

Omaha Central High School From the Heart of Downtown Omaha

# Homeless seek shelter Francis House opens its doors

**Sarah Pugh**

Not only do homeless people seek shelter at the Sienna Francis House, they also run the place. "They do the day-to-day work," said David Koch, executive director, said. "It's part of our job-readiness program."

Located at 17th and Nicholas, the Francis House provides shelter for about 200 people a night. It is one of 11 area shelters serving Omaha's 650-1,000 homeless.

"We try to love people just where they're at," David Clifton, a 37-year-old homeless man. "It's the only shelter where you can stay even if you're drunk. At the Open Door Mission, you have to go to church before you can eat."

Clifton was addicted to cocaine while living in a hotel when his money ran out. After finding the Francis House in the phone book, he stayed in the shelter until he was sober again. He got a full-time job and became independent.

"I was on my feet," Clifton said. "Then I had a relapse and started using cocaine again. In three months I lost my job, my apartment, everything I had."

Clifton returned to the Francis House and entered their recovery program. According to Koch, there are "four basic parts" to the Sienna Francis House; a shelter for women, a shelter for women and children; a men's shelter; community outreach programs, which includes providing a van to take food to the homeless; and the recovery program.

"We estimate 85 percent of the people we serve have a problem

with drug or alcohol abuse," Koch said. "Poverty is usually secondary. Until you can address the primary problem of substance abuse, you can't move forward."

Two counselors from Operation Bridge regularly visit the shelter to aid in the recovery process. Meetings are held five to six times a week to discuss spirituality, relapse and recovery. Those in the recovery program make sure all donations get to the right places, hand out sack lunches to those who work and fix dinner every night.

"I work here from eight in the morning to eight at night," Clifton said. "I can work with people just like me, only I'm sober now. I know what it's like to struggle with addiction. We can reach people doctors, psychiatrists can't, because we've been there."

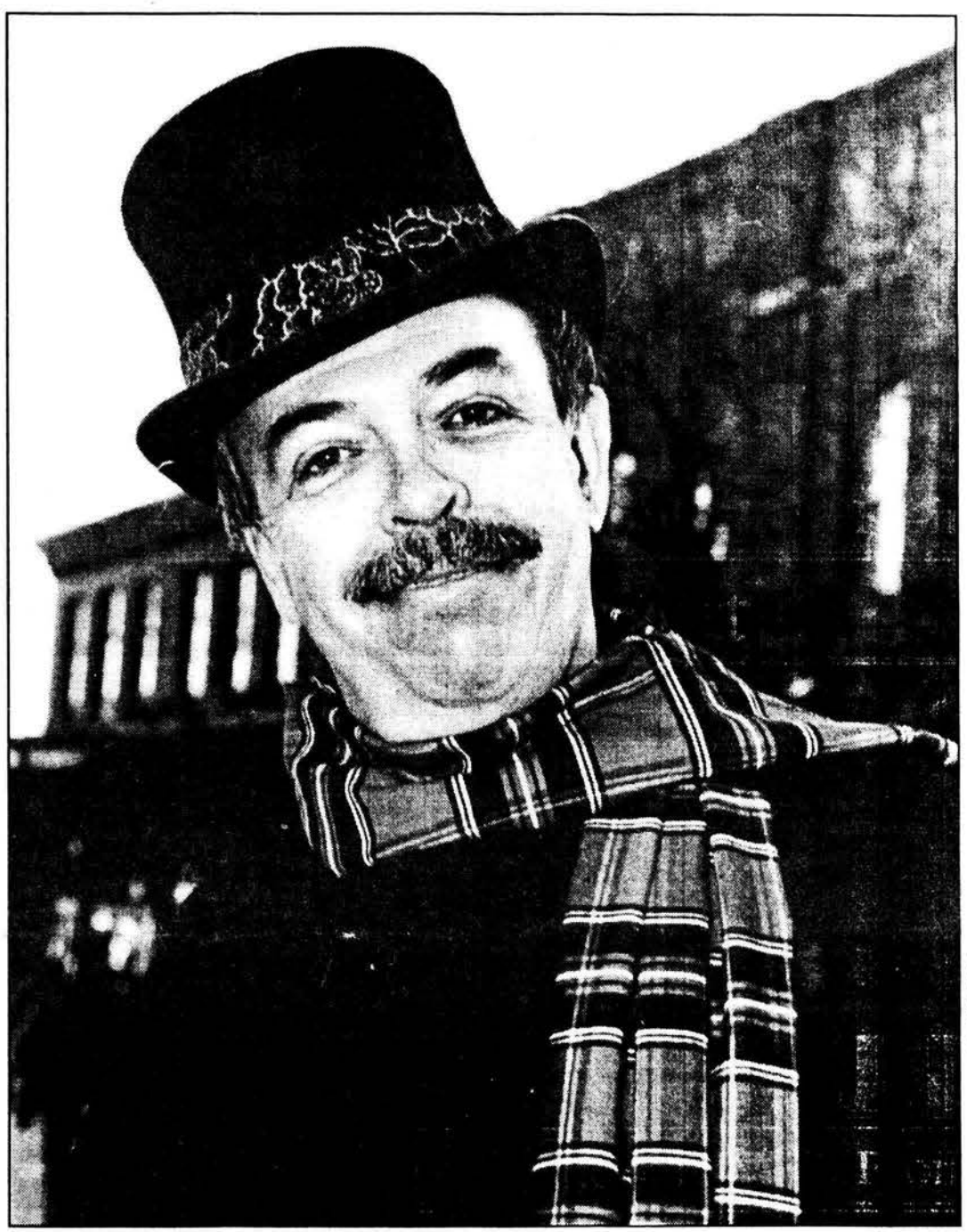
Clifton said many of the people who come in know him from his former drug life. When they see him clean and ask how he got sober, he tells them about the recovery program and tries to get them to stay.

"It's people reaching out to their brothers and sisters," Koch said. "We have a number of activities, including Christmas parties."

On Dec. 12, roughly 700 people showed up for one of the many parties they hold. The organ is played and songs sung. Each person receives a gift package with things like socks and gloves.

"A lot of people are real stressed during the Christmas season and just want to be around others," Clifton said. "It could be someone down and out just needs someone to talk to. And we're here."

## Dickens in the Market



Lei Brown

"I'm Charles Dickens." A man who wanted to be known only as the famed literary figure roamed the Old Market Dec. 2-3. Dickens in the Market marks the beginning of the holiday season. Every year, Ibsen Costumes holds auditions and provides the costumes for holiday event, in which carolers sing to the shopping crowds.

# Bandits make their mark on student cars

**Macey Cody**

Carson Champenoy's jeep doors were open in broad daylight. Tom Bowen's car was broken into with a screwdriver, his stereo stolen. Angela Harbison's car was keyed while parked in the senior lot. One week ago, on Dec. 12, Josh McMahon left school to find his car crumpled in.

These are a few of the twenty incidents reported to Central's office concerning car theft and vandalism on school property.

The school board is discussing an increase in security, or putting in security cameras in the parking lots.

Tompkinson, principal said. "They haven't decided yet."

Many students feel the administration should be responsible for the damages done to the automobiles during school hours.

"A lot of people don't have any other way to get to school," Kate Novak, senior, said. "If it is necessary by law to attend, I feel there should be some protection given to us and our belongings during that time."

Angela Harbison, senior, agrees.

"My car was keyed all down the sides and the back, and it's parked in the senior lot. I feel they should definitely do something to prevent it, maybe by increasing security or installing cameras."

"It really is the school's responsibility," Beth Scanlan, senior, said. "We [students] have enough to worry about at school without wondering whether or not our car is going to still be there when we get out."

Paul Pennington, administrator, said, "The board is looking into it. It definitely is a problem. Hopefully we will come to a solution."

Others don't believe the school's responsibility is to look after cars.

"It isn't the school, it's the area we're in," Jordan Acker, senior, said. "All you can do is lock your doors and pray your car will still be there when you leave at the end of the day."

Other students felt despite location, cars are always at risk.

"There is always a chance your car can get broken into, be it here or at the grocery store," Brandon Miegs, senior, said. "The grocery store isn't liable for the safety of your car, so why should the school be?"

Senior Anna Perilo suggested not driving if there is a concern about car safety.

"If you're unlucky enough to get your car broken into, there's nothing you can do but fix it and move on."

Students who purchase parking spaces in the OEA lot often feel the amount of money spent justifies better security.

"If you pay \$100 for a parking space, I think you should definitely have a feeling of security when you park there," Jeremy Evans, senior, said. "By paying them [OEA] to park my car there, they have the responsibility to make sure it's okay."

All you can do is lock your doors and pray your car will still be there when you leave at the end of the day.

--Jordan Acker, senior

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## Youth need political awareness before voting

**"Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed..." -Abraham Lincoln**

As Abraham Lincoln stated, the people of this country decide what fails and what succeeds. The United States of America is one of the only countries in the world where people have this power. People die for this right and many risk their lives today to keep it alive. So why is it that we only had a 65 percent voter turnout in the last national election? Why do so many people willingly give up their right to vote?

This trend can be stopped. It can be stopped if we, the youth of America, choose to educate ourselves and make our voices and our votes count. In a recent poll given by *The Register*, 136 students in all grade levels were polled. The poll was to find the student's political knowledge by asking for the names of the mayor, governor, vice president, Speaker of the House and Senate majority leader. 22 percent of the students polled returned the poll blank, and of the students who did, their answers were incorrect an average of 30 percent of the time. In order for young people to make their votes count, they must be informed.

Though most of the students at Central High are not of voting age yet, more than half are less than a year away. Now is the time to make ourselves aware of who the policy and decision makers are. Young voters across the country could have a tremendous impact on election day if they would form educated opinions and use their power. No one is too young to have a position and voice an opinion. Young voters need to find a voice and use it. They should not be afraid to be in the minority; many great causes have started out in the minority.

To be fully informed, several media sources should be used. Much of the coverage can be biased or slanted. Young voters, in order to fully exert their rights, should not let the media control or sway their opinions. They should think and educate themselves, because knowledge is power.

## Izquierdo death intolerable

Throughout the nation, shocked people mourned the sudden death of six-year-old Elisa Izquierdo. Police found her body, covered with angry red wounds and bruises, on Nov. 22.

Awilda Lopez, Elisa's mother, had allegedly thrown her daughter against a concrete wall. As a result, Elisa's brain began to hemorrhage. Elisa's half-siblings told police that Lopez had beaten and sexually abused her both with a hairbrush and a toothbrush.

