

Volume 110
Number 7
March 21, 1997

the Register



The oldest school paper west of the Mississippi. est. 1886

Candidate Council criticizes Daub's stance on crime

By John Gaskins

1971 Central graduate and District 2 City Councilman Brenda Council criticized Mayor Hal Daub's stances on crime, including the validity of the helicopter program and especially crime statistics, at a March 7 press conference.

She said she believes Daub's campaign has been inaccurate and he has not lived up to the promises he made in the last campaign.

Daub's campaign claims that during his term, he has done a variety of things to crackdown on crime and will continue to do so if re-elected.

Among these things is the more than doubling of police arrests, increasing of security with more police bicyclists, watch dogs and helicopters and the implementing of the Offender Work Program, which puts non-violent youth and adult offenders to work instead of letting them sit in jail at the city's expense.

"If Hal Daub was so concerned about crime statistics during his campaign two years ago, why hasn't he done anything about it since he has been mayor," Council said. "The people of Omaha are sick and

tired of politicians who make promises during an election and fail to follow through."

"I want to be very clear," Council said. "The debate surrounding the crime statistics is exactly why I am running for mayor."

Council also announced the results of one of her neighborhood walks where she asked people about city issues and introduced her new Crime Program. Not surprisingly, she said the people want better access to crime statistics and are agitated with the helicopter program.

"One of the most glaring things I have found during the walk is that there has not been enough accurate information regarding public safety provided to the public, particularly regarding crime statistics and the helicopter program," Ms. Council said.

Referring to Daub's new helicopter crime skywatch program, she said a city cannot provide its officers with the basic tools they need to do their job safely and effectively. This is mainly because the city does not have the budget to support the program, the officer-pilots do not have enough flying experience and the program is behind

schedule.

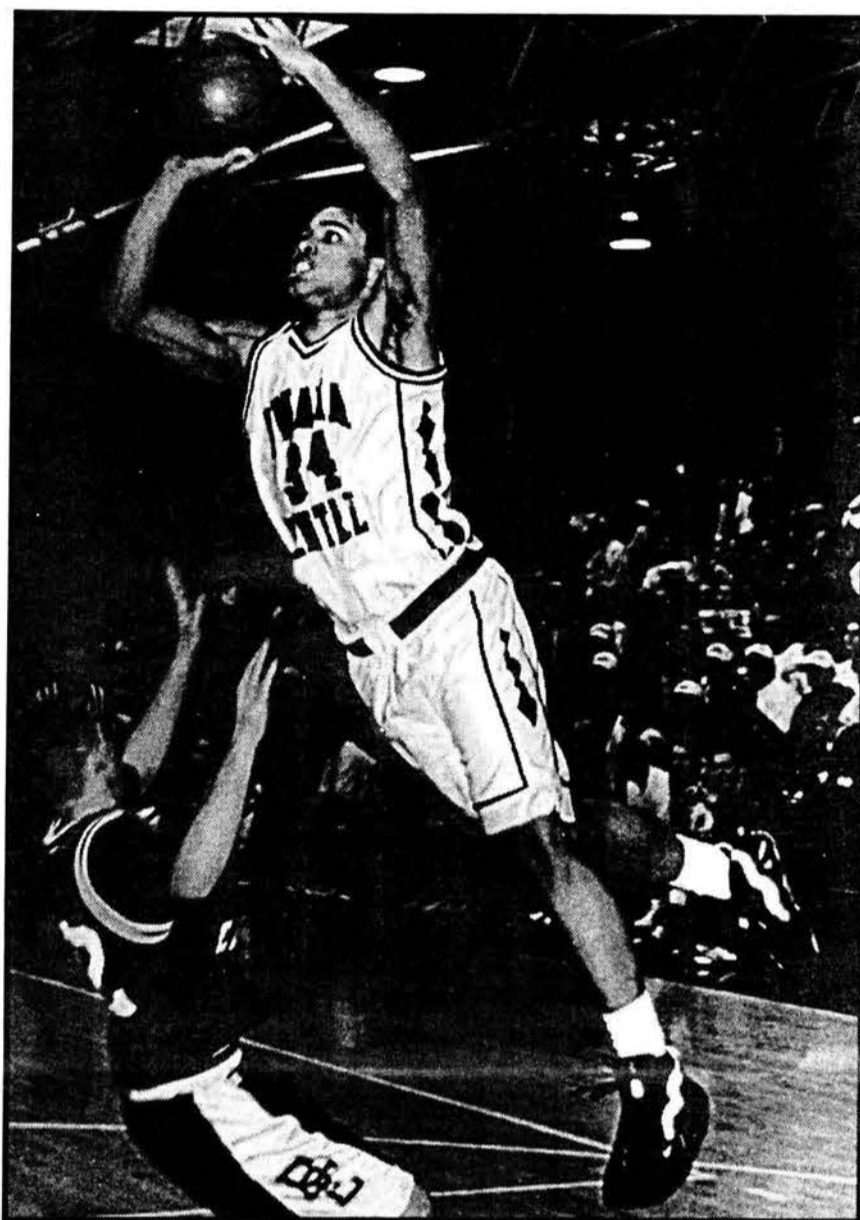
"Bottom line: over the past two years taxpayers have spent more than \$500,000 dollars on a helicopter program which has no operational plan, no currently qualified pilots and has yet to fly one mission to reduce crime in our community," Council said.

Council then said that in addition to pointing out the city's problems, the people need real solutions. She then outlined her proposed crime program.

The first and foremost part of her program regarding crime statistics was the establishment of a community crime information hotline, which will allow citizens to obtain and share information about crimes impacting their neighborhoods.

"This sharing of information allows citizens to better protect themselves, and facilitates the cooperation between the police and the residents," Council said.

Another part of her plan called for prioritizing the city's funding by discontinuing the position of Special Assistant to the Mayor for Public Safety and the Helicopter Program.



Look, in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane ... no, it's senior guard Galen Morrison leaping over Bellvue East defenders with a single bound. Galen was the metro's leading scorer and led the Eagles to the state tournament.

Superintendent plans to improve achievement

By Josh Cohen

The Instruction and Special Education Services Committee of the Omaha Public Schools released a report entitled "Improving Achievement of African American Students" on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1997.

"Even though African American students were highlighted in the plan, its purpose is to help all students achieve more through Omaha Public Schools," OPS Superintendent Dr. Norbert Schuerman said.

The plan's main focus is to narrow the gap between poor and good students by raising the level of achievement of poor students.

According to the report, the achievement level of African Ameri-

can students, as a group, has not been as high as the achievement level of all other students as a group.

These report was backed up with CAT Tests (California Achievement Tests), Benchmark Assessment scores, college and employment information and SAT and ACT results.

African American students, as a group, had lower scores on all tests during school and received lower scores on the ACT and SAT, which are the two primary standardized tests that colleges review for admissions purposes.

Although this plan states many items that are aimed at African American students, its main goal is to improve the achievement level of all underachieving students in OPS.

Dr. Schuerman said that it will not take away from those students who are achieving great things in the OPS system, just create an environment where all kids will want to succeed in academics.

The plan was presented as an informational item for the Board of Education to consider for upgrading the overall level of education OPS can give students.

"Before all or portions can be implemented further discussion needs to be done with teachers, prin-

cipals and the community," Dr. Schuerman said.

The idea of this plan first came to life when Dr. Schuerman issued an Executive Summary that stated OPS, as a district, needs to improve the achievement level of all under achieving students in its schools.

From the Executive Summary, a task force was created. The task force was made up of teachers, principals and other administrators around OPS and from TAC, the Teacher Administrative Center, and was given the assignment of coming up with ideas that could be used in raising the level of underachievers.

The task force met twice a month for six months and submitted their findings to the OPS School Board's Instruction and Americanism Committee which devised the plan.

Assistant Superintendents Mr. Joseph Gaughan and Mr. Don Benning were the two people responsible for preparing the final plan.

The final draft included the committee's purpose and membership, committee work, needs to be addressed, the issues addressed by the plan itself, goals for improving the overall achievement level in

OPS and the action and management plans that would be implemented if the plan is approved.

Dr. Schuerman said that there is going to be a considerable amount of time before this plan can be implemented.

"It was presented to the School Board solely as an informational item, and before all or any portions of it can or even will be put into effect further discussion with teachers, administrators and community

leaders needs to be done."

This plan was created for the benefit of OPS students and Dr. Schuerman said that not only will students gain from this, but teachers as well.

He said that if the plan is put into effect, further staff development and training, the utilization of student learning techniques and working with the EXCELS program will all play a major factor in how and if the plan will succeed.

OPS hopes to excel with EXCELS

By Lea Platz

Within the last two years, Central has begun the implementation of EXCELS, a strategic plan for school improvement and accreditation. The program has combined the process of accrediting a school, or certifying it, and constantly working to create a better curriculum for the students.

EXCELS was started as a result of the urging by the North Central Association, a multi-state organization whose job is to make sure that schools are meeting certain standards.

EXCELS has been put into effect throughout OPS schools in stages. The schools were broken

up into three groups according to their districts. For some schools this is their fourth year using the program in their buildings.

Mr. Jim Harrington, EXCELS planning council co-chair, said that having schools go before Central enables Central to look at the mistakes they made, and avoid them here.

EXCELS has replaced other programs which in the past have failed to combine accreditation and improvement. Every seven years accreditation took place, where now instead of having periodic times of accreditation, it is

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Legislature tries to block same-sex marriage rights

In a society based on freedom and equal opportunity for every citizen, you would expect the issue of marriage to remain a strictly personal and individual issue. Unfortunately, a bill has been proposed in the Nebraska Legislature that will destroy the freedom of choice in marriage.

Legislative Bill 280, proposed by State Senator Jensen with 28 supporting State Senators listed, is "an act relating to marriage; to amend sections 42-101, 42-103, and 42-117, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to prohibit same sex marriages and to repeal the original sections."

In section 42-101 it is proposed to read, "In law, a marriage is considered a civil contract *between one man and one woman*, ... *the strong public policy of this state to recognize as valid only those marriages from other states that are between one man and one woman.*" Section 42-103 is proposed to be amended to read that "Marriages are void...(3) when *the parties are of the same sex.*"

Regardless of personal beliefs regarding same-sex relationships, interference into the rights of those people to unite in matrimony is an overextension of the responsibilities of the Nebraska Legislature. The Legislature was not elected to cast puritanical judgment upon the personal choices of others.

The conservative views of the proponents of LB 280 are to be respected. However, the arrogance of the writers of this bill, to think that their opinion should be of influential merit, is a tragedy. Their moral opinion has no place in the issue. The uninvited and intrusive opinion of the proponents of LB 280 is wholly misplaced. If the Nebraska Legislature wishes to fulfill their responsibility of defending justice and the freedom of their citizens, they have only one choice- vote against LB 280.

Fortunately, another bill regarding same-sex marriages has been proposed by State Senator Chambers. The intent of this bill, LB 407, is "to provide for same sex marriages and for recognition of marriages contracted out of the state; to harmonize provisions." Section 42-101 is amended to read, "A *marriage between a man and a woman, between a man and another man, or between a woman and another woman solemnized as provided in sections 42-101 to 42-121 is valid in this state.*" Section 42-102 has been amended to read "At the time of the marriage the male *or males* must be of the age seventeen or upwards, and the female *or females* must be the age of seventeen years or upward." In section 42-103, it has been amended to read, "A *marriage shall not be void because both parties are of the same sex.*"

Chambers is addressing an issue that should have been provided for years ago. The issue of marriage is not one in which legislative prohibition is necessary. Chambers should be commended for his brave and unapologetic action on the behalf of same sex couples. If this world was not plagued by self-righteous arrogants such as the proponents of LB 280, Chambers' representative actions would not be necessary.

Hopefully, for the benefit of all same-sex couples and the preservation of privacy and freedom itself, LB 407 will be passed and supported by the Legislature. Full applause for Senator Chambers and a little M.Y.O.B. for Senator Jensen and the rest of his group of supporters.

■ Genetic cloning

Dangerous repercussions follow

Experimental studies in cloning have crept slowly forward over the last century, progressing steadily from the first frozen embryo in 1950 to where technology is today. In 1996, a sheep named Dolly was successfully cloned, becoming the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell.

It is now time to start considering exactly what society will face with the knowledge and ability to create replicas of existing cells. Humans may soon be faced with finding themselves in a battle with a recent phenomenon which they know very little about. The technology has raced along at such a terrific speed that man's ability to cope and adjust is trailing far behind.

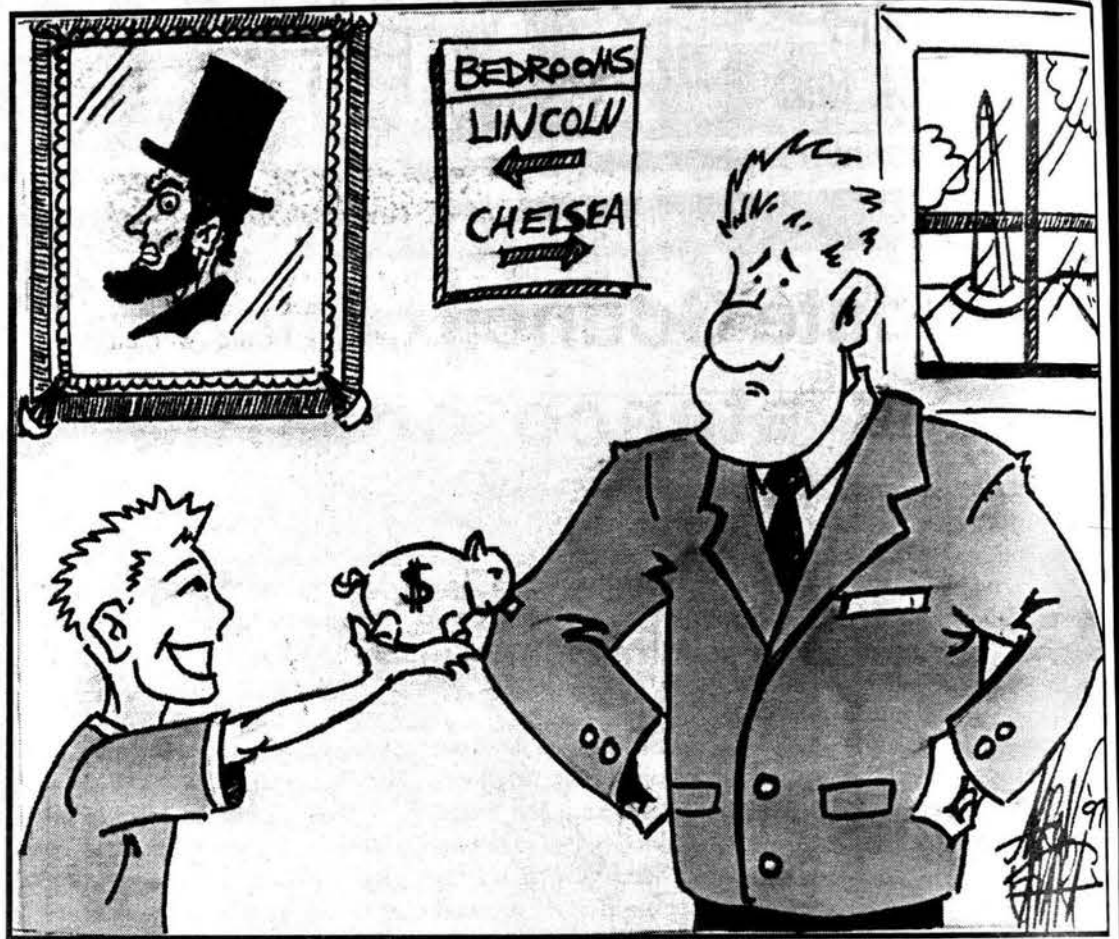
Cloning is the manipulation of an animal's cell which allows the cell to then grow into an identical duplicate of that animal. Now that scientists have succeeded in the biotechnological manipulation necessary for cloning, society is presented with its own task of manipulation. Although cloning humans from adult tissues is not currently possible, it is estimated that sometime within the next ten years it will be achievable.

Cloning potentially offers help in the field of medicine. Dolly follows at least a decade of sheep and cows cloned in a similar manner with one main difference. The difference being that the sheep and cows were cloned from an embryo, where Dolly was cloned from an adult cell. The animals were genetically engineered so that their milk contained human proteins. These proteins contain alpha-lactalbumin, which would help premature newborns who require a powdered substance because they are unable to nurse. The benefits of cloning, in this respect, are obvious.

However, once the gate has been opened to cloning, moral and ethical issues arise that affect everyone. Most of the general public does not have the capacity to understand all of the facets of cloning, both the technical factors, and the social repercussions which will shape the people as the year 2000 looms ahead.

President Bill Clinton has denied Federal funding for the research of human cloning. However, professors will continue to pursue anything that science will allow to be done, despite the government's efforts to stunt the exploration of certain types of cloning through funding cutbacks.

Society must acknowledge the endless complications which are bound to occur alongside the advances. The problems with cloning are up front and instantaneous, not aspects which will only appear grim only in the distant future. People must remember that as with any scientific breakthrough, along with the good comes the bad. Cloning presents the bad along with the good.



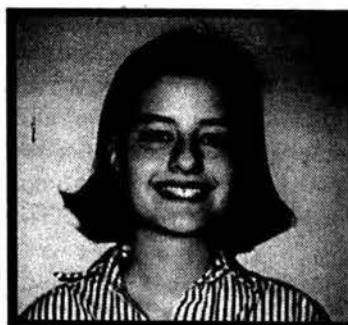
REGISTER YOUR OPINIONS

"Register Your Opinions" is a sampling of student opinion. It is not meant to represent the views of the entire student body or the staff of the Register.

Do the members of a community have the right to know if a released sexual offender moves into their neighborhood, or should the right to privacy be maintained?

Just because someone is a convicted criminal does not make them any less of a person. You shouldn't take away their right of privacy.

Margaret Kukula 10



The members of a community have the right to know if their safety is endangered. Once a person is put in jail for a serious offense, they aren't deserving of many rights, much less privacy.

Siri Heese 11

I think they do deserve to know if a sexual offender moves into a community, along with a doctor's observations on the offender, mainly for the security of the community.

Todd Jacobson 11



If the offender is truly rehabilitated, informing the community would be unnecessary. If the offender is not rehabilitated, they should not be released anyway.

Meagan Cody 10

Outcome Goals Misleading

Through My Eyes

By Erin Beal



that its unifying purpose cannot possibly be realized.

For example, in the mathematics outcomes for high school, there is a series of "multicultural nonsexist outcomes."

