, fancy grandma dresses, and giant, feathery hats. But for me, it's different. I see polyester pants, burned rolls, cigarettes, polka music, and kazooos.

We'd do all these really corny things together like put on puppet shows and tell dirty jokes. When we spent the night, we were allowed to do what we thought to be very adult things like staying up late to watch Benny Hill or the Tonight Show.

My grandma was a bit of a gambler, too. She played bingo at the church every week. She had faith in people like Pat Sajak, Ed McMahon and Publisher's Clearinghouse and I suppose she believed in Jesus, too; her house was not without the token Christian icons.

She liked to play Yahtzee or Go Fish or poker and whenever she was winning she'd yell "Yeakapana!" She always said it, no matter what. It's a Czechoslovakian word that I guess means "oh my gosh" or something—I'm not even sure if

I spelled it right.

My grandmother was Bohemian. One thing she liked to do was to play practical jokes.

Down in the basement, my grandma kept a large, purple, fold-out dressing-wall. She had this big box full of old clothes and wigs that she kept behind it. So, she would take me and my little sister down in the basement, put on some old record, and before we knew it a shirt, then a bra, then a wig, would come flying out from behind the wall. Then (and we were surprised every time) she'd jump out fully clothed. We thought it was amazing. Our parents thought it was strange.

Morning at my grandparents' happened the same every time. When ever I think about it, it's like watching some movie I directed; I know exactly what will happen. I know the creaky rattle of the bedroom door opening to a smokey scene at the kitchen table was the cue for Grandma to say, "Well hey! Look who's up!" Then we'd all sit down at the speckled table in the kitchen with the speckled tile floor in the speckled red chairs. Grandma would pour us some Frosted Flakes and we'd all make fun of which ever ugly kid Kellogg's chose to stick on the front of the box, slopping their corn flakes.

Around noon, the three of us would get dressed and catch a bus to the Woolworth's at the Southroads Mall. Bummin'—my grandma called it.

Woolworth's was a fantasy land. Singer/songwriter, Nanci Griffith once said, "It smelled like popcorn and chewing gum rubbed around on the bottom of a leather sole shoe." The place had everything: Mickey Mouse toys that did acrobatics, junk food, and malnourished parakeets and hamsters for sale.

Well, I guess the hamsters weren't so malnourished since they always ended up eating each other.

Still, the best part about Woolworth's was the diner upstairs where you could get hamburgers, fries and a pop. I remember watching the pie display case revolve endlessly while waiting for my grandma to finish her "last cigarette."

She did other, unusual, non-grandma things; she used to play kazoo in a polka band. Sometimes on the Fourth of July, my parents would take us over to our grandparents' where we'd sit around and pop balloons with Grandma's lit cigarettes. It was great fun.

Eventually, though, it all ended. My grandfather got sick, my grandma got sick, and then everything just sort've slowed down. She sold the big purple dressing-wall, and we never went to Woolworth's again and we weren't having fun staying the night anymore.

I finally came to terms with losing my "fun" grandma after my grandfather died. It was the first snow after my grandfather's death. My dad and I took Grandma to the cemetery to put some flowers on his grave for her. She stayed in the car while my dad and I sifted through the snow, trying to find the right headstone. She stared through the car window at us, still and quiet while the snow fell around our station wagon and the sky became a dark and violent blue.

I just kind of took for granted the fact that I had such a cool grandmother. She died last year and I think the most embarrassing thing is to finally realize how great someone is when they're not around. It's really easy to do, isn't it?

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Ranch Bowl

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Jan. 25
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Feb. 10
Ranch Bowl

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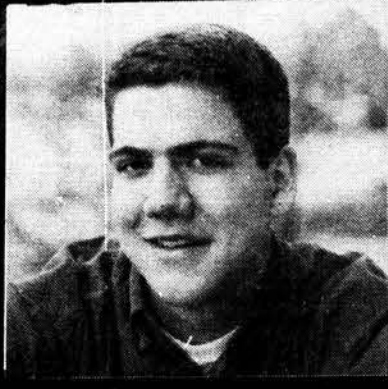
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Penalty Shots by Tim James



The intangibles of college athletics and "scholar"-ships

As February 3 approaches, many senior athletes will be narrowing down their list of colleges and which scholarships they should accept. The date is "letter of intent day," which is the first day high school seniors can sign letters of intent to colleges and universities.

