



The Central High School REGISTER

Since
The Oldest School
Newspaper West
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1886

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Omaha, Nebraska

Project allows students to make the most of their resources

By Brian Joseph

Sen. Bob Kerrey visited Central on Fri, Jan. 16, for an all-day conference on Project MOST (Maximizing Opportunities for Students through Technology), a program that allowed Central students to create web pages for the federal government and get paid for it.

Kerrey said that he had helped the sponsor of Project MOST, the National Information Display Laboratory (NIDL), secure the funding and this conference served as a way for him to see how the program has progressed and what the students involved feel about it.

Kerrey said that he was originally responsible for bringing Project MOST to Central. He said that Central had worked in his office on other programs and when it came time to choose three schools to be involved with Project MOST, he chose Central to become one of them.

Besides Central, Mr. Victor Korsun, the director of technology transfer and commercialization for the NIDL, said that two other schools, Central High School in Washington, D.C. and Hoboken High School in New Jersey were also involved with the project.

Besides the students, many Central teachers involved with the program attended the conference as well. Mr. Murray Fenn, science teacher and site manager of Project MOST at Central; Mrs. Peggy Wheeler, creative writing teacher and Mr. Trent Kelly, art teacher all attended the conference.

Korsun said that he hoped that conference would help bring more publicity for Project MOST and in turn make other private businesses interested in sponsoring the program in the future. Days before the conference, he said that while Project MOST ended in mid-December, NIDL is currently looking for ways to continue the program.

Fenn said that the expansion of Project MOST was one of the program's long term goals.

To do so, Korsun said that the NIDL is talking with other government agencies and corporations about using the students to create web pages for them.

Also, he said that it is hoped that Project MOST will expand to other schools in the country.

Korsun said that the goal of Project MOST, which began in July, was to employ high school students to develop and update NIDL's web pages on the Internet.

"Project MOST is a pilot program to teach students how to create web pages and also teamwork and work ethic," Fenn said.

But, Korsun said that there was more to Project MOST

Surfing with the Senator



Making waves... Sen. Bob Kerrey (middle) watched Central seniors Leslie Ujhely (left) and Rebecca Harmon as they demonstrated their Internet ability. Leslie and Rebecca were two Eagles who helped participate in Project MOST, which gave students the opportunity to learn how to create web pages for the federal government.

than simply employing the students for the summer and part of the school year to make web pages. He said that through the program, NIDL wanted to give students skills that they would need in the future as well as present them a real-life work environment.

To accomplish that task, he said the teachers and students involved with the program were educated on various web page designing programs such as html and Front Page.

However, Korsun said that many of the students involved had very little knowledge about computers. He said that the teachers in the program had to give the students some very basic training in terms of computers.

"On this program, they'd been very motivated," he said.

Fenn said that the students involved at Central worked as a team.

"The kids really came together and worked on things," he said.

Also, Korsun said that NIDL paid the students to help make the experience more real.

He said that the kind of experience the students involved with Project MOST had will be valuable to them in the future.

Fenn said that he agreed.

"They don't have those skills in the business world yet," he said.

Continued on page seven

Re-elected OPS school board president ready for the new year

By Rachel Slosburg

The school board of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) district started the new year off with the unanimous election of its president.

Dr. John Langan, who has been OPS school board member for eight years, won the presidency on Monday, Jan. 19, in an unopposed 11-0 vote.

Dr. Langan, a chairman in the education department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), said the school board is ready to address some of the major issues

currently facing the district and prepare for the future.

Dr. Langan said some of the issues include the desegregation plan, the growing English as a Second Language (ESL) population and its impact, parent involvement, maintaining the state standards, developing a plan to ensure the district moves forward with the help of technology, and of course, the budget cuts.

"We are in an endless pit in terms of the money situation," Dr. Langan said.

Dr. Langan said his personal opinion concerning budget cuts is that they should try not to affect the kids.

"The farthest away from the kids to make the cuts—that's what I want," he said.

Dr. Langan said he nor the school board has all the answers to the issues which the district must resolve, but he said that they are both prepared to work hard and hope to give some ownership back to the parents of OPS kids.

Dr. Langan also said he is wanting to enforce parental involve-

ment within the district. He said he feels that the district is not solely responsible for the kids.

"I believe that 95 percent of all parents truly care about their kids and do what they can to help their kids succeed," Dr. Langan said. "I think we need to figure out a way to reach the reluctant parent and explain that we [district and parent] both want the best education for their kids."

He said parents need to realize the benefits of an education and how they influence the child's opinion of education.

"I am not suggesting that we're not doing anything," he said.

Dr. Langan said that just as a child receives a grade for how well he did in the class, that child's parent should also receive some kind of assessment from the teacher. He said the teacher's evaluation of the parent should be based on attendance at parent/teacher conferences, desire to help the child succeed and overall involvement in the child's learning process.

"I am realistic and understand that some settings are too severe and

parents are too preoccupied," Dr. Langan said.

Dr. Langan said that the input from the committee's review of the desegregation plan will be very important.

"We [school board] believe in an integrated school system and have never floundered from that. There has to be some mechanism for movement of students, and whatever the committee recommends we will consider."

He said his primary goal as president of the school board is to keep the 12 members of the school board together while acting as a governing body for OPS.

"I am focused on keeping the board on task and not getting distracted by trying to operate the day to day functions of the district."

Dr. Langan said that during his last term as president his main priority was to "get the board back on track."

"It was no secret that we were a divided group," Dr. Langan said.

"I made it clear that I was not going to be involved in bickering and personal attacks; I think the meetings should be run orderly, just as a classroom."

Dr. Langan said he believes the board is now united and gives credit to the members for their cooperation.

"I think it is an accomplishment that we have put our differences aside and put the ax to the grindstone," he said.

Dr. Langan said that the new OPS superintendent, Dr. John Mackiel, who replaced former superintendent Dr. Norbert Schuerman, may be one reason for the school board's unity.

"I supported Schuerman and worked with him, but others were not fully in favor of him," Dr. Langan said. "Those who did want a change, selected the current superintendent—and I couldn't be happier with the selection."



INSIDE

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Shared title raises controversy

The National Championship title that is shared among two college football teams should have been given to only one.

In the Coaches Poll, Nebraska had more votes than Michigan, but in the AP Poll, Michigan had more votes than Nebraska.

The split voting in these two polls declared both Nebraska and Michigan National Champs.

First of all, Michigan, the No. 1 ranked team, played against Washington State, the No. 7 ranked team, and was expected to win by at least a touchdown in the Rose Bowl, but only won by five points.

Plus, there has been some controversy that Washington State was cheated out of two seconds of the game, which some would insist would have made it possible for them to pull off the win.

On the other hand, Nebraska, the No. 2 ranked team, played against Tennessee, ranked No. 7 and 8 respectively in the polls, was expected to win the Orange Bowl by two touchdowns, but surpassed that estimation.

Nebraska did play a tougher team than Michigan and scored more points in the bowl game.

With this aspect in mind, the margin by which Michigan won against Nebraska in the AP Poll should have been smaller.

Michigan, which is in the Big 10, does not have to play as physical of teams as the Big 12, the conference in which Nebraska competes.

Also, Michigan only played 12 games including their bowl game while Nebraska played a total of 13 games including the Orange Bowl.

There has also been alot of controversy surrounding an *Omaha World-Herald* staff writer's vote for Michigan.

There have been many comments like "He should have voted for his own state!" and "What does he know!"

But what people do not realize is that even if he had voted for Nebraska, Michigan still would have been voted No. 1 in the AP Poll.

Then there were those loyal Michigan fans who thought that the only reason the coaches voted in favor of Nebraska was because it was Tom Osborne's last game, and the coaches wanted to send him out a winner.

To prevent all of these issues, Michigan and Nebraska should have played against each other.

It makes perfect sense to have the number one and two ranked teams battle for the championship.

Since 1997 is the last year for the old bowl game rules, the number one and two teams will be playing each other. Perhaps then the championship will be given to the best team.

Movies symbolize moral decay

The top grossing movies this year included "Liar, Liar," "Men In Black," and "Lost World," according to *Consumer Reports for the Year of 1997*.

Whatever happened to the classical, historical movies like "Gone With the Wind"? Is this the sign of the intellectual downfall of the people now known as "Generation X"?

In the middle of the twentieth century, going to a movie theater was a novelty event.

And when people did go to the theater, it was either to watch reels of news footage or movies that made the viewer think, such as "The Color Purple" or "Casablanca."

The most common form of entertainment at that time was reading a book (not assigned in an English class) or playing sports with friends in a local park.

Now people spend more money on home visual entertainment than ever before, according to *Consumer Reports*.

So when did this deterioration begin? Maybe it all started with parents using the VCR and a video tape of Barney singing about ducks as a baby-sitter for their children.

This use of home entertainment probably gives children the wrong example about what to do with their spare time.

Maybe it is the fact that in today's society, children are usually brought up in a single, working parent household.

In essence, no one is around to regulate the amount of time the child watches television.

No one tells him or her to sit down and read a book instead. In fact, nearly half of the children in America have their very own sets in their bedrooms.

Somewhat of a difference from the 1950's, when only half of the families had televisions.

And when was the last time a person could be seen reading a critically acclaimed book that was not assigned by his or her teacher?

If one was to see a book in that person's hands, it would most likely be either one written at a junior high reading level or one written by Danielle Steele.