Now, before I go any further I want to make it clear that I believe multi-culturalism is extremely important in society today.

Students should be taught to appreciate the diversity of American culture.

However, the focus of a mathematics class should not be on the inner workings of our nation's racial relationships.

Instead, students should focus on the math skills which they will need later in life.

These multicultural outcomes head the list of mathematics objectives and include such statements as "recognize that minorities and women sometimes shy away from the study of mathematics, a fact that tends to reinforce stereotyping."

It's difficult to know even where to begin to respond to such a statement.

Its very inclusion in the outcome list is evidence that OPS is recognizing a stereotype from many decades ago.

If it is true that there are more

men than women in career fields related to mathematics, this does not mean that women are "shying away" from the subject.

If they insist on using this type of logic, they should also look at careers, such as nursing, in which women are predominant.

Yet they never insinuate that men tend to avoid this subject.

Included in each year of the high school outcome list is the expectation that students will read and discuss various literary genres.

But can this really be considered an outcome of the class?

Reading and discussion is what English classes are all about. It is completely unnecessary to state this basic knowledge as a curriculum goal.

This is not to say that the entire expected learning system is trash. On the contrary, many parts of it would prove very helpful to new teachers as they plan their curriculum.

The science, music, and history segments seemed to be especially well thought out.

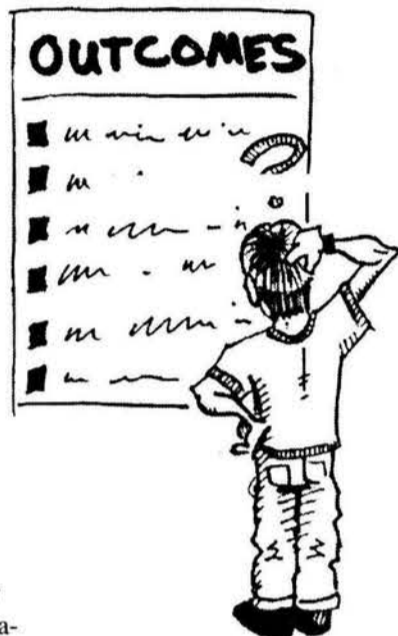
I only hope that when a new board is formed in order to review and revise the current outcomes, they will use common sense.

Teachers should not need to be told that reading must be a part of their English classes.

This behavior is extremely condescending.

Nor should OPS expect calculus teachers to inform their students about the finer points of societal prejudice.

Instead, let's create reachable and practical goals which will truly benefit students.



Throughout our years in the OPS school system, we were all aware of the list of outcomes posted by the classroom door.

These "expected learning goals" were designed as guides for teachers as they create their own curriculums.

If anyone stopped to glance at these outcomes, they might be surprised at their content.

One would think that their focus would be the actual necessary content for the class. However, they include many needless guidelines.

I understand the clear need for some type of unification throughout this large district.

Without guidelines, there is no telling what directions the various schools would take. However, the statements included for some subjects cannot be considered anything but ridiculous.

If the district desires to set guidelines, let them at least be measurable.

Because of the nature of the outcomes, it is often impossible to judge whether or not they have been met.

In addition, the current outcomes are often so broad and vague

The Register Volume 110 Number 7 March 21, 1997
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Central High School is published weekly, except on school holidays, by Omaha Central High School, 20th St., Omaha, NE. All materials are the property of the school. Periodical postage paid at Omaha, NE. Postmaster: send subscription address changes to The Register, Omaha Central High School. The Register is self-sufficient. To place an ad or inquire about ad prices, contact the business manager at 557-3357.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A READER OPINION FORUM

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to applaud the Central teachers and administrators. I strongly approve of the manner in which they have chosen to run Central. I am mostly referring to the relaxed atmosphere surrounding the school. This atmosphere, I think, comes from the immense amount of personal freedom each student is allowed.

This being my first year after having transferred from another Metro high school, I have been pleasantly surprised by the lack of tension, in general, in school. This is by virtue of Central's open-minded student body. I think that a large part of the high school education process is growing as an individual, and Central truly excels in this area.

Students here don't know how lucky they are to have this freedom. Other schools try to mold their students into what they want them to be. I think this strips a person of his individuality.

So the next time you think about how Central doesn't allow its students to be themselves, just consider the alternative.

Derek Tritsch, sophomore

Dear Editor,

There were sixty-four acts that auditioned for the 83rd presentation of ROAD SHOW. The Judges who voted in the twenty-four acts were comprised of Central Senior students and Faculty members.

I wish to thank them for their time and excellent choices. I also wish to thank all the individual act performers as well as the vocal/instrumental classes and their director, Mrs. Bouma, Miss Moriarty and Mr. Wilger, for their professionalism at rehearsals and during the performances.

Thanks to Mrs. Mayberry for her help with several acts, to Tom Bertino for his help with lights and to the make up crew for their time and talents. I especially wish to thank Miss Obradovich and the Theatre Stage survey student/crew members who ran three excellent performances so smoothly. You all made my job so much easier and less stressful.

It takes a great deal of time, effort and cooperation from everyone involved to put ROAD SHOW together in only three weeks time! No other high school in Omaha puts on a talent show of this longevity and magnitude. May I also add that, "It takes five minutes to be a critic and five years to be a connoisseur!"

Mrs. Peggy Georgeson, Director

Dear Editor,

I am almost 17 years old, I am enrolled in many honor's classes, and am planning to attend a fairly selective college. I am in several areas of study and my teachers are doing a great job preparing me for college. In other areas, however, I feel I am being treated like a junior high student.

In foreign language, we do minor studies in vocabulary, and we review grammar that was taught in first and second year. While this helps those who have trouble learning a language, it holds the rest of us back.

In instrumental music, the symphonic band spends over half the class period learning scales and practicing etudes. So much time is spent on what should have been learned in junior high that the high school repertoire is almost never touched.

These methods of teaching may be helpful to a select group of students who are behind, but why should the rest of us be kept behind?

Allison Pagan, junior

CENTRAL STANDARDS

NO

93%

YES

7%

Do you think that it is right for animal testing to be done for cosmetic and beauty products. 137 students polled

NO

76%

YES

24%

Do you think that it is right for animal testing to be done if it is for medical and pharmaceutical purposes? 121 students polled

NO

94%

YES

6%

Should there be limitations on the types of testing done on animals? 110 students polled

NO

84%

YES

16%

Should animals being tested be given pain killers to alleviate pain? 114 students polled

WHERE TO FIND US

Send all letters of opinion to room 315 or find the box on the two side of the courtyard. It is the policy of the Register not to print unsigned letters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers honored at P.E.P. banquet

Central teachers were recognized on Wed., March 5, for Teacher Appreciation Day. P.E.P. organized the event and brought food and fruits for teachers.

Guarantee Life provided small gifts, like ruler, pen, and note pad for the teachers. In addition to this, the teachers soon will be able to eat in a refurbished planning center.

"Wonderful teachers are not recognized often enough. This at least gives them attention for one day in the year from students, staff members and parents," Dr. Thompson, Central principal, said.

The Student Council prepared a breakfast for teachers on Fri., March 7. The teachers received donuts, pancakes and juice.

NHS recognizes student merit

Eighty-one juniors and seniors were selected in March for the National Honor Society. The students had to meet the following criteria to be selected: a GPA of 3.5 or above, character, service, and leadership.

The students will be formally inducted during the National Honor banquet on Sun., Apr. 6 at the Scouler Grain Building. The Jazz Band will be playing before induction ceremonies.

Mr. Jack Blanke, Social Studies Department Head and Co-Sponsor of the National Honor Society, said, "Every year we try to improve the National Honor Society, but its still remains one of the best since it began ten to twelve years ago."

Symphony creates music with students

The Symphony Collaboration was held on Tues., March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Central auditorium. The Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra got together with Central to participate in a Symphony Collaboration.

Mrs. Molly Moriarty, Assistant Band Director and Orchestra Director for the Central Orchestra, said, "Students from the English department wrote prose and readings to introduce the songs."

Ms. Vicki Anderson, Spanish teacher, said two AP classes presented a skit introducing the song "Amazon Journey."

The drama, art, marketing and JROTC departments also participated in the concert.

Lisa Linenberger, senior, presented a solo with the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

Exchange program provides students reduced tuition

By Emily Martin

Students going to college out of state in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota or Missouri are eligible for reduced tuition under the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP).

Established four years ago by the Midwestern Higher Education Commission, the program offers residents in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska a chance to attend public colleges and universities in any of the other four states for 150 percent of the resident tuition.

A typical student will receive a discount between 500 and 3000 dollars.

"Not only does this program benefit the students who save significantly on tuition, but the school may also gain from increased enrollment," Mr. John Keller, program officer for MSEP, said.

All schools in the involved states do not necessarily participate in the program.

A school has the ability to

choose if they wish to be a part of it. Even in participating schools, the degrees and programs offered may differ.

Private schools may also be a part of MSEP. Tuition at the private schools is at least 10 percent off the normal out of state tuition.

"There isn't a lot of paperwork to fill out," Keller said. "Most of the schools have a place to mark if they want to seek admission as a MSEP student."

After applying to be a MSEP student, colleges and universities have different ways of picking who will be admitted as a MSEP student and receive a reduced rate.

"We are trying to get the states to work with each other more and take down the familiar barriers that institutions have," Keller said. "We also hope that the students are treated the same as resident students."

Presently over 100 colleges or universities in the five participating states have the Midwest Student Exchange Program available

to out of state students.

Some of the more recognizable schools that participate include, Kansas State, University of Kansas, University of Minnesota and Northwest Missouri State.

A number of other community and technical colleges

as well as state universities also participate in MSEP.

"It's a good way for some students to choose a col-

lege," Mrs. Sharon Cipperly, director of guidance at Central, said.

The financial benefits for students

often a major part of choosing a college.

In the future Keller hopes that more of the states involved in the Midwestern Higher Education Commission also become involved in MSEP.

"It's a new program, so it has to prove itself before it really takes off," Keller said.

"Each year it is growing in population."



SUMMIT teaches juveniles military discipline

By Brian Joseph

A reform program based on a military style training camp is an alternative to staying in a juvenile detention center or long term residential placement for juvenile delinquents in Iowa.

Mr. Mark Day, the program director of the SUMMIT program which stands for Success Using Morale, Motivation, Intensity and Treatment, said that the program itself should not be considered a boot camp.

Rather, he said that the SUMMIT program is a combination of basic therapy, an Outward Bound program and positive peer culture in a military type setting. The military model forms the skeleton of the program while the other components flesh it out.

Day said that they create a specialized plan for each teen involved in the program.

"With each kid we develop an individual learning plan," he said.

Day said that the SUMMIT program is for males 14 to 17 years old that have been officially given the title "juvenile delinquents" by a judge and have committed a crime that is an aggravated misdemeanor or above.

However, the SUMMIT program does not accept teens that have committed a significant assault which causes injury.

The program itself is 90 days long. Day said that this is very economical to the taxpayer because a 90 day program is less costly than an 18 month.

However, Day said that if a teen is not really understanding the program or needs more time in the program, he will be "recycled," which means he will be sent back to day one of the program.

Day said that even though it is a hard program, it is a positive one.

He said that the program makes the teens involved feel good about themselves. He said that he wants the teens to recognize and pursue their potential.

At the program, the teens also have the ability to earn their GEDs.

When the program was first created, Day said that the goal was set to have a 50 percent turnaround, meaning if one-half of the teens involved in the program stayed out of trouble after the program has ended, it would be a success. Right now, Day said that one out of four teens who completed the SUMMIT program go back to being juvenile delinquents.

"We're not satisfied with losing one out of four," he said.

Day said that this is due to the fact that those who have completed the program do not receive post-program help when they go back to their old environments.

However, Day said that the other three out of the four do very well. Two out of four do not get into any more trouble. One out of four go on to do extremely well, Day said.

Some former teens involved in the SUMMIT program have gone on to become all-state athletes, student body presidents or honor role students.

Day said that in the SUMMIT program a teen goes through three phases. When a teen first arrives at the site of the program in Davenport, Iowa, he is at the "plebe" stage. A plebe is the name of a new trainee at a military school. At this phase, teens are not allowed to talk unless asked to. They are not allowed to talk during free time.

The next stage is the "cadet" stage. Following the cadet stage is the "senior cadet" stage.

Day said that the teens' days are highly structured. Their days begins at 5:30 a.m. with a military-style physical training. Following,

is an inspection where even the teen's hygiene is inspected.

After the inspection is breakfast, which is ten minutes. The teens are told when they can start eating.

Day said that students must do as they are told in the SUMMIT program.

Day said that teens in the program are kept safe. "This environment has fewer problems than any typical high school in the state," he said.

He also said that he believes this project to be worth while.

This environment has fewer problems than any typical high school in the state.
-- Mr. Mark Day, SUMMIT program director

"Most kids, if not all kids, can be reached," Day said.

Cadet Dave Delaney, a participant in the SUMMIT program, said that he agrees that the program is beneficial.

Dave is in the program because he violated probation after he had been charged with a variety of crimes including the possession of alcohol and marijuana as well as vandalism.

He said that the SUMMIT program is different from other programs he has been in. Dave said that he believes that the people who run the SUMMIT program actually took the time to work with him.

Dave said that he has learned about discipline at SUMMIT. Also, he said that it was difficult to adjust to the program when he first arrived.

Now, Dave said that he is adjusted to the routine. He said that it feels normal now. He said that he believes the SUMMIT program has helped him.

"If I wasn't here, I would probably be sitting in jail," Dave said.

EXCELS in OPS

...continued from page 1, column 5
a constant, ongoing process.

Last year students, parents and business communities were questioned in order to attain a better sense for what is needed to be done in the schools.

"This was a part which determined the methods which might be used in the classrooms," Harrington said.

The changes as completed in October of 1996 will be the basis for the modifications which will occur at Central through the year 2000. The approach of EXCELS however, will be reviewed and is subject to adaptations to the plan.

In the upcoming years, Central's Planning Council will refer to the responses of the students through methods like the form handed out in homerooms on March 5, which asked students to indicate certain things about the importance of school and study habits.

The Council has set a number of specific goals in the areas of Achievement, and the student's participation in learning the goals.

Communication, listening, studying and even behavior are all areas which the council places high emphasis on.

Though Harrington said that the implementation initially will not be noticeable, hopefully EXCELS will accomplish its goals.

English teachers awarded A-Plus honors

By Brian Joseph and Rachel Slosburg

An award, in recognition of creative and innovative teaching, was given to two CHS Honors English teachers on March 4 for their work in creating a program that encourages high achieving minority students to take challenging classes.

Mrs. Terrie Saunders and Mrs. Kathy Maloney, Honor English teachers for the tenth and eleventh grades, received an A-Plus Teaching Award for their work in bringing the Minority Scholars program to life.

"The award focuses on Minority Scholars and how innovative the program is," Maloney said.

The award was presented to the pair in the Central High library.

The A-Plus Teaching Award is a joint effort of the Omaha Schools Foundation, the Omaha Public Schools and the Omaha Education Association.

The A-Plus Teaching Award is presented four times a year to OPS teachers nominated by their co-workers.

Saunders said that she knows that Dr. Gary Thompson, Central Principal, and Mr. Dan Daly, English Department head, nominated Maloney and herself.

She said that she feels sure other co-workers nominated them.

Saunders said that the main reason they received their award was due to the originality of the program.

"As far as I know," Saunders said, "there isn't any other school in Omaha that has a program designed for high achieving minority students."

However, Saunders said that she wants to keep it in perspective.

"There are a lot of other OPS teachers who have innovative programs as well," she said.

Saunders also said that the success of Minority Scholars cannot all be attributed to the work of Maloney and her.



Central teachers awarded! Mrs. Terrie Saunders and Mrs. Kathy Maloney, pictured with Dr. Norbert Schuerman, said that they hope that Minority Scholars, their program for high achieving minority students, will expand since they received the A-Plus Award.

"The kids involved in Minority Scholars that we work with are who make it work," Sanders said.

At the award ceremony itself, Dr. Norbert Schuerman, the Superintendent of OPS, spoke briefly.

Also, Dr. John Lanphier, Vice President of the Omaha Schools Foundation, Ms. Carolyn Grice, President of the Omaha Education Association and Dr. John Langan, President of the Board of Education, spoke.

Dr. Thompson, Maloney and Saunders invited many people to watch the award ceremony.

Among those invited were the students involved in the Minority Scholars program, Daly, Ms. Linda Casey, the main office secretary who did some work for Maloney and Saunders, and

Ms. Sally Sceals, the English Department secretary.

Saunders said that she hopes the award will boost the program itself.

"I hope it has some impact on the program and getting the word out," she said.

Maloney said that she was very happy with the success of Minority Scholars.

"I honestly feel because of the work I've done, this has been my best year of teaching," she said, "and it's due to the wonderful response of my students."

The Minority Scholars group evolved last year after Saunders and Maloney were granted an OPS "externship" to work on the project.

The Omaha Schools Foundation awarded funding in the amount of \$1500 for the Minority Scholars program.

"Unfortunately, we were both seeing very capable honors students not continuing in challenging classes," Maloney said. "Out of 90 students in three sections of Honors English, I have only four minority students."

Saunders said the Minority Scholars program combines all grade levels and allows her and Maloney to get to know other gifted students.

"We have met very talented kids who otherwise may not have crossed our paths," Saunders said.

Currently, the Minority Scholars program is divided into five individual groups consisting of eight to ten students each, who meet during the lunch periods.

Some of the Minority Scholars said they are very pleased with the program.

Senior Danial Avant said she enjoys meeting different minority students who work hard in school.

"I feel this is a very good way for students to interact with one another," Danial said.

Junior La Shanti Bishop said the Minority Scholars program gives her more confidence and determination to do well in her classes.

"Minority Scholars is a good self-esteem builder," La Shanti said.

Both Saunders and Maloney said they are appreciative of the support which has come from administration and staff at Central.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Banquet honors winter athletes

The Winter Sports Banquet was held on Wed., Mar. 19.

Athletes who participated in swimming, basketball and wrestling were recognized at the Winter Sports Banquet.

Mike Denney, UNO Wrestling head coach, was the featured speaker at the Banquet. The UNO Wrestling team was ranked first nationally before they headed to regional competition.

"I enjoyed being the feature speaker," Denny said.

He has been coaching in the Omaha area for almost 28 years.

The UNO Wrestling team sent six wrestlers to the NCAA Division II tournament held in Fargo, North Dakota.

"The banquets are going well. This events allows athletes to be recognized," Paul Pennington, Athletic Director, said.