From what started for some student athletes as a few letters of interest last year has turned into personal phone calls and visits by college coaching personnel. Many athletes have taken the opportunity to visit a wide variety of campuses around the nation to compare different programs.

The most difficult task of a senior who wants to continue his or her athletic career is deciding on what level to play. A person has the choice of attending schools at levels such as NCAA Division I to III, NAIA universities, junior colleges (juco schools), and community colleges.

The athlete first has to determine his skills and project his ability at the college level. Some athletes estimate their potential by comparing their statistics with former athletes. Many times the coaches can direct the players to the school with a game plan they think the athlete would be most comfortable. Also, it most definitely depends on the amount of scholarships from the different levels.

Other factors such as injuries, playing time, the coaching staff and the structure of game plan have prominence in the athlete's selection.

A system of elimination occurs among the selection of athletes by the schools. The upper division schools most often select the top athletes to award their limited number of scholarships. The players who don't get chosen by the larger institutions then rely on the smaller schools to select them.

Sometimes this formula doesn't always work because athletes might want to

attend a larger, more academically demanding university but only have scholarship offers from the lower division schools. Students have the possibility of "walking on" at a school's athletic program, but the chances for success and playing time are slim.

Even though there is pressure on typical scholars, a higher level of expectations on student athletes is present. An athlete's performance in high school reflects the number of scholarships

offered, and scouts regularly attend games when the competition is the toughest.

Another factor is meeting the requirements and making the grade so the athletes don't have to sit on the bench their first year. Proposition 48, passed by the NCAA in 1983, is the minimum standard for eligibility in collegiate athletics. The rule states that

the athlete has to earn a 700 (out of a possible 1,600) on his/her SAT to gain eligibility their freshman year. That seems easy because the test taker gets an automatic 400 just for showing up for the test. Along with test scores, the athlete has to also graduate with the required credits and pass all of his/her eighth semester classes.

The fact is that some athletes are just content with furthering their education after high school. They've just used athletics as a vehicle to get there.

Whatever the motives for continuing careers beyond high school, athletes sometimes have an easier path than scholars of getting a free education. Some consider it an unfair advantage, but some people focus on their studies and others focus on the playing fields. We all have to work hard to achieve success, either in academics or athletics.

I wish the best of luck to all Central athletes in choosing their college and success on the playing fields.

“Even though there is pressure on typical scholars, a higher level of expectations on student athletes is present.”

Sports Briefs

Swimming and Diving

The boys' and girls' swim teams at Central continue their successful seasons and plunge toward the end. "We're starting our taper and hopefully should get in groove by Metro and State," said Todd Riser, senior. The teams swim 2 1/2 miles and, said Ryan Bayse, senior, "we are more in shape this year than any other year."

The boys' team beat Ralston and had their meet with Gross postponed because of the weather. The team lost to Prep but was not too disappointed because Prep is considered by the eagles to be "by far the best team in the state."

The girls' team has continued with their successful season with more wins against rival teams. Bayse said, "The girls are very strong this year. They might be able to win their next invitational in Council Bluffs." The invitational is the A.L. Invite on Jan. 23. Gretchen Pfeiffer, junior, is pleased with the teams success and said, "We've won most of the OPS teams, but have had some trouble with Westside and Bellevue West."

The Metro meet for the swim teams is February 11, 12, and 13 at UNO and the Lincoln meet is February 25, 26, and 27 in Lincoln at the Devaney Center.

Boys' Volleyball

The season for the Central boys' volleyball team began this month with a series of tournament games held at Offutt Air Force Base.

The varsity tournament took place on January 9. Central's A team, the varsity players, played in three games. Their fourth was cancelled, due to the weather conditions.

In the tournament, Thomas Jefferson High and Papillion both defeated the Central varsity team. However, Central won the match against Bellevue West.

The varsity team played South High School on Wednesday, January 13. South was defeated by the Central A team in the first two games, winning the match bringing the varsity record to 2-2.

The B team, junior varsity players, held its tournament on Sunday, January 10. The B team played four games, but lost all but one of them. Millard North, the team won the tournament overall, lost to Central. However, team B lost to Westside, Central Christian, and Bellevue West. The junior varsity team played Papillion and won the first game but lost the following two and lost the match.