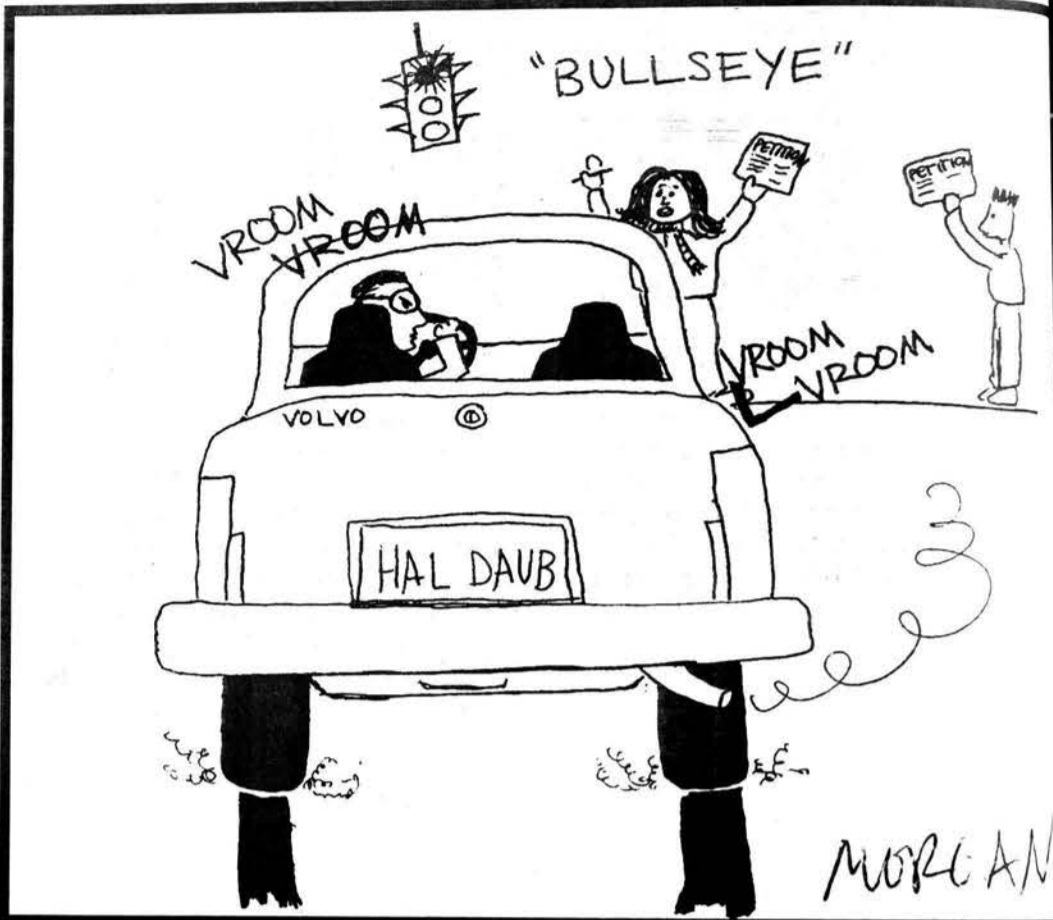
Nothing shows all of this better than the People's Choice Awards, which were broadcast on Sun, Jan. 11. The winner for the best "Dramatic Motion Picture" was "Jerry Maguire."

The movie is about a sports agent who builds up his own agency after being fired from his previous job, all the while falling in love with a woman who already has a son.

This is the best dramatic movie of the year? Kind of a far fetch from the dramas of the past few decades.

So, as Americans become more and more wrapped up in a society that loves watching nonsense including a woman beating up another because of a man on "Jerry Springer," one wonders what happened to the intelligence level of the general public.

Maybe everyone should take some time out of life to sit down and read a classic.



REGISTER YOUR OPINIONS

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

Is it a good idea for boot camps to be separated by sex?

I don't think it matters. The focus should be more on the training and not a person's sex.



Joe Wojtkiewicz, 11

No. There shouldn't be any special privileges giving to women or men. They both should go through the same training.



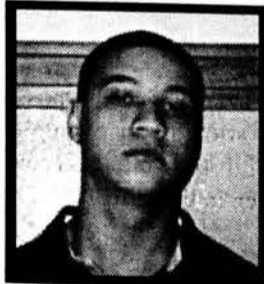
Summer Bullion, 9

Yes. Men and women have different physical abilities. The training should be according to [men and women's] general strength.



Elysia Brink, 11

No. Men and women train together on other jobs, so they should train together in boot camps.



Craig Roberts, 10

Maybe it should be optional. Some men and women may feel more comfortable being separated but to others gender is irrelevant.



Ms. Carol Krejci
social studies

LET'S BE FRANK

By Alex Wolfson



Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth?

Zap, crackle, snap! These are the sounds of the dreaded seat of doom — the electric chair. Nebraska's No. 1 way to make sure a person is completely and totally dead in less than a minute flat! This method of execution in Nebraska and everywhere else really offends me.

Lately, Nebraska has entered back and forth whether or not they want to change Nebraska's form of execution to lethal injection. Well, I don't think capital punishment is any form.

If the government insists on it, I think lethal injection is the more humane way of the life of a death row

doesn't really matter what a criminal did to get himself to die. The fact is he is there. Lethal injection, the death is painful. Electrocutation is a very inhumane way to kill someone.

My problem with this form of execution is that it really violates a guarantee stated in the Bill of Rights. The law states that cruel and unusual punishment should be

outlawed. This is the reason that hangings were stopped in most U.S. states. To me, shooting 1000 volts of electricity through the body of a criminal is cruel and unusual.

The whole idea of capital punishment is a bad one. The entire idea is based on the "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" method that is stated in the Bible. Haven't we learned since birth that "two wrongs don't make a right?"

All that capital punishment is used for is revenge. Isn't that what it is? I mean, retribution is one thing, but killing someone? That takes it too far. By executing a killer, all that it's doing is stooping to his level.

Isn't that hypocritical? The only purpose it serves is to prevent overcrowding in prisons, which is an even worse reason to do it. So hopefully I would be satisfied with life imprisonment for the assailant. But I really couldn't tell for sure.

I think that it's wrong to take a life if it is not for survival. I don't know if I would feel the same, though, if someone close to me was brutally raped and murdered, or

some other horrible atrocity. What good does it do, anyways, to execute a murderer?

Crime in general has gotten out of hand. Why is this such a pressing concept? Why can't people just obey the law? I mean, is it really that hard to get up in the morning and just decide that today you are not going to break the law? I think not.

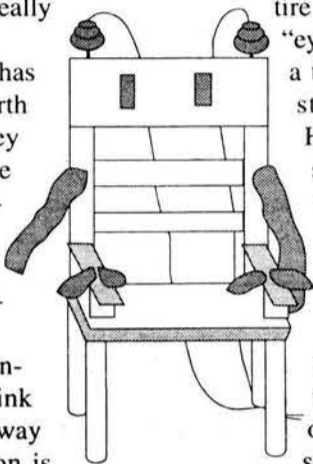
So, if a person is so mad at a person or at the world to take another's life, then that person needs counseling and not a big jolt of electricity.

I recently had a brush with some of these so called "vagrants." I was in my car at a restaurant, and about five guys blocked my car in its spot and proceeded to threaten to kill me if I didn't get out of the car right that second. I, of course, panicked and backed out of my spot, hitting their car, and got my butt out of there.

So, in that case, I wanted to kill those guys. I was that angry.

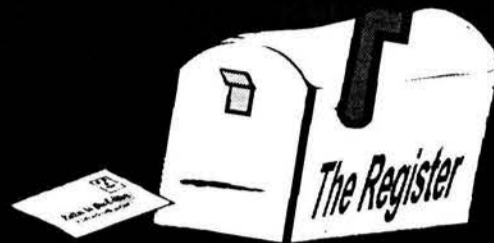
Why would anyone want to kill me in order to get my car? So I guess I don't really know what I would think if my mom or dad were brutally murdered. Hopefully, I'll never have to find out.

Let's be frank, it's been said over and over, but it really is true. Can't we all just get along?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A READER OPINION FORUM



O.K. to pray during school

Dear Editor,

Being a Christian does not just mean that you go to church or pray when you eat. Christianity is a lifestyle, a daily walk with Christ. When I get dressed in the morning to come to school, I cannot simply take off my Christianity and leave it at home. The idea of saving my religion for the weekend is another way of telling me not to be myself, for my faith is the foundation of who I am.

The Bill of Rights secured the right of religious freedom and there is no law that states that worship is not allowed in public places. By no means should religion, prayer or God be forced upon anyone, but we are not discussing compulsory prayer or required Bible classes.

The issue here is whether a group of students can gather together and discuss God in school, which is a legal right. As for See You at the Pole, the idea is for Christians around the nation to gather together and pray in public for our country and our leaders.

When I pray before an AP English test, meet in the North Cafeteria to talk about God or gather with friends to pray on the National Day of Prayer, I am not interfering with any other activities at Central nor am I forcing others to join me. I am simply living my life in accordance with what I believe and with the knowledge of the liberties granted to me in the U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely,
Amy Revenaugh, senior

CENTRAL FILES

A LOOK INTO EDITORIALS OF THE PAST

Strangers among us

■ October 1889

The Omaha High School has a bad reputation in one particular area; that is, in the matter of scholars not feeling well acquainted with each other, and thus not promoting a friendly feeling all through the school. The scholars are almost total strangers in many instances to some even in their own classes. This is particularly noticeable among the seniors.

Now we can understand why it is that ninth and tenth grades should not be well acquainted among themselves, having been together but a little while, but that any senior should not hold a speaking acquaintance with all the rest of the class is a mystery that we have been unable to solve. Ask any young gentleman of the seniors if he is acquainted with all the young ladies. We care not who he is, he will tell you "no." Now why is this? Surely having been together for four years we ought to be good friends, but we most positively are not.

The first and principal cause we consider to be the policy of seating all the boys on one side and the girls on the other. This may be by far the best plan, but it surely widens the breach between the sexes.

Let's have a social sometime in the near future — a regular old-fashioned class social — and at the close fine every old stick who says he isn't acquainted with everybody \$5.

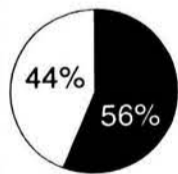
If you are waiting for an introduction, come up, and your mutual friend, *The Register*, will go through the ceremony in the most approved style.