The Sports Booster Club provided varsity letters and the food for the banquet. The banquet for spring sports will be held on May 29.

Languages host night of culture

The Foreign Language Department at Central held an International Banquet on the evening of Wed., Mar. 12, in the Courtyard. The International Banquet was from approximately 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Foreign Language Department decided to change the appearance and name of the event.

Last year, the event was called the Culture Fair, but this year the event only consisted of foreign languages.

The event was named the International Banquet. The theme was "A Celebration of Cultures."

"The language department decided not to include the Home Economic, Business and Art Departments because they felt that in the past years, it had just had gotten too large with the different groups together," Ms. Vicki Anderson, Spanish teacher, said.

She said that the event used to be an International Banquet ten years ago.

Food stations and a stage were positioned in the Courtyard. Food stations were set up by the French, Spanish, Italian, German and ESL (English as a Second Language) departments.

"This event is a great idea; it allows brothers and sisters of foreign language students to enjoy this," Anderson said.

Computer course slated as freshmen class requirement



Testing out the new equipment... Sophomore Amanda Monnet draws a picture on one of the new Gateway 2000 computers recently installed in room 213.

By Erin Beal

Freshmen students will be facing a new requirement in the 1998-1999 school year as a result of the new batch of computers Central recently received. Freshmen will have to take a new Intro to Technology course.

Mr. Tim Larson, computer instructor, said this course will include several different segments. The students will spend about two to three weeks studying each part. The Intro to Technology course includes the Computer Aided Design (C.A.D.) program which is focused on architectural drafting and a business and marketing program which is a basic introduction to computers and keyboarding.

Journalism techniques are also introduced through the desktop publishing and imaging programs. The multimedia development section combines skills in graphics, audio and video to create CD ROMs.

This course also includes a systems administration program. Students who take this course learn to take apart a computer and insert the

hardware devices called cards which run the computer.

Central was able to expand its computer programs because of the \$588,934 grant from the Excellence in Education Council. The goal of this program is to bring students into the twentieth century by educating them regarding new technology.

Next year, Central is planning to expand their computer labs by turning study hall 215 into two additional computer labs. Although this plan has not been officially approved yet, plans are being made so that the new labs can be opened next fall.

The current computer labs are usually scheduled for science and foreign language class use so it can be difficult for students to find a time which they can come in. The new labs should make the computers more available for all students.

Larson said they project needing around 60 new computers which will be bought over the summer. They are hoping to have the entire system set up by the time school resumes in the fall.

Student and professor download jobs on the net

By Brian Joseph

The field of Internet related jobs is a new, quickly growing one with many different job types and options for the skilled employee.

Dr. Arunachalam Ravichandran, the associate professor of computer sciences at UNO, said that there are three different types of Internet related jobs.

An Internet related job can deal with one of the following: the programming of computers, the networking or wiring of computers to the Internet or media related work, such as the designing of web pages for customers.

"If you are technologically oriented, this is the place to be," he said.

Ravichandran said that in the future the demand will be high for the networking aspect.

"Networking is definitely a trend," Dr. Ravichandran said.

He said that this is due to the fact that networking will connect people.

One aspect of networking involves the automation of an office's paperwork.

Dr. Ravichandran said that such a networking job in Omaha could pay approximately \$25,000 to \$28,000 a year directly out of college.

The media related field is a little differ-

ent. In the designing of web pages one has to understand what his or her client wants on the web page. Dr. Ravichandran said that this brings up ethical questions.

"The responsibility placed on the development side is greater," he said.

Charlie Carlin, sophomore and employee of Holographic Inc., a desktop service bureau which does everything from produce web pages to putting photos on compact disks, said that he has had very little formal training with the Internet.

Charlie is the on-line communications specialist of Holographic Inc.

He said that he connected Holographic Inc. to the Internet itself. He also manages their Internet file-server and designs web pages.

He said that he got to know the vice-president of Holographic Inc. and was hired to the company, even though he has not had much formal training.

"At this point, if you have the skills,

people will be willing to hire you without that diploma," he said.

However, Dr. Ravichandran said that he would not recommend that a student take a job without a high school or even college diploma.

"They may be hiring without high school diplomas today," he said, "but that situation will change."

He said that even though companies are hiring for skills now, they will stop doing so.

He said that to be successful, one will have to have a good education.

"This is not a skill," Dr. Ravichandran said. "This is a discipline."

Dr. Ravichandran said that one should understand and be able to use Hyper Text Mark-

up Language (H.T.M.L.), the special computer language with which web pages are produced.

Also, Dr. Ravichandran said that one should take technical classes in programming and networking.

In high school, he said that one should concentrate on the basics.

"In the high school years, a good thing to learn is mathematics, physics and sciences," he said.

Charlie said that to be successful one has to understand the technology first.

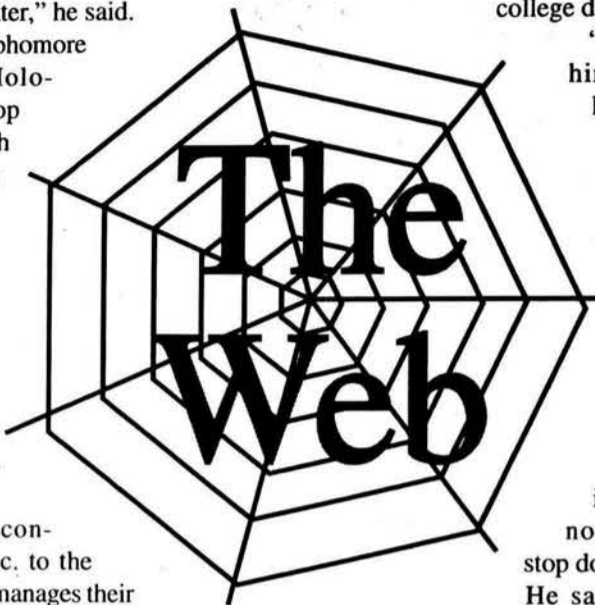
He said that common sense and people skills are important as well.

"Good people skills are important because inevitably you're going to have to explain the Internet to someone who doesn't understand," Charlie said. "This field is kind of like a combination of software programming and a customer service rep."

Charlie also said that this field is very open and has many different options.

"There is no preconceived job description," he said.

Dr. Ravichandran said that like all other fields, Internet-related careers are just jobs. He said that even though there has been much media attention on this field, it will be just like every other job.



Principal's Advisory Group faces problems, changes

By Lea Platz

Since the Principal Advisory Board was established last year, both its advisors and students have found that it works differently than imagined.

One area where the students and the advisors are in agreement is the size of the groups.

Both Dr. Gary Thompson and students feel that the group's large size has taken away from the effectiveness it has.

"One of the reasons why I didn't join is because it wouldn't be serious because of how large the group is," Sarah Fischer, senior, said.

Thompson said that in future groups he would like to keep the size down.

"Having so many people makes it hard to have an effective group," Dr. Thompson said.

The reason the groups are as big as they are is because Dr. Thompson said that he wanted to let anyone be involved that wanted to be.

However, for groups in the coming years, once a group has been

established the freshman year, the members will, with few exceptions, stay the same.

Among other areas where many students feel that the board could use some improvement is the productiveness of the meetings. Certain attending members feel that some of the other members have the wrong idea about what the group is for.

Andy Ochsner, senior, said that he felt that many of the students seem to think that the school should cater specifically to their individual wants.

Sam Kruger, junior, felt that in addition to the self-absorbed agenda of many attending students, they also repeated the issues he felt were unprioritized in the first place.

Dr. Thompson said that part of what is so valuable about the group is that students get to vent their frustrations regardless of whether or not the problems are resolvable.

"It is healthy for the students to voice their

problems with certain issues," Dr. Thompson said.

He also said that each time a complaint is brought to his attention, the meeting gives him the opportunity to give students a better explanation of the situation(s).

He also looks at the concern(s) at hand and possible ways to solve these problem(s).

"It is difficult to get the word out on everything,

but this way I can share the information," Dr. Thompson said. "If there is something I can do anything about, the students can find out here."

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Armed forces provide students with money for college

By Brian Joseph

Joining the military can offer students a chance to travel, gain experience in technical fields, have a college education and build character, the ROTC instructor and retired Army officer said.

Major Richard Yost, department head of ROTC at CHS, said that the main reason students go into the military is to gain money for college.

Yost said that some join the military because they do not know what they want to do with the rest of their lives, and the time spent in the military allows them to mature.

"I think a lot of them choose the military because they're not sure where they are going," Yost said.

Also he said that one can gain technical knowledge in the military as well as travel to many different places.

Staff Sergeant Timothy Cook, a Marine Corps recruiter, said that while one can gain these things, the building of character is the most important thing gained, specifically from the Marines themselves.

Cook said that one can learn pride of being, self-discipline, self-reliance, poise and self-confidence.

Also Cook said that while in school one learns about things, in the Marines one actually experiences things.

Yost said as well as the qualities listed by Cook, one learns responsibility in the military. For example, he said that in ROTC students are taught many of the responsibility lessons that will benefit them later in a military career.

He said that marching and standing at attention teaches one responsibility and self-control.

Yost also said that there is financial assistance available for college if one joins the military.

For example, Cook said that while one is on active duty with the Marines, 75 percent of his or her college expenses are paid for by the government.

Also he said that there is the Montgomery GI Bill which offers assistance to those who are no longer on active duty.

Cook said that since one gets a steady paycheck and does not have the expenses of food or housing, one has a lot of extra money. He said that when the commitment is up and one wants to leave, one will have no debts.

"You get to start life out on the right foot," Cook said.

Yost said that each service offers different things.

"The Air Force has more technical advantages," he said. "The Marine Corps and Army have more leadership opportunities."

Yost said that the Navy offers more technical advantages as well. Though, Yost said there is not a "best service."

Cook said that there is one real disadvantage to joining, and that is going to war. However, he said that this is better than

the violence on the streets. For example, he said that with a drive-by shooting one does not know who the enemy is. But, in a war, one always knows.

Zach Chapin, sophomore and Cadet First Sergeant Color Guard Commander in ROTC, said that even though there is the risk of death when in service, he wants to join the Army and become an Airborne Ranger.

"True you could go to war," Zach said, "but you could also get shot walking down the street."

Zach said that he would rather get shot walking across the battlefield defending his country than walking to a store.

He said that there are many reasons why he wants to join the military. His main deciding factor is that he enjoys the work itself.

"I've always kind of pictured myself in a uniform," he said.

Zach said that another reason he has decided to join the military is that he has heard much from his family about the services.

He said that he has many family members who were in the military and they shared their experiences with him.

Also, Zach said that he likes the responsibility that being in the service brings.

"It's a challenge," he said. "You have to prove to everybody and to yourself that you can meet that challenge."



OPS committee judges content of literature allowed in classroom

By Erin Beal

In recent years, the censorship of books in schools has become a controversial issue. For example, a high school in Texas banned twenty books including such classics as *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Scarlet Letter*. The Omaha School System has a set policy regarding this issue.

Dr. Renee Kehrberg, director of secondary education, said any books that have material in them which could cause concern must be reviewed by a Supplementary Material Committee.

Mr. Dan Daly, English teacher, said this committee appraises the book's instructional value. This committee is comprised of English teachers and community members who volunteer their time for the purpose.

If these books are approved, they fall under the category of optional materials. Others are allowed under a restricted label. This means that the teachers who use these materials are required to teach the book so that students understand the context of the possibly offensive material and its meaning in society today.

Dr. Kehrberg said that there

are alternatives for those who object to books on the optional list.

"Any parent who has a concern with the reading materials can be provided with an alternative book," Dr. Kehrberg said.

However, there are also books which are required reading. Daly said those who object to these books will not be provided with an alternative.

Daly said teachers ultimately have a great deal of control over which materials are taught in classes. At times, teachers will elect to ask their students if a certain issue will offend them. Others self-censor materials by deciding themselves whether or not to include optional books.

The selection process for library materi-

als differs from that for classroom choices.

Mrs. Kristel Mayberry, media specialist, said they use professional journals to review books.

These reviews are usually published in such publications as *Book List*, *School Library Journal* and *Book Report*. Mayberry has the option to purchase any book which receives either an acceptable, recommended or highly recommended review.

Mayberry said the main reasons a book may not be accepted are because it contains inaccurate

cies, was racially unacceptable, or includes misrepresentations.

Mayberry said she expands her collections based on the input of students and her own observations about the students' needs.

The philosophy of the library could be summarized by a quotation which hangs on the backroom wall. Dorothy Broderick wrote in *American Libraries*, "This library has something offensive to everyone. If you are not offended by something we own, please complain."

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By Rachel Slosburg

School: New York University

Location: New York, NY

Percent Male and Female: 41 and 59

Number of Applicants: 16,491

Percent Accepted: 46

Percent of Admitted Students in Attendance: 38

Undergrad Enrollment: 13,464 Students

Number of Credits Needed to Graduate: 32

Mean SAT (Recentered): (600-690) Verbal and (580-690) Math

Estimated Tuition (including room and board): \$27,300

Percent of Students Involved in Greek System: 7

Most Popular Majors: Visual/Performing Arts and Business

Mascot: Violet

Miscellaneous Information:

New York University, located in the Washington Square Park area of New York and just North of Greenwich Village, provides a diverse setting for its students.

The student population reflects the ethnic and cultural variety of the area and is viewed as one of NYU's strongest assets.

NYU also takes pride in the Tisch School of Art which is one of the nation's most renowned schools of theater, dance, film and television.

NYU does not focus on its success in sports, but the Cole Sports Center located on campus has one of the nicest indoor pools in New York.

One difficulty which NYU has overcome is the housing situation. Because of the limited amount of space in New York, it is hard to find enough housing for students.

However, NYU has made an effort to offer student housing in prime locations. Famous graduates of NYU include directors Oliver Stone, Spike Lee and actor and director Woody Allen.

All information taken from *The 1997 Edition of The College Catalog*

CHS chess team takes scholastic state

By Joshua Priluck

In its first year of returning to the halls of Central High after six years, the CHS chess team took first place at the Nebraska State Scholastic Chess Event for grades 9-12 and third place in the Omaha High School Metro Chess League.

The various teams which compete are made up of members of the chess club.

The team that went to state included senior Tony Dutiell, juniors Joe Knapp and Cory Jensen, and freshman Joe Zielinski. The meet was held on Feb. 22 in Lincoln.

Mr. Drew Thyden, Business teacher, who recently moved to Omaha from Los Angeles, started the club. The club is based on a similar one he previously ran at his old school.

The club meets once a week after school to practice. Practice usually attracts around six to ten chess players. Students learn all about chess, and how to improve their game. The club is open to all students and newcomers are encouraged.

Many of the club members are learning to play for the first time. Thyden works with both the unskilled and the skilled students. In addition, the students work together which helps them learn from their own mistakes.

Thyden encourages anyone to try chess.

The students typically pair off against each other and occasionally get a chance to play against Thyden.

The club won third in the metro area in the Omaha High School Chess League. Their final record was 5-1.

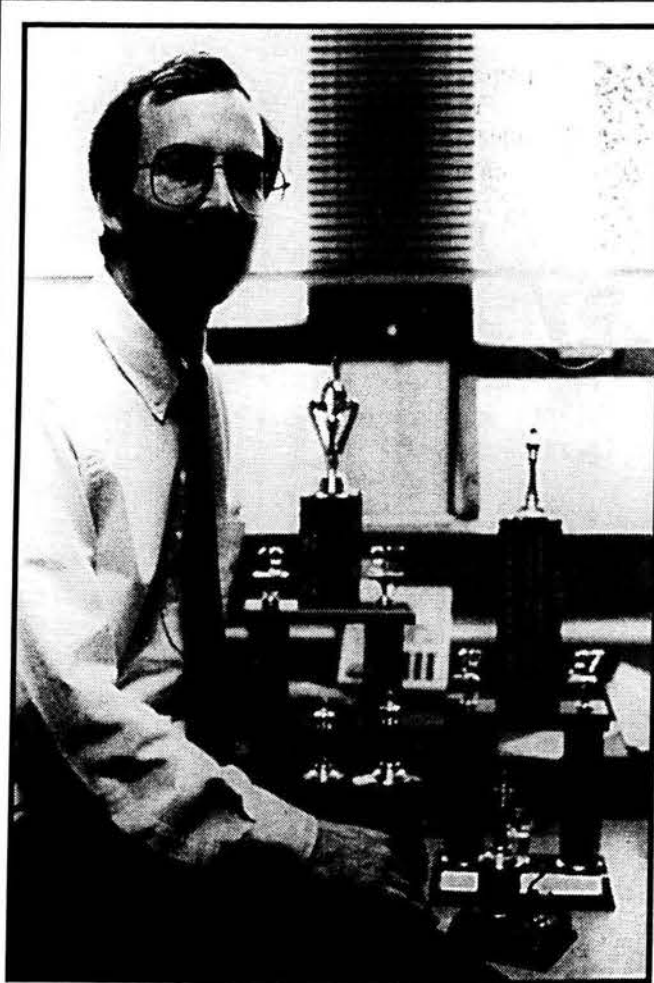
The metro team consisted of the top five ranked Central students and two alternates. They were ranked based on their performance in a chess tournament held during the beginning of the year and can change their position on the team by challenging other players.

The team members for the metro competition included seniors Tony Dutiell, Mani Bunnimit and Alberto Ochoa, juniors Joe Knapp and Cory, and sophomores Kathleen Murphy and freshman Joe.

Several of Central's players work with chess outside of school.

Joe is ranked fourth in Nebraska for K-12 grade players, and recently took first at the National Junior Congress West in Oklahoma the weekend of Jan. 17 and 18.

Tony holds the fifth rank in the same K-12 Nebraska conference. He also coaches at the Swanson Elementary School Chess Club. This club includes over 50 advancing chess players.



Ally Jessing

No. 1! Mr. Thyden, chess coach, stands with trophies from the chess season. The team won first and second place and included the highest ranked player at the State Scholastic Chess Event. The team practices once a week at Central and some team members practice out of school at home and at The Antiquarium, a local used bookstore in the Old Market.

Teacher promoted to TAC

By Carolyn Bullard

"It's been a real honor to be a part of the Central High experience. In the past four years I learned so much about a wonderful school and how it works," Mr. Keith Bigsby, former Central teacher and Business Department head, said.

Mr. Bigsby recently began his new job at the TAC building, Teacher Administration Center, as assistant administrator for vocational education. Bigsby said that this position will entail the designing of new marketing programs for Omaha Public Schools. In short, he will be doing things that he did a much larger



business and marketed in the School District years, beginning at Bryan High at both South High School and

before taking the position of Business Department head at Central in 1993.