Games for Varsity are played on Wednesdays and junior varsity plays on Mondays.

Girls' Varsity Basketball

The Central High girl's basketball team has continued in its season and currently stands at a 1-10 record.

The girls beat the Bellevue West team on December 26 at the Holiday tournament with a score of 31-30.

Despite the number of losses, coach Stan Standifer is not discouraged. He said, "I'm young, our only experience is Jade Turney, our six-foot senior who won a full [scholarship] to Pepperdine University in California."

The team lost to Ralston 26-40 on January 22, and South 30-50 on January 23. The Lady Eagles' next game is at home this Friday against Northwest. The game will be played at 4:15.

Boys' Varsity Basketball

After a narrow loss to Class A #1 Omaha South 68-72 this past Saturday, Central Varsity Basketball Coach Rick Behrens still is positive with a 6-5 record. "I'm happy since we're 6-5 and leading the Federal Division with our record," Coach Behrens said.

"We've had some players play out of position the first nine games, but now we're back to our original game plan," Coach Behrens said. Senior Eddie Smith, becoming eligible for his second semester, joined the team.

The Eagles beat Ralston 70-65 the night before in which they scored 28 points in the fourth quarter to seal the victory. Eddie Smith led the team with 21 points in the first game this year, and the Eagles made 16 of the last 28 shots in the game.

In the South game, Central led by as many as four points, but let the game slide in the final couple minutes. "We started out very slow and shaky and did not extend very well in the last 2 or 3 minutes," Coach Behrens said.

"We played our hearts out in the game, but we let it slip late in the game," senior Eddie Anderson said.

"The snow days have been disruptive in our schedule because we couldn't practice during the days off. Also, the Benson game was postponed until February 16," Coach Behrens said.

The next game is on Saturday at home against Northwest, and the following game will be played at Lincoln High.

Briefs by Leah Musselman, Jon McDonald, and Tim James

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Two Central wrestlers place in tournament

By Christy Shearer

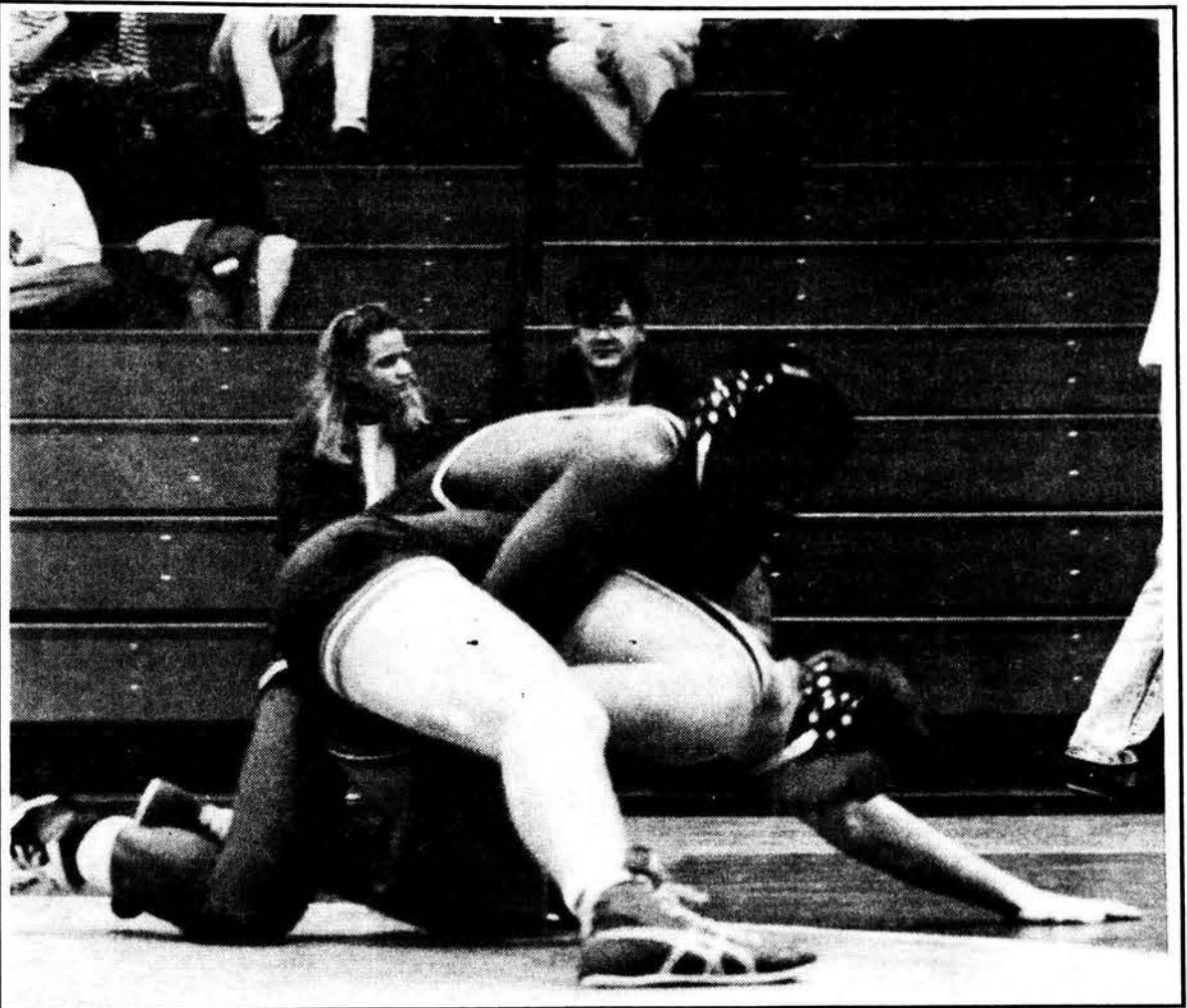
tournaments. Overall, Jason is ranked first in the state at 160.