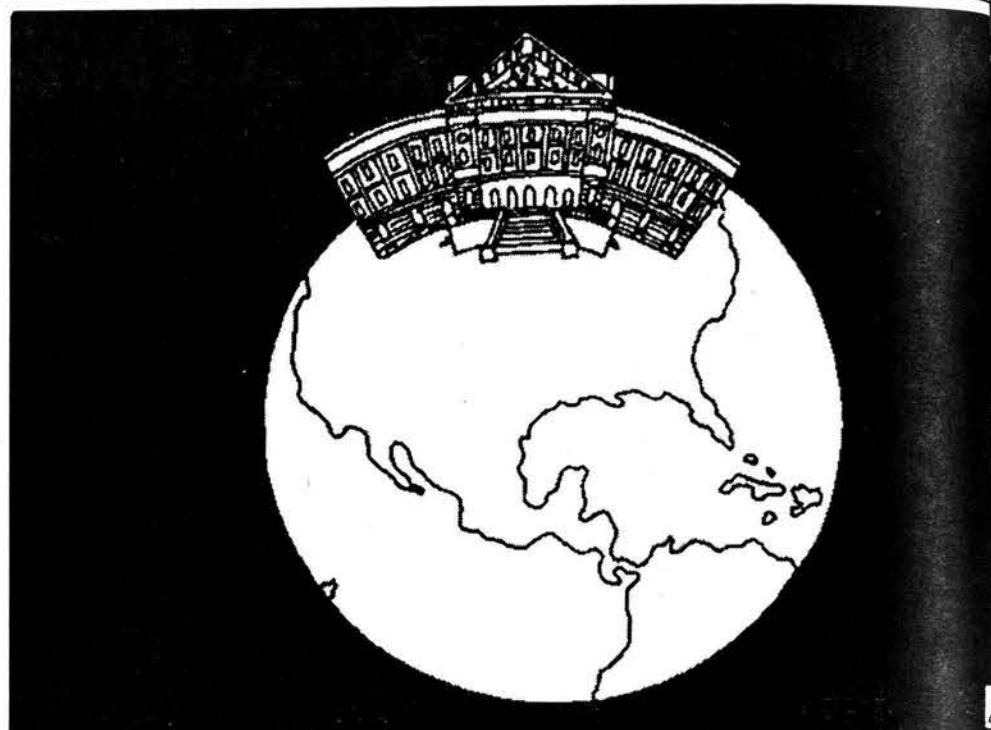
As a result of this child's tragic death, a new bill, christened "Elisa's Law," is being put through the New York State Senate. If passed, this law would allow agencies to easily reveal if an abuse case has been opened on a particular person.

Currently, it is extremely difficult to obtain information from agencies regarding abusive parents. Although this protects the privacy of the parents, it can also be dangerous for the children who are under these parents' care. This hidden information about Lopez's abusive behavior made it difficult for child protection agencies to rescue Elisa from harm. If this law is passed, children in New York will be better protected from abusive adults.

It is absolutely unacceptable that innocent children are forced to become victims as parents and guardians hide behind privacy laws. If they have been reported for abusing their children, it is in the best interest of the kids that the abusive party be checked up on. If the abuser is no longer doing so, they have nothing to worry about from such a law. In fact, the parents would gain credibility by proving to the agency that they were no longer abusing the child.

Elisa's Law has been necessary for a long time. Perhaps with its passage, this law will prevent needless deaths such as this most recent tragedy.

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). It's time for our nation to begin to take care of this precious gift.



CENTRAL'S NEW BOUNDARIES

*Register your opinion*

## Do you believe in God



"Yes, because it makes sense that there would be something that made all this stuff." -Kelley Connor, sophomore



"Yes, because I don't think a perfect universe is, it could have happened so spontaneously. Someone had to plan it out." -Matt McClarney, junior



"Yes, probably, because how did human-kind become? Humans did not just appear, God created man and from man he created a woman. Man was a rough draft and a woman was the final copy." -Dunina Brown, senior



"Yes, because I need something to believe in." -Robert Daugherty, freshman



"Yes, because how else would everything be here? All of the good on earth had to come from somebody." -Colleen McGinty, junior



"I believe something is up there because there are too many close calls in life." -Matt, sophomore



"Yes, he is an important influence in my life." -Versie Vaughn, freshman



"No, because if there was a God, he would not have created evil." -Liddie Thompson, senior



"...Long Ago and Far Away..."  
by T.S. Bledsoe



## Cost Meanings

"It was long ago and it was far away, so much better than it is today..."

— Jim Steinman

In Poland, a tree is adorned by awestruck children with home-made paper ornaments and dangling candles as holiday songs fill the streets. In Ireland, reverent children file to mass wearing their Sunday best.

And in Mexico, friendly strangers wander from door to door, seeking a place to stay, like Joseph and Mary did 2,000 years ago.

But here in the United States, the holidays are more of a time for stress than anything.

Visions of Barbies and Power Rangers dance in children's heads and poor old St. Nick fights just to maintain his market share the gift giving season.

But no longer are the holidays about traditions, heritage or faith. They just can't compete with good old greed and capitalism, especially not this time of year.

Christmas in particular has become nothing but a wham-bam-thank-you-mam, cheesy fast-food, half-expression of what it once was. But the death of Christmas is merely part of a larger trend that has been taking place for 200 years.

It's the wonderful art of social suckage that we as a country have so wonderfully mastered. That famous melting-pot adage is unfortunately oh so true, and in it we all wilt away. Any beauty we may have once had as a people is gone.

The United States may have a culturally diverse background, but we are still nothing but a society whose traditions are based on commercialism, and whose pastimes stem from capitalism.

From the very beginning it has been 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' Or as it originally read, 'life, liberty, and property.'

Yes, for it is money that makes the world go around. That's what the country was founded on, and that's why immigrants flock here every year.

But is the American Dream worth it? Or are we missing out on what's really important in life?

I can't help but wonder what guiding force arouses this supposed holiday spirit that Americans seem to lack. Is it the religious meaning of the holidays that kindles feelings of warmth and goodwill in its followers?

But even if it is, it too must be buried, demarrowed and sucked dry to appease the masses. For it is fear of the minorities binds us.

No longer can we be proud to be Irish or Swedish or Turkish. We are Americans.

We are a country supposedly based on the ideals of freedom and equality, brotherhood and unity. Yet there is no freedom in a country enslaved to the almighty dollar.

There is no equality in a country still filled with prejudice and fear. There is no brotherhood in a country where it is each for himself.

There is no unity, because we can't afford to care. 'We the people,' if that isn't a joke.

We aren't a people. We have forgotten our past, ignored our heritage and now we blindly stumble alone into the future.

As diverse are our backgrounds, we should share and build upon our traditions. We should not only learn, but recognize our heritage.

It is a part of us, who we are. To understand where we are going we must first learn where we have been.

Shall only the Catholic attend the Christmas mass? Shall only the Jewish recognize the seder? Must we each sing alone?

No! If we are to stand up only for our kind, then we shall all stand alone.

The holidays are about time and tradition, unity and understanding. I have held my head bowed in service.

I have donned my yamakah. In each act I have gained a little more knowledge, a little more understanding of those around me.

And quite possibly, that is what the holidays are meant to be. Maybe they are not just a time for remembrance, but a time for new understandings.

The point of traditions is not to blindly follow those who came before you, but to capture a brief glimpse into who these people were, and what was important to them.

For it is understanding that tears down walls of ignorance uniting us all, and without understanding there can be no love. In F. Kieth Davenport's last words, "To love me is to know me, to know me is to love me."

## Letters to the editor

Send all letters of opinion to room 315 or look for the box on the two side in the courtyard. It is the policy of *The Register* not to print unsigned letters. *The Register* reserves the right to edit letters based on length or appropriateness.

### Powder review dead wrong

**Dear Editor,**  
This letter is regarding Jen Houlden's review of *Powder*, in the December 22 issue of *The Register*. That was an excellent movie! It was worth every penny! Didn't your mother ever teach you that if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all!!! LISTEN TO HER! I'm not an over-dramatic, over-sensitive male, but I know what I like! It's true, many teens get ridiculed at school, but *Powder* lets people realize how much racism is taken to an extreme! I'd like my voice to be heard, considering I'm not an outspoken person!!! I'm extremely upset! Next time, get other reviews from other people before you decide to print something up!!!

**Robert Boardman, junior**

### Comment is not meant to hurt or incite anger

**Dear editor,**  
I am writing this to respond to the reaction of my comment that was printed in the November 22 issue of *The Register*, in the "Register your opinions" section. I would like to start off by clarifying my statement. I do not think Louis Farrakhan will help the U.S. because he's a bigot and promotes racism. I don't think promoting racism toward any race will help any country. However, he does have certain ideas toward his own race that could prove to be productive, then again, maybe not. I was agreeing with Farrakhan in that area. I was not intending to hurt anyone's feelings. I admit that the comment (whether you take it from Farrakhan or me) generalized the black race, but those of you who were angered and think of me as a racist, are proving Farrakhan's and my point exactly. Don't turn my comment into a racial issue, because it's not one.

I know that I don't know what it's like to be black because I'm white. But in the same way, blacks don't know what it's like to be white because they're black. Being the anti-racist that I am (it may be hard to believe), it's hard as a white person to be critical of another race because I'm in the majority and it would be considered racism. Racism and segregation is everybody's fault, not just whites. I respect the black race as much and as equally as any race, including my own. Farrakhan should be listened to not because you like him and agree with him, but because he provides you with a different perspective. That will make you more educated than the person next to you.

**Jeff Ludwig, junior**

### Stereotypical comment is inappropriate

**Dear Editor,**  
As a black female, I did not appreciate Jeff Ludwig's comment that "Black people should stop feeling sorry for themselves, and they should do something about it." First of all, he stereotyped all black people, and I for one do not feel sorry for myself. I am very proud of my heritage. Secondly, The Million Man March was an effort to promote unity first in the Black community and then in the world.

**Crystall Travis, senior**

### Student concerned about recycling

**Dear editor,**  
I would just like to know if you print your newspaper on recycled paper. And if you don't, why not?  
Sincerely,

**Andy Johnson, sophomore**

**editor's note-** No, *The Register* is not printed on recycled paper. The printing company decides what kind of paper to use, and they do not use recycled paper because it is too expensive, and the quality is not good.

### Swim Team's accomplishments ignored

**Dear editor,**  
I am a member of the Central Swim Team. Other members of the team and myself do not find it fair that none of our victories or accomplishments are announced over the intercom like other team accomplishments. When we won our first meet on Dec. 5 at Bryan, it was not announced. When we had an invitational at Bryan on Dec. 7 and 9, we did not win, but we got second. We lost to North, but only by a score of North 205, Central 199. It was a great accomplishment for our team, we had never done so well. The Central Swim Team received at least twelve medals in competition at the Bryan Invitational.

When I received my first medal ever, I was so happy and couldn't wait for our team's accomplishment to be announced over the intercom. I know other members felt the same way. They had received their first medals, too, and one swimmer, Eddie Piatt, received four medals, three silver and one bronze. That should have been announced over the intercom no matter what. We don't understand why our victories and accomplishments are not announced. Swimming is a sport like any other, and we, the Central Swim Team, take pride in it. We do not go to practice and work hard everyday after school so that no one appreciates the team's accomplishments. We take swimming seriously and so should the administration of this school.

**Sergio Bonilla, senior**

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## Clubs Column

By Mark Eyman

### Film Club

The Central High Film Club held a candy sale in December to buy toys to donate to Toys for Tots. Also, starting in January, Film Club will be on public access television twice a month. This half hour includes a combination of Central topics ranging from homecoming to interviews with past and present faculty.