WHERE TO FIND US

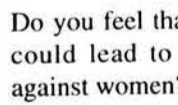
Send all letters of opinion to room 315 or find the box on the two side of the courtyard. It is the policy of *The Register* not to print unsigned letters.

CENTRAL STANDARDS

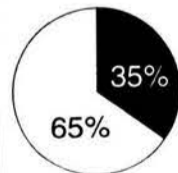
NO **YES** 126 students polled



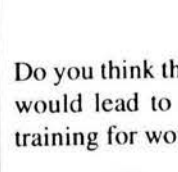
Do you think it is a good idea for boot camps to be separated by sex?



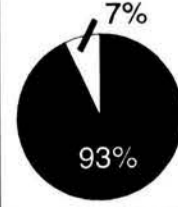
Do you feel that the separation could lead to discrimination against women?



Do you feel that the possible separation is an example of special treatment given to women in the military?



Do you think that the separation would lead to different, easier training for women?



Do you feel that women are equal to men in every way?

The Central High School REGISTER

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Central Catch-Up

Central seniors compete in art competition

Four Central seniors are entering their portfolios into an annual art competition sponsored by Scholastic Inc., an education magazine, to rank the country's best artists in grades seven through 12.

Mr. Larry Andrews, Central art teacher, said that he sent in the portfolios of seniors Kara Spoonhour, Samantha Frasier, Megan Mullen and Faith Enright. He said that a portfolio is a folder consisting of eight senior artistic works.

Andrews said that these works are judged at the regional level. The best portfolios, he said, go on to the national competition.

As for the competition itself, he said that it is separated into two divisions: seventh to ninth grade students and 10 to 12 grade students.

He said that the awards are separated into a system of keys. First place wins a gold key and second place earns a silver, Andrews said.

Three Central seniors won top awards at a local essay contest.

Seniors Jaclyn Digiaco, Jacqueline Hart and Aaron Privitera won first, second and third place respectively in the Optimus Essay contest, a contest that is put on every year to recognize the writing talents of youth, Mr. David Martin, Central English teacher, said.

Martin said that the Optimus Essay contest has a different theme every year.

This year, he said, the theme was "My personal opinion of freedom."

Martin said that he entered 170 students into this contest.

Besides Jaclyn, Jacqueline and Aaron, Martin said that Central had 22 other winners.

He said that the three winners were treated to a complimentary breakfast, and received certificates and medals.

The 22 other winners received certificates as well, Martin said.

However, Martin said that this is not the end of the competition.

Due to her first place finish, he said that Jaclyn is automatically entered in the state competition.

Chemistry in the Community
OPS decides adding new chemistry course unneeded

By Brian Joseph

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) is no longer considering adding the Chemistry in the Community, or ChemCom, science course to its curriculum, an OPS curriculum supervisor said.

Mrs. Wanda Clarke, assistant supervisor of science for OPS, said that OPS decided to suspend considering ChemCom for its curriculum because it did not have enough information about the enrollment and achievement of students in various classes in OPS schools.

She said that it is difficult to

decide where OPS wants to go if it does not know exactly where it is currently.

Originally, she said that OPS began looking at ChemCom as a way to address the discrepancy of student access to chemistry courses.

She said that currently, many OPS students cannot take Chemistry 1-2 because of their lack of Algebra skills.

Clarke said that the curriculum of ChemCom allows students to take Algebra concurrently with ChemCom.

Chemistry 1-2, on the other

hand, she said, requires that students have already passed Algebra.

"Shouldn't all kids be taking chemistry and physics?," she said.

Initially, Clarke said that it was planned that ChemCom would be a course to be offered in addition to Chemistry 1-2.

"I think both chemistries are important," she said.

Even though ChemCom, for the moment, will not be a part of OPS's curriculum, Clarke said that the class meets all of OPS's standards.

"They currently address all of our learning goals," she said.

teachers in OPS are opposing ChemCom in the district.

Rather, Mr. Richard B... central chemistry teacher, said would not like to see ChemCom place Chemistry 1-2, as it is proposed to do at one time.

"I don't have a problem with ChemCom," he said. "I have a problem with calling ChemCom Chemistry 1-2."

Clarke said that ChemCom self gets its name from the fact that the class uses, *Chemistry in the Community*.

Currently, Millard is a school district in Omaha that has ChemCom as part of its curriculum. Millard Schwensen, a ChemCom teacher at Millard South High School, said that ChemCom was designed for students who are not planning to go into science related fields.

"We have a responsibility to produce chemists," she said.

Schwensen said that a majority of students that go to high school chemistry are planning to go into the field of chemistry and thus do not need to kill themselves and out of all of the teachers in the subject.

But, she said that all students are going to grow up to be scientists and need to have an understanding of how chemistry affects society. Thus, she said that ChemCom focuses on the application of chemistry to society.

Clarke said that ChemCom takes a thematic approach to teaching chemistry. She said that *Chemistry in the Community* has five main sociological issues, or themes, that are taught around these eight themes on a need-to-know basis.



Alexa Christon

Hippie chemist? Ms. Cece Schwensen, a ChemCom teacher at Millard South High School, dressed in the tie-dyed lab coat, speaks with junior Kali Neill about a lab concerning the chemical reaction between Magnesium and Hydrochloric Acid. Currently, the Millard School District uses the ChemCom curriculum.

Three students win awards in essay contest

Omaha man begins recall process against Mayor Daub

By Morgan Denny

Although a mayor's term is four years, registered voters have the opportunity to recall him if they are dissatisfied with his work.

Mr. Mike Jones, a KETV Channel 7 reporter who is covering the mayoral recall, said that Mr. Steven King started the recall process against Mayor Hal Daub on Jan. 9.

Ms. Margaret Jurgensen, election commissioner, said that the first step in the recall process requires that 35 percent of registered voters who voted in the previous election, 39,038 in this case, sign a petition stating their discontent with the mayor.

"Usually you have to throw out 20 percent of the signatures, so Steven King needs to get somewhere over 50,000," Jones said.

Jurgensen said that the person requesting the petitions for a recall must, for legal purposes, state a reason.

However, she said, "Your reason could be that your dog's eyes are green."

Jurgensen said that the petitions must be returned to the Election Commissioner's Office within 30 days, where she and her staff will have 15 days to verify that all the signatures are valid.

Mr. James King, Steven King's brother and active partner in the recall, said that the recall was initiated out of Steven King's frustration with Mayor Daub.

He said that his brother was not angered specifically by the Ammon's case, which is a common assumption, but by the mayor's overall actions and decisions during his term, especially one involving the Supreme Court.

Jones said that all petitions are being spread by volunteers who stand on street corners and outside malls and busy corporations.

James King said that there is no coordinating done concerning the location of petitioners and that where they are stationed depends on the day and the person.

"We want this to be the mandate of individuals, not that of a corporation," James King said. "It's more effective if people address their discontent in their own way."

Jones said that this is a true grass roots effort, that those involved really feel strongly about the cause.

He said that petition circulation would be the biggest challenge, due partially to the cold weather.

"He (Steven King) did not wait because in viewing the attitude of the city, in his perspective, the time for wait was past," James King said.

He also said that the people must feel the same way because "without any previous hoopla," many have volunteered to help the cause.

Jones said that one problem in obtaining signatures is that some people may agree with Steven King in the fact that Mayor Daub is not doing a good job, but believe that recalling him is not the answer.

Although the 30 day deadline for the petitions to be delivered to the Election Commissioner's Office is

Jan. 8, Steven King has been given a 30-day extension due to the fact that Jan. 8 is a holiday, James King said.

James King said that he has "no doubt" they will obtain all the signatures they need for the recall.



Recall supporter, Ocie Perkins said that she has collected 60 signatures for the petition to recall Mayor Hal Daub. Perkins said that she collected the signatures at 2414 Patrick Street, the headquarters of the petition.

Physics students construct trusses

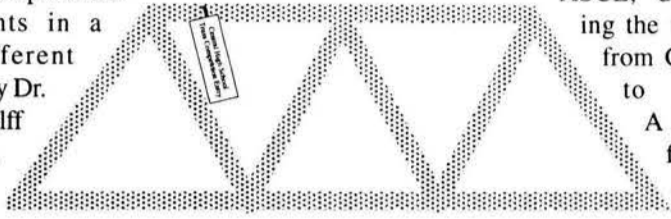
By Josh Priluck
How can you get across the river? Why not build a bridge! That's what Central students are doing as they compete in a city-wide truss building competition.

The competition is based on students building a truss, the side of a bridge. The competition is sponsored by the Nebraska chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The competition is open to all high school students and is done in coordination with engineers week, a nationally recognized event.

According to Dr. Robert Wolff, physics teacher and co-sponsor of the Physics Club, the club is participating in the event this year after not ending anyone to the competition last year. Some computer aided design (CAD) students under the guidance of CAD teacher Ms. Bargum-priesare, are also designing trusses for the competition using their computers. This is the first time CAD students have participated in

the event while in the past only physics students competed.

Dr. Wolff, Physics Club co-sponsor said he helped bring the competition to the students after learning of it by mail. The competition is here to help introduce new concepts to students in a different way Dr. Wolff said



"It's a good simulation of what applied science is about," Dr. Wolff said.

To let students learn more about trusses, the ASCE has sent Mr. Dan Sommer, an engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers and member of ASCE, to help guide students. Sommer is the representative for Central since he is a former Central graduate; he even had Dr. Wolff for class. Sommer sees the truss competition and

ASCE as a way to help promote engineering and the sciences to the public. Sommer has helped students learn about the more effective techniques of bridge building.

Besides guiding students Sommer will act as the courier for ASCE, delivering the trusses from Central to the ASCE for measurement

ing, weighing and testing.

According to the rules of the competition each truss is judged on weight and stress testing. After meeting the requirements of balsa wood, wood cement and no forbidden joints. Each truss is put under three weight loads. The bridges are scored on a basis of 100 points. Trusses receive up to 90 points for the weight to strength ratio and 10 points on practicality. The judges are all professional engineers and the trials last

until the last truss is broken.