"We are pretty strong in most of our weight classes," Jason said about the team. But according to Coach Gary Kubik, it is difficult for the team to win a tournament because some of the weight classes are not filled. "I am disappointed in the number of wrestlers that are out this season, but those who are out have done a lot of improving," Coach Kubik said.

The team will be competing in the District wrestling tournament on February 13 at North High. The top four wrestlers in each weight class will qualify for the State tournament.

The State tournament will take place February 18-20. Jason said that at this point his chances of winning in state are good, but he will have some difficult matches. Demetrius said, "My goal is to be the state champion."

"I would like to see a lot more Central students come to the meets because if they came out and cheered us on, we would want to do better," Jason said.



Taking him to the mat: Senior Demetrius Richards attempts to pin Chad Wieseler of Gross in a recent match at the Metro Tournament. Demetrius went on to pin Chad in the match. Photo by Amber Wood.

Two Central wrestlers placed in the Metro tournament. Demetrius Richards, senior, placed first in the 189 weight class, and Jason Brillz, senior, placed second in the 160 weight class. The Metro tournament will take place January 15-16 at North Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs. 19 teams participated in the Metro tournament.

Demetrius said, "Winning the championship match was the best feeling I've had in my life." Demetrius said that the only reason he won is because of the extra practice he did to prepare for the tournament. "It shows how hard work can pay off in the end," he said. Demetrius is ranked third in the state in his weight class.

Jason said that he was winning his match, but his opponent came back in overtime to beat him. Earlier this season, Jason placed second at the Tricenter and North tournaments, and he placed first at the Creighton Prep and Ralston

Kemp's Homecoming

Central graduate returns to coach freshman team

By Leah Musselman

professionally, he could still coach the game fairly well.

Central Letterman

He did not plan to coach basketball for Central; he planned to be an assistant golf coach. He lettered in golf at Central his 2 years here and 1 year at Lewis and Clark under the leadership of Coach Galus, and lettered his one year at Phillips Academy.

Kemp was visiting Coach Galus at Central before basketball season and bumped into Mr. Martin. When Jim offered his assistance with any of the basketball teams, Mr. Martin referred him to Coach Galus, who accepted Jim's offer to help. He said, "I've always wanted to (coach) and I love the game." And as co-head coach of the team, Jim has led them to a 2-4 season, after the team completed 1-9 last year.

Coach Kemp learned many of his coaching drills at Phillips Academy. He said, "Coach (Galus) will go through drills and I'll try to add stuff as we go along." Kemp's basketball coach at the Academy played Division I basketball, so, Jim said, "He really knew how to play."