### DECA

DECA raises money for the Salvation Army every year by helping them ring bells at Service Merchandise and Crossroads Mall. Central is one of the few high schools that is able to ring bells at the mall due to mall restrictions. DECA has a total of 28 hours for bell ringing. DECA also participates in the canned food drive sponsored by student council. Students in marketing classes also plan to collect money for the Omaha World Herald Good Fellows charity fund.

### Literary Guild

The Literary Guild held an annual book drive from Dec. 6 to Dec. 15. The collected books, new or used, will be distributed to shelters and charities. Senior Gina D'Accio formed the Literary Guild last spring. The Guild will be taking applications second semester for anyone who wishes to be involved.

### FBLA

Future Business Leaders of America helps those in need during the holiday season in several ways. Central's FBLA Chapter is once again helping the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's "Toys for Tots" program, which provides needy children with a toy on Christmas. Individuals can support Toys for Tots by donating new, unwrapped toys at collection sites in rooms 332 and 334 or by making a monetary contribution. Contributions will be taken through Dec. 18.

### SNHS

Spanish National Honor Society held its induction on Nov. 30. Twenty three new members were inducted at the all Spanish formal dinner ceremony held in the courtyard. There are 35 members total. According to sponsor Vicki Andersen, the primary purpose of SNHS is to raise scholarship money for students going on with Spanish in college. Shadi Bashir, President and Senior, said that as of now the club does not have any fundraisers planned, but will announce plans for the spring in February.

### FNHS

The French National Honor Society held its annual induction Dec. 12 in the courtyard. The induction was a formal ceremony including an oath in French and a reception. FNHS is planning community service, foreign film viewing and raising money in conjunction with French Club for scholarship money. FNHS also provides tutoring and helps with the Friendship Force, giving foreign exchange students a taste of America.

## Literary Journal

# Central teacher publisher on six

By Rebecca Hammond

Central English teacher David Martin publishes a successful literary magazine called The Fine Lines Journal.

The Fine Lines Journal began as a class project in a creative writing class Martin taught at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He then brought the idea to his Central students who were "really excited about it."

Martin publishes the journal himself on his computer.

Currently, Martin teaches sophomore and junior English classes at Central.

Martin said he saw the need

for the journal because so many of his students were creating very good writing, but had a hard time getting it published.

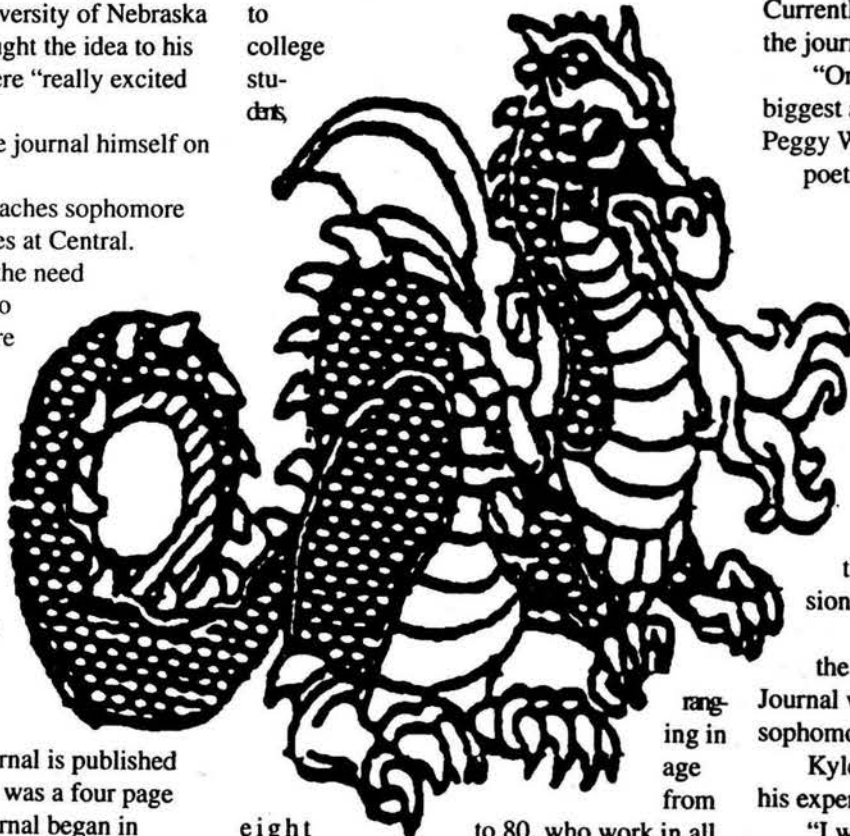
"It is so hard to get published in established print media, that I decided to do what I could to share the best writing of my students with readers," Martin said.

The Fine Lines Journal is published quarterly. The first issue was a four page newsletter. Since the journal began in 1991, it has grown to ten times its original size.

The December issue, soon to be published, will be 40 pages covering a

variety of subjects.

The Fine Lines Journal accepts submissions writers of all kinds. According to Martin the writers range from elementary school students to college students.



range  
in  
age  
from

eight to 80, who work in all kinds of professions.

"We get submissions from doctors, janitors, lawyers, grandmothers and nuclear scientists," Martin said. "When word got

out that there was a publication anyone, student or not, I began to write more articles and poetry than I could publish."

Martin said he receives submissions and articles from sixteen states and currently, there are over 300 subscribers to the journal.

"One of The Fine Lines Journal's biggest advantages is its diversity," Peggy Wheeler, Central English teacher and poetry editor of the journal.

According to Wheeler, the journal does not have a theme so every issue appeals to a variety of interests.

"When kids realize they are interested in what they are writing, it is a great motivation," Wheeler said.

"The Fine Lines Journal is like a doorway for young writers," Wheeler said. "It encourages them to go on to do more professional writing."

Included in the poetry section of the up coming issue of The Fine Lines Journal will be poems by Kyle Hoberman, a sophomore.

Kyle said he feels very positive about his experiences with the publication.

"I was afraid of rejection and I never really tried to get anything published before," Kyle Hoberman, a sophomore said. "I know other poems had been published in The Fine Lines Journal."

## Teacher's grandson finds fame on ER

By Mark Eyman

Central English teacher Marlene Bernstein met George Clooney, the star of the hit show ER, during a one day shoot that took place in Chicago. Bernstein's grandson, Zachary Charles, had a part in the show which aired Nov. 9 called "Hell and High Water."

Zachary played the part of "Joey" who was the character who that went and got help for his brother who was choking.

According to Bernstein the entire part took three weeks to shoot. She was able to attend a one day shoot in Chicago. However, she did not miss any school for this because it took place on a Saturday night.

### Rainy and cold

"It was very cold, about 37 degrees and was a difficult shoot because it involved using a fire hose for the rain effect. Even after being soaking wet and freezing, he (George Clooney) was still a gracious and nice guy," Bernstein said.

Bernstein said that since the part was in the dark, they did not start until 6 O'clock. Zachary was not able to stay for the whole shoot because children can only work for five hours at a time.

"There is a social worker on site to make sure that the kids are not overworked, and the parents do not have a say in it," Bernstein said.

### Zachary Charles

Her grandson whose real name is Zachary Charles Bernstein, goes by the name Zachary Charles. He lives in Agoura Hills, California, just outside Los Angeles. He has been acting for three years and doing commercials since he was eight months old.

Other than ER, he has been on two episodes of the TV sitcom "Wings."

Bernstein's son, Zachary's father, Richard Bernstein, is a 1971 Central graduate.

### Future plans

Zachary receives a portion of the money he makes right away. He is currently hoping to buy a night-vision camera. The rest of his pay goes into a college trust fund.

"I don't know if he will continue acting or not, but the money he is making now is building him a trust fund that will send him to college," Bernstein said.



Zachary Charles Thomas has appeared on hit show ER

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## Teacher electrifies classroom with his physics inventions

**Carrie Parrott**  
At the start of the school year, physics and chemistry teacher Frank Marsh turned off the lights in his physics classroom and plugged in a large, outer-space-like machine. Sparks flew, and a fluorescent light bulb lit up when Marsh held it in mid-air.

The large Tesla coil is just one of the machines Marsh has designed and built over the years as a science teacher. Marsh has been teaching for 27 years, having spent six years at Central. "I taught in small schools that didn't have much equipment for a long time, so I built the equipment we needed for labs," Marsh said. "It's kind of like a science museum."

"The machines show the principles of physics in a dramatic way," he said. "A Tesla coil demonstrates electric field and resonance. I knew how long I had to wait for the sparks, so I built the machine using different formulas."

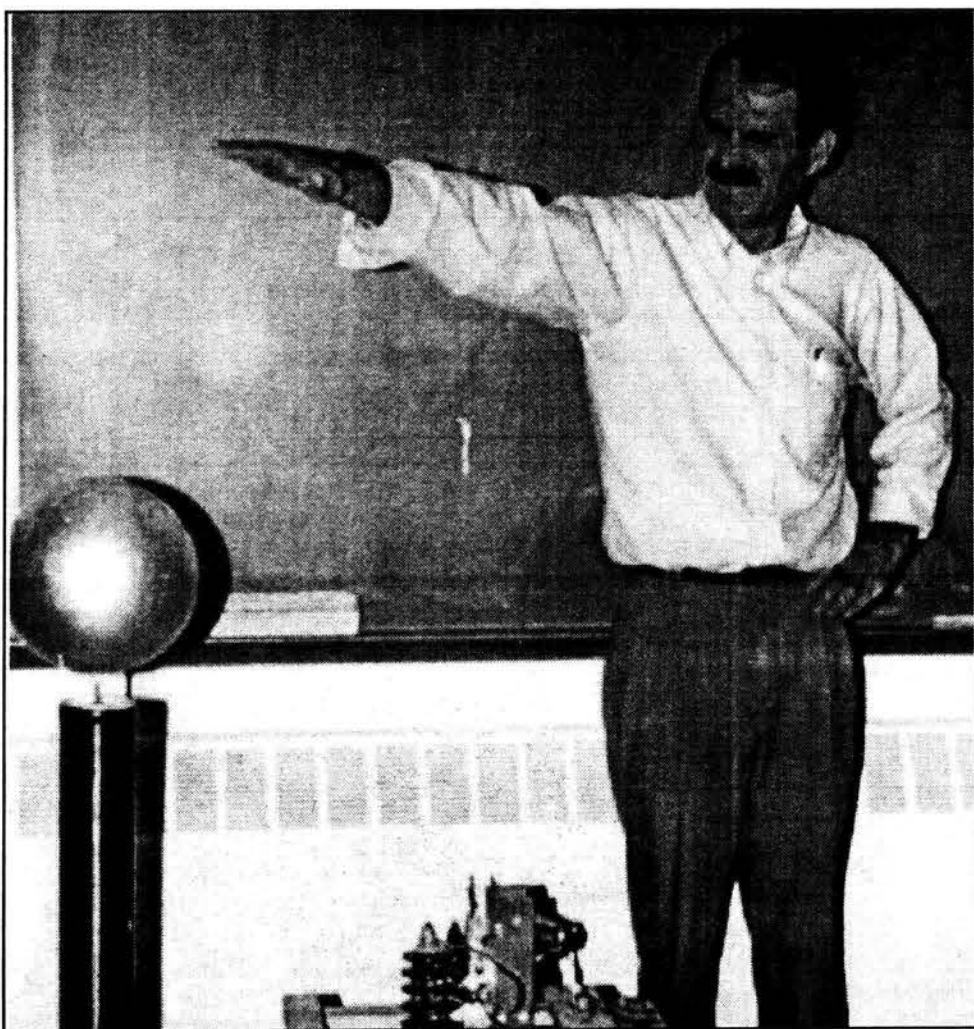
Marsh designed and constructed a different machine while at a mathematics workshop at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The machine, a type of bicycle generator with two motors, creates large circles and other geometric forms, like a giant Spirograph.