The judging will be held on February 21 at Oak View Mall. The mall will also be full of displays from different professional engineers and architects who are celebrating Engineers Week.

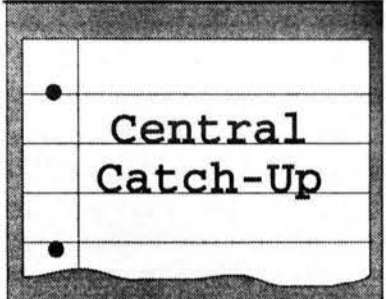
Sommer said the week is celebrated every year in February with similar events across the country.

Several Central students are working on trusses. The prize for the first place bridge is \$100.

John Stacy, senior, is working with seniors Tim Malik and Andy Tworek to build a truss for competition

John says he is motivated by the educational, aesthetic and financial rewards the program offers.

According to Sommer the competition was once a long standing tradition, but eventually stopped several years ago. It was revived back to life by the ASCE in 1988.



Central math club sponsors contest

The Math Club held a contest on Jan. 10 from 8 am-12 pm, that was designed for junior high students.

This contest consisted of two different parts, said Math Club officer, Senior Sam Kruger.

The first was held in the courtyard and was a math test with questions at the junior high level. The second was a Quiz Bowl that was held in the auditorium.

The Quiz Bowl is kind of like a Jeopardy type round. Students "buzz" in and answer questions in a limited amount of time.

The test consisted of questions at junior high math level difficulty that were applied to everyday problems.

Student council sponsors leaders

A leadership workshop to be sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Student Councils (NASC), said Central's student council president.

Jane Swirzinski said, "The purpose of this workshop is to find out how younger leaders can improve their skills as leaders and have fun."

This is a workshop for Junior high and Middle school students. It is being held on Feb 21 from 10am-2pm at Millard West High School. Central Student council sponsors have a workshop to attend during the day also.

This is a smaller scale version of the High School level Summer workshops at Wayne State College in July and August. Students in high school as well as past NASC members will host event.

Absence policy prompts student appeals

By Nicole Neumann

As the second semester begins, students get a clean slate as far as the district wide absence policy is concerned, according to the Student Handbook.

The district policy states that if a student is counted absent to a class 10 or more times out of one semester, that student is automatically failing that credit, and must appeal to earn it. This rule does not include those absences that are counted as school excused, like athletics or class trips.

It has been in effect in various forms for 15 years," Dr. Gary Thompson, Central principal said.

For a while the policy stated that it was a maximum of twelve days that a student could miss without being in failing status, Dr. Thompson

if a student is failing a credit that he or she thinks that they deserve, then one must fill out an appeal form and submit it to the teacher whose class they are failing. It is then the teachers decision whether or not to award credit to the student after the appeal has been submitted to them, Dr.

Thompson said.

During the appeal, doctor's note, funerals and other such absences are considered, the policy states, that if a student is then still unhappy at the decision then an appeal can be placed with Dr. Thompson, or in the case of any other schools in the district, the principal.

Last school year, no appeals were submitted to the office, Dr. Thompson said.

"I understand that they need some regulation, but if you are earning a good passing grade, you shouldn't have to appeal," Tara McMahon, Central junior said.

If a student has taken the time to do make up work and have put forth the effort to earn a passing grade, despite the number of absences, then they deserve the credit, and the appeals are a waste of time, Tara said.

The enforcement of the policy seems to have had an effect on the rate of attendance at Central, Dr. Thompson said.

Attendance increased 102 percent from the 1995-96 school year to the school year. It went from a 91.4 percent attendance to 93 percent. One percent, at a school the size of Central is about

20 students, Dr. Thompson said.


Last year Central's attendance was second only in the district to Burke, who had a 93.2 percent attendance and it was well above the district overall attendance percentage which was 91.4 percent. Benson had the lowest percentage, landing right at 90 percent attendance, district-wide compiled statistics show.

"My guess is that this year it (Central's attendance) will be comparable," Dr. Thompson said.

Central has policies to ensure good attendance, such as the senior final exam policy, Dr. Thompson said.

The policy is run on a class-to-class basis and says that if a student has a grade of three or above in a class, has had no referrals to the office, no more than three tardies to the class, no more than five tardies to school, no suspensions, no in-school suspensions and no Saturday school assignments in the course of that semester, then seniors are not required to take final exams for that one class, Dr. Thompson said.

A totally different experience

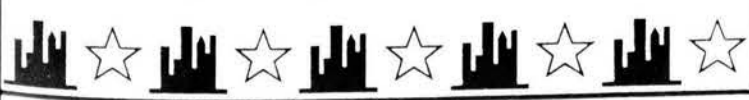


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PEP sponsors Paint-a-thon

Approximately, 60 parents and students gathered, Sat. Jan. 10, for the Paint-a-thon organized by Parents, Educators and Pupils (PEP), Dr. Gary Thompson, Central High principal, said.

"Everybody was really enthusiastic. They felt they were doing something positive for the school," Martha Stofko, Parents, Educators and Pupils (PEP) committee member, said.

Many different areas of the building were painted, including the weight room, the new gymnasium, and the landings on the stairwells, Stofko said.

Even though the event was suppose to last from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the parents and students ended early due to shortage of paint, Dr. Thompson said.

PEP plans to hold another Paint-a-thon in the spring, Dr. Thompson said.

Adopt-a-school sponsors give to Central, administrator says

By Shaun Kiel

Adopt-a-school sponsors provide Central with many contributions, Mr. Paul Pennington said.

Pennington said that the Outback Steakhouse contributes strongly to the sports program at Central. He said that Scott and Linda Silvey, the co-owners of the Outback, were the ones who originally approached the school district with the desire to build a partnership with schools in the district.

He said that Outback provided all the food for the two fall sports banquets, which function both as recognition dinners and as fundraisers.

The athletes received free admission to these banquets, while parents were able to buy tickets at only \$6 a piece, Pennington said. He said that the meal was worth at least twelve dollars.

Pennington said that chicken-fried steak and mushrooms were grilled for the banquet on the west porch by Outback. He said that without the support of the Outback, the banquets probably wouldn't happen.

"A banquet costs something like \$1500 dollars," Pennington said. "I can't imagine being able to hold one if the Outback pulled out their support."

In addition to the catering which Outback provides for free, Outback also sponsors a student athlete of the week and the student of the month, Pennington said.

He said that upon being named, the athlete or student receives a card entitling him or her to one free entree at Outback.

In addition to their support of Central, Pennington said that Outback also provides support and similar services to Burke, North and Benson.

"I just hope that the schools can benefit from our contributions," Scott Silvey said.

Enron is another one of Central's adopt-a-school sponsors, Vicki Wiles, marketing teacher, said. She said that they have been a sponsor since before she began working at Central.

Enron used to be located downtown, Wiles said, and as a downtown neighbor they established a partnership with Central.

As an adopt-a-school sponsor, Wiles said that Enron provides a number of services for the school.

Wiles said that Enron sponsors the National Honor Society brunch every spring. She said that the brunch is to acknowledge new inductees into the society.

She said Enron also prints Central's newsletter.

In addition to that, Wiles also said that Enron provides contributions for the scholarship auction and in the past has provided a speaker for the auction.

"Everything they do for us is wonderful," Wiles said.

Mrs. Alice Bunz is Central's contact for Guaranteed Life Insurance and the Scoular Company. She said that the sponsors do a lot for the school.

Bunz said that Scoular and Guaranteed Life both sponsor Central artwork on a billboard during National Art Month.

In addition to that, she said that they also provide student recognition items for students of the month, purple feather day, and other academic achievements.

Bunz said that as a sponsor Guaranteed

Life accommodated several jobs

In recognition of Central's partnership with its sponsors, Bunz said that the school makes certain contributions to these sponsors.

The Central High Singers were formed for several of Central's adopt-a-school sponsors, Lyn Bouma, music teacher, said.

She said that the Central High Singers performed at Enron and Guaranteed Life during the holiday season.

The singers provided entertainment for the employees by singing at the party, Bouma said.

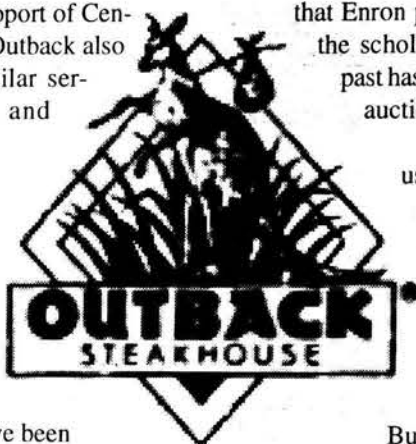
"We were happy to provide a service for them, after all the services that they have provided for us," Bouma said.

Wiles said that Central students helped Enron employees by participating in Honey Sunday and selling home Enron's name.

Bunz said that DECA rings the Scoular Army bells during the holidays in the name of Scoular.

All the sponsors also receive complimentary tickets to Central functions.

"When a business is willing to do that, it shows great support for the state of Nebraska for public education," Bunz said, showing a great concern for the young



Math Teacher makes career change

By Rachel Slosburg

In the near future, a familiar face will be missing from the halls of Central High.

Math teacher Mr. Jim Harrington said he accepted a new position with the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) district.

Harrington said that he was offered the position of lead teacher for the OPS mathematics department.

The acquisition of the position was a "complicated" process, he said, because originally the position was to be filled by a person who had an educational administration endorsement in order to be called a "supervisor."

However, Harrington said that at first no one who applied for the job had completed the required educational administration endorsement. As a result, he said that the position eliminated those requirements and listed the occupation as a lead teacher.

He said he sent his application for the lead mathematics position in August of 1997, even though he has not finished his educational administration endorsement.

"I only have two more classes left until I finish," Harrington said. "I am starting one right now and will take the other over the summer."

However, Harrington said he will begin his new position at the start of second semester.

He said he wanted to ensure a substitute could replace him until he left Central.