'Give it all that they have'

Jim said that to motivate his team he tries to challenge them. He tells them that people don't think much of them, so the team should go out and show the other teams what the Eagles can do. "I tell them to always give it all that

they have," said Jim. "Whether it is basketball, school, life, or anything else I always tell them to try their hardest."

In addition to playing the role as a coach, Jim also tries to help the players in other ways. He believes that "to coach you can teach the players more than the actual sport." He said, "I try to teach them how to be young adults." Coach Kemp said that he has also offered to help them with school and other ways, but he said, "They really haven't taken me up on it yet."

"The greatest thing is through the year they actually have improved. Where the fundamentals are concerned they actually have improved," said Coach Kemp. But one of the nicest rewards Jim feels he receives from this volunteer coaching is getting to meet the players. "They're a great group and are lots of fun," he said.

One of Jim's main goals he wishes to accomplish with this coaching is to try to teach the basketball and the fundamentals he learned in high school. He wants to help Central "get to the level it should be."

Coach Kemp admits that he can definitely improve his coaching abilities. One of his main problems is that he said he has become good friends with the players. "We've gotten into shouting matches that end up to be fights on a 1 to 1 level rather

than a player to coach level. I can definitely improve more as a coach by being more of a dominating figure."

'Super Coach'

Jim feels that Coach Galus is a super coach. "He does a great job and really does well with all the players. It's really nice of him to let me do this (coach)," said Coach Kemp.

And the players are comfortable with Jim. Tom Shearer said, "He's a very supportive coach and is like part of the team. He's AWESOME!"

The team practices at Conestoga elementary school on Mondays and Thursdays, and on Tuesdays they play against the girls' varsity team. On Wednesdays the team practices alone and their games are on Fridays. Jim said that it's not too hard for him to escape from his job. He said, "It really hasn't been that big of a deal yet."

On how the team will finish off the season, Coach Kemp said, "It's up to them. They're going to have to challenge themselves (to win their last games)."

Boys' Golf Assistant Coach

Jim plans to finish coaching the basketball team this season and then will assistant coach the boys' golf team in the spring with Mr. Galus. Jim says that his main goal in life is to play professional golf and hopes that it may be in his future. He said "Golf is definitely my passion."

is definitely the best part of my day."

This is 23-year-old Jim Kemp's comment on the time a day he spends helping to coach Central's freshman boys' basketball team. The 1988 Central graduate currently works at HDR Engineering in industrial engineering department as an environmental engineer, and has been helping Coach Jim Galus lead the freshman boys' basketball team this season.

Mr. Kemp, a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, attended Central High School during the years of 1985-86 and 1987-88 as a sophomore and senior. The year of 1986-87 he attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

This 6'4" co-head coach coached basketball his 9th grade year at Lewis and Clark Junior High School and played junior varsity for Central his sophomore year. His junior year he played junior varsity at Andover, and his senior year he played varsity for Central under the leadership of then Coach Martin.

Mr. Kemp had never coached basketball before this, but he said that he knew the game very well and even though he wasn't experienced enough to play

Sports Schedule

Varsity Basketball

- Jan. 29 NORTHWEST
- Jan. 30 at Lincoln High
- Feb. 4 MARIAN
- Feb. 5 CREIGHTON PREP
- Feb. 6 at Westside
- Feb. 12 MILLARD SOUTH
- Feb. 16 BENSON
- Feb. 19 at North
- Feb. 22-25 Girls Districts

Swimming

- Feb. 11-13 Metro Meet
- Feb. 25-27 State Meet

Wrestling

- Feb. 13 Wrestling Districts
- Feb. 18-20 Nebraska State Wrestling Championships

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Dislocated knees, separated shoulders and sprained ankles

Centralites experience injuries in a variety of sporting events

By Christy Shearer

Injuries have placed many Central athletes on the bench this season. These injuries occurred in a variety of sports such as softball, soccer, hockey and tennis.

Central athlete and junior, Sara Swisher, had arthroscopic knee surgery on January 15. Sara is a member of Central's varsity softball and soccer teams. She said that sliding and falling in softball and soccer caused her knee injury. After the surgery, Sara said that she will not be able to play soccer because she will have physical therapy and rehabilitation. Sara said, "I won't know how long the physical therapy will take, but since I have played softball and soccer in the past, it should make my recovery faster." Sara said that she would like to play softball in college. "Hopefully the injury won't affect it, but it

may pose a problem getting accepted and playing," Sara said.