"When you build these things, it's like solving a problem," Marsh said. Marsh also used his physics knowledge when he used to race demolition derby cars.

"Physics is what keeps a car running in a race," he said. "I discovered a lot of secrets to win a race."

Marsh also helps students make their own projects for Central's Physics Club and competitions.

"The students build mousetrap cars, egg



Lei Brown

**Physics teacher Frank Marsh demonstrates electric resonance for his physics classes with a large, spark-spitting Tesla coil and his hand.**

slingshots and other contraptions," he said. "Central won the UNO car pull competition four years in a row."

Marsh received his undergraduate degree at Chadron State College, with a major in

mathematics and a minor in physics. He received a graduate degree in physics at the University of Wyoming and has done other graduate work in Colorado, Nebraska and at the Colorado School of Mines.

## Kid's Club films in CHS courtyard

**Lea Platz**  
Ever wonder why Central's courtyard is the back drop for some of the commercials on Omaha's

Fox 42 channel? During the summer, the station was looking for a place to film some of their advertisements.

Theresa, the Kid's Club hostess, said, "I thought that Central's building would be cool. We could have the appearance of the outside of a building, but on the inside."

In order to gain the rights to film inside Central, Theresa called

inform the viewer that they are watching Fox 42," she said.

Fourteen kids between the ages of five and 13 dance in the commercial. They are the members of

the school and was granted permission. With formalities out of the way, the channel picked a day forecasted to be relatively cool and

filmed for five hours. "During those hours we filmed Next On's, I.D.'s and the music video to a song by the 70's group Abba. Next On's tell what shows will be on, and at what times. I.D.'s

Troop for a year after auditioning in the spring at one of the Omaha malls.

"It was a great location with wonderful lighting," Theresa said.



the Toon Troop. The Toon Troop represents the 90,000 members of the Fox 42 Kids Club.

The kids hold the positions in the

*I went because they were affordable. I stayed because they're wonderful."*

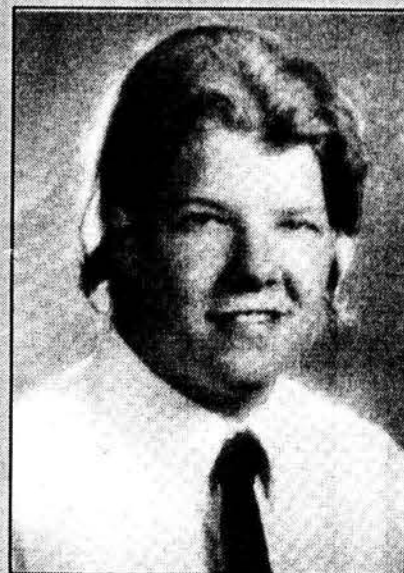


"Planned Parenthood sincerely cares about me. They're sensitive to a woman's special medical concerns, everything is kept confidential and you don't need anyone's permission (although it's a good idea to talk to your parents). The medical staff is professional, knowledgeable and up to date about birth control options. As far as I'm concerned, Planned Parenthood will always be the place to go for birth control, reproductive health care and information on preventing pregnancy and pregnancy options."

**See Planned Parenthood for:**  
• Birth Control  
• Free Pregnancy Testing  
• Low-Cost Service  
• Confidentiality

Pregnancy Helpline 553-6361 Facts-of-Lifeline 558-PLAN

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## Graduate finds key genetic link

**By Stacey Cody**

The summer before college, many students are concerned with packing and saying goodbye to their friends. Ben Moeller, Central graduate and freshman at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was doing something different.

This summer, Ben worked at Boys Town National Research Hospital investigating a mutation in the Arab population.

"I worked in the laboratory, usually all day on this project," Ben said. "It took a lot of time."

The mutation Ben was studying causes a young male two to four weeks old to lose his hearing. The gene Ben had found was prominent only in people of Arabic descent.

"It seemed to be a mitochondrial inheritance," Ben said. This means it is passed down maternally.

While the Boys Town hospital was studying the mutation, a doctor in Japan noticed similar traits in some of his own patients.

"He was very good friends with the doctor in charge of the research center," Ben said. "He ended up sending over some blood samples to the hospital, where the DNA could be extracted."

Ben originated the work on the project, doing most of the research.

"It was a big deal," Ben said. "If it was possible to determine that the mutation existed in more than one ethnic background, it would be possible to stop the disorder."

Through many tests and late nights in the lab, Ben did just that.

"By the age of five, most of the patients had no hearing," Ben said. By testing the ones with the gene who had not lost their hearing, Ben was able to find out how it had originated and how to stop the mutation from taking form.

"It's pretty complicated," Ben said.

His findings were presented at the "Genetics of Hearing Loss Conference" in Washington D.C. Ben will also be cited in a textbook written by A. Martini in Italy, and published in a scientific journal.

"It was a great project to work on," Ben said. Ben is now doing cancer research at M.I.T.

Ben was a member of Central's Honors Academic Decathlon team at Central and first learned Biology from Biology teacher Pat Wallington.

Sharon Cipperley, counselor said of Ben, "He was special."





## Dropouts lose driver's license with new law

By Valerie Newhouse

Don't miss too many days of school, or you just might lose your driver's license. Students in West Virginia are finding out the hard way about their state's law regarding student absences.

Two years ago, the state legislature of West Virginia passed a law affecting high school students that are registered drivers. Dora Harrah, office assistant in the West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, or DMV, said if a student misses more than 10 consecutive days from school or misses a total of 15 days in a semester, their driver's license is automatically suspended. The school board gives the student's name directly to the DMV the license revocation.

The 10 consecutive days a student misses must be voluntary, meaning if a student is ill for an extended period of time his license will not be revoked, said Vivian Liptok, office manager at the West Virginia DMV.

For a student to receive driving privileges again, he must pay a reinstatement fee. Also, he must prove to the DMV that he is good standing at school, meaning no extended absences and has passing grades. If a student chooses not to return to school or does not have good standing, he must wait until he is 18. The reinstatement fee as of June 1994 is \$15, Liptok said.

"West Virginia has a seven year driving record," Liptok said, so a student has this suspension with him on his record for seven full years after the license has been suspended."

Liptok figures approximately 30-40 students are affected monthly by the law, but not all the students are registered drivers, not all are affected.

"There are a lot of people in the state driving with suspended licenses, though, Harrah, said. They do receive a stiffer penalty, but we can't catch all of them."

Nebraska does not have any plans for a similar law, said Mike Hybl, legal counsel for the transportation committee of the state's legislature. He did say that there was a bill in 1991-92 that would suspend the license of a dropout, but it had failed in committee hearings.

Hybl said that around the Jan. 15 all bills for next year would be in and there could be a chance of a bill similar to West Virginia's dropout law.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR MALE FULLY EMPLOYED HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS WAS \$18,042 A YEAR IN 1991. MEN WITH ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES WORKING YEAR-ROUND EARNED \$32,221 IN THE SAME YEAR.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Central student turns

By Kate King

"Dropping out was the dumbest thing I ever did, I wish I could go back to school." Billy Rose, is now facing the consequences of his actions in the past.

Billy dropped out of Central almost one year ago because he did not have enough credits to graduate before his 21st birthday and he did not attend to his school work seriously. Billy was told that he could not graduate from Central by Mr. Bob Wagner, a student personnel assistant at the Teacher Administrator Center, TAC, even if he attended night and summer schools.

Central, a school known for its high academic record, has had incidents including violence in the past that involved students or former students. Although incidents have occurred, Central is not the only school that has students that have had run ins with the law. One former Central student with involvement in some of those incidents, At nine o'clock on Dec. 14, while many of the Central student body was in their second period class, Billy attended a court hearing in which he faced three charges; carrying an unregistered gun, carrying a concealed weapon and minor in possession of a fire-

arm, with a sentence of one and a half years in jail, however, he received a sentence of 90 days.

"The first time I got in trouble with the law was four years ago when I received my first offense for riding in a stolen car. My second was for driving a stolen car. I've been arrested seven or eight times.

"Billy carried a weapon for nearly three years after being jumped by seven people in his neighborhood. He first got caught with one a little over one year ago. His family tried to stop him from doing so especially his brother Danny, a Central graduate, and his best friend Shane Solomon. According to Billy, both Danny and Shane lectured him and yelled at him for the things he has done.

"You gotta grow up tough in this neighborhood or you might die," Billy said. "Around this

neighborhood that's how you have to grow up, You have to defend yourself. Shane's like my brother. Danny just fought his way through, but never got involved with gangs.

**D**ropping out was the dumbest thing I ever did, I wish I could go back to school.  
--Billy Rose

He's a lot smarter.

Billy started working at Hinky Dinky in 1994 for "convenience, it was a job." He quit seven months later because the pay was low and the customers were hard to get along with, but he liked the employees. In his brief history, Billy has been shot once in his back by

## ■ Diploma equivalent

# Dropouts use GED

By Angela Parks

"Any student who has dropped out of high school should take the GED [General Educational Development] test," Barry Evans said, a former Central student who dropped out of school last year.

"Originally the GED was started during World War II to allow for veterans who did not finish high school to be able to go to college," Sharon Cipperley, guidance counselor, said. "Now it has become a program in which teens take after they have dropped out of school."

According to Cipperley, students drop out of school for many reasons.

"I do not think school is made for everybody, therefore students should have alternatives," Brandie said. Brandie is a former Central student who dropped out.

Barry feels the same way as Brandie. "Central is more concerned with the students who are doing good and guaranteed to go on to college, which is understandable," Barry said.

He said that he preferred Central over any other high school. Before Barry came to Central, he had gone to North High School. He said he liked Central a lot better than North.

Barry dropped out of school last year when he missed more than ten days because he was hospitalized.

"I dropped out of school because I was suspended four or five times for bad conduct," Brandie said.

Before Brandie dropped out of school she was placed in ISC or Independent Study Center. Brandie said that ISC had a "bad environment. The school is full of thugs."

She decided to dropout.

"When [students] drop out, we want them to return to school or get a GED," Cipperley said.

"It [GED] is a good option for kids who make the choice of dropping out of school," said Dr. Connie Eichhorn, coordinator of career center and adult education program.

Dr. Eichhorn went on to say that she feels that it is not good idea for some students to dropout because they will not experience "interaction with students."

Every state offers a high school equivalency diploma, or GED, test. The test is more than seven and a half hours long and includes portions in writing, social studies, literature and mathematics.

The content of the GED test is established in several steps. First, the GED Testing Service convenes panels of content experts and curriculum specialists to identify skills and knowledge required of high school seniors for graduation. After the specifications of the test have been established, experienced high school and adult educators submit test questions. The questions are then reviewed for race and gender bias, level of difficulty and appropriateness of content.