During his time at the Career Center, Mr. Bigsby began a program called the Academy of Finance, which worked with exceptional students from across the city to focus on financial services and stock marketing. He was able to hand pick the students for this program and said that he always noticed something different about Central students.

"I was always impressed by Central students. They had so much confidence, were future oriented and prepared for success," he said. Bigsby, who would have been in his fourth year at Central, said that what he will miss the most is definitely working with the young people.

"I enjoyed the students so much," Bigsby said. "There is such great diversity of thoughts, attitudes and ability. I've really had a lot of fun."

As well as his new position at TAC, Bigsby has additional plans for his future. He is currently finishing classes to obtain his doctorate in Educational Administration and will begin to write his doctoral thesis. He also plans to continue to work with the project W.I.N.G.S.-21, a program that he co-authored.

Mr. Bigsby said that though he is no longer teaching at Central, Central is by no means completely out of the picture.

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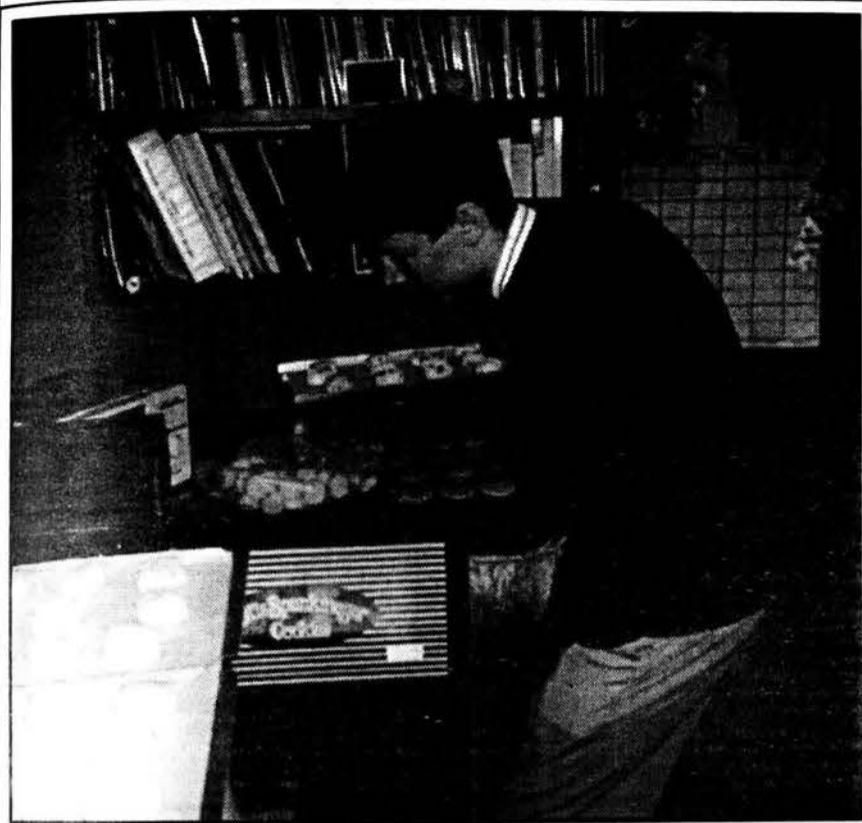
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Marketing feeds the masses with culinary treats between classes



Sam Achelpohl

Amateur chef, Bob Hruska, bakes Otis Spunkmeyer cookies in the Marketing office. Marketing hopes the new M&M flavor will be a big hit with students.

By Sam Achelpohl

Walking down the second side of the third floor, most students salivate after they smell the fresh aroma of Otis Spunkmeyer cookies being prepared in the marketing office.

The cookies, which were first began to be sold four years ago, have become one of the most popular for breakfast choices among many Central students.

In-between periods, one might notice the huge crowds around a small white basket filled to the brim with the daily flavor selections in those familiar red bags. Dollar bills raised high in an attempt to snag that last bag of chocolate chip cookies is a common sight in between morning class periods.

Although the cookies have become a normal part of Central life, many people don't know the history behind them.

"A few years ago, some students and teachers attended a marketing conference where this idea of selling cookies was presented," Harry Gaylor, marketing teacher, said.

"We all thought it was a great idea so we came back to school and presented it to the administration. They agreed and we've been selling them ever since."

Although the cookies have become a salvation for many hungry students, the cookies were

even more of a craze when they first started selling them.

"It's kind of hard to believe, but there were hordes of students marauding for cookies, even more so than today," Gaylor said.

The cookies are sold to help finance DECA and their trips to conventions, conferences and leadership seminars. Some of the money also goes to the advancement of marketing technology. It also helps with school activities such as the employer-employee seminars.

Junior Bob Hruska has been making cookies in the marketing "kitchen" for the past year.

"The marketing office is a fun place to relax outside of study hall where I can use my business skills as well as my culinary skills to help raise money for DECA," Bob said. "Although the heat from the oven sometimes makes the room feel like a sauna, I still enjoy the chance to bake the cookies."

Students may have noticed a new flavor when waiting to buy the marketing cookies. The introduction of M&M cookies has had a positive impact on the students and may become one of the more popular flavors in the years to come.

"The new flavor is a good change from the normal flavors that we sell," Bob said. "It gives me a chance to break the same old flavor making trend. It's a good thing."

Seniors plan fun in the sun

By Carolyn Bullard

When thinking about plans for this coming summer, some Central seniors have sunshine on their mind. Planned by seniors for seniors, a trip to Cancun, Mexico, has many students thinking about making a run for the border.

"The idea began when I heard some girls from Millard South talking about a trip they had taken. I thought that it sounded like something that we could really benefit from," Andrea Friedman, senior, said.

Andrea said that after expressing her interest, she was contacted by both the student representative at Millard South, and then by the representative of the company that takes the student trips, Student Tours Incorporated. Andrea and Maggie Jacobson, both Central seniors were then appointed as the representatives to Central and to begin to get things organized.

The trip package includes six days and seven nights in Cancun, Mexico, with hotel and meals. The entire package is estimated to be \$488 total. According to Student

Tours Incorporated, during the time of the summer that Central students are planning to be in Mexico, Cancun is inhabited by approximately 20% local residents and 80% high-school graduates.

The touring company will provide activities, games and tours during the day for students. The students are not required to participate, and are allowed to choose their own adventure each day.

Though the activity is not a school sponsored event, many students have responded to the availability of the trip.

So far, however, there are only 14 students going. But, it is not too late to sign up.

Maggie said that she feels the company is very competent and reliable.

"I think it says a lot about a company if they can continuously take high-school graduates to such a progressive city as Cancun, and still come through as a reputable company," Maggie said.

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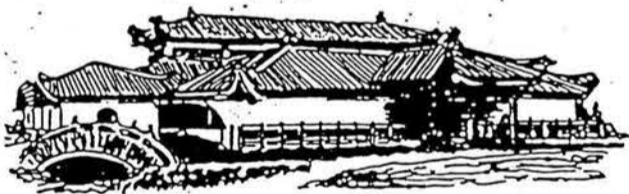
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Japanimation wows America with technology

By Emily Martin

Comics from Japan, called Manga comics, are extremely popular with people living in the United States, including some Central students.

Sally Otis, junior, and Will Ross, sophomore, both enjoy reading Manga comics and watching Anime videos, full length cartoons based on Manga comics.

This style of animation is so popular that even the Walt Disney Company has a cartoon in the works which is styled like an Anime movie.

"I like the art," Will said. "The plots are a lot different from American comics."

One comic both Will and Sally read is *Ranma 1/2*, a comic series based on a father

and son who have fallen into one of the many cursed springs in China.

Once someone falls into a spring, they become whatever or whoever was in the spring before them when they are doused with cold water.

"*Ranma 1/2* shows creativity in the plot," Sally said. "For example, the father turns into a giant panda and the son (Ranma) into a girl."

The comic series follows the lives of Ranma and his friends as they face the world with their condition.

"It's enjoyable to see the adventures," Sally said. "They are really funny and humorous."

Sally said she also reads other comics like *No Need for Tenchi*, *Akira*, *Ghost in the*

Shell and *Mermaid Scar*. She said she does not collect the comics though, she chooses to just read them in her spare time.

"Most people collect them as a side hobby," Sally said, "but I don't know anyone who is a die-hard collector."

For those people who are die-hard collectors, there are many places to purchase Manga comics and Anime videos, as well as rent Anime movies.

At the Book Station, they sell both Manga and Anime.

"The videos are really good sellers," Ms. Heather Akerberg, the owner of the Book Station, said. "*Ghost in the Shell*, *Akira* and *Battle Angels* all sell very well.

The movie *Akira* has been regarded by many critics as one of the best science fiction movies of the Anime genre.

The movie takes place in Neo-Tokyo after World War Three. The movie is based on the series of Manga comics of the same name written by Katsuhiro Otoma.

Many Manga comics are turned into Anime movies, *Ranma 1/2* is also a movie, and *Ghost in the Shell* is based on a Manga comic series.

"A lot of people follow Manga and collect it," Akerberg said. "I think people like it because the art is so detailed and there is nothing like it in the US."



Seniors advise juniors on college choices, costs involved in applying

By Tim Hakanson

As juniors are coming closer and closer to the day that they are seniors, they are starting to plan for college, and seniors have some college planning advice for these juniors.

Many seniors said that juniors should already be looking at colleges.

Leigh Riley, senior, said that by this spring, juniors

should have their college choices narrowed down to only a few.

Andy Ochsner, senior, said that juniors should know where they want to apply and know what they need to do to get into those schools.

Omar Nazem, senior, said that juniors should start thinking about college now because it is a very important decision where you will be

learning and living.

Some seniors also advise juniors not to wait to look for scholarships until they are seniors.

"Start looking for scholarships during the summer. Don't depend on the counselors to find them for you," Sarah Fischer, senior, said.

Sarah said that she missed out on a lot because she waited until she went

back to school to look for scholarships.

Some seniors even said that juniors should be applying for college as early as the beginning of this summer.

Karl Richstatter, senior, said that students should begin to think about applying at the end of their junior year.

Karl said that he slacked and waited until Christmas Break to apply to colleges

and wishes he had applied earlier.

He suggests that juniors not make the same mistake and start applying much earlier than he did.

Omar said that juniors should apply to a variety of colleges, including more difficult ones.

"Don't be intimidated by tougher schools when you are applying," Omar said.

Seniors also said that juniors should be ready to pay a lot of money for tests.

Andy said that students who take the SAT, ACT, SAT II and Advanced Placement tests should be ready to pay \$500 to \$700 to the Educational Testing Service, the service that administers the SAT, GED, SAT II and AP tests and the scholarship profile.

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The Big **O**

Inside:

- Westward expansion
- Downtown growth
- IMAX and more...



Photo courtesy of Dunlap Postcard Co.

Central Focus

By

Josh Priluck, Luke Atkinson, Tim Hakanson,
Erika Wulff and Rachel Slosburg

Expanding th

Students come from edges of district

Om

By Tim Hakanson

Not only is Omaha expanding westward, but many Central High School students are coming to Central from the western borders of the Omaha Public School District.

Many students who would otherwise go to the western OPS high schools are coming to Central instead.

Anna Raful, junior, lives near 132nd and Dodge and her neighborhood school is Burke High School.

Anna said that she decided to go to Central because her sister went here and her parents thought it offered a better education than her other options. Anna said she is now glad that she is attending Central. She said that she thinks that she is getting a better education than some of her friends at Burke.

Dr. Gary Thompson, Central principal, said that one of the strengths of Central High School is that there are students from all over the city. He said that students from all other OPS high schools' attendance areas have the opportunity to come to Central, except for those students in North High School's attendance area.

He said that Central wants to have students from all areas of Omaha, and that this has made Central historically a special school.

Senior Kevin Finken, who lives near 114th and Fort, said that he decided to come to Central because he liked the building when he visited Central's open house and because many of his friends from his area of the city were also coming to Central. Kevin's neighborhood school is Northwest High School.

Dr. Thompson said that many students from other areas come to Central for its academic reputation and its rich tradition.

Jamison Richart, sophomore, said that he had a variety of reasons for coming to Central.

He said that his brother came to Central, most of his friends came and Central also offered the classes that he wanted to take.

Jamison lives near 136th and Pacific and his neighborhood school is Burke.

Most students who live in west Omaha agree that there are disadvantages of coming a long distance to school.

Kevin said that the long ride to and from school is the only disadvantage.

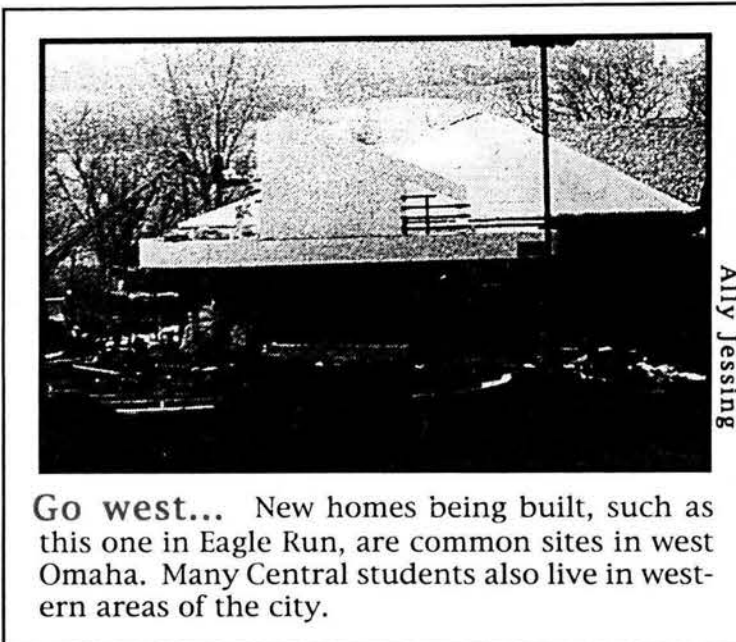
"I've gotten numb to it after four years," Kevin said.

Anna said that she can get to school in 15 to 20 minutes through a carpool or through her father who works at Creighton University.

However, sometimes when she is supposed to stay after school, she cannot do it because she has no ride home.

Jamison said that he finds it inconvenient leaving home early in the morning and getting home late in the afternoon or evening.

Jamison does not believe that there are only dis-



Ally Jessing

Go west... New homes being built, such as this one in Eagle Run, are common sites in west Omaha. Many Central students also live in western areas of the city.

effect, there was a high minority population in Central's attendance area.

Students from outlying attendance areas were then bused into Central.

He said that he has talked to many students who like the opportunity to interact with ethnic groups other than their own.

Next year, new students coming from the Beveridge Junior High School area will be the only ones bused to Central.

However, Dr. Thompson said that the MAT buses go everywhere and are a real advantage to Central students who are willing to ride a bus.

"I'm amazed at the number of students I see hopping on the MAT buses after school," Dr. Thompson said.

advantages to living so far from school.

"I get to experience two modes of life, two ethnic groups," Jamison said of living in west Omaha and coming to school.

Dr. Thompson said that when the OPS desegregation plan was put into

New projects in Omaha break ground

By Erika Wulff

Omaha is expanding and gaining new developmental projects everyday. Some of the projects currently under construction include the UNMC Lied Transplant Center, the Lozier IMAX Theater and the First National Business Park and downtown expansion.

The Lied Transplant Center, which will be located at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, is scheduled to be completed in 1998.

It will contain 14 levels totaling 259,000 square feet, at an estimated cost of \$49.8 million.

The Lied Transplant Center will serve as a national model of UNMC transplant programs, linking transplant research and transplant related care with innovative delivery system called cooperative care.

UNMC Public Affair Assistant Media Coordinator Vicky Coerino said, "Cooperative care focuses on the needs of transplant patients and post surgery care. Cooperative care is expected to save patients over \$2 million during the first year alone."

Two major private donations will fund more than half the project. The Lied Foundation donated \$15 million, and \$10 million was donated from an anonymous Nebraska donor. In addition, Senator Bob Kerrey aided in getting a \$5 million federal

grant in support of the project. Additional revenues will come from hospital revenues and private sources.

The transplant center will contain 44 cooperative care suites and 22 university rooms for transplant patients and their cooperative partners. The center will also contain a transplant education center for educating cooperative partners about transplant procedures.

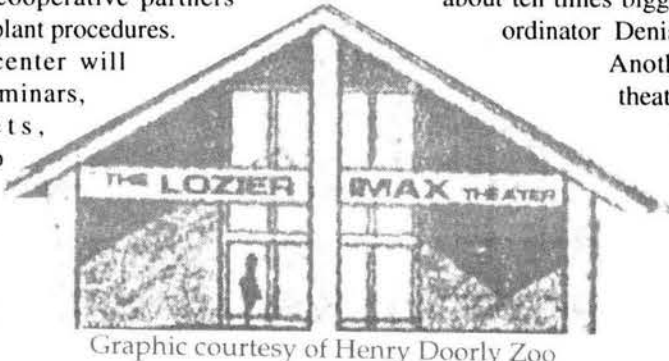
"The center will provide seminars, pamphlets,

books, video tapes and newsletters for family and friends of transplant patients. The programs will provide cooperative partners with a full education in transplant patient recovery and maintenance," Cernio said.

The total economic impact from future patients and families who will receive care from the center is estimated to be \$81.5 million annually to Nebraska and the community.

An estimated 1,241 jobs will result from the construction of the transplant center.

The Lozier IMAX Theater, a new addition to the Henry Doorly Zoo, is also among the new projects in Omaha. The 385 seat theater will open March 22. The picture screen is six stories high, and 83 feet wide. "The picture of the IMAX theater, compared to a standard screen is like comparing a playing card to a postage stamp. The IMAX is about ten times bigger," IMAX coordinator Denise Alspa said.



Graphic courtesy of Henry Doorly Zoo

Another one of the theater's unique features is the steep seating. The floor of the theater is slanted in order to allow everyone, no matter how small, a perfect view.

The theater will present film in 2-D and 3-D. The first film entitled *Whales*, will be shown in 2-D, and will run through the end of summer.

"*Whales* is about an underwater adventure with whales and other marine life. It's a wonderful show for all ages because you feel like you're a part of the show," Alspa said.

Reservations are recommended to attend, however they are not necessary. Reservations can be placed over the phone by

calling 330-IMAX. The 43 minute show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the hour. Ticket prices are \$6.50 for ages 12 - 61, \$5.50 for seniors and \$4.50 for youth 3-11.