Stefanie Huff, junior, said that she has dislocated her knee five times in the last four years. Stefanie participates in varsity volleyball, basketball and soccer at Central. She has not had surgery on her knee, but she does do physical therapy. She uses a treadmill and a stair-stepper, and she does leg lifts. Besides the exercises, Stefanie wears a knee brace to protect her knee from further injury. She said that she will probably not play soccer for Central this season because

she is afraid that she will injure her knee again. She said, "I will wait awhile and strengthen my knee, but I hope to continue playing sports for Central soon."

Aaron Mann, hockey player and senior, separated his shoulder during a hockey game last year. After the injury occurred, Aaron said that his shoulder was immobilized for six weeks. He said, "I did exercises to build up the muscle around the shoulder and I had a Vitamin C diet." Aaron said that his future plans in hockey are recreational, and the injury will not affect them.

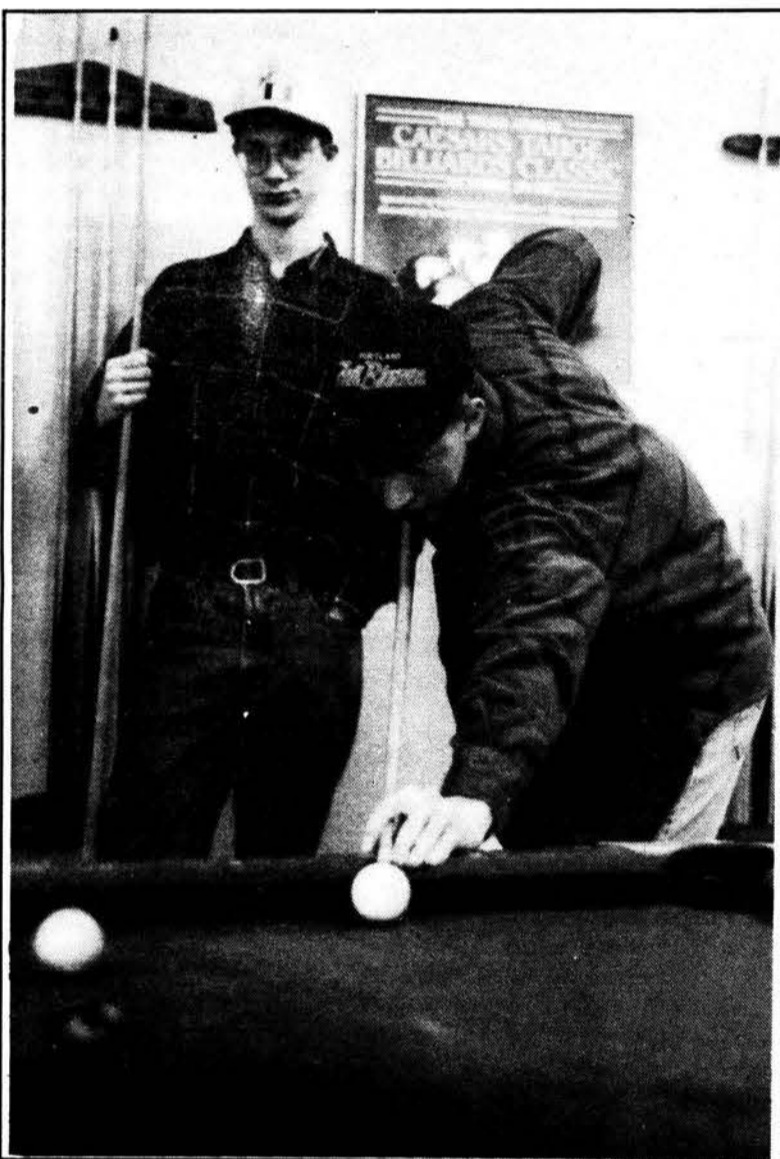
Brooke Bahr, junior, sprained her ankle during a volleyball game this year. She also participates in basketball at Central. She said that she could not play basketball for the first month of the season. Brooke said, "I was supposed to wear a cast. I didn't want it to interfere with basketball."

Jeff Darst, junior and Central hockey player, partially dislocated one knee. He broke a blood vessel in his right knee during a junior high basketball game. He said that one side of his leg was more developed than the other, and that caused the dislocation of his knee.