Dr. Eichhorn said that 30 percent of current high school seniors would fail the GED test. Barry and Brandie believe the test will be easy, except perhaps for the math and language part.

The GED test is provided at more than 3,000 official testing centers in the United States and Canada. In Omaha the test center is the Teachers Administrative Center, or TAC.

Each year, more than half a million

people take the GED test of the United States and test if they meet the requirements of their state. According to a survey, 10 percent of students under 18 took the GED test last year. This number of students taking the test is 10 percent higher than last year.

There are certain requirements for teens under 19 that are necessary to be eligible to take the test.

All 16, 17 and 18 year olds are required to attend GED classes with teacher approval prior to taking the test. Brandie said that he has taken the test and obtained approval to take it.

Before this process, students must obtain the following information from the Department of Education:

1. A completed notification form.
2. An essay explaining why you are wanting to take the test.
3. An official transcript from the high school attended stating the official date of graduation and the date they would be graduating and being released from school.
4. A notarized letter from a guardian including several items.

Other information needed when applying for the GED test:

1. Applicants must be a resident of Neb. for 30 days preceding the date of the test.
2. Applicants must be at least 17 years old at the end of the high school





## around

ents really want me to do this. They think it will straighten me out. They say I'll come out a new man."

According to Billy, the violence in the neighborhood isn't getting any better. In fact, he said that they are getting worse. Occurrences like the Park Avenue murders earlier in the school year, didn't surprise Billy. He was shocked, however, that he was good friends with one of the accused, Lamont Arnold.

"I've seen ten- and eleven-year-olds jumping people, they're just getting younger and younger," Billy said.

Billy said that the police that come into the know that it's a bad area, but still most of them still care. He also says that there are too many drugs in the area going around. There are also too few people putting money into developing the area.

"Drugs and thugs, that's all," Billy said. "There's lots of gangs, drugs and violence. There ain't much of anything good really. People need to advertise about the area to get money into it. Parents in the neighborhood should still try to raise good kids. The kid can choose which road to take, I just chose the wrong one."

### Famous dropouts:

- Harry Belafonte - U.S. singer
- Cher - U.S. entertainer
- Mary Baker Eddy - Founder of Christian Science
- Henry Ford - U.S. automobile manufacturer
- George Gershwin - U.S. composer
- Adolf Hitler - German dictator
- Jack London - U.S. writer
- Dean Martin - U.S. entertainer
- Al Pacino - U.S. actor
- Will Rogers - U.S. humorist
- William Saroyan - U.S. writer
- Frank Sinatra - U.S. singer
- Marshal Tito - Yugoslavian Prime Minister
- Orville & Wilbur Wright - U.S. aviation pioneers

Taken from *The Book of Lists*, 1977

# D R O P O U T S

## further education, life

attendance during which lit was earned to-

### GED

- What is the GED test? The initials GED stand for General Education Development. The GED gives one a chance to earn a certificate that is equivalent to a high school diploma.
- Why take the test? In every state the GED test results are used as the basis for giving high school equivalency credentials. Colleges and universities accept satisfactory GED scores in place of completed high school grade transcripts for admissions purposes.
- What is the cost of the test? The fee for taking the GED test in the state of Nebraska is \$20.
- What is the GED test like? Questions on the GED test are multiple choice with five answers available to choose from. There is also a short essay for the writing skills test.

is a \$3 fee. When a student reaches 18 and their high school class graduates, a diploma

may be purchased for \$5. A student may

class has not graduated since they receive a transcript stating they have graduated.

Dr. Eichhorn says a graduation ceremony is held in the summer at the Orpheum for people who pass the GED.

Brandie said she has not yet been accepted to start the GED classes because ISC did not send her transcripts to the Nebraska Department of Education until a month after she requested them.

She wanted to have the GED completed and have two semesters of classes at Metro Community College "under her belt" because she wants to move to New Orleans. Now she will end up with one semester at Metro.

Her plan for the future is to take child development classes at Metro, start a daycare, and later go to college to get a teaching degree.

Barry is currently attending Metro. He is a provisional student, meaning if he does not get his GED, he will not be allowed to attend school next semester.

He plans to earn his associate science degree and then attend UNO for a master's degree in psychology.

Both Barry and Brandie have jobs, but they said if they had a diploma they could have better jobs. Brandie said the only job available to dropouts is telecommunications.

"I feel with a high school diploma, finding a well paying job is easier," Barry said.

"I think everyone who drops out needs to get a GED, otherwise they will be sitting around watching 'Young and the Restless' while being on welfare," Brandie said.

enter a secondary institution even without a diploma if their





## ABOUT TOWN: AMERICAN PIE A YOUNG ADULT'S DANCE SPOT

By Jennifer Houlden

Looking for a little bit of high-energy fun? American Pie has got the answer for you! Located at 114th and P Streets, American Pie recently changed to a 15 and older club. Open for dancing Friday and Saturday nights from 8 p.m. until midnight, and rent out the building for private parties the rest of the week.

### Teenage club

Earlier this summer, American Pie and radio station Sweet 98 sponsored Sunday night shows for those 17 and over. It was regularly a 21 and over club. They expanded their age limits to give more kids an op-

portunity to get out and dance.

John Elgert, owner of American Pie, previously The Garage, opened the club in May of 1994 as an offshoot of McFarland's.

"The needs of the club scene change from every one and a half to two years. After this summer's change to 17 and over on Sunday, we realized that there was definite market in the teen-age group," John said.

Elgert also said their crowd mainly 15-20 year olds, and that the older crowd has relocated. The club enforces a strict dress code, requiring all shirts be tucked in, no hats allowed and no team or school logo

apparel.

### Safety

Excellent security is also a benefit of the club. American Pie employs two uniformed security guards, one doorman and several other roaming security guards.

"We try to ensure the complete safety of all the kids there. The security guards and dress code help ensure that," Elgert said

### Modern Music

The club features contemporary music, featuring classic dance and hip hop, with other various music thrown in for variety. Jay Mirales deejays the club, featuring "beat

mixes" to get the crowd pumped up. The featured emcee is Jamie Shenkel, who gets the

there, I don't even like it but it

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## The purrfect weekend



Lei Brown

The fourth annual National Cat Fancier Show took place Dec. 2-3 at the Civic Auditorium. The show was sponsored by different pet product companies in the Omaha area. Boris Toron and his cat Evie, above, were among the participants in the show.

"The deejay people are all freaks. They wore clown wigs and cowboy hats. It was pretty amusing though," said Sarah Boro, senior, who visited American Pie on a Sunday night. "It was really hot and loud, like a sweat box in there."

"My girlfriend dragged me

senior, said. The cover charge for the night, and \$5 for the first five before 9 p.m. American Pie offers free beverages to all clubgoers, because it "does get a little toasty," admitted Elgert. Elgert advises clubgoers to dress comfortably and coolly.

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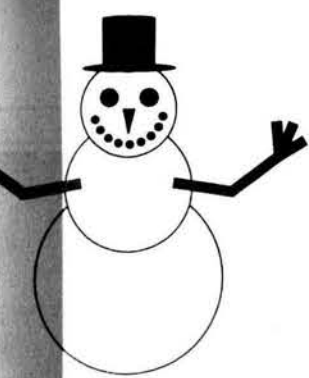
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# ENTERTAINMENT

# 11

November 22, 1995

## WINTER IS GOOD FOR MORE THAN HIBERNATION

Nick Stender

The bone-chilling winds and snow leave many people searching for entertainment during the winter months. Actually there is plenty of winter bliss for the most religious of sun-worshippers. Armed with a warm pair of gloves, a trusty parka, a pair of mittens, and a thermos full of hot chocolate, the snowy plains of Nebraska can be just as fun as the beaches of the Florida Keys. The most obvious winter activity is sledding. As soon as the snow hits the ground people flock to the hills of Memorial Park for inner tubes, sleds, and even board boxes. Among them is Charles DeBoer.

As soon as the snow hits the ground I here a voice calling me to sled," Charles said.

Charles likes to go sledding with a large group of friends because they have races and play on sleds. They also build snow forts and see who can jump the highest.

Occasionally when one of us gets the nerve, we try to stand up and surf down the hill. We usually end up wiping out," Charles said.

Another winter activity that is usually associated with Nebraska is skiing. However, there are "ski resorts" relatively close to Omaha. MT Crescent Ski Area in Ames, Iowa, and NebraSKI in

Gretna, Neb., offer a taste of powder. Granted they do not come close to Vail, but what else can you expect

without driving for 10 hours. Both slopes open in mid December and stay open until late February or early March depending on the weather. They can manufacture

their own snow to keep the slopes running in case Mother Nature decides to take the day off. and NebraSKI vary depending on whether or not you rent skis or if you are skiing with a large group of

relieve their childhood in the winter. Brandon Meigs and Roland White, both seniors, like to build snow forts and have snowball fights.

"We usually get about 10-15 people together and have a huge snowball fight in my neighborhood," Brandon said.

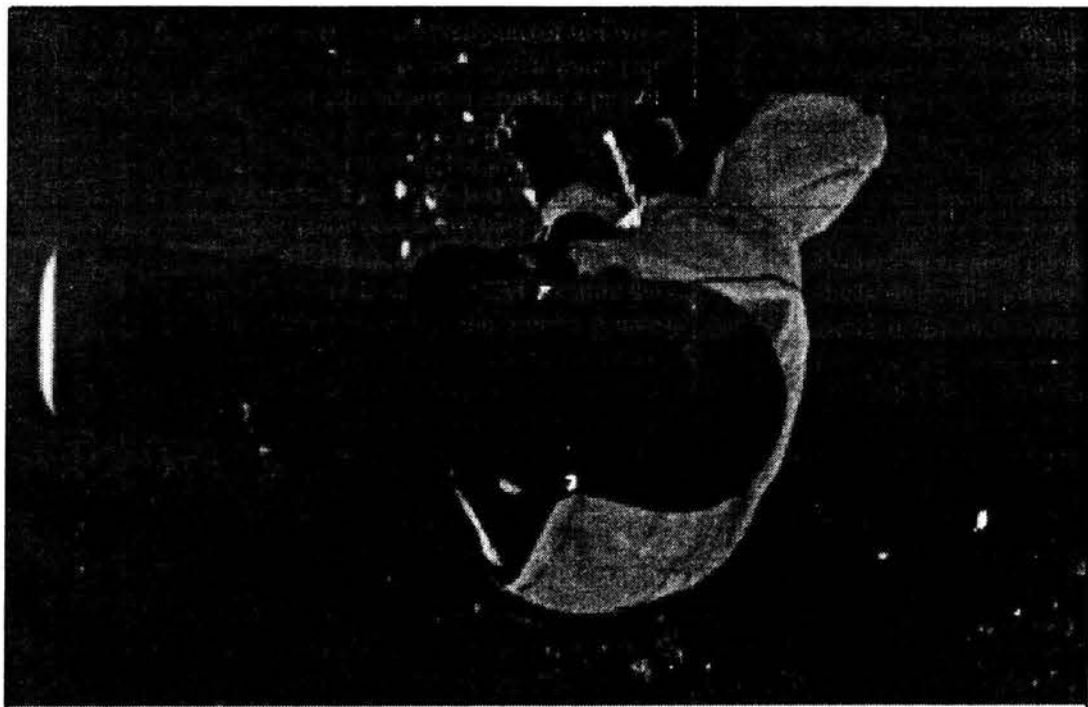
According to Brandon each team builds a massive snow fort and stock piles it with snowballs. Then both teams run amuck throwing snowballs and trying to wreck each team's fort. The team that still has a fort standing is the winner.