Harrington said that after 15 years of teaching in the classroom, 14 of which have been at Central, the time is right for a change.

"It's really the only job other than teaching that I have considered," he said. "I applied for the position eight or nine

years ago and was one of three finalists, but didn't get the job."

Harrington said he does not like the prospect of leaving the classroom, but if the job works out the way he wants, he will still have an effect.

"There is not much more I can do in the classroom, in all honesty," Harrington said. "This job allows for some growth for me and I will hopefully still have an active role or a say in what happens in the classroom."

Harrington said as the lead mathematics teacher for OPS, he will be responsible for knowing how math education is growing in the state, nation and the world while helping teachers within the district.

"I will act as a resource for teachers and be someone to look to for help, but I am not at all evaluating a teacher's performance," Harrington said. "I am responsible to make sure things that should be done are."

Harrington's position relocated him to an office in the Teacher Administration Center.

He said he is excited at his new opportunity and trying something different.

"No matter what chances you think you have of getting something, to me it's always a surprise when I get the offer," Harrington said.

Harrington said he will not totally be leaving Central because he is continuing to teach his zero hour Pre Calculus/Trigonometry 1-2 class. Also, he said that as part of his job he will be occasionally visiting the different school buildings, although Harrington's work with the EXCELS program will

not continue.

"Unfortunately, I won't have time to be in the classroom for that," he said.

Harrington said that out of everything at Central, he most miss the kids.

"I have no doubt that I am going to miss the students," he said. "The fact that every year brings a changing season and a new chance is something I will really miss."

Harrington also said that he will miss the teaching administration and Central as a whole.

"If I had it to do all over again, I wouldn't have wanted to teach anywhere but Central," he said.

Mr. John Waterman, Central's mathematics department head, said that Harrington's permanent teacher has been named. Waterman said Mr. Eric Pserros is Harrington's replacement, starting on Tues., Jan 20.

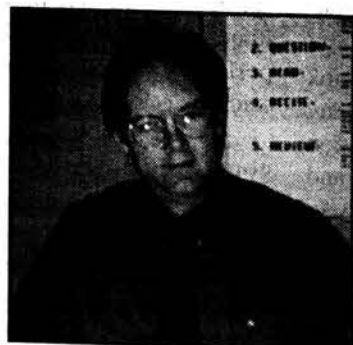
Waterman said Welte student at Millard South and just finishing his college degree.

Harrington's office partner

teacher Mr. George Pserros, said he will miss his "roommate" at Central, he enlightened me quite a bit," Pserros said.

Pserros also said that Harrington and his family have a unique quality in them.

"He and his wife have made sacrifices for their kids," Pserros said. "This job has a big responsibility and he will do well."



Accidents renew awareness in ski safety

By Alex Wolfson

Skiing safety is a real issue in some of the ski slopes in the country as shown in the unfortunate death of California Congressman and former entertainer, Sonny Bono.

Omaha doesn't have any ski slopes. But nearby Mt. Crescent in Crescent, Iowa is a location frequented by many Omahans and Central students.

Russ Lindeman Jr., manager of the Mt. Crescent ski resort, said that Mt. Crescent is a very safe place to ski.

Lindeman said that Mt. Crescent is a member of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) and is endorsed by the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and the National Ski Patrol.

Since The National Ski Patrol was founded in 1938, Lindeman said, it has evolved from a handful of ski patrollers into the world's largest winter rescue organization.

The ski patrol at Crescent is in charge of

many things, said Lindeman. He said they are in charge of helping with injuries.

They also can take away people's lift tickets if they are either skiing too fast or incautiously.

Resorts that belong to this association, Lindeman said, subscribe to a National Safety Code. This code consists of six points. These points include skiing under control, at a safe speed, and other safety tips.

Lindeman said that there is not really a risk free skiing trip.

"The best way to protect yourself from harm is to ski at your own ability," Lindeman said.

Central junior, Charlie Carlin said that he frequents the slopes whenever he gets the chance.

Charlie said that he goes skiing about

twice a year. Once during winter break and once during spring break.

Charlie said that he skis at the Copper Ski Resort in Colorado and sometimes skis at Arapahoe Basin also in Colorado.

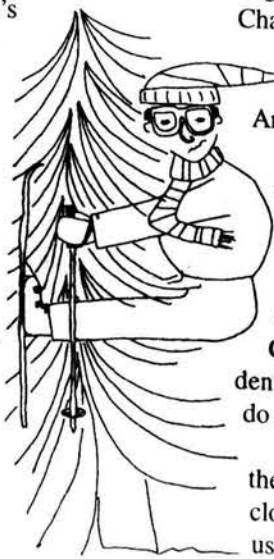
He said that he got started skiing with his Church youth group in ninth grade and has been skiing ever since then.

When he first started skiing, Charlie said, he took lessons. Charlie said that to prevent accidents, there is really nothing you can do except exercise common sense.

The only gear that they use are the skis, goggles and very warm clothes. Charlie said that beginners use shorter skis and as the level of ability increases in size, so does the

size of the skis.

In addition to the death of Sonny Bono,



Michael Kennedy, son of the former

Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident.

There is a system of ranking the difficulty of ski slopes. This system is called the color system.

Green slopes are the easiest, blue are intermediate, black slopes are advanced and the "bowl" is the hardest skiing mountain.

Charlie said that the bowl is basically the back side of the mountain, where there really is a trail. It's called the bowl because it is a huge bowl like area on the slope.

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Winter break ends, holiday celebration continues

By Alex Wolfson

This holiday season, many students and teachers took part in holidays such as Christmas and Hannukah.

But there are also those that take part in less traditional holidays, such as Kwanzaa and Eid-El-Fitr.

Eid-El-Fitr is the common word for the holiday of Ramadan. This holiday takes place the day after the Muslim fast month of Ramadan. Ramadan may be familiar,

A common thought is that Ramadan is the holiday, said senior Lema Bashir, a practicing Muslim. But she said that Eid-El-Fitr is the actual holiday.

This holiday is generally referred to as Ramadan. This holiday lasts for a month.

During this month, Muslims are not allowed to eat from the time of dawn to the time of sunset. Ramadan is a holiday to concentrate on

those less fortunate.

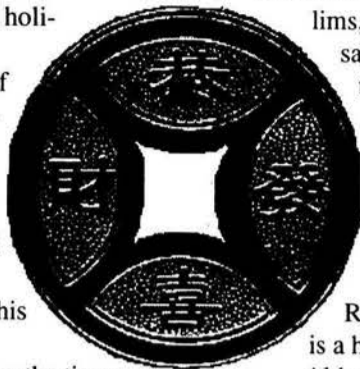
Muslims who can afford it, commonly give money or food to the needy. After sunset, Muslims are allowed to eat and drink, Lema said. Muslims, during Ramadan, take part in a group prayer that is only said during this time. For this prayer, they go to a Mosque, the Muslim place of worship.

Eid-El-Fitr takes place the day after Ramadan ends. This day is spent, as sort of a "break the fast," Lema said.

It is spent eating and resting. Eid-El-Fitr is the second biggest holiday in the Muslim calendar. The biggest comes about a month and a half later.

Kwanzaa is a celebration of family and unity, said Mr. Rod Mullen, Central student World History teacher. Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated by people of African descent.

Although there is not a set way to celebrate Kwanzaa, Mullen said, many people celebrate it in similar ways.



Project allows students to make the most of their resources

Continued from page one

Korsun said that the students involved will be able to put on their college applications that they have worked with the program.

Also, he said that the experience may help students get jobs.

Kerrey said that this is what makes Project MOST so beneficial to students.

He also said that the program

makes education better and more interesting for the students involved.

"I think its terrific," Kerrey said.

Plus, Korsun said that from working on Project MOST, the students will now have confidence in themselves that they can work with various computer programs and create web pages.

Fenn said that through their

work in Project MOST, the students now have such skills as being able to operate desk-top scanners and to manipulate graphics.

Also, he said that the students' keyboarding skills have improved because of their work with the program.

Another positive to Project MOST, Korsun said, is that the teachers involved with the programs

will now have the ability to use the programs as well.

He said that it is very difficult for schools to keep up on all of the technology related skills and this program helps to do just that.

Also, Fenn said that Project MOST was beneficial to the NIDL because they did not have to give the students benefits as they would have to for full-time employees.

Road show celebrates long history

By Nicole Neumann

As the 84th annual performance of the Central Road show kicks off one can take a look to the past.

The Road Show started out in the ROTC department in 1914. Its performance was to raise money for the athletics department in its spring season. Pegi Georgeson, Central High dramatic teacher and current advisor of the Road Show,

A 1915 edition of the Central O-Book printed an article containing the following except, "Early this spring our athletic situation was seriously hampered by lack of funds, and to overcome this difficulty it was necessary to devise some scheme whereby enough money

could be raised to put our athletics on solid footing."

The Road Show is the most inexpensive production to perform and the generates the most profit, of all of the performances. It's inexpensive to put on because no royalties are due, as with the fall musical and the spring play and all of the costumes are provided by the performers, Georgeson said.

The show has gone from the ROTC department, to the vocal music program, to the instrumental music program and finally to the control of the Drama Department.

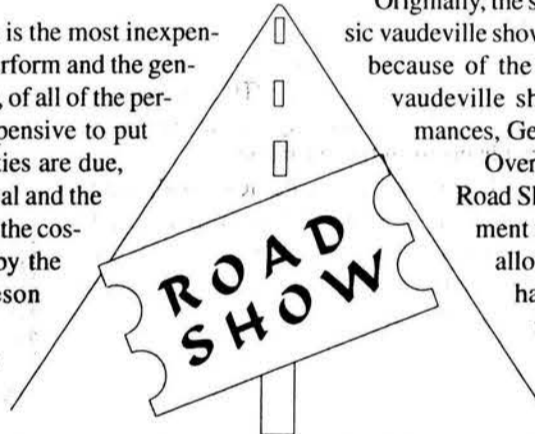
"No other school has a show of this longevity."