First National Bank of Omaha is currently constructing an office park at 144th West Dodge Road. The 80 acre park will be occupied by various businesses. As of now, First National Bank, Empire Fire, Marine Insurance Company and the J. Nodel Company are the only occupants.

The First National Bank building will take up 20 of the total 80 acre.

First National Bank Senior Vice President for Special Services, Mike Wiese, said, "The park will consist of a lake privately owned by Lindon Estates Housing Development Company. Walkways and a recreation area will be built surrounding the lake area which will stretch to 132nd Street. The park is scheduled to be completed in late fall."

First National is also planning a major reconstruction project in the downtown area.

The project consists of the construction of a data processing center, a paper production center and a new bank headquarters, which will be joined by four sky walks. The total project is expected to be completed in the year 2003.

City's Limits

City expands slowly but surely

By Rachel Slosburg

The city of Omaha has experienced a steady amount of growth

for many decades in the areas of population, development and business, members of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce said.

Vice President of Communications, Vicki Krecek, and Research Coordinator, Dorothy Buckingham, at the Omaha Chamber of Commerce said the growth of Omaha can be attributed to several reasons.

Krecek said that Omaha has been characterized as having slow, steady growth for five consecutive decades. She said if one sector of Omaha declines in growth, normally a different area will be expanding.

"It is unusual for a city to consistently have a steady amount of growth," Krecek said. "Because Nebraska is a strong agriculture-based state, the decrease in an area normally balances out," Krecek said.

Buckingham agreed with Krecek that Omaha has experienced continual growth.

"Omaha has not encountered large up's and down's in the area of growing," Buckingham said. "I foresee that in the future, the city will grow at the same pace," Buckingham said.

In recent years the growth rate of Omaha has increased, Krecek said. She said Omaha grows slightly faster than the national average.

Krecek and Buckingham both attributed a large part of Omaha's growth to the high-tech industries which have moved their headquarters to the city. They said the businesses involved with technology have made a great impact of the city.

"The largest companies in Omaha did not even exist twenty years ago," Krecek said. "The high-tech businesses will be the key areas for Omaha's growth in the future," Krecek said.

Krecek said one example of a young, successful high-tech industry is MFS Communications.

Omaha has the second lowest unemployment

rate in the nation, Krecek said. She said many high-tech businesses have a difficult time finding people for positions. Krecek said it is important for people, especially students, to realize where the growth and opportunities will be in the future.

"Students should realize the demand for qualified people in the area of technology," Krecek said. "The growth of Omaha in the future is not in the normal jobs such as doctors and lawyers seen on television, people pursuing a career in the high-tech industries will be earning a large salary," Krecek said.

Krecek and Buckingham said major developments that are occurring right now will make a difference in Omaha's future.

"Downtown Omaha has real potential," Krecek said. "Right now, trends show that more people want to live downtown. The housing being built or renovated is occupied and which will eventually lead to more retailing," she said.

Krecek also said that the redevelopment plan intended to cover a 32-block area in a ten year period will include a new plant for the *Omaha World Herald* and further expansions which will run South clear to the river. Buckingham said the UNO Information Science, Technology and Engineering Institute will have a beneficial impact on the city.

"The UNO technology center will make a big difference in the growth of the high-tech industry," Buckingham said.

Krecek and Buckingham said the recent completion of the Kennedy Freeway will cause a huge increase in the population of Sarpy County.

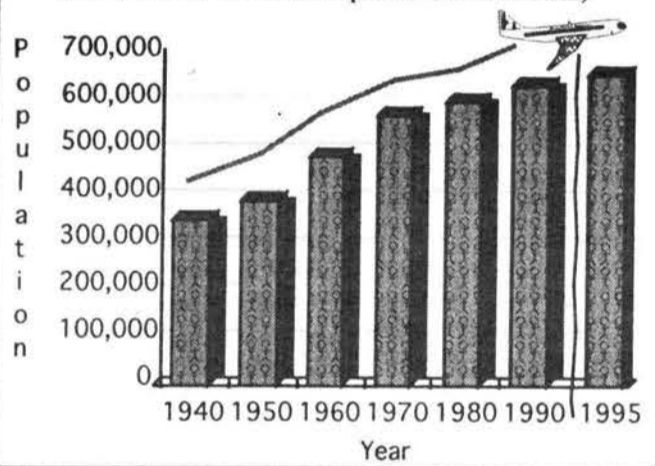
"People will find it very convenient to get to Downtown Omaha from Offutt in ten minutes," Krecek said.

Buckingham added that other areas which are showing a large amount of growth include West, Northwest and Southwest Omaha.

"The growth of Omaha tends to follow the major streets," Buckingham said. "Maple is experiencing more growth right now," Buckingham said.

Omaha's Population Soars

(data from the Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area)



Future development replaces racetrack

Slosburg

200 acres of AKsarben have been planned for the future of the community. Two major developments including a nine hole golf course and an expansion of the University of Nebraska at Omaha will be built on the existing AKsarben race track site.

The developer of the nine hole golf course, Juan Elizondo, said it took considerable time and effort to get the project approved.

Elizondo and his company, The Enchilada Inc., first came up with the idea for a golf course at the site while consulting on the golf course project.

Elizondo said that Mar. 1 marked the 20th anniversary of working on the project.

Elizondo said he first presented his idea to the Douglas County Recreation Association.

Elizondo said that Mar. 1 marked the 20th anniversary of working on the project.

Elizondo said that Mar. 1 marked the 20th anniversary of working on the project.

Elizondo said he had to compete with other developers including Landscapes Unlimited, the number one golf course builder in the United States, and a local golf course builder, Municipal Golf, for the project.

"I was thrilled the county granted The (Hole) Enchilada Inc. the project," Elizondo said. "It was a tough fight against the other bidders," Elizondo said.

Elizondo said he received the contract with the county on Dec. 28, 1996.

Elizondo said construction begins on May 1, and the golf course will be



Down the fairway... Golf course developer, Juan Elizondo, shows the layout for a nine hole public course covering 60 acres of land at Aksarben.

completed and officially opened with a divot breaking ceremony on May 1, 1998.

Elizondo said the 33-station driving range will be finished by early August of 1997.

The main entrance to the golf course will be off of Spring

St., Elizondo said. He said the golf course will be regulation size with three par 3's and two par 5's.

Elizondo said he believes the golf course will be a great addition to the city of Omaha.

"For a metropolitan population of over six hundred thousand people,

with a link to the business field."

Meinhardt said the first phase of the project will be completed by November of 1998.

She said UNO plans to start classes on site in the fall of 1999.

"The first phase consists of a three hundred thousand square foot building which will hold 1600 FDR employees," Meinhardt said.

She said a building with meeting rooms, a daycare and food services will also be located on the property.

Kiewit Construction will be building the \$40 million investment, Meinhardt said.

Meinhardt said that as part of the agreement with the University, outreach programs for minority students and under-employed people will be available in the schools.

She said UNO promised to give students more information concerning the technology area including classes that will allow them to explore the field.

The deal is scheduled to close in June and construction will begin in the middle of the summer, Meinhardt said.

She said both FDR and UNO are looking forward to the expansion in the near future and the benefits it will bring to the city of Omaha.

Meinhardt said that UNO has been wanting to expand, but was landlocked.

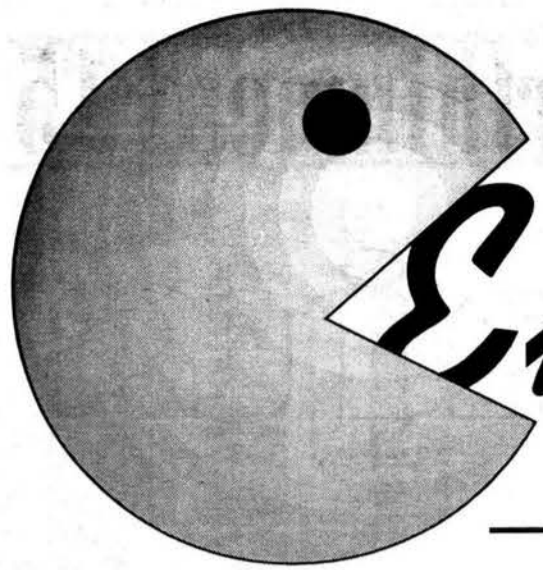
She said the Information Science, Technology and Engineering Institute will form a partnership between UNO and FDR.

"It will be an atmosphere where our employees' skill levels increase while interacting with the students," Meinhardt said. "The students involved with the program will benefit

with a link to the business field."

Meinhardt said that UNO has been wanting to expand, but was landlocked.

She said the Information Science, Technology and Engineering Institute will form a partnership between UNO and FDR.



Entertainment

March 21, 1997

Blues explode leaving audience in awe

By Kate Alseth

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion took the Sokol Hall stage on March 12 with a performance that left most of the audience in awe.

Before The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion played, two opening bands, D for Dragsters and Doo Rag, performed. The first opening band, D for Dragsters, were a very average local band.

Doo Rag had a unique sound. The drummer played a wooden box, a tin trash can and a wire cage while the guitarist sang into a telephone.

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion took the stage. They started the show off with "Bell Bottoms".

As soon as they began playing, the audience was on its feet dancing, jumping on chairs and crowd-surfing.

After the second crowd surfer was thrown onto the stage, Jon Spencer kicked him off and said that

the stage was his house and to get the hell out of his house. The crowd just went wild.

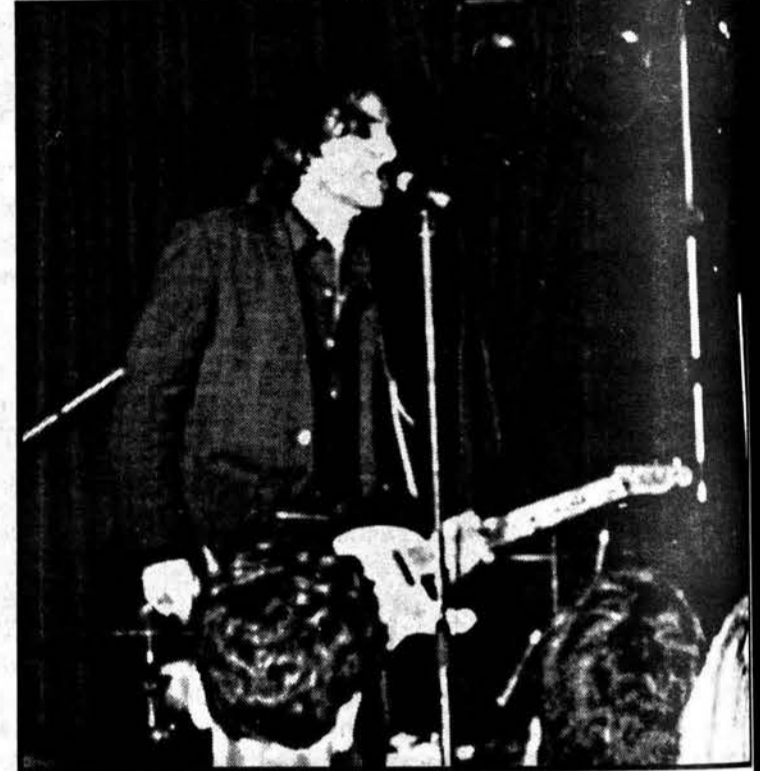
The band continued to play with incredible energy. Jon Spencer sang some rockin' blues while the crowd screamed and jumped around. One of the best songs played at the show was "Whales".

"I've never seen anyone put so much into a show in my life," junior Delaina Terhune said.

"It was by far the best show put on at Sokol," junior Nicole Best said.

The only complaint of the show was that Jon Spencer Blues Explosion didn't play many songs from *Orange*, their most well known album.

The show ended with an encore playing "Flavor" one of their most popular songs from *Orange*. With their blues/rock sound, most of the audience would agree that The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion show was incredible.



Jon Spencer gave a dynamite performance at Sokol Hall on March 12.

CHS alumnus stars in local film

By Brian Joseph

Acting in a Hollywood movie is all in a day's work for one Central alumnus.

Mrs. Marilyn Tipp, who graduated Central in 1968, had the seventh largest role in *Citizen Ruth*, a satire about the Pro-Life and Pro-Choice movements filmed in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area. Other Hollywood stars in the production were Laura Dern, Swoosie Kurtz, Mary Kay Place and Burt Reynolds.

Tipp played Kathleen, a woman whom she describes as a "right-wing, Christian fundamentalist, Pro-Lifer."

She said that she did not do anything out of the ordinary to play such a character.

"I was myself and it came across on the camera," she said.

She said that she got to know many of the Hollywood stars on a personal level. For example, Tipp said that Dern was "very in-

telligent, helpful and unpretentious."

Tipp also said that she became friends with Place. Place would take Tipp into her trailer and teach her the song that the two would have to sing in *Citizen Ruth*. She said that Place was a friendly, fun-loving person.

Tipp said that she received her role in a round about way. An acquaintance of hers who was involved in the acting business called her to see if she would want to be interviewed for a bit part in a movie to be filmed in Omaha. She agreed.

At the interview, Tipp was asked to read one line. For this line, she was asked to be angry. Tipp said that she decided to embellish it.

"I added a few expletives," she said.

Her performance of this one line led to her being one of 10 finalist for the role. Alexander Payne, the director of the *Citizen Ruth*, liked her so much that at her call back

she was offered a larger role. The interview for the second role required her to cry.

Tipp said that she was missing her daughter who was away at college.

She therefore was able to bring up some tears. Tipp said that she does not think she is a good actor.

"I looked like your average housewife," she said.

Tipp said that she has never shown interest in acting before. The only experience she has had of any sort was singing in the chorus of *Oklahoma!* while at Central.

She also said it was hard for her to get used to signing autographs. During the filming of *Citizen Ruth*, people watching would ask for her autograph.

"I kept saying 'you don't want my autograph,'" Tipp said.

Tipp said that by being in a film she has gotten a better understanding of what movie

production is like. For example, she said she had no idea all of the work that went into film production.

She said that she had to work for 12-14 hours a day, whether it be from sunrise to sunset or sunset to sunrise.

Also Tipp said that she learned about how stars are treated.

"The bigger the star you are, the better you were treated," Tipp said.

Tipp said she was upset about how poor the extras were treated. She had gotten a taste of her own; however, all of the extras had one large open tent to stay in.

Also, when it came time to eat, Tipp said that she and the other stars were allowed to go through the lunch line first.

"I felt guilty," she said.

Tipp said that she has been approached by another casting agency about a movie to be filmed in Nebraska.

Mystery train arrives in Fremont

By Carolyn Bullard

If you are looking for nostalgia, elegance and fun, then the Fremont Dinner Train may be just for you.

"The train company began several years ago when a group of men who loved trains got together," Sandra Liamson, company worker, said.

Bruce Eveland, co-owner and operator, said that as a young adult he used to ride the trains all the time and that they were a large part of the era.

"I had the foresight in college to realize the era was ending," Eveland said, "so I rode a lot."

There are three dinner cars, all vintage 1940's, that have been restored to their original style, so that the whole experience has a reminiscent feel to it. The three cars all have unique names. The "Elkhorn River Car" was built in 1947, the "Maple Creek" was built in 1942 and the "Rose creek" was built in 1946. Each passenger sits at a traditional train style dining table by a window, with four to a table. The passengers dine at these tables while enjoying a scenic ride. These meals are catered and menu choice must be made at the time of the reservations.

There are several different options for those who wish to experience the excitement of rides the cost is \$40.95 per person.

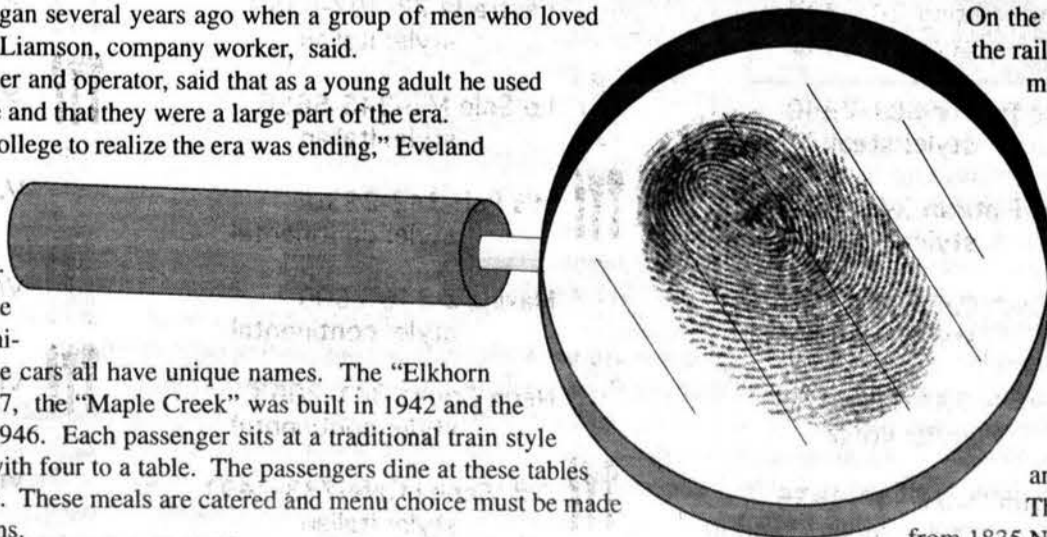
the train. First, there is the basic evening train. The passengers board the train, dine and enjoy a two hour train ride while they eat. On Fri. and Sat. nights the dinner becomes a little more elegant, a five course meal, and the event is more formal. On Sun. afternoons, there is a more scenic, casual ride, in which children's tickets are available.

On the weekends, there are special entertainment events held aboard the rail cars. One event, the "Big Valentine Train," featured strolling musicians. The most popular of the dinner train's entertainment events is the "Murder Mystery Train." During the regular time of the weekend rides, one car enjoys the suspense of a stage murder. A cast of actors board the train and the plot begins. A murder takes place and each table, or group of four work together to solve the case. It is very interactive and the dinner really become involved. The actors are also dressed to accompany the era depicted by the old rail cars, so the mood is really captivating.

"It is like a live game of *Clue* or *Murder She Wrote*," Liamson said.