Erin Onkka, senior, said her favorite part about winter is building snowmen. Many times she builds a whole family of them.

"I build the first one and then I start thinking that he is lonely so I build another one and eventually I have a whole family of snowmen," Erin said.

Most students agree that their favorite activity is coming into a warm house after spending the day outside. Krista Griess, junior, said her favorite part of winter is coming inside from the cold and drinking a cup of hot chocolate topped with marshmallows.

The winter months can be used for more than just hibernation. There is plenty of fun waiting for everyone brave enough to venture outdoors. Just put on your hat and go roll around in the snow.



courtesy of AIRWALK

**Cold icy snow** provides those active people who are tired of skiing and are bored with sledding the chance to do something a bit more daring. Snowboarding is just one of the other alternative winter sports that offer a little variety.

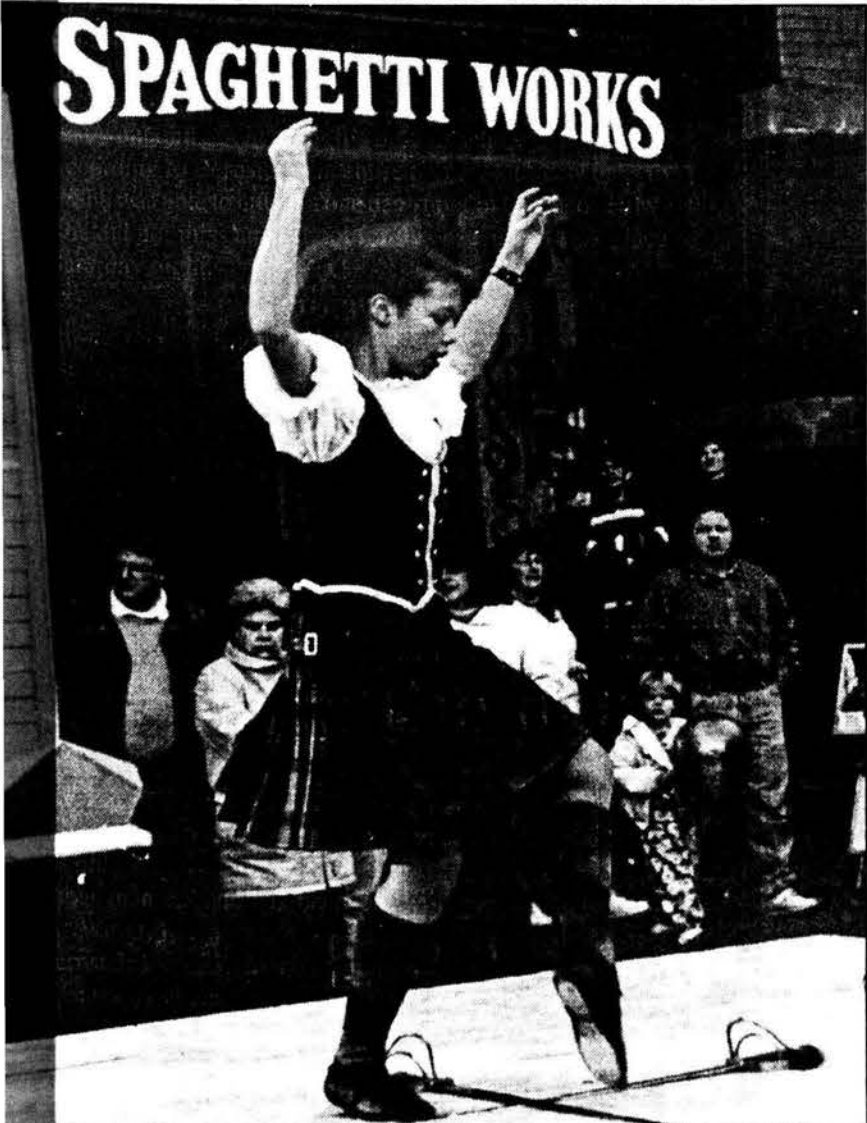
Senior Sarah Boro often skis at MT Crescent. Sarah said she likes it because she can rent skis instead of paying a fortune for her own. Prices for both MT Crescent

people. Both slopes often have special discount days and recommend that you call to take advantage of them. Some Central students like to

Several students wanted tickets to the Fiesta Bowl, and one student was already going on a cruise, but the most definitive answers included gifts not dissimilar to those found on the purple-crayon-wish-lists.

tion. Charles DeBoer, senior, wants a snowboard and senior Chris Boyd wants a bow-and-arrow set. Other wishes were less realistic. Sarah Dewitt, senior, said, "Jared Leto under my tree with a big red bow around him.

## Dickens in the market



Lei Brown

**Dancer** celebrates Dickens and the spirit of Christmas in the Old Market

## Student wish lists

By Rachel Jacobsen

Remember how simple the holiday season was when we were kids? Our only task was to sit down and create, in crayon, a glorious eight-page, in-depth wish-list. This holiday season, many now older, wiser Central students' wish lists are a bit more varied.

Some Centrallites are looking for more than toys this year.

Junior Lupe Perez said, "an engine for my car."

"I'd like a stamp collection," senior, Jean Lucera said.

"You know what I'd really like?" sophomore Rachel Schuckert asked. "Chanel Number Five."

"A guitar," said Jerome Bradford, senior.

"I want a car," freshman Nikki Howell said.

Several students wanted tickets to the Fiesta Bowl, and one student was already going on a cruise, but the most definitive answers included gifts not dissimilar to those found on the purple-crayon-wish-lists.

"A really big Teddy-Bear," Meghan MacCallan, senior said.

"A skateboard," junior Matt Hayduska said.

Junior Brandy Crozier said, "I want to go to Disneyworld."

Several students wanted a Sony Play Sta-

tion. Charles DeBoer, senior, wants a snowboard and senior Chris Boyd wants a bow-and-arrow set. Other wishes were less realistic. Sarah Dewitt, senior, said, "Jared Leto under my tree with a big red bow around him.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Cipperly sighed, "A thirty-hour day."

Senior Jeff Driscoll's wish is shared by most Nebraskans this New Year: Another National Championship.

Whatever your wish is, if you wish hard enough, it just may be granted to you.

**A**ll I want for Christmas is another National Championship.

-- Jeff Driscoll





### Pharcyde grooves their way to the top

**By Jennifer Houlden**  
Pharcyde's new release *LABCABIN CALIFORNIA* has successfully maintained the smooth flow of the group's previous records.  
As thoroughly disgusted as I am with the angry man violence theme present in so much of the mainstream rap today, the melodious lyrics of almost all the songs are quite a pleasant change. Like a mix of A Tribe Called Quest's attitude and Marvin Gaye's sensuality, Pharcyde rolls along the narratives of their songs with a certain jazziness common to a lot of the groups of their genre. "Somethin' That Means Somethin'" is one of the more

message-loaded tracks off the album.  
...if your [sic] on the same level most of us are free based on bring rebels fightin' causes against the devil in the heart of round meadows either verbally or with silhouettes eyes as cold as darks parks or steel metal the world never settle...  
One of my personal favorites off the album, "Groupie Therapy," provides a very satirical view of relationships, fame and the lack of loyalty when both are combined. With their commentary on women who play for attention from the bands at shows, known as groupies (hence the title), their lyrics are somewhat mocking the

photo courtesy of Epicx Productions

## Casino blows away all expectations

**By Caroline Foley**  
Martin Scorsese's latest adventure in movie-making proves to be the most violent, humorous and well-made film of 1995.  
*Casino* is a true story about the Mafia invasion of the Las Vegas casinos and the violence that comes with them.  
The film takes place in the late seventies and early eighties. The plot centers around the Tangiers Casino and its owner, Sam Rothstein.  
Sam is "hired" by the Mafia because of his genius in handicapping games.  
The Mafia decides they should open a casino in Las Vegas and Sam should manage it.  
However, the "big guys" in the mob decide Nickie should go along with Sam to supervise the Tangiers.  
Meanwhile, Sam falls in love with Ginger, a prostitute that illegally works in the casino, further complicating the plot.  
The film is definitely not for those who cannot stomach violence. In the opening scene of *Casino*, Nickie is upset that someone is harassing his friend Sam

about the ownership of a pen on the bar.  
Nickie, in turn, picks up this pen and starts stabbing in throat with the pen in question. When the man falls to the floor and starts crying, Nickie mocks him for being "a little girl."  
Nickie slowly destroys Sam's reputation by committing some of the most heinous and disgusting crimes ever seen in Las Vegas.  
Although these crimes are gruesome, the audience cannot help but anticipate the next one.  
The next complication of the plot occurs when Ginger becomes involved with Nickie, a big Mafia no-no.  
These two come up with the idea that Sam is out to get them both and that he should be killed.  
However, Sam has become obsessed with the success of the casino and does not notice to the extent to which his wife and Nickie resent him.

The Mafia backs realizing that Nickie is with his payments and ing to rip them off, yet mistake on Nickie's part.  
However, Nickie pals get their justice of the movie.  
Robert De Niro spent on wa l. We e scre r that v t up a e mur ing Pe hildre a Ligh hood g ad bac lly di ctive When filled yone i e crac n "Mi fs." e face y and Later one's ities e acti rmy l as a s thers ush-u iravey e neig what I alv pack we ca s, bl ld giv 'C 'il 'C Las obs to b lma cou "W hol k w

### Bad Religion: still rocking after a decade

**By Caroline Foley**  
The newest Bad Religion release, *All Ages*, is a remarkable compilation that is an asset to any well-rounded music collection.  
*All Ages* is the ideal CD for any person who has never really listened to Bad Religion, but wants to listen to some of the band's best recorded songs.  
The album features songs like "Faith Alone," "Atomic Garden" and "Best for You," are all definite masterpieces in their own right.  
Besides featuring tracks from various albums, *All Ages* includes two live tracks that make the album worthy of the \$12 purchase.  
*All Ages* also displays some of the most interesting cover art. The CD cover has various posters from different Bad Religion shows with bands like

the Circle Jerks and Minutemen. Inside the cover there are copies of the original hand-written lyrics of the songs featured on the album, adding to the all around coolness of *All Ages*.  
The band's lyrics, unlike those of most other bands, promote people to think about the ills of society, but also what they can do to change them.  
As Bad Religion moves into the mainstream, it is interesting to study their roots. They started as a punk band protesting against things like racism and parental neglect. Today, their music slightly toned-down, they have broadened their political scope but maintain to sing and protest against the social and political wrongs in the world today.  
*All Ages* is a truly fantastic album.



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## Huh?