Georgeson said.

Originally, the show was modeled after a classic vaudeville show. It was called the Road Show because of the traditional characteristic of vaudeville shows to be traveling performances, Georgeson said.

Over the years, as the control of the Road Show has changed from department to department, the time that is allotted to put together the show has gone from three months to three weeks, as it is today.

All of the music and performances used to be done live, but now, with all of the synthesized background music, it just would not be the same effect and the timing would all be a little off for the dances. But with recorded music the performers don't need as much time to rehearse, Georgeson said.



Central Adopt-a-school partners

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College Close-up

By Kate Alseth

Nebraska Wesleyan University
 founded 1887

Location: Lincoln NE

Total population: 1,373 students

Admission: 99 percent of applicants accepted

Average SAT and ACT scores for freshman admissions:
 SAT: minimum score of 800 composite
 ACT: minimum score of 20 composite

Estimated tuition (excluding room and board): \$8,100

Faculty: 151

Number of credit hours needed to graduate: 126 hours

Greek System:
 4 national fraternities (39 percent of eligible men are members)
 2 national sororities (35 percent of eligible women are members)
 1 local sorority

Application deadlines:
 Jan. 1- priority date
 April 1- application deadline

Application/Admission address and telephone numbers:
 Ken Sieg, Director of Admissions,
 Nebraska Wesleyan University, 5000 St. Paul Avenue
 Lincoln, NE 68504
telephone numbers:
 (402) 465- 2218
 (800) 541- 3818
 fax: (402) 465-2179
 e-mail: adm@nebrwesleyan.edu.
 Web: www.nebrwesleyan.edu.

Additional Information:
 Nebraska Wesleyan is an independent United Methodist four year coed college. The University is set on a 50-acre suburban campus with easy access to Lincoln and Omaha. Students are required to live on campus through their sophomore year unless living with a parent of over the age of 21. Microcomputers are located throughout the campus with 170 computers total. The school works off of a semester calendar with limited summer sessions. The University awards bachelor's degrees in art, science and fine arts. Nebraska Wesleyan offers many student services including career counseling, employment services for undergraduates, health services, personal counseling, leadership training and services and facilities for the handicapped.

- Deadly viruses
- Upclose on mono
- The common cold
- Prevention tips

OUTBREAK

It's not just

Deadly diseases plague different countries

By Alli Pagan

Although Hollywood and the news have sensationalized medical outbreaks of diseases and viruses, the danger of many of these illnesses remains very real, vice-chair of the department of medical microbiology and immunology at Creighton University said.

Dr. Richard Goering said that despite the fact that the movies depict humans conquering viruses, many pathogens that plague mankind are still dangerous and prominent.

"These are serious concerns at the moment and they are certainly threats to human existence," Dr. Tom Safranek of the Nebraska State Health Department said.

The most dangerous of these, Dr. Goering said, are the Ebola and hantaviruses.

"These 'hemorrhagic,' or disintegrating, viruses are particularly deadly because, when you become infected, there is a lot of internal bleeding as the virus slowly destroys organs and tissues," he said.

In recent years, the major outbreaks of the Ebola virus have been in Africa and Asia, Dr. Goering said, and have been contained fairly well to those areas.

Only one American, a lab worker, has died from the disease, but a great number of people in Zaire fell victim to the virus during the epidemic of 1995, he said.

Although the Ebola virus is not very prominent, he said the similar hantavirus is extremely prominent in all parts of the world.

According to the National Committee on Infectious Diseases (NCID), this virus

is carried in rats, mice and other rodents in every corner of the world. The movie "Outbreak" featured a similar virus spread by monkeys.

"Rodents that carry viruses are the cause of all sorts of health problems," Dr. Safranek said.

These include deadly human illnesses like the hemorrhagic viruses and diseases that spread directly from the animal to humans, he said.

One disease that has only recently spread from animals to humans is commonly called Mad Cow Disease, a degenerative brain disease caused by a protein which quickly reduces the functioning capability of the brain, Dr. Tom Hennessey, a medical epidemiologist at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), said.

When this protein is found in cows, it causes them to lose all thinking functions, so they wander aimlessly, lose all sight and finally die altogether, he said.

"Recently a connection was made between cows with this viral disease and humans with Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (CJD), which has similar symptoms," Dr. Hennessey said.

It was found that the British people that contracted CJD had eaten beef from infected cattle, the virus being spread through the beef, he said.

"There is no cure for this disease, and once infected, people may die within 18 months. This will have a high impact on humans and cows," he said of the possibility of widespread Mad Cow Disease.

Last year scientists believed the problem was contained to the British Isles, Dr.

Safranek said, but quite recently new cases were discovered in France.

"Who knows where it will pop up next," he said.

According to the NICD's Council on Emerging Infectious Diseases, the most recent scare of a viral epidemic is that of the Asian "Chicken" Flu.

This strain of the virus, which has the ability to mutate and spread, was first discovered in South Africa in 1961, but was only discovered in humans in November, the group said.

"This flu could rapidly march through the population," Dr. Hennessey said.

When 17 people contracted the virus in Hong Kong, a mass hysteria led to the destruction of millions of chickens in Asia, Dr. Hennessey said.

"The problem is not that simple because it's not just chickens that can carry this strain, but all birds," Dr. Goering said.

On a more local level, there have recently been reported outbreaks of the E. Coli bacteria in all areas of the United States, Dr. Hennessey said.

"E. Coli 1057 is very permanent in this country. Nebraska alone sees about 50-60 cases every year," Safranek said.

This year the virus was widely spread because of contaminated meat supplies in the Midwest and the coasts, he said.

This bacteria is usually spread through uncooked meats, which leave their germs on kitchen surfaces, and then spread to other utensils, he said.

The symptoms of infection from E. Coli are mainly cramps and fever, but among the very young and very old, serious and even fatal complications can occur, he said.

cur, he said.

In a widely reported case last year, young children died from the illness that was linked back, not to animals, but to apples, Dr. Hennessey said.

The Odwala Juice company allegedly used rotten apples that were contaminated with the bacteria in their apple juice production, he said.

While these bacteria and viruses seem especially abominable, they are not the most widely spread of all diseases, Dr. Goering said.

Dr. Hennessey said that this honor belongs to the campylobacter bacteria, which infects millions of people every year.

Chickens are the culprits for this bacteria, but as the symptoms of illness are not life threatening, it is rarely heard about, Dr. Hennessey said.

"The bacteria can be found on hands, cutting boards, and other surfaces that make contact with chicken meat. When ingested, it multiplies in your gut and brings on terrible bouts of diarrhea," Dr. Hennessey said.

Another common illness-causing bac-

Intimacy increases risk for serious illness, do s

By Stephanie Holm

Who ever thought that kissing, a romantic gesture, could be critical to your health? Mononucleosis, a viral infection, can be most commonly spread through the act of kissing, a University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) employee said.

Dr. Rita Hultt said that mononucleosis, commonly referred to as mono, is being seen more and more often in adolescent cases this year than in previous years.

Mono is caused by the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), which is passed through contact with infected saliva, Dr. Hultt said.

"Kissing is a common route for the virus to spread through," she said, "but individuals can also be infected through sharing drinking glasses, toothbrushes or other items coming in contact with the mouth."

Although young children and the elderly are targets for this viral infection, adolescents of both sexes are most commonly infected by mono, Dr. Hultt said.

There are various means of detecting mono when one is infected, she said. First, a person will acquire a headache, followed by fatigue, puffy, painful eyes and loss of appetite.

After a couple more weeks, a victim will develop a sore throat, swollen

lymph nodes, (throat, armpit, and groin areas) general aches and an enlarged spleen or liver, Dr. Hultt said.

"If these symptoms sound awful, it's because they are," she said. "So awful that the victim's recovery time is an approximated four to six weeks."

Recovering from mono is one of the longest processes from viral infections, Dr. Hultt said.

Normally, the patient is bed-ridden for three weeks, and required to drink liquids, eat a balanced diet, gargle salt-water for the throat and take acetaminophen, a pain killer, for pain relief.

"Mainly, for individuals with mono, sleep is the best thing, Dr. Hultt said.

Sleeping is exactly what junior Brooke Ponc did when she was diagnosed with mono during the summer of her freshman year, she said.

Brooke said she noticed something was not right when she began to have frequent headaches and a swollen throat.

After a visit to the doctor, two blood tests for mono and no diagno-

sis, Brooke was taken to the hospital, she said.

"They couldn't figure out what was wrong with me," she said.

"They had to run a lot of tests," she said.

These included: heart, lung, and liver tests, as well as blood tests.

"After taking a lot of blood tests, they finally found it," she said.

Brooke said. "They [the doctors] had to run a lot of tests."

For the next two to three weeks, Brooke had to rest in bed.

"I slept all the time," Brooke said.

Toward the end of her illness, she said.

"I would lay there and shiver during the night," she said.

"I would lay there and shiver during the night," she said.

Dr. Hultt said that this was a common symptom of mono.

Hot baths in the middle of the illness helped Brooke feel better.

"I'm just glad it's all over," she said.

Although there is no way to prevent mono, it can be further EBV infections.

"We could tell patients to avoid kissing, but they'd opt for the six week recovery time," she said.