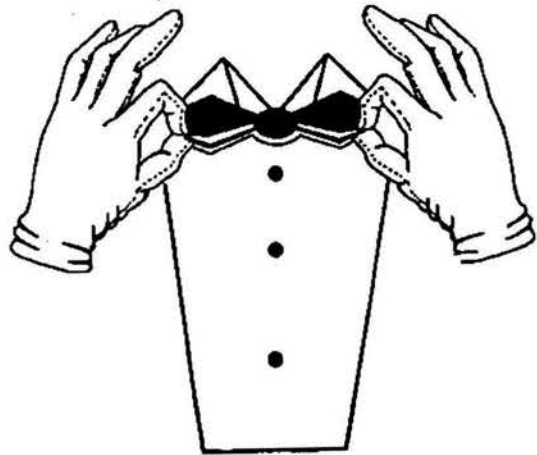
Murder Mysteries are scheduled two to three times a month and generally take place on Fri. evenings.

The cost is \$52.95 per person. The Fri. and Sat. night runs from 1835 N. Somers Ave, in Fremont at 7:30 pm. For the normal evening



P R O M P R E V I E W

Flowers



Tuxedos

Tuxedo rentals may not be a party, but it is easier than dress shopping. Expect to spend up to \$70 on a tux, but don't complain because this is a sliver of what some girls spend on a dress. When choosing accessories, avoid getting some funky red vest and tie when your date is wearing a pink dress. Everything should come together as a package and if they don't, you will probably end up spending more. Just make sure that you are comfortable because you will be wearing your tux for a while.

- Anthony's-391-2012
- Thomcyns Formal Attire-733-5806
- Desmond's Formal Wear-393-5322
- Gentleman's Choice-556-3766
- Boing Formal-390-0228
- Knight Tuxedos-496-7788
- Mr. Tuxedo-397-3933



Restaurants

Choosing a restaurant on prom night may seem to be a low priority, but it isn't a difficult task to take care of early. Figure out how many people will be eating with you and if you're going with a large group, call around and look for a party room. Find a restaurant that almost everyone likes because there is no use in spending \$15 on a meal that you aren't going to eat. Most middle priced restaurants have more variety than more expensive ones and cater to a less sophisticated pallet. If you don't want to spend \$30-\$50 on dinner for you and your date, consider cooking him/her dinner. It is far more economical and can be far more intimate than being shoved into a corner with every other teenager in the metro area.

- Angie's-341-8800 style: Italian
- Aquarium-392-0777 style: seafood
- Bebos-445-4111 style: American
- the Bistro-346-4060 style: continental
- Brother Sebastian's-330-0300 style: steak
- Chardonnay-339-9000 style: continental
- Chez Chong-345-8877 style: Oriental
- the Drover-391-7440 style: steak
- the Flatiron-344-3040 style: continental
- French Cafe-341-3547 style: continental
- Gorat's-551-3733 style: steak
- Indian Oven-342-4856 style: Indian Tandori

- Jaipur-392-7331 style: Northern Indian
- Jams-339-8300 style: grill
- Kiki's-391-kiki style: seafood
- Lastrada 72-397-8389 style: Italian
- Lo Sole Mio-345-5656 style: Italian
- M's Pub-342-2550 style: continental
- Maxine's-346-7600 style: continental
- Neon Goose-341-2063 style: continental
- Old Vienna Cafe-733-7491 style: Italian
- Omaha Prime-341-7040 style: steak
- Pasta Amore-391-2585 style: Italian
- Passport-344-3200 style: everything
- the Sitar-697-0101 style: Indian
- Spana-493-7606 style: continental
- V. Mertz-345-8980 style: continental
- Venice Inn-556-3111 style: steak
- Villa Florita-346-0206 style: Italian
- Vivace-342-2050 style: Italian

Flowers are probably the easiest thing you will have to take care of this prom. Just give a florist a call, tell them what kind of flower you want for your corsage/boutener and when you will want to pick it up. At least attempt to coordinate it to what your date is wearing or choose a neutral color. Don't spend a lot of money getting mass quantities of flowers for a corsage because they traditionally end up spending the majority of their lives in the car or on some table somewhere. Simple is best.

- Baker's Flowers-331-9570
- Dundee-551-2442
- Ernie's-345-2556
- Flowerama-393-2268
- Janousek-556-5652
- Lillians-345-6202
- Kina-733-8330
- Piccolo's-397-6000
- Susie's-341-4650
- Taylor's-733-2322
- Terry's-553-1313
- Younkers-399-6560



Post Prom

Post prom can be a lot of fun for students and a big headache for some parents. This year PEP is hosting a post prom party at the Ranch Bowl. They are hiring a DJ and will provide volleyball and bowling. The event will be monitored by parent chaperones and will be open to students of all ages. Tickets will be sold for \$5 in the courtyard.

■ Pimplikeshine CHS band takes stage

By Kate Alseth

Among the huge number of local musicians trying to make it big are two Central students.

Sophomores Jackson Kardell and Denver Dalley's band, Pimplikeshine, is starting to become a well known name in the local music scene.

The band was started around eight months ago by Jackson, the bass player, and Denver, guitarist. Creighton Prep junior, Dan Maxwell, and Westside sophomore, Grant Empson later joined the band with Dan as the vocalist and Grant playing the drums.

Pimplikeshine first began playing shows around five months

ago. Their first show was as the opening band for Grasshopper Takeover and Blue Moon Ghetto, two very popular local bands.

Last October the band played with Truman Sparks, another Central band, last October.

They consider this show their best yet because of the size and energy of the crowd.

"Crunchy but kind of funky", is how Jackson described the type of music they play. With a Rage Against Machine type of vocals mixed with a very non-conventional bass line, the band's sound is somewhat unique to the Omaha music scene.

Even if you don't listen to the

type of music they play, their shows are still worth going to.

The band has a unique stage presence. Denver just chills on the guitar, while Dan screams nonsense and Jackson steals the show with his funky bass playing.

"They're definitely have talent," said junior Alyssa Arthur "now they just need experience."

Pimplikeshine does not have any shows lined up for the near future, but they will most likely be playing at Sokol Hall, a concert hall on 13th and Martha, or other local venues sometime soon.

With their growing local popularity, Pimplikeshine shows will not be hard to find.

U2 turns to techno

By Carolyn Bullard

Hmm... U2 CD, I thought. Mixed emotions, definitely, like sweet and sour chicken.

I was really curious to hear their new album, *POP*, but really skeptical because the only way to really judge a U2 CD, I thought, was against the other U2 albums, and as we all know, some are impossible to top.

The first time through this CD I was rather disappointed. The evolved sound of 1997's U2 is so far from that of the classic sound of *The Joshua Tree* or *Under a Blood Red Sky*.

You will listen to this CD once, and other than Bono's forever recognizable voice, the general mood of the album is unlike any other of the band's CDs.

I began listening. At first I was a little disappointed by the fancy sort of sound that was entering my ears. I was confused.

One minute it seemed like Nine Inch Nails, the next like some pomsquad song.

Then I really began thinking. I could easily go on a rampant complaining spree here but guess what...it's U2.

No matter how bothered I am the first time around, by a second I should be pleased with what I am hearing, right?

Sure enough after two or three times of listening to songs that really don't even sound like U2, I was

still convinced that the CD was valuable one.

OK, so maybe *POP* won't actually go down in the U2 hall of fame for best CD, but try comparing *POP* to any of the other recent releases that have been bombarding the radio waves. No comparison. They come on... Spice Girls?

See what I mean?

With every album release since *Achtung Baby*, the band has bit by bit, begun to abandon the guitar-centric sound of the past.

This CD is by far the most distant from it. On beginning to listen to the CD, you might be kind of bothered by this, but I think it is too bad. *POP* has a different feel to it, but the creativity makes up for it.

The album has 12 songs, starting out with "Discotheque," which is the first of the songs to have a music video. "Discotheque" is a very positive representation of the CD. There are far better songs.

The CD has a really hybrid sound to it, being that it's not one particular style of music.

It is impossible to label the music as one type or another. But hasn't that always been the way of U2? Maybe some things will never change. *POP* had a very definite style to it.

Though a far cry from the band's classic albums, I would listen to *POP* any day over the other junk that is on the radio.

Venues enhance music

By Kate Alseth

The local music scene in Omaha may be larger than some think. Many smaller venues have performances by local bands along with many nationally known groups.

The Cog Factory, located at 22nd and Leavenworth, is a starting place for many local bands. It also holds concerts for popular bands like Shelter, Nil8 and Skankin' Pickles. The cost for local shows is usually around \$5 and more for bigger bands, depending on the show.

The Crush, formerly Club Fusion, is another local venue. The majority of gigs are small local bands, with an occasional out of town band performance. The price for shows are usually around \$4 to \$5. The Crush is located on 15th and Farnum.

Shows at Sokol Hall range from hard core punk bands to country and folk singers. Sokol is also the stage for many nationally known bands. The Jesus Lizard, Jon Spencer Blues Explosion and Burning Spear have all appeared recently at Sokol.

The cost for local shows is usually around \$5 dollars. Out of town bands prices can range from \$5 to \$25. Sokol is located at 13th and Martha.

The Capitol, located at 15th

and Capitol next to the Capitol Bar and Grill, is another local venue featuring local bands. Their prices are also around \$5.

The Ranch Bowl is usually the stage for bigger bands, but still has occasional local shows. These shows are usually more expensive than at other smaller locations.

The cost is usually around \$5 to \$10 for local bands and anywhere from those prices and up for out of town bands.

Local musicians can also be heard at some metro area coffee shops. Stage Right Coffee, located next to the Orpheum Theater, holds

concerts most Saturday nights and some Sunday nights. The music is usually acoustic folk music. Rayne, a band from Central, performed at Stage Right around a month ago. There is usually no cover charge for these shows.

The Book Station, 19th and Leavenworth, and Downtown Grounds, 12th and Jackson, are also local coffee houses that have local musicians perform on occasion.

With all of the local venues opening around the city and the growing popularity of seeing local bands perform, the Omaha music scene is finally beginning to grow.

1967

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Stern's Private Parts shines on big screen

John Gaskins

With his typical brand of distastefully obnoxious humor, muddled with a friendlier, human side we rarely see, Howard Stern shines in his movie debut, *Private Parts*.

The motion picture version of the 1993 autobiography of the same name, *Private Parts*, traces the real and fascinating career of this shock jock. It is not just a chance for Stern to give viewers a glimpse of his outrageous, perverted and sometimes offensive program, but it is also a delightful tale of an ordinary guy who became the extraordinary "King of all Media."

Whether you hate Howard's antics or think he is the best thing since sliced bread, one thing is certain - he captures your attention and entertains you.

Private Parts has everything a two-hour R-rated comedy could

possibly have and more. Much of this is attributed to Stern's outrageousness that attracts young and old, male and female, black and white, gay and straight. It is just plain funny.

Much of the movie centers around Stern's climb up the radio empire, a climb which featured many battles with uptight station executives, the Federal Communications Commission and just about every anti-defamation league in America.

All of these groups want Stern off the air and out of radio because of his countless jokes and bits dealing with nudity, sex, masturbation, gender, homosexuality, profanity, racism, drugs, violence, bodily functions and anything else that might offend someone.

Some of the funnier and racier scenes in the movie include one in which Howard talks a woman into

stripping naked for him; his superhero character, "Fartman;" and the now-famous game show/sketch "Lesbian Dating Game" - all of which had censors' heads spinning and fans laughing.

Stern retraces his life beginning with his awkward and uncomfortable years as a shy and gawky young child and teenager who grew up in an all-black neighborhood and has to use his sense of humor to fit in and be successful in anything.

He then goes to college, where he meets his eventual wife Allison, played by Mary McCormack. McCormack gives an outstanding performance as a key supporter in Howard's life.

In his early years as a disc jockey, Howard goes from city to city and is told by his bosses he does not have the talent or voice to make it in radio.

Finally, Howard hits it big when he becomes the host on one of New York's most powerful radio stations, WNBC and finds his niche in gross humor and off-the-wall comedy. It is here that Howard became famous and also misunderstood.

While network executives tried to tame and censor his explicit acts, he fought on with his controversial style, daring to spite and humiliate his bosses (he calls his program supervisor "Pig Vomit" on the air).

The movie and Stern's life

story teach an important lesson - if you want to be successful, you have to be yourself and fight for what you believe in.

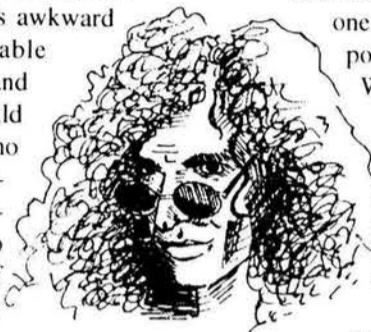
By doing this, Howard became the most popular radio talk show host of all time.

The movie flows well from scene to scene and always keeps the viewer entertained.

Instead of getting old and worn out, Stern's humor gets fresher and funnier.

The acting is fair, but the script and natural comedy of Howard Stern will have you smiling and rolling in the aisles.

Private Parts is definitely one of the best comedies that has come out in a long time and well worth your five bucks if you have a tolerating sense of humor and are looking for something a little spicier than a plain, old bubble gum Disney flick.



Spring Break

Omaha offers alternatives to Spring fever

Sandra Cummins

So you're stuck in Omaha for spring break...bummer. If you don't want to spend your whole vacation watching game show reruns and stuffing your face on the couch, Omaha does have alternatives.

New movie releases for Fri., March 21 include "Liar Liar" (Jim Carey), "Selina" (Jennifer Lopez) and "Blood and Wine". On Sat., March 22, "Devil's Own" (Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford) comes to the box offices. The new Power Ranger movie "Turbo Power" will be arriving at Douglas Theaters Fri., March 28. Also on that night "Hoodlum"

(Andy Garcia and Vanessa Williams) and "Sixth Man" (Marlon Waynes) will be premiering.

Henry Doorly Zoo's new Imax Theater will open March 27. "Whales," a 45 min. movie will be featured.

The Imax screen is 60 ft. by 80 ft. and the theater seats 368 people. Shows run between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

The Omaha Public Library's W. Dale Clark branch has new and exciting displays, said Linda Trout, who is in charge of promotional advertising.

A women's history display, gardening

display, and a display of hand-made books are viewable on the main floor.

A photo and poetry display by two UNO faculty members showing young men skateboarding downtown is in the fourth floor art gallery.

If it's nice weather you might want to get some fresh air and sun at Fontenelle Forest, 1111 Bellevue Blvd, in N. Bellevue. They have 17 miles of hiking trails including a one-mile wooden trail.

At Neale Woods Nature Center, 14323 Edith Marie Ave, by Ponca Hills, the observatory will be open on any clear night from

8:00-9:30 p.m. for people to view the Hale-Bopp comet.

"This is the most visible comet in recent history", said Carole Steier, a representative from Neale Woods.

Hale-Bopp is expected to be seen March 25 through April 12.

Bird Banding is also available at Neale Woods Nature Center on March 26. You can help naturalists catch wild birds and band their legs to track and study them.

Live entertainment in Omaha will be plentiful on Spring break. See "happenings" for performance dates and times.

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Central High

Western Gold Rush

Sometimes Dazed and Usually Confused

By John Gaskins



And now a few too many words from our sponsor

I thought I would try my hardest not to talk about anything that would be taken seriously this time. I'm sure plenty of taboo issues such as the U.S. Federal Government, Elizabeth Taylor's love life, the artist formerly known as Prince (now known as the incredible freak), Pauly Shore movies, western Iowa, and our beloved and trusted Congressman Jon (Satan) Christiansen would fall under that category.

However, I'm gonna go with commercials that we love and hate. I already covered the world of infomercials and the losers who are involved in them, but I think I could go plenty further with the world of advertising.

One thing you'll notice about some commercials is that they don't really promote what they're advertising for or make a lot of sense. However, that can make them all the more fun.

Also, some commercials have people doing things way too exaggerated for their own good - like Juicy Fruit gum commercials. How are these people having so much fun off of a piece of gum? I mean they're jumping up and down, partying, playing volleyball, jet skiing, parasailing, playing Twister and for all I know having wild and wet orgies. I'm thinking My God - it's a stick of gum!

And by the way, what a sick song that ad has. Think about it: "Get your net set up, grab a stick of juicy fruit - the taste is gonna move ya. Take a whiff. Pull it out. The taste is gonna move ya when ya pop it in your mouth!" Like, they're not blatantly advertising sex. The message is, chew Juicy Fruit and you're gettin' some later. Yeah, whatever.

I wish I could have that much fun when I chew gum. But I guess you wouldn't see a realistic commercial with someone chewing gum and doing what you're doing - watching television, trying to get off the couch, drooling all over yourself. Maybe that would take some of the exciting pizzazz out of gum.

I might as well get to the granddaddy of all commercials we see all over the place - beer. Beer commercials, for years, have been the most outlandish, obnoxious and funniest commercials on T.V. No matter what kind of beer is advertised, there will always be people and other creatures doing much more than drinking beer.

How else can you advertise beer truthfully? You can't have a commercial with a bunch of drunken lunatics who are slobbering on each other and stumbling all over the place like President Bill "Bubba" Clinton and Soviet President Boris Yeltsin after a White

House steak dinner. That would be too realistic.

So, I guess you have to have some of the weirdest time-killing freak shows instead, like a bunch of ants lifting a 40-ouncer on their backs, frogs croaking the product's name, a really ugly old man making faces that I wouldn't let a Marilyn Manson fan look at, and commercials with that stupid geek named Dick.

What is the deal with this Dick dude? You know - the weirdo with the bad 70's hair and tacky suit who looks like he just downed an 18-pack? Who is he and where did he come from and can you please stop putting his stupid face on T.V. every five seconds?

If I see one more ad with a man crustier than Rusty the Bailiff walking through corn fields with no pants on or a chick with birds coming out of her armpits, I am going to puke. For the love of humanity, stop it with all of this Dick! He's an idiot... get Dick off the air.

I guess one final logical conclusion you may be able to draw from beer commercials with lunatics and incredibly confusing and bizarre people is that maybe these are visions a beer consumer gets after drinking the beer. Whether that is a good or bad thing, I'm not sure. However, it makes for interesting television.

I'll tell you another set of commercials I don't like are ones for Dockers. Have you seen these ones? These are where a tough biker man goes up to some preppy boy in khakis and manages to stare the boy up and down and blurt out the magic words, "Nice Pants," steal the pants and rides off.

I'm sorry, but if a guy came up to me in a dark alley and observed and complimented my pants, I would freak out and run. Of course, that would never happen because normal guys don't say to other normal guys things like "Nice Pants."

These ads are still better than the ones Dockers put out a few years ago, where they showed a bunch of suave pretty-boys in khakis hangin' out on a beach house deck just, ya know, kickin' back, playing cards, throwing darts and talking about women and how cool they are... all of which is shot at crotch level just to get a better view of their pants. Pardon me, but will you stop it with the crotch cam and the slicksters. This is an ad about pants, here - p-a-n-t-s!