-by Carrie Parrott

We often thought up get-rich-quick schemes, such as the dog-walking and baby-sitting service we passed out flyers for. Once we organized a yard sale in my front yard, where we attempted to sell old toys and junk our parents didn't want anymore. Although we made most of our small profit selling Kool-Aid and brownies, the anticipation of the event was worth every minute spent hauling junk to my yard.

Another time, a friend, my sister and I spent a whole afternoon planning a recital for our parents, where we played the piano, sang and danced to tunes such as "How Much is that Doggie in the Window?" and numerous songs by the Bangles such as "Walk Like an Egyptian" and "Eternal Flame."

After thinking about "the good ol' days" for awhile, I looked down at myself. I had become a pathetic individual whose Saturday afternoon most often consists of watching television, eating, reading magazines and gossiping. Sure, I still look forward to Saturdays, but not for the same reasons. The child-like thrill I used to get out of the day is gone. The creativity and energy that I once used virtually every minute of my life has been converted into a lazy, unimaginative teenager.

I wonder how my life as a teenager will look to my adult self. Will it appear to be exciting, fun-filled and energetic? When I'm an adult, will I sit around during all of my free time instead of just once in awhile? Sometimes I wonder if life is some sort of upward progression of laziness and dullness, or if this is just the disillusionment of my adolescent hormones taking over.

## Central senior performs in Dundee musical

By Nick Stender

The musical comedy *Anything Goes* takes stage of the Dundee Dinner Theatre from now to Jan. 20.

The musical comedy *Anything Goes* takes place in 1934 on a trans-Atlantic voyage to England aboard the U.S. American.

Besides being an excellent production, "Anything Goes" stars talented Central senior

Anna Perilo. Anna plays Bonnie, a spunky young sidekick of Moonface Martin.

As the musical opens, a vast assortment of characters, ranging from a high power businessman to a racy showgirl board the ship. Among them is the quick thinking Billy Crocker. After escorting his boss

onto the ship Billy has a run in with Hope Hartcourt, his old flame. He learns that she is on her way to England to marry Evelyn Oakleigh, a

From there the plot thickens and the laughter never stops. Anna's performance is magnificent. She leads the ship's sailors in the Heaven Hop, an exciting number full of dancing.

A unique feature of the Dundee Dinner Theatre is the delicious meal you are served before the show. The actual actors are your servers and even during in-



photo courtesy of Dundee Theatre

proper and sophisticated Englishman.

Billy helps Moonface Martin, public enemy number 13, escape from FBI agents in exchange for a ticket and passport to England. The pair becomes good friends and scheme to get Billy back together with Hope.

termission to serve desserts. It is a nice way to interact with the actors.

The theater offers student discounts, so be sure to mention your age so you can take advantage of them. Reservations are required. It is an excellent way to spend the evening.

## Casino best bet for killer novel Pileggi's latest book tells tale of real life mobster Frank Rosenthal

Rachel Jacobsen

"Why is my car on fire?" Nicholas Pileggi begins his new book with a phrase typical to a day-

in-the life of the average gangster.

*Casino, Love and Honor in Las Vegas* is the latest non-fiction work by the author of *Wiseguy*, the book

the movie *Good Fellas* was based on. It is a collaboration of true stories from the life of Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal and other vibrant and seemingly larger-than-life characters. The characters are so animated it is easy to overlook the fact that it is a true story.

The book begins with a brief description of Lefty's childhood in Chicago. After several run-ins with the law, Lefty leaves Chicago for Las Vegas to rid himself of his tainted reputation in his hometown. "Frank Rosenthal came to Las Vegas for the same reason so many other Americans have: to get away from his past. Las Vegas was a city with no memory."

There, he finds the Stardust Hotel, a mob-controlled casino

where the owners have developed elaborate ways to "skim" money by stealing from their own hotel. He also meets the beautiful, drug-addicted show girl that will become his wife.

One of the main characters, Alan Glick, married Central graduate Cathy Adler. He is a naive real-estate investor that Lefty cons into purchasing the Stardust. He buys the Stardust with money borrowed from another mob-controlled organization. Somehow believing that the deal is legitimate, Glick discovers the hard way that he doesn't own the Stardust. The Stardust owns him.

A classic *Godfather*-like scene occurs when he is forced to fly to Kansas City to meet with Nick Civilla. Civilla sits him in a chair

with a bright light shining in his face. When Glick says the light is bothering his eyes, Civilla responds, "I can accommodate you by ripping both your eyes out."

Tony "The Ant" Spilotro is Lefty's demented sidekick from Chicago. He has an affair with Lefty's wife and makes an attempt on his life.

Overall, the book is extremely entertaining, and you won't be able to put it down. However, the characters are not very well developed. The book never explains emotional motivations for the more personal actions of the people involved.

It is still a fantastic, well told true story about real people living lives one would think exist only in the movies.


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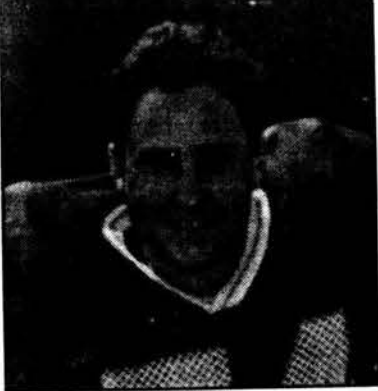
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**From the bench:**  
Sports Opinion by Josh Cohen



Patrick Roy (Rwah), goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens, has not played for any other team in the N.H.L. He will probably go down in the Canadian's history as their best player ever, he has also led them to two Stanley Cup championships.

Roy was one of the few true franchise players in the league. By this I mean that he did not care about playing for any other team and really felt an allegiance to Montreal. Until now!

A few months ago something went wrong with Roy's perfect career. The Canadian organization felt that the team's coach was not quite up to par, so they fired him and brought in someone else.

Hold on, this wasn't just any coach. He was quite possibly Roy's worst nightmare. Mario Tremblay, throughout Roy's career, had been one of the strongest opponents to his success, and he was now his coach.

Now in my opinion, to bring in a coach who is known for not liking your star player is kind of crazy.

Well, like everyone expected, something went wrong. To bring Roy of his so called "high horse" Tremblay kept him in to get embarrassed by the Detroit Red Wings. The Red Wings scored nine goals on 24 shots on Roy. If he would have only taken action two or three goals sooner nothing might have happened, but he didn't.

In the N.H.L. scoring nine goals is virtually unheard of, a normal score would be 3-1 or 5-4, not 9-0,

especially by an All-Star goalie who has been the best in the league almost his whole career.

This act was the clincher. After the game Roy announced that he will never play another game in a Canadian's jersey, and wished to be traded.

Last week, Roy was traded to the Colorado Avalanche, formerly the Québec Nordiques, in would be so greedy as to treat their players like dirt.

Don't get me wrong; not all teams are like this. But for those who are, something needs to be changed.

Throughout the years, players have been able to rely on franchises to be the backbone of their career. Today it's all changing. Players can't trust teams, and have to get what they can and go.

In the past I thought "Neon"-Deion-"Primetime" Sanders was just an overpriced showboat, and he is, but now I understand why he does it.

He doesn't have an allegiance to one team. He is out to make the most of his career and the most money he can.

Now I do think he goes a little overboard with it, but he does get the best of the owners before they can get the best of him. This is the key- take them before they can take you.

I think more athletes need to be this way, because in today's athletic world you can't trust anyone.

Although, I don't think this is the best solution, but it is really something that the players can use to throw back in the owners faces to get even.

If the owners just weren't so greedy. If they only cared about the team instead of the team's revenues.

I don't know an exact solution, but until one is found I think the athletes should take advantage of the free agency process, and what it can do for them.

Heck, I don't know about anyone else, but I would much rather see the players getting richer than the owners.

**CURLING A POPULAR ALTERNATIVE FOR CENTRAL STUDENTS**

By Les Anich

The game of curling has evolved a great deal since it was first created in the 16th century. The game is currently played in 18 countries on four continents.

The United States, Canada and Scotland have this growing game.

"In the United States, the sport is rarely televised, but up in Canada, it's on all the time," junior Kevin Jordan said. He is a member of Aksarben's Curling Club.

Kevin has played this game with his dad since he was six years old. His brother Pat, a 1994 Central graduate, also plays.

To those who do not know this game exists, here is some information about the game.

The precise beginnings of curling are shrouded in history. Some of the earliest records of a game similar to curling date back to 1565.

In 1832, the Orchard Lake Curling Club of Detroit, Michigan became the first organized curling club in the United States. Immigrant farmers from Scotland started it.

"Soon after, clubs started up in New England (Boston, 1839), Milwaukee (1843), and in Chicago (1854)," Kevin said.

By 1880, 14 clubs joined together to form the Northwestern Curling Association.

"Today, there are about 20,000 registered curlers in the United States," Kevin said.

The game is played on ice

about the length of a hockey rink by two teams consisting of four players each. Each team has eight stones and four brooms or brushes.

The standard curling stone is made of granite.

"It weighs between 42 and 44 pounds," Kevin said. "I use a 42 pound stone when I curl."

Kevin said that the stone looks like a squished bowling ball.

The obligation of the players holding the broom is to clear a clean path for the stone to travel on.

On each end of the ice rink, there are four circles painted on the ice.

"It looks like a large dart board. There's a large circle going around the medium sized one and that surrounds the smallest one of the three," Kevin said. "And of course there's the bull's eye."

The object of the game is to carefully slide a stone across the ice rink, so it will stop directly in the center or at least touching part of the bull's eye.

Each player on each team

slides two stones. The first is called the lead, the second, the vice skip and the fourth, the anchorman, skip.

"When a player's stone, called the delivery stone, must release the stone before he crosses a line

**I**t's a fun game. In the year 2000, the game of curling will be part of the Olympics.

--Kevin Jordan

slid one at a time across so some stones are hit away from their previous

It's more likely maybe two to six stones circles, Kevin said.

A point is given to stones that are the closest center. Two points are given to the team who has a stone center.

In one game, each team slides eight stones ten times across the ice rink.

"It's a fun game. In 2000, the game of curling will be part of the Olympics," Kevin said.

**Super Bowl Picks**

Josh's picks - Chiefs vs. 49ers, the long AFC drought is over, Chiefs win

Les' picks - Buffalo vs. Dallas, sorry the drought is still there, Dallas wins

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## Center swim team strong after OPS invite

By Kate King  
Central can look at having a strong team," said Kathleen Laughlin, business teacher, assistant swim coach and diving coach, after the invite held on Dec., 7 and 9 at Bryan Junior High School.

At the men's meet on Thurs. 7, the Central team placed second out of 12 schools, defeated only by North High, 204-199. The team did not expect to do this well said Laughlin. She said that not expecting to win was a real advantage for the teams self-esteem. Central was in the last match which is where North's team gained five points

for victory. She said that last year the team had members so the helped a

There has been a improvement over last year said Laughlin. The team has more

enthusiasm and a positive attitude. They are very excited." The women's team placed fifth out of twelve schools at the OPS meet on Sat. 9. The invite was the second meet that Central had

son.

Overall, performance has surpassed past years, especially since the team took second at OPS," said Laughlin. "We're at a building point." The team has worked on endurance during most of pre-season and this season which, according to Laughlin, has helped for the placing of the entire team has. Laughlin continued that the team has a new goal

work on strokes, breathing and turns for the upcoming meets.