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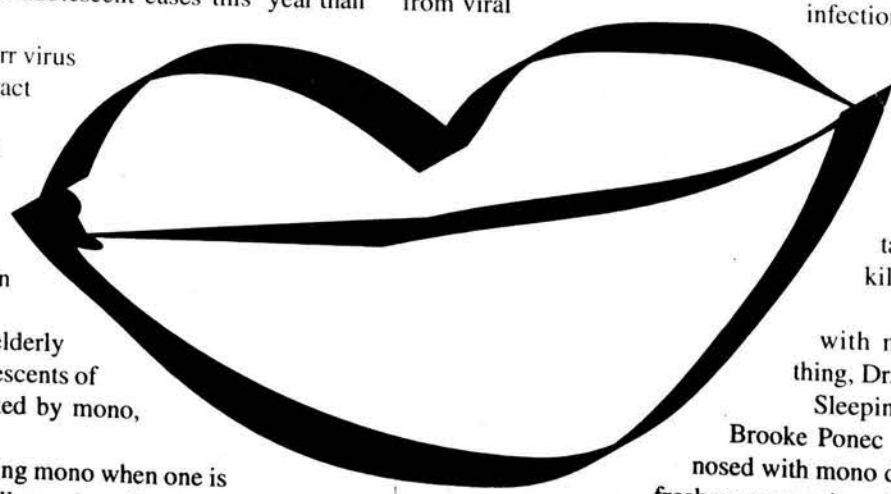
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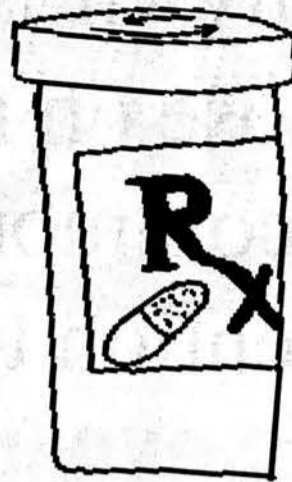
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PEAK... the movies



Cold and flu affect student work

By Morgan Denny

Coughing, sneezing, a headache behind your eyes...and now you have to take a final.

"When you're sick, there's no way you can really concentrate on studying or the final itself," Cara Miller, a junior who was sick during finals, said.

Amy Brummett, Central's nurse, said that teenagers get sick more often than adults due to many factors.

"Hand washing is the number one reason that students get sick," Brummett said. "They never do it."

She also said that another reason students get sick is because they share drinks and aren't as careful about their health.

"I don't think about sharing stuff with my friends. If I'm offered a sip of a beverage containing caffeine, I never turn it down," Cara said.

Brummett said that the most common ailment among Central students is the respiratory flu.

Colleen Kelley, registered nurse and team leader of family medicine at University of Nebraska Medical Center, said that students and young children get sick more because they are always in shared and confined spaces, such as school and daycare.

She said that being in these closed spaces allows for germs and bacteria to spread from person to person before they dissipate.

Kelley said that another factor that often designates who does and does not get sick is sleep.

"If students are sleep deprived, they're setting themselves up

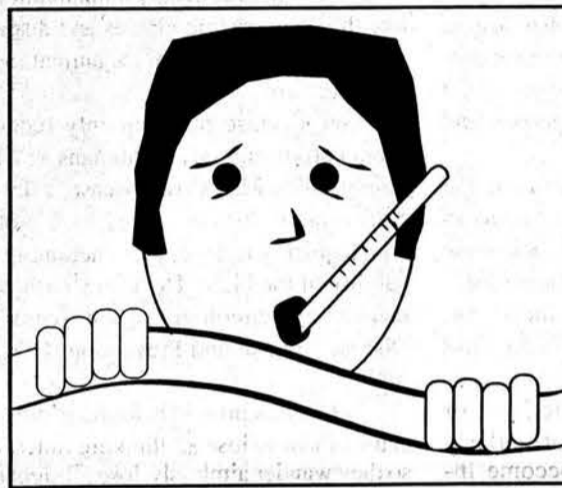
for disease," Kelley said.

Cara said that between large amounts of homework that keep her up all night and getting to school at 6:45 to find a parking spot, there is no way to fit in more than five hours of sleep each night.

"Eight perfect hours of sleep every night is a myth that was probably created by the Greek heroes who never went to school," Cara said. "All they did was slay dragons and fight evil. I need the sleep more than they did."

Kelley said that mid December to March is the peak season for the cold and flu.

She said that this is due to the cold weather which keeps everyone



inside, allowing germs to spread more easily.

She said that although the age old theory says to "feed a cold and starve a flu," drinking a lot of liquids is good for any minor illness.

Kelley also said that it helps to clear out the body of impurities that might cause sickness or allow it to stay in your body for a longer period of time.

Kelley said that because there is no cure for the flu and cold, prevention is everything.

She said that some common symptoms for the flu are fever, body aches, cough, headache and fatigue.

"Mad Cow Disease" has been identified in over 20 Britains.

Since its discovery in 1976, in Zaire, Goda has killed almost 400 people.

Simple habits, current immunizations prevent spread of disease

By Alli Pagan

Being sick is can be more than a disruption in one's schedule, it can be dangerous. There are many measures that people can take to prevent getting sick in the first place, a preventative medicine doctor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center said.

Dr. Jim Medder said that while hand washing is the most effective prevention against illnesses, avoiding contact with illnesses, immunizations and some medicines can also help in avoiding illness.

He said that hand washing is so important because it takes the germs that cause people to be sick out of the picture.

"People pick their noses, then touch doorknobs, then other people open those doors and pick their own noses. If they don't wash their hands in between those steps, they end up spreading germs," he said.

Dr. Medder also said that he stressed that frequent hand washing is necessary to avoid getting sick and spreading sicknesses to other people.

While this seems to be an obvious way to prevent illnesses, many people forget to do it, he said.

"This is one of those common sense things that mothers tend to say a lot, but not everybody does," he said.

Hand washing not only prevents common diseases, it can prevent things like Hepatitis A.

Another way to avoid catching the common cold, flu, and other diseases is to simply avoid contact with those around you that are inflicted with them.

Avoiding actions like shaking hands, sharing drinks and touching a lot can stop germs from spreading in the first place, Dr. Medder said.

When people are sick, they should avoid going to school or work, even if they think they "just have a cold," because that way they avoid spreading germs.

Immunizations are perhaps the most effective way to stop the spread of more serious illnesses like measles, polio and influenza.

"They fool your body into thinking you've been exposed to a virus, and then build up antibodies in response," he said.

Dr. Bill Atkinson of the National Immunization Program said that immunizations are a key element in the fight against most diseases.

Most immunizations are given when people are still infants, with some follow-ups around age five for measles and other illnesses before they start school.

"Since most schools require immunizations for entrance, they are not a problem for the majority of students," he said.

Some immunizations that are not required

can be very helpful, such as the flu shot, he said.

"If received during the fall months of October and November, the flu shot can almost always prevent onset of the flu, if only by decreasing the severity of the symptoms," Dr. Atkinson said.

People that he said were most at risk for the flu were the elderly and the very young, who he said should get flu shots every year.

"Flu shots not only help the individual, but help stop the spread of the virus, as well," he said.

While these are proven measures in preventing illnesses, there are also a few natural prevention measures that studies have shown to work effectively, Dr. Medder said.

"Vitamin C has for a long time been said to help prevent illnesses, but it is a little controversial," he said.

Another natural "healer" is zinc, which can be taken to reduce the severity and duration of a cold, he said. Besides tasting really bad, though, he said that only a few studies have actually been completed concerning the healing power of zinc.

An herb that has been touted to increase immunity against colds and flu is that of echinacea, which has been shown effective in some studies, he said, but is also a little controversial.

Overall, the doctors say that common sense is the best medicine of prevention.



Entertainment

Museum's expansion continues western heritage

By Rachel Slosburg

Tired of returning to the movies weekend after weekend, or hanging out in the same coffee shops all the time—ready for a different scene or even a train trip?

The Western Heritage Museum provides the perfect setting for amusement while learning about Omaha's past.

Ms. Stacy Moravec, an instructor in the department of public programming for the museum, said that the building was formerly the Union Station, built by Union Pacific railroad in the years of 1929-31. She said Union Station is one of the only train stations throughout the United States which possesses an art-deco style of architecture.

Moravec said that Union Station along with the Burlington Northern station (located across the tracks) served as passenger train stations until 1971, when the Amtrak legislation was passed and established that they were no longer passenger carriers.

Union Pacific then decided to donate the building to the city of Omaha in 1973, and it opened in 1975 as the Western Heritage Museum.

Parts of the original Union Station remain in the Western Heritage Museum. The main floor contains several train station aspects.

The soda fountain where travelers enjoyed a beverage before boarding their train has been restored and still operating today, Moravec said.

"We have volunteers who come in to run the soda fountain which was apart of the original building," Moravec said.

Also, the main waiting room is authentic, she said. But, life-size sculptures by the Omaha artist John Lajba have been made to accompany the room and the ticket office has been renovated.

"If you walk by one of the sculptures, it will start to talk," Moravec said. "The sculptures represent different time eras and what a typical passenger would be like in that period."

Moravec said one example is a sculpture of a man who lived during the Great Depression in the 1930's.

The Swanson Gallery, formerly an elegant Omaha restaurant, is now used for special exhibits, or can be rented for private parties, Moravec said.

Although the Western Heritage Museum has a long history, it has not prevented it from forming a bright future, Moravec said.

She said the museum recently (1995-96) underwent major renovations, including the addition of a parking garage, interior/exterior building improvements and new exhibits.

In fact, the track level has been completely remodeled, Moravec said. One of the recent additions to the track level is the restoration of six train cars.

One of the train cars is a caboose, Moravec said. She said the caboose was where the conductor and brakemen had their headquarters.

Two of the restored train cars were used as private business cars. The Airslee, donated by Southern Pacific Railroad, and the

Shoshone, owned by Union Pacific Railroad, operated as cars where businessman could work and sleep, Moravec said. She said that the Shoshone is still occasionally used for special trips.

Moravec said that President George Bush rode to the Republican National Convention in the Shoshone.

The next two train cars on display were formerly sleeper cars designed by the Pullman Company in 1955, Moravec said.

They show the different sleeping compartments, depending on how much the traveler wanted to spend.

"The Pullman sleeper cars show that it was designed pretty efficiently; using every inch of space," she said.

The last train car on display is a former 1890's steam engine.

The engineer and the fireman traveled in the steam engine while driving the train and scooping coal into the fire, Moravec said.

The train cars have generated a great deal of interest, Moravec said.