However, I still have to talk about the most revolting commercials on television - the ones for products that prevent, how can I say this correctly,

wetness control problems. You know what I'm talking about either adult diapers or "feminine products." I just don't think this needs to be advertised. Our private bodily fluid problems are something that can be left out of the mass media advertising mecca.

Many people consider these products a necessity and unless they have the I.Q. of a cynderblock, they are automatically going to go to the store and buy these products. What they don't need and what people who have nothing to do with wetness control don't need is commercials with actors talking about this problem.

You know - a mother and a daughter on a beach seemingly in the middle of a nice conversation about

things such as flowers and pickies or their favorite linen cloth designs when all of a sudden the innocent young daughter questions her mother about that "not-so-fresh feeling."

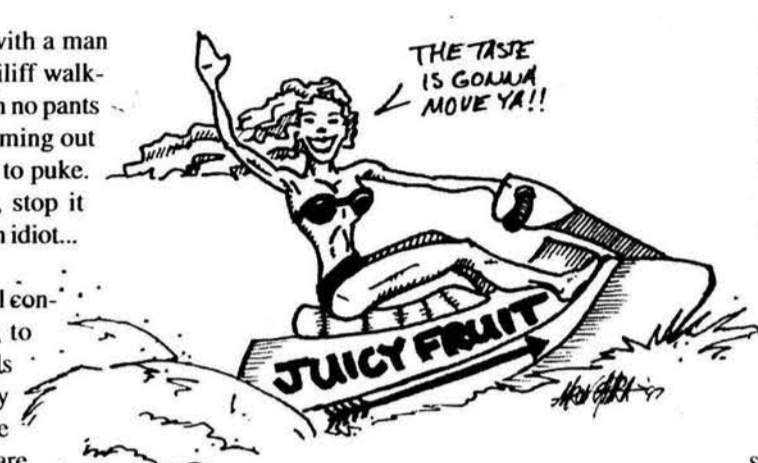
Okay, back up the bus. Can we leave this to ourselves, all-righty then? Like the mom is going to say "no" and then proceed to continue talking about flowers and pickies.

But being the sick person I am I could add one more thing about bodily-liquid protection commercials. When they show us examples of how

their products absorb liquids, they insist on the water being blue. Yuck! Diapers and wetness absorption should be the last thing on your mind if your body secretes blue liquid - that should be your top problem.

Fortunately, we don't see any commercials with products for people who secrete blue liquid, but hold on to that thought... it will probably happen someday. Most likely, there will be a commercial shot at crotch level with the blue liquid people will be on a beach drinking beer and playing darts while some guy named Dick comes along and asks them if they have that not-so-fresh feeling and ruins the world.

I could write a Master's Degree thesis paper on other commercials that annoy me, but unfortunately, I can only fill the space of a high school newspaper. Just remember, if it weren't for advertising we wouldn't have television, and if we didn't have television, we'd be way too normal of a society.






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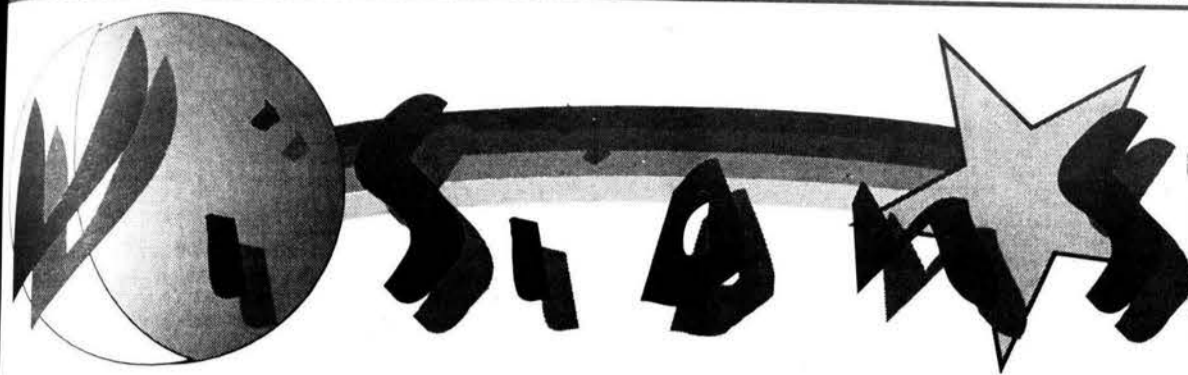
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Visions are written purely for the entertainment of our readers. Any resemblance to fact is purely coincidental.

Capricorn Dec.22-Jan. 19

There is a slight chance that unless more effort is given on your part, those achievements which you most desire may be out of your reach. Don't be surprised if your reality falls short of your expectations.

Aquarius Jan.20-Feb. 18

You will encounter a situation that will test your values and strengths. Stand firm and you will come through a stronger person.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

It will become evident that an attempt to reconcile a fallen friendship is a lost cause. Move on and don't worry...you'll make new friends.

Aries Mar.21-Apr. 19

Avoid taking strangers too seriously. It could really get you into trouble if you let your gullible nature influence your choices.

Taurus Apr. 20-May 20

Take a break from your every day routine and try something new. After a time away from this daily schedule, you will meet some new people who will interest you greatly.

Gemini May 21-June 2

There is way too much to do for you to be sitting watching MTV all the time. Though unmotivated, there still a lot of responsibility that needs to be tended to.

Cancer June 22- July 22

Towards the middle of the month you will receive an interesting piece of news. This news, if reacted to promptly, could really get you ahead.

Leo July 23-Aug. 22

March has been sort of a slow-moving month for you, but things will have begun to pick up by the last week of the month. Someone will ask you to do them a favor.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Investing in a good calendar wouldn't be a bad idea for you this month. Organization is a must for you this month, unless you want to be in over your head.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct.23

This month should be a very relaxing month for those who will allow it. Try to set aside some time to chill out and you will avoid the stress.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Get outside this month and enjoy the fresh spring air. Also, you may benefit from having an honest chat with someone you may have been avoiding.

Sagittarius Nov.23-Dec.21

It looks as if this month will be a time for you to begin starting projects that you have been talking about. With good planning and determination, your goals should be easily attainable.

Happenings@ Ranch Bowl

March 22

**Orange 9mm w/
Unsane & Handsome
6:30 p.m.**

De La Soul-10:30 p.m.



Shelterbelt cleans up

By Kate Alseth

Even though it looks more like a coffee house than a theater, and its stage is small and hard to find at first, don't let this small playhouse's first impression mislead you.

When I first stepped into The Shelterbelt I was taken off guard. The whole atmosphere was extremely laid back. Before the performance you are served coffee and other drinks by some of the cast, who are working behind the coffee bar which later became part of the set for the play.

I didn't know anything about the play, *Clean*, that was being performed that night. I only knew to expect the unexpected, which is what people who had attended other plays at The Shelterbelt had said.

Within minutes of the play's opening, I was engrossed into the plot. A dysfunctional family's liquor store is robbed by three first time thieves. The burglars included an out of work shoe salesman, his conniving girlfriend and a worthless drug addict, who had a foolproof plan so they could make a "clean" getaway. The hysterical sarcastic humor kept the play light and entertaining until the end, where the mood does a complete 180, ending the play with unexpected drama.

Clean is just one of the many local plays being produced at The Shelterbelt. Performances are at 8:00 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Tickets are usually around nine dollars. The Shelterbelt, located at 32nd and California, may not be the typical theater house. With its unique atmosphere, excellent coffee, inexpensive ticket prices and off beat performances, The Shelterbelt is definitely a place worth experiencing.

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Baseball stakes claim for state championship

By Sam Achelpohl

Central's baseball team is set to swing into another successful season and perhaps stake a claim for the state championship.

Head Coach Steve Eubanks said that the team is much more experienced this year and that will go far in their pursuit of the state championship.

"The talent level of this team is the best I've seen since I started coaching here," coach Eubanks said. "Our optimism is very high and the goals we've set are even higher."

Returning lettermen include seniors Ryan Behrens, Brandon Myers, Jed Ortmeier, Bobby Wolfe, Mike Kelly, Brent Quigly, Joe Girthoffer, Jimmy O'Connor, Marcus Mancuso, Pat Maulick, and juniors Chris Podjenski and Bill Houston.

"We only lost one starter from last year so we'll have a lot of experience this season," senior Joe Girthoffer said. "We'll definitely have a chance to make a run at state."

With as much experience as the team has this year, their bid for a state championship is a very feasible goal.

"We lost only one position last year at catcher, so we have another ten guys who all have varsity experience," coach Eubanks said.

Competition for the baseball team this

year includes defending state champions Ralston and teams such as Millard North, Millard South, Northwest and Westside.

With the loss of only one starter from last year's team, the Eagles are looking to use their experience and solidness as their tools this year.

A strong pitching staff lead by Jimmy O'Connor, Brandon Myers and Pat Maulick, is expected to dominate over any hitter in the state. Ryan Behrens will continue to back up the starters with his late inning relief work.

Batting is another key that the team has going for them. Free swingers Brent Quigly and Bobby Wolfe, who both finished in the top ten in batting average categories last season, are expected to pound the ball to its limits once again. All-Metro selection Jimmy O'Connor will continue to slaughter the ball this season as well.

"We're strong in every area," senior Brent Quigly said. "We have experience in hitting, pitching and fielding so we can expect a great season."

The baseball team has great expectations this year. With a city full of great teams, Central appears to have the experience and skill level to be among the best of them.

"We have the talent that will get us to the top this year," coach Eubanks said. "We have the chemistry to stay there."

New coach benefits ladies' soccer Ladies shoot for district victory

By Les Anich

The 1997 ladies' varsity soccer team strides into the new season with eleven returning letterwomen and anticipates solid performances from the team. Women's new head soccer coach Kathleen Laughlin said.

"We definitely are solid in terms of performance," coach Laughlin said. "I'm excited about the distributions among the classes."

There are twenty-one varsity players who will only commit to varsity and will not play "up and down," coach Laughlin said.

The starting lineups will consist of all of the seniors and coach Laughlin said she anticipates in starting one or two freshmen players.

This season the ladies soccer team's goal is to make it to the district finals in April. Central will be hosting districts this year at Norris Junior High School's Bergquist Stadium.

dium.

"We sort of sat down and made goals as a team. We have the potential to win districts, but if not, the season will certainly not be a disappointment," coach Laughlin said. "Anything better is icing on the cake."

Senior Sarah Deacon has the potential of being an All-State player.

"In terms of stand outs, Sarah will be a factor for us," coach Laughlin said. "She is multi-talented, but will mostly play mid-field."

Sophomore Brittney Girthoffer will join Sarah in mid-field and coach Laughlin said Brittney will impress a lot of people.

Returning letterwomen include Sarah Brittney, seniors Kristin Bauer, Cari Cain, Erika Mullen, Lindsey Myers and Jean Phillips, juniors Sarah Carse, Molly Deacon, Jaelyn DiGiacomo and Amanda Hansen.

Men's soccer challenges to avenge state semi-final loss

By Mike Kelly

The Central boy's soccer team is getting ready to avenge a loss in last season's State semi-final.

"Getting to State is not just the goal anymore," senior forward Dane Foster said. "We want to win it all this year, but it will take hard work one day at a time."

The Eagles are led by three-year lettermen Andy Ochsner, Dane, and returning all-state goalkeeper, Luke Denney.

Last season, strikers Dane Foster and two-year letterman Sam Achelpohl received honorable mention all-state honors.

Also expected to contribute to the Eagles' success this season will be sophomore Ben Rinaker and the hero of last year's District Championship game, senior Chad Dahlymple.

With all the returning starters, the loss of all-state players Matt Hein and Jeff Driscoll should not affect the Eagles chances to have a winning season.

"Jeff and Matt were great players," senior Steve Quackenbush said. "But we definitely have the experience and skill to be just as good as we were last year."

Looking to challenge the Eagles this year for soccer supremacy will be perennial soccer powers such as Omaha Burke and Millard North.

The whole state is very competitive this year," Luke said. "There is no clear favorite."

The Eagles are happy to have a new field for practice.

This field is at Norris Junior High School. Even though the Eagles practiced at Norris last year, it was on a converted football field that was filled with ruts and weeds.

"Our practice field is a perfect year," Chad said. "But it's better than last year."

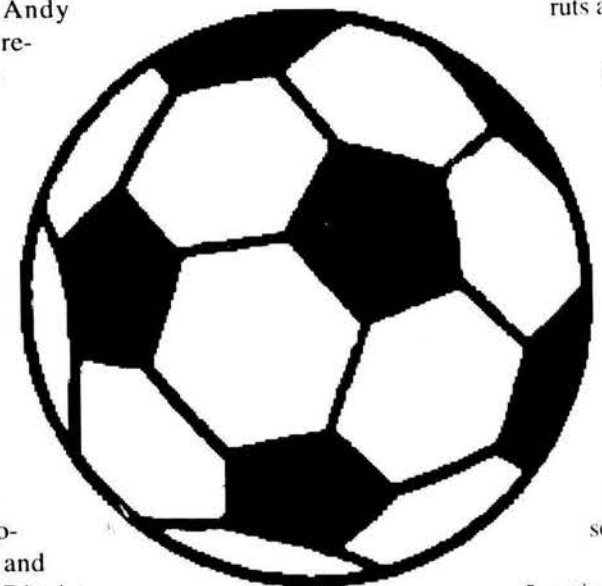
Central will also host District Championships at the end of the soccer season.

This marks the first time in four years that the soccer team will have to travel to Lincoln to play their district games.

Bergquist Stadium is presently going through renovation.

The field will be widened and the crowd lowered so that soccer, as well as football, can be played there. The field is expected to be ready by the beginning of May, just in time for districts.

With experienced players, a strong work ethic, and a new practice facility, the Eagles seem primed for another run at the State Championship this year.



Golf team ready to tee off

By Sam Achelpohl

Central's golf team is about to tee off the season with a young but solid squad of experienced players.

Three returning varsity lettermen include, senior captain John Gaskins, and sophomores Chris Kelly and Phil Jonak, they will add experience to the team. Also returning is senior Jon Cipperly, juniors Ben Teply and John Ashford.

Losing two members of the varsity team from last year, graduates Paul Swirzinski and Jamie Stogdill, will have a small impact on the team's performance this year, but returning members expect to improve their game over last year.

Central will face some tough competition this year from other Omaha area teams such as defending Metro Conference champion Creighton Prep, and teams such as Millard South, Millard West and Westside.

The Eagles will also be playing in a tough district this year at Pioneers Golf Course in Lincoln. The district will include Lincoln High, Lincoln Northeast, Lincoln East, Millard West and Westside.

"We're in a tough district with regular state qualifying teams this year," Central coach Jim Galus said. "So we hope to send two or three individual qualifiers to State in Gaskins, Kelly and Jonak."

Four year letterman John Gaskins finished 11th at both Metro and Districts last

year, missing state qualifying by one shot.

"We expect Gaskins to medal in every tournament and qualify for state as a senior," Galus said. "It's his last chance to prove he's one of the better golfers in the state."

This year the team has struggled to find a home course. After three years at championship-rated Shoreline golf course, the team had to play at Fontenelle Park golf course last year.

"Fontenelle was a real inconvenience to us because two other teams, North and Benson, played there as well," Chris said. "It hurt our golf games when we played on bigger courses during tournaments."

This year the coach and players have been fighting for a new home facility. The team will play home matches at Elmwood Golf Course and will practice at Elmwood, Benson and Shoreline.

"The situation has been tedious to handle, but we're happy with where we're practicing compared with last year," Ben said.

Another step the team took in improving their problems from last year has been raising money from outside of the athletic department to fund better practice facilities, new shirts for tournaments and matches, and new golf balls before each tournament.

The season begins March 24, when the Eagles will play in their own invitational at the Field Club of Omaha.



Let Brown

Throw 'em to the ground! Central senior Brandon Clogston, right, blocks an opposing rugby player during their match against Millard North. Brandon is one of many players from around the city competing together.

Rugby scrummers hit the field

By Mike Kelly

Instead of traditional spring sports like baseball and track, some central athletes have chosen rugby.

Rugby is an exciting, fast-paced game that combines the endurance of soccer, the strategy of basketball and the contact of football, but without the football.

Junior Tim Williamson competes on a club team made up mostly of Creighton Prep athletes.

The team competes in a league with other Omaha and Des Moines teams.

"Rugby is a great game," Tim said. "It is as hard hitting as football, but faster. I wish it were more popular in the United States."

Played primarily in Western Europe, rugby is one of the most popular sports in England and Scotland and it is growing in popularity in the United States. The United States recently qualified for the World Cup for the first time in history.

Tim said he got interested in rugby through an announcement at school.

"I thought it would be a spring-time substitute for football," Tim said. "I just wish I knew the rules."

Scoring in rugby is much like scoring in football. Like a touchdown, a "try" is worth six points and teams can kick the ball between two

poles for four points.

Teams can advance the ball by running down the field with it, or kicking it forward. Teams can pass backwards, but the forward pass and blocking is illegal.

Most high school teams around the Metro are sponsored by the Griffons Rugby Club. The teams usually practice twice a week and games are on Sunday afternoon. The league plays about a ten game schedule with a tournament following the season.

Some teams have the opportunity to go to tournaments around the midwest in places like Kansas City and Des Moines.

Central senior Brandon Clogston has played for Westside's club rugby team for two years.

"It's a vicious game," Brandon said. "It's like 'kill the man,' except with teams."

Injuries are not as common as they might seem however. From the first practice the teams are taught

how to hit and get hit without getting hurt. Fouls are given when attempts to injure happen.

Both Tim and Brandon point out that rugby is not just a game of hitting, but a game full of strategy, speed and determination.

"At first I just wanted to go out and kill people," Tim said. "But then I realized that there was much more to the game than that."

Rugby season lasts from March to May and games are played at Storz Field.

Other schools that have teams are Ralston, Millard North and Burke and Lincoln Southeast.

Brandon expects his Westside team to be at the top of the league this year. He said after a trip to the finals last year, the team seems primed for victory.

"We did not graduate many seniors last year," Brandon said. "If we get by Millard North, there's no reason why we shouldn't win state this year."

Lady Eagles' tennis serves up new season

By Dave Echemach

The 1997 ladies' varsity tennis team had its largest turnout for tryouts in years, Varsity Head Coach Larry Andrews said.

"The sheer number of girls at tryouts was amazing," Andrews said.

The lady Eagles have 35 girls trying out, all of which will most likely remain on the Junior Varsity or Varsity teams.