"There are a lot near State levels and can be with work, they're just a few seconds off," said Laughlin.

According to one of the co-captains, senior Nick Stender, the team is pumped with many members that can make State.



## CHS BOWLING STRIKES UP NEW SEASON

By Kate King

Central's bowling team officially started its second season at their first meet on Dec. 4.

The two-year-old team is under new the guidance of new Head Coach Paul Blazeovich, social studies teacher. Blazeovich assisted in coaching the team last year under Coach Mike Cunningham, former computer aided design teacher. There are two varsity teams, women's and men's, and a men's junior varsity team.

"The team's good," Jordan Acker, senior, said. "No one's a slacker. Other high schools get so into the competition. They get awards for every strike that they make. For Central, it's for fun. Coach Blazeovich makes it for fun."

"I just want them to have fun and enjoy the sport," Blazeovich said.

Jordan said that she started as a junior for "something to do." She continued to say that Blazeovich is a "helpful coach" and taught her some good techniques. This helped her to enjoy the sport much more.

Last year the team was smaller, according to Blazeovich. The girls on the team this year all made varsity

due to the small number that tried out. Many of last year's seniors were on the team that took State in 1995

bowling team; funding and support. "As of now, there is none to my knowledge," said Paul Pennington, Central administrator, in reference to funding. "It is considered a club sport. They bowl for scholarship money."

Blazeovich said the funding will grow with years. According to Jordan, some team members wanted to get authentic bowling shirts, but they cost too much. The team does have t-shirts that say "Central Bowling". The team members have to put a ten dollar returnable deposit on the shirts. The only dress code for the team is that they can't wear jeans. Another problem that no funding imposes is that there is no transportation to practices or meets.

According to Blazeovich, support for the team mostly consists of parents. No cheerleaders and few students attend bowling meets. Jordan said that if more people knew about the meets, they might attend.

"Let the people know about it," Jordan said.

The team practiced in a four week pre-season every Monday at four o'clock at Leisure Lanes on 4811 L St. During the season, the team practices on Thursdays.



Let Brown

Strike! Senior Jordan Acker practices her bowling skills.

Blazeovich said.

"Everyone has a good time and gets along," Jordan said. "There are some impressive members, but no matter how anyone's average is, coach just wants us to have fun. An average doesn't matter."

According to Jordan, there are only two slight problems for the



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# SPORTS



## We Cover Eagle Territory

### Boy's Basketball looks ahead

# High hopes for Eagle hoops

By T. J. Brumfield

The Central Boy's Basketball team won their opening game at home against Northwest, but fell to Benson and Bellevue East on the road to open their season with a 1-2 record.

In the Northwest game, the Eagles battled back from a 3 point deficit at the half and went on an early 11-2 run in the third to set the pace for the second half.

The Eagle defense forced several turnovers in the third which led to the early run, but three three pointers by Ryan Behrens, junior, and Galen Morrison, senior kept the run going.

Central's lead held through the fourth quarter and the Eagles ended up winning the game by the score of 58 to 50.

In the Benson game Central dominated the first half and doubled the Bunnies' half-time score of 18.

But Benson senior, Adrian Johnson, scored 27 out of his 33 points in the second half to rally the Bunnies on to a 12 point victory.

We were ahead by 18 at half and they just had a big 3rd quarter," said Central coach, Rick Behrens. Benson went on the following week to beat the then ranked #2 Millard South team.

The next game on the schedule against Westside was postponed due to weather, but Central played Bellevue East the following day.

Several Central players had big games against Bellevue East, including team scoring leader Morrison's 22 points, but Central still fell by the score of 85 to 71.

13 out of those 14 points came at the free throw line where Bellevue East received twice as many attempts as the Eagles.

"I think we have the most talent [of any team], but we're still young and have a long ways to go," Morrison said.

On the fact that Central is getting called for twice as many fouls as opposing teams, Coach Behrens only had this to say, "I just want the game to be called fairly, even if the call does go against us. It's frustrating for the fans really."

Despite the problems, many players said they still showed optimism for the season.

"We got all the talent," said Luke Denney, senior. "Now we just have to put it all together on offense and on defense."

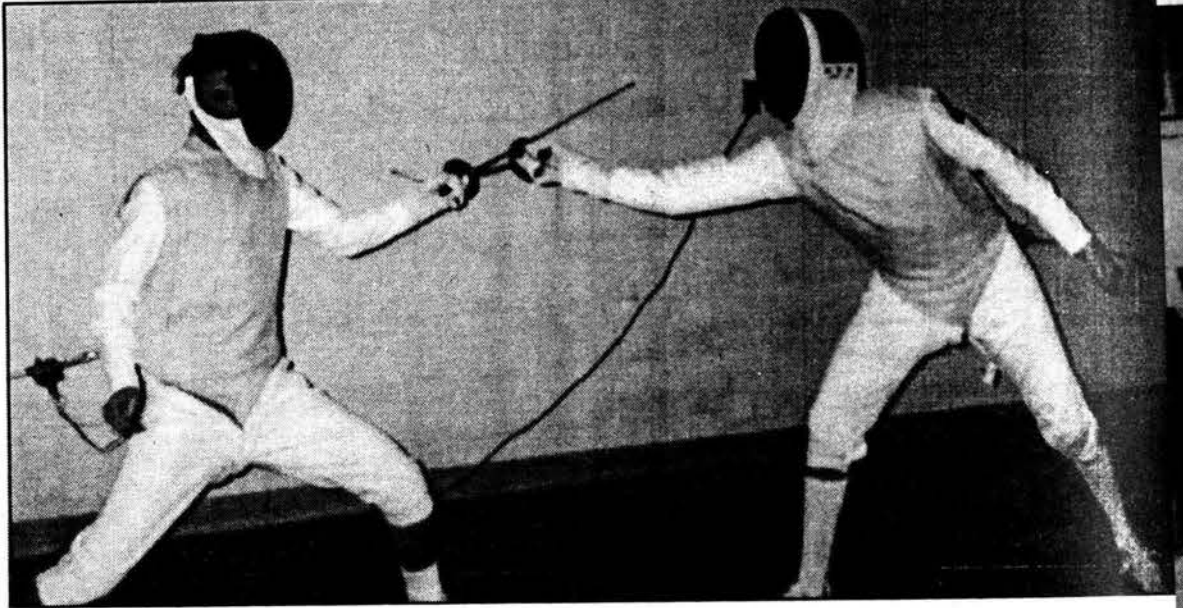
Central next two games are Friday the 15th against Creighton Prep at Norriss, and Saturday the 16th at Westside to make up the postponed game.

After that, the team is off until the Holiday Tournament which will be from Dec. 27th to the 31st and will be held in the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

In the tournament, Central will be guaranteed at least two games, and they will face off with Bellevue East for the second time this season.

"If we play solidly as a team," said Brandon Meyers, junior, there aren't many teams that can play with us."

Looking ahead at the season, coach Behrens said that he isn't worried about the 1-2 start, even though he also said that he doesn't think the rest of the games will be any easier either. Instead, coach Behrens agrees with Morrison, "We have a long ways to go."



Take that: Luke Atkinson, junior and right, parries his opponent's attack and prepares the return the favor as he brushes up on his foil skills during his Omaha Fencing Club practice.

## CENTRAL STUDENT FOILS HIS FENCING FO

By Josh Cohen

En Garde! Fencing is a sport not commonly seen in the midwest, but Central has a student who fences regularly.

Luke Atkinson, junior, started fencing at the age of 13, wanting to follow in his brother Ryan's footsteps and become a great fencer.

He has competed locally since then and has fenced in such tournaments as the Cornhusker State games and other smaller ones around the midwest in cities such as Chicago and Minneapolis.

In the under 15 division at the Junior Olympics, at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Luke went up against the greatest test of his fencing ability.

Out of about 70 competitors from around the country, Luke finished 32 overall. At this point, he had only been fencing for one year.

Luke said that placing so high at the Junior Olympics was really a big accomplishment for him.

He fences for the Omaha Fencing Club, which holds practices three nights a week at the A.V. Sorenson Library.

"I am striving to be my personal best as a fencer," Luke said. "When I reach the point where I feel I can not improve or get any better, I will stop. But until then, I am going to keep practicing and getting better."

His goal at this point is to place higher than his brother at the Junior Olympics in the 18 and under division.

"My brother, Ryan, placed sixteenth in the 18 and under division," Luke said. "And if I can get in the top 15 I'll earn bragging rights as well as probably getting a college scholarship, which would be pretty cool."

Luke said that although he loves the sport of fencing, it really puts a lot of strain on his body.

"It really puts stress on your legs and arms," Luke said. "Especially my knees. I think the footwork is at the very heart of fencing, and it puts a lot of strain on them."

Luke fences foil. Foil is a style of fencing where you have to have "right-of-way." According to Luke it's a very complicated rule, the one who attacks first will automatically win the point if they score. This is what makes foil fencing a strategy, not just brute strength like other styles.

Luke said, "Anyone can go out swinging a sword, but it takes skill and strategy to win a match."

One point of fencing that Luke emphasized was the mental aspect. He said that it is a good mental stress reliever.

"It really helps me relieve the stress of everyday life, though it does put stress on you to perform, I think it's worth the stress of performing than the other stress," Luke said.

"I think more people should get involved. There are a lot of people at Sorenson that are starting at the beginning of January," Luke said. "If they tried it, I know they would love it."

## Eagle Wrestlers look towards success at state

By Les Anich

Head Wrestling Coach Gary Kubik said that the top three wrestlers on the team have a good chance to win their weight class in the State Tournament at Devany Center in Lincoln.

Top wrestlers include 103 pound sophomore Josh Buckles, 112 pound senior Gabe Lawrence and 119 pound junior Vito Agosta.

"They have a good chance of winning their weight class at State," coach Kubik said.

Last year in the State Tournament, Central wrestlers lost two matches in the semifinals only by one point each, coach Kubik said.

"It would be nice if Gabe, Vito and Josh will win State this year," coach Kubik said. "We were close last year."

These top three wrestlers are off to a winning record this 1995-1996 season.

Buckles has a 9-2 record in his first wrestling season at Central. Buckles was runner-up in Class B of Montana's State Tournament. He was the regional champion last year as a freshman.

"Central has a better program and

a better coach," Buckles said. "Right now, I feel that I'll win State this year." Lawrence has a 9-1 record. He is the only person to beat the returning state champion Terrel from Omaha North," Agosta said.



Lock up: Gabe Lawrence, 12, tries to outmuscle his opponent.

Lawrence and Buckles won their weight class at the Council Bluffs Invitational on Dec. 9.

Agosta has a 9-2 record. He placed sixth in the State Tournament last year.

"I see myself as one of the top wrestlers in the state. And if I can keep wrestling like I am now, I will end up

could say that our team is small, but we have good individual wrestlers. Our top weight classes are tough, and we are led by senior Gabe Lawrence. Our upper weight classes are lead by Ladarius Murray, a senior, and Vito Agosta, a junior at 171 pounds," Agosta said.

Emeldo Martinez had a season-long injury, but the team is confident Early can fill the heavy weight class, Agosta said.

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