"The general public and school groups seem to really enjoy exploring the railroad cars," she said.

The next new addition to the museum is an exhibit sponsored by Clarkson Hospital entitled "Community". Moravec said that "Community" takes a trip through Omaha's

past while featuring certain common themes. Some of these themes are housing, weather, diversity, land use, and entertainment.

Central High School is even featured in one of Omaha's famous landmarks. The "Community" exhibit opened in the middle of September, Moravec said. It has also been very successful for the museum's visitors.

Moravec said that two other new exhibits are expected to open in the near future. One of these is entitled "Omaha at the Turn of the Century" and will feature Omaha's growth and development who helped to build the city.

The other new exhibit is "How the West Was Won" and will focus on the domestic life of Omaha's citizens, she said.

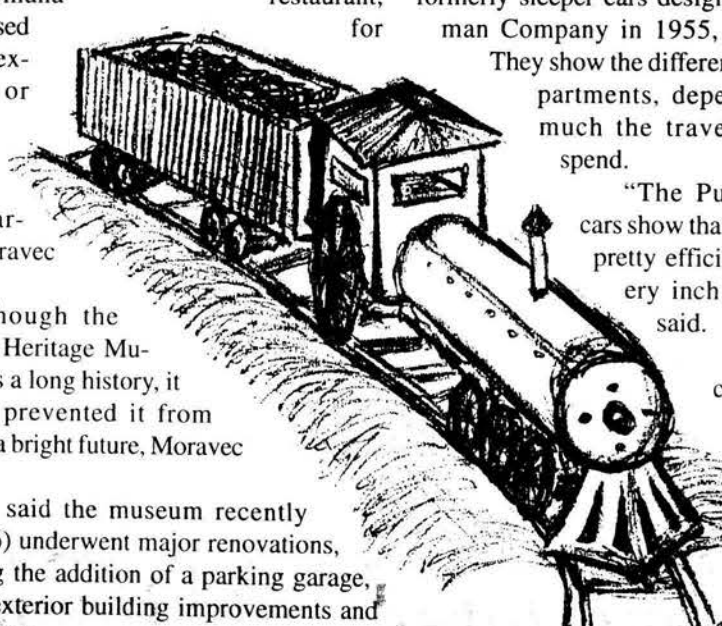
Moravec said the final addition to the track level is four classrooms which will be used in various ways.

She said one use for the classrooms which represent everything from a pioneer cabin to an 1890's model of a pioneer room, is to hold school programs or activities.

Moravec said that the department of public programming plans different classes for children may take throughout the year, including an information session on the Plains.

Moravec said visitors are impressed with the new-and-improved Western Heritage Museum. She said she hopes more people will take advantage of the new exhibits and what they see.

The price for admission to the museum is \$3 for adults and \$2.50 for seniors. The Western Heritage Museum is open from 11 am to 5 pm on weekdays and noon to 5 pm on weekends.



Central students play in "Big Mary"

By Emily Martin

Several Central Students were members of the cast that performed in a recent Rose Blumpkin Performing Arts Center for Young People (the Rose) production.

The play, *Big Mary*, was performed by a selected group of youth performers on Jan. 22, 24 and 25.

"*Big Mary* is an elephant accused of a crime," RaShaun Murry, senior, said, "The plot is very confusing."

In the play, RaShaun played the part of the character Badger McQueen, a young girl of 12 years. Badger becomes attached to the elephant and is fascinated with the circus. She wants to join the circus but is unable to because she is black.

"One bad thing about the production is that it has some racism in it," RaShaun said, "but I know that is just the play and not the people in it."

The performers from Central said they felt a large camaraderie between the cast.

"It was a cooperative play, everyone worked together," RaShaun said.

Chalee George, freshman, who played the parts of Ella Mae and a town's person, said she agrees with RaShaun.

"It was a great experience working with new people," Chalee said of *Big Mary*.

Chalee said that *Big Mary* was her first time in a play. She said she learned a lot from the experience. One of the most important things Chalee said she took away from the play was the values she learned from the other actors. By finding out what they did and are planning to do, Chalee said it gave her a sense of direction.

The playwright of *Big Mary*, Mark Medoff, also wrote the well-known *Children of a Lesser God*. Melody Dwoak, a junior who had the opportunity to meet Mr. Medoff her freshman year, said she played a narrator in the play.

"There were four narrators in the play, we rotated in a cycle," Melody said.

Melody said she played the part of the second narrator. Freshman Mitch Raftery also played a narrator in *Big Mary*.

Melody said one of the most rewarding moments for her came while rehearsing the play and seeing all of the pieces come together. "It was great learning that it actually made sense; and rewarding seeing all of these words and themes emerge," Melody said.

Though being in *Big Mary* was a great experience the performers said, there were also some drawbacks. These drawbacks included anything and everything from complaining parents, being distracted during the play and planning priorities and commitments.

RaShaun said that she had a problem with the low budget restrictions of the play, *Big Mary*, because of its restricted stage budget, did not have costumes, props or background scenery. Also, the play was put on in a room where, according to RaShaun, "The stage resembled a pit."

While RaShaun said she did have doubts about these aspects of the play at first, she said her mindset changed as time went on.

"The lack of these things helped me become a better actress," RaShaun said. "It gave me the opportunity to act, which I love."

Melody said she was annoyed by two things. The first was when people talked while others were trying to act their parts. The other half is a little harder to explain.

"Meeting new friends serves as an incentive to act, but it can be distracting," Melody said.

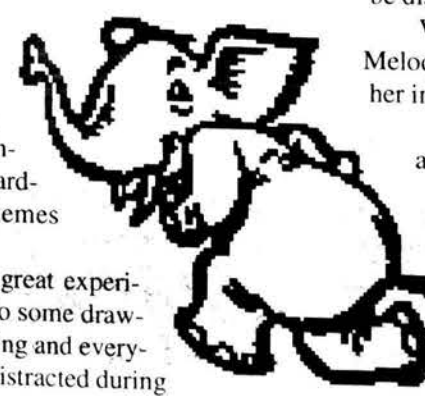
While she said she loved meeting new people, Melody also said she felt guilty because she had put her into her own biggest pet peeve.

The problem with being involved in any activity, for many students, is having to do a balancing act. This was Chalee's dilemma. She said she had to concentrate on her time between school, *Big Mary* and extracurricular activities, like speech. She recently won first place in Drama Interpretation at the Millard North District.

"My mom would always complain about having to give me rides," Chalee said. "I am also preparing for Speech Nationals."

RaShaun, Melody and Chalee all said that they plan to continue working in the theater field and would like to do another production through the Rose.

Other performers included freshmen Jeremiah and Amber Galli and Kelsey Carlson, and sophomore Prescott.



Movie goers seek luxury at the Odyssey
Theater features creature comforts

By Rebecca Starr

Somewhere deep in the shadows of west Omaha lurks a theater, not just any theater, but a ghastly immense movie theater. In this eyesore of concrete lays perhaps the best feature that any movie theater could have, theater-goers get to utter their own popcorn.

The new AMC Odyssey 24 opened last month with what seems like endless sold out crowds being crammed into zoo like conditions. But there must be a reason that people are driving out of mid-town to visit this ridiculous theater.

The seats are unlike any folding-chair previously conceived notion that you've got about movie theaters. These are spacious and comfortable with armrests that are staggered so that there is never anyone's head in your way. Not to mention the arm rests lift, so you can huddle up to the person next to you.

Although this may seem like a good idea now, when the newness of the theater wears off and the crowds die down, every 13 year-old couple is going to use this feature in a getting-to-know-you kind of way.

Have you ever wanted to cross your legs half way through a movie and realized that if you did the whole row would have to cross their legs too? No longer the case. A person could get up and dance in front of the person sitting next to them and this person could still cross their legs. The leg room is incomparable to anything I have ever seen. The screen is humongous and has a sort of rounded

pinched look. It appears to move too. One could only imagine why.

Have you ever been totally enthralled with a movie and the heroine and her long lost love have been reunited after years and years, you are about to cry when an explosion from the Van Damme movie next door echoes through your theater? No more. I didn't hear a thing from the other theaters. But this has nothing to do with the premium quality of the sound.

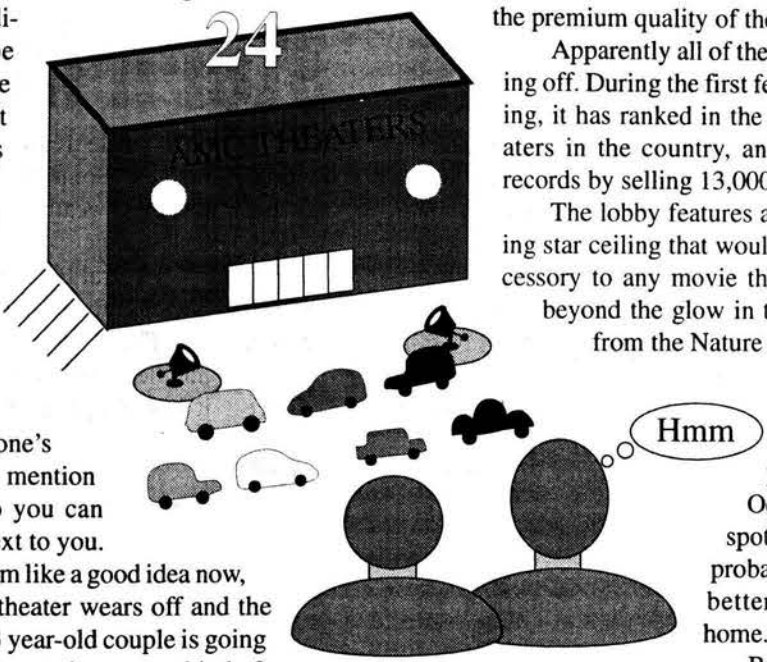
Apparently all of these amenities are paying off. During the first few weeks of its opening, it has ranked in the top 25 grossing theaters in the country, and broke AMC sales records by selling 13,000 tickets on