This year the Eagles also add a new coach, Dr. Jurgen Shawver, who will coach the Junior Varsity.

"I used to coach basketball a number of years ago so it really is not a new experience to be coaching tennis," Dr. Shawver said.

Dr. Shawver said that he is still in the process of learning all the players' names and skill levels.

"I know that we have one of the best players in the state in Andrea Friedman," Shawver said.

Shawver said that Andrea will be one of the top contenders for the state and metro titles for no. 1 singles.

Andrea has recently accepted a scholarship to the University of Missouri to play tennis.

"I'm going to receive a full ride scholarship every year as long as I stay academically eligible," Andrea said.

Andrews said according to the terms of Andrea's scholarship she will go to school at no cost during her college career as long as she carries the required academic load.

The team practices at Dewey Park from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. every day.

The tentative Varsity team will consist of Sophomores Dana Hendee, Amy Yin, Junior Rachel Slosburg and Seniors Andrea Friedman, Erika Wulff, Lisa Petersen and Michelle Sieter.

Andrews said that there are a few exceptions and nothing is concrete at this point.

"I can tell you that out of 35 members only six will compete because of the sheer nature of the way tennis is set up," Andrews said.

Everyone is excited to get out there and play, Andrea said. They hope to de-throne some of the top teams in metro and state.

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Turf Talk

By Les Anich



Wrestlers pin-down season

Hard work and dedication are the keys to success in sports. But sometimes the day will never go your way and bad luck seems to surround you.

Wrestling is a hard, individual sport that takes a lot of energy out of an athlete. It involves dedication and the heart to go the distance, to never stop until the training is complete or until the match winner is decided.

Wrestlers go through one of the hardest workouts in any sport. They run 5-10 miles a day and go through an unbelievable diet to stay at their desired weight. Sometimes not eating for a couple of days, but in those eating days, they only eat fruit and food with high amounts of carbohydrates. And that is not much.

One wonders where they get all the energy.

There are two types of wrestlers. There is the offensive wrestler and the defensive wrestler. A defensive wrestler must be quick physically and be able to make the right decision on the spot.

There are no second chances in wrestling. One mistake and a wrestler can lose a match.

Mistakes will usually lose the match for a wrestler. Tension will build up after one crucial mistake and the other will use that mistake to his advantage.

Senior Vito Agosta, a dedicated wrestler since he began wrestling, lost his chance at winning a state title in his four year career of high school wrestling. This year was supposed to be his chance and also his last one, but everything went wrong at the last second.

There is no one to blame it on. It was an accident, but why did it have to happen in the championship match. Vito was wrestling at 130 lbs. against a wrestler from Millard North for the state title. Only three rounds of physical punishment lies between the title and runner-up. And he received the latter.

"There are things you can do to make everything go your way," Vito said. "But sometimes things like this will happen and you can't do anything about it. All you have to do is take it and go on and never look back."

At the start, Vito scored two points with a take-down. His opponent had an undefeated season coming into the match. Vito soon found himself in a tie. Later in the third and last period, Vito, down by three points, received a serious ankle sprain.

Great timing.

In a time where you need to be perfect and without any injuries, this injury had to occur. He had worked hard to get under the spot light. This was something

which he dreamed of since entering high school wrestling, winning a state high school wrestling title.

Down on the mat, Vito was in pain and holding his right ankle. One can see, there wasn't a chance for him to win or if he could last another period. It was all over. Even though the loss was inevitable and out of reach, Vito kept on trying. He was never a quitter and he wasn't about to start there.

With the ankle wrapped, Vito, exhausted and in pain, went on like a true champion. He gave it his best for the remaining period. He stood his ground and gave it all he had.

He too, knowing the match was lost raised his opponent's hand to celebrate his opponent's victory.

Vito climbed each step of the ladder, but never seemed to reach the top. He fell short again. This time without another chance. On the other hand, fellow wrestler junior Josh Buckles has one more year left.

Josh had a tough opponent to compete against for the state title at 103 lbs. His opponent from Omaha Westside is a national freestyle winner and this year is ranked third nationally. This was somewhat of an obstacle for Josh.

During the regular season, Josh, with an injured knee, lost by only a couple of points to this national winner, but in the state title match, Josh had a hard time. Nothing seemed to work for him against his opponent.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate runner-ups Vito and Josh and 6th place winner senior Ladarius Murry. And also, to freshman Max Kenny and senior Mike Gutierrez for qualifying for state.

The wrestling team will have a solid team next year. The leadership it had this year from the seniors will definitely rub onto the younger ones.

Juniors Jason Regan and Joe Wojtkiewicz and freshman Dusty Friedman will certainly be strong in their respective weight class.

All in all, this year was a great season for the team. In terms of standouts, there are the five who made it to state. And for those who didn't, there's always next year.

Track sprints into season

By Sam Achelpohl

Central's boys and girls track team is gearing up for another run at state as their season draws near.

"We've only got three returning senior runners but we've got a ton of underclassmen that run very good," Head Coach Dave Felici said. "We're going to be one of the top track schools in OPS this year."

Returning senior men include Kyle Thomas, Tim Riveria and John Zendejas.

Underclass returners include juniors Thomas Hubbard, Lawrence Butler and DeAntae Grixby. Sophomores Courtney Dawson, Errol Randolph and Wayne Reynolds.

One of the top runners for Central will be Tim, who broke the school record for the 800m and finished second in state in the 800m.

Seniors Kyle, Tim, and John will be among the four runners who will run in the 4x4 sprints along with one other runner yet to be known.

Other expected top runners will include sprinter DeAntae Grixby, long-jumper Thomas Hubbard, and sprinter Lawrence Butler, who runs the 400m. Cecil Evans, junior, will be among those competing for the fourth spot on the 4x4 team.

Another future hopeful will be Wayne Reynolds, who broke records in junior high at the 300m hurdles. Sophomore Dave Rennard will also be a helpful addition to the team as a distance runner.

The track team will have enough competition in OPS alone to keep them busy. Strong running schools like North and Benson will both be competing with Central for a state title.

"We have a lot of tough schools in the city this year," Coach Felici said. "Benson and North always give us a hard time as well as the Millard schools. We'll also be running against Kearney, one of the top track schools in the state the past few years."

Senior Thessa Anderson said that the girls team will be better than ever this year.

"We have a lot of underclassmen that are running good," she said. "I think we can compete with anybody in the state."

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Cliffhanger: hanging by a thread

Climbing adds adventure to eagles' lives

Sandra Cummins

Rock climbing is an exciting and adventurous sport that is part of two Central Eagles' everyday lives.

Seniors Brandan Carrell and Chris Darst have been climbing for over three years. Brandan said he became interested in climbing as a kid.

"My uncle would strap me into his harness and we would repel off my grandparents' house."

Brandan has climbed in the Flat Irons and Garden of the Gods in Colorado and in Palisades, S.D.

Chris began climbing his freshman year. He took a five week class every Monday through a UNO program at the Southwest YMCA. He has climbed at Roof Rock outdoors in Vail and endured a month outdoors on the Outward Bound course.

"Outward Bound was the most grueling worthwhile experience I've ever had," Chris said. "Never before have I been so tired, dirty, hot, cold, hungry, yet so proud that I had accomplished."

Both regularly climb together at the Southwest YMCA.

"The Southwest YMCA has the biggest rock wall in Omaha," Brandan said.

Brandan has won third place in a regional competition at the Flat Irons, a series of ridged mountains in Colorado.

In a recent competition at the YMCA he won a second place title. He said he is planning to go to Sun Valley, Idaho this summer for another competition.

Chris has never climbed for competition but would like to enter in a single-elimination contest in April. "If I work hard between now and then I'll have a pretty good chance. I'd be content if I made it in the top ten."

Difficulty of a course can range from 5.6 to 5.14b. The lower the number, the easier the course. The more difficult levels are subdivided into a, b and c levels. Chris said he is at a 5.10a level and Brandan is at a 5.11b. They both try to climb two to three times a week and run and lift weights to improve their strength.

"When I ran for track I was running five to six miles a day which really got me into shape," Brandan said.

Rock climbing equipment can be very costly. In the 1997 catalog of Mountain Gear, a pair of rock shoes can range from \$99 to \$155 depending upon your need and the quality of the shoe.

"The basic equipment you need to get started includes a harness, a carabiner, chalk bag, rope and a belay device," Chris said.

A harness is like a diaper that holds you up, Brandan said.

"It is very uncomfortable," he said. "But it will save you if you slip. You'll get used to it and will forget about it once the climbing starts."

Carabiners are hook-like rings that attach to the harness and sometimes the rope. A chalk bag holds the chalk that is needed for a good grip. Rope usually comes in 50 meter lengths and costs anywhere from \$94 to \$216.

Rope intertwines with a belay device and

creates friction that keeps a person from falling if they slip. Climbing shoes are recommended for an advanced climber or someone who is serious about learning how to climb.

Chris and Brandan said that rock climbing is a sport, not just a hobby.

"I consider it a sport because it is intense and very competitive," Chris said.

Besides being expensive, climbing can be very dangerous. Brandan has broken his arm, leg and two toes.

"In Palisades, I climbed the rest of the day with broken toes," he said.

"I've taken a couple hits to the head before," Chris said.

Brandan urges students to give rock climbing a try.

"Anyone can do it. You don't have to have a certain body strength, just get with someone who knows how," he said.



Sandra Cummins

Hold on to your life!!! Senior Chris Darst holds on to his safety rope and glances to the ground to see just how far up he really is. Chris climbs at the South YMCA several times a week to prepare for an upcoming competition in April. He is training to compete in his first competition.



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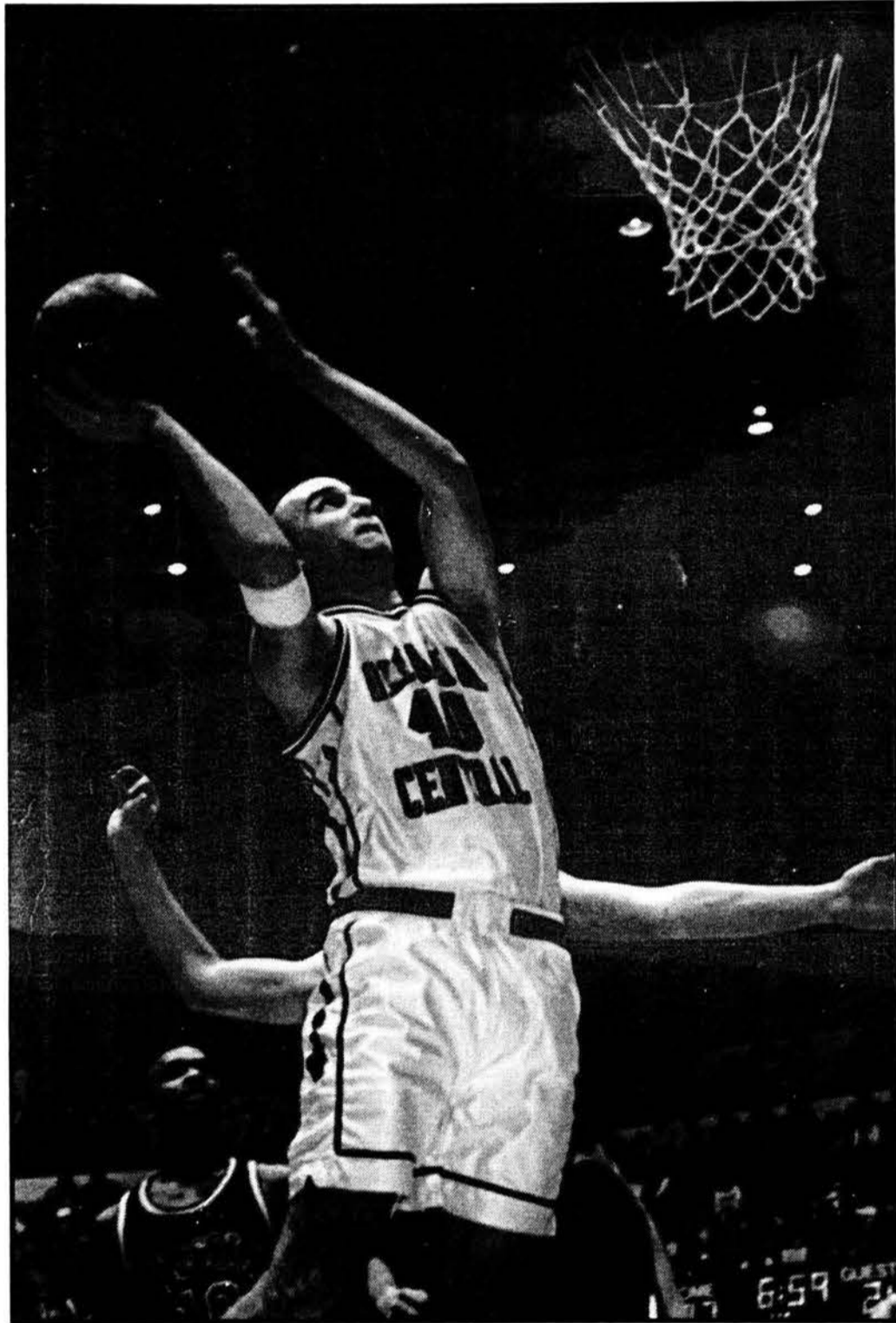




SPORTS



We Cover Eagle Territory



LEI BROWN

Going through the lane...senior forward Brandon Myers attempts to make a lay-up during the second half in the first-round game of the State Basketball Tournament. The State Tournament was held in the Devaney Center at Lincoln. Brandon pitched in 10-points in the tournament loss to unranked Lincoln High. The Central Eagles came in as the top seed. Central finished with an 18-5 record and finished the season ranked 9th in Class A.

Eagles lose rhythm drop out of title hunt

By Mike Kelly

The Central men's basketball team's hope for a state championship ended Mar. 12 in the first round of the State Basketball Tournament at the Devaney Center, in Lincoln, Ne.

Unranked Lincoln High's pesky defense held the Eagles scoreless in the final 4:00 of the game and only 6 points in the entire fourth quarter.

"They gave us a lot of trouble on offense," senior guard Ryan Behrens said. "Towards the end, they were draining every shot. We were playing great in a quarter and a half, but soon lost that momentum and could never get into a rhythm and that hurt us a great deal."

The Metro's leading scorer, senior guard Galen Morrison, had 16 first half points before turning his ankle in the early stages of the third quarter. Morrison tried to play on the injury but was held scoreless in the second half.

The Eagles had gained a top seed in the tournament despite losing to Omaha North in the district final. Lincoln High came in the eighth seed.

"We had been practicing hard all week long. We mainly focused on beating Lincoln High and nothing else," senior guard Ralph Blank said.

Ralph said the team focused on the up coming game and worked hard during practice to get ready for the eighth seed Lincoln High Links..

"I don't think we looked past Lincoln High. We definitely could have played much better than we did, especially in the second half," he said "During the first and early second quarters, everything seemed to be going our way, but some good defense and offense, but some how the tables turned and we lost the momentum leading into half-time."

The Eagles led 27-23 at half-

time but the lead did not last.

After Lincoln High took the lead 3:52 left in the game. Central could never cover.

Lincoln High's 2-3 zone gave the Eagles tremendous trouble getting an open pointer late in the game.

This was the second time the Lincoln High Links defeated the Central High Eagles this season. The Eagles lost 77-62 to the Links in the middle of January.

The 46 total points the Eagles scored in the first round of the State Tournament is the fewest the Central Eagles had scored in a season.

"Maybe nervousness was a part of it," senior forward Brandon Myers said. "The atmosphere at state is a lot different than an average game."

The Eagles forwards, Brandon Links, Denney and Robert Jefferson, held Lincoln High to less than 10 points in the paint while Brandon contributed 10 points.

The State Basketball Tournament loss to Lincoln High marked the final high school game for 9 seniors and no starters will return next season, but many non-starters saw valuable time during the regular season.

These seniors include Galen Morrison, Ryan Behrens, Kenny McMorris, Brandon Myers, Ralph Blank, Daron Wilson, Links, Denney, Robert Jefferson and Sam Farrington.

"We had a great bunch of kids this year," Head Coach Rick Behrens said. "We had an excellent season and I'm very proud of the way they played this year."

The 1996-97 basketball team may go down in history as one of the best in Central history. Their 18-5 record is one of the best in recent times.

A top seed in the State Basketball Tournament has not happened in a long time according to Central's Athletic Director Paul Pennington.

"We had a great season. We were focused throughout the whole season and we played as a team," senior guard Sam Farrington said. "I'm just sorry the season had to end like this. We just couldn't hit the important shots towards the end of the game."

Volleyball rebounds from opening loss

By Mike Kelly

After a rough start, The Central Purple men's volleyball team is progressing nicely, head coach Brad Reichmuth said.

Central is fielding two varsity teams this year. The Purple is made up of players who Reichmuth feels have the best athletic ability and greatest chances to improve. The White is made up of players who have solid volleyball skills.

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After a season opening loss to a combined team of all three Millard schools, the Purple Eagles have rebounded to win three out of their last four matches.

"The Millard game was a tough one," sophomore Stuart Waters said. "It was our first game and everyone was a little bit nervous. If we played them now, it would have been a much closer game."

The Purple Eagles rebounded with a victory over a combined team from all the Lincoln schools. Central dominated the entire game, winning the match 2 games to 0.

"Lincoln was the team to beat last year," senior captain Steve Hernandez said. "But they lost all their good players so we beat them soundly."

The Purple Eagles suffered a disappointing loss at the hands of North on Mar. 4, one that coach Reichmuth said should not have happened.

"We should have beaten North," coach Reichmuth said. "We did not play our best game that night."

The Purple Eagles lost to North 2-1 that night and one of the games Central lost 17-16.

On March 11 Central Purple faced Central White. Purple won handily 2-0.

The Purple Eagles improved to 2-2 while the White Eagles fell to 1-4.

Leading the Purple this year have been senior captain Steve Hernandez and James Nelson as well as senior Steve Quackenbush and sophomores Gary Bullard and Stuart Waters.

Stuart and Steve lead the Purple team in kills and service aces while Gary leads the squad in blocks.

With a 2-2 record the Purple Eagles are done with the hardest part of their schedule. The three remaining matches for the Purple Eagles are against Prep, South and Council Bluffs Lewis Central.

"It's my senior year and I want to make it the best," Steve said.

The Purple Eagles look to win the last three games and get a high seed for the State Tournament April 26-27.

"If we peak at the right time, we should be able to win the State Tournament," Reichmuth said.