To prevent injury, Jeff said, "Always stretch before games and keep your muscles warm."

In case an injury does occur, Sara said, "Go to a doctor right away and get checked out, and do all the exercises they tell you."

**"Always stretch before games and keep your muscles warm."
-Jeff Darst"**



Lining up the shot: Nick Ogden, senior, takes his time and uses his geometry skills to sink a ball on a quarter table at the Pool Room. Photo by Tim James.

Billiards used for fun and pleasure

By Jon McDonald

Many Central students spend their leisure time playing pool. This activity is played at various places, including pool halls, bars, and at other student's homes.

Central sophomore Pat Oakes enjoys the game of pool "because it's a gentleman's game." Pat said that he plans to begin competing as soon as he can.

Pat plays pool at The Pool Room, on 46th and Leavenworth because "it's close to where I live." Pat plays at least once per week because he "will lose my touch if I don't."

Jerad Miller, senior, who also plays "at least once per week," enjoys the game "simply because

it allows me to take out aggressions on the balls; it is a lot of fun to win money, too." Jerad plays with a group of players who also attend Central. He usually plays at "people's homes."

Another Centralite who plays at friends' houses is senior Marni Speck. Marni believes pool to be a game of luck, but she said that she enjoys playing very much.

Junior Diana Lucas feels that Omaha has a "pretty good pool scene, with something to offer anyone. I personally used to play at McFly's but now I play out at Big John's." Diana went on to say that wherever she goes there are always people willing to play pool.

Omaha Pool Halls

How do they all rack up?

By Jon McDonald

This review includes opinions of the author.

The Skylanes (42nd and Center)

As the name suggests, this is not simply a bowling alley. A well stocked arcade and pool tables round out this entertainment landmark's appeal. The presence of waitresses wearing "sassy" tuxedo tops adds a classy aspect to this establishment. However, the dress code enjoyed by the patrons does subtract from the stylish surroundings.

For men the *chic* look includes a pair of "Longhaul" jeans, a monster truck T-shirt, and a plastic mesh baseball cap supporting the United States' military. Women enjoy a roguish unshaven look and silkscreened baby blue windbreakers.

The major attraction to playing pool here includes their compact disc jukebox, the "regulars" about the place who offer advice on your playing style freely and the convenient location above the ever-popular Center mall. I give the playing atmosphere an eight ball, and the equipment another, giving

the Skylanes two eight balls.

The Pool Room (4684 Leavenworth St.)

At five dollars per person, per hour, this is one of the more expensive pool options available. However, there are "quarter tables" (fifty cents actually) so that the hefty fees can be avoided.

This is the only place I found with proper "pool room ambience." An opaque layer of smoke covers the ceiling, and "Alabama" albums fill the well-stocked jukebox. The pay telephone rings every ten minutes, and causes an employee to answer and say, "No, Billy-Bob ain't here yet."

The Pool Room also has the best billiard parlor decor in town. Signs such as "No drugs allowed" and "Budweiser" lights contributed to a very post modern look. Due to the singular purpose of this establishment I give it a full four eight balls.

The Bridge Club (8037 Blondo St.)

This place was a fluke. Due to errors on US West's part, this bar was listed under "Billiard Parlors." In actuality there is but a single pool table. There is, however, plenty of space for

anyone interested in playing Red Keno. The pool table is very nice and the sticks were straight, but the various cardboard cut-outs of celebrities such as Elvira and Willie Shatner drinking beer were as well.

I cannot in good conscience recommend this as a good place to play pool. I give this place one ball.

A.V. Sorensen Library (4808 Cass St.)

The fact that the table is used for carbon-dating by students of archeology is a good example of its quality. The felt has ripples, the cues resemble recurve bows and there is no chalk to be found. The positive side of all this is that it costs no money.

However, out of fairness should point out some of the advantages A.V. has over some of the more exclusive places around the city. They have a game of hockey and two, count 'em, pop machines ready to serve. I give three eight balls to Sorensen. It gets two just because it's free, and it gets the bonus prize extra ball because it's hard.

THE POOL HALL RATINGS

Skylanes 42nd & Center (8/8)

The Pool Room 4684 Leavenworth St. (5/5)

The Bridge Club 8037 Blondo St. No Balls

A.V. Sorensen Library 4808 Cass St. (3/3)

Out of a Possible 5 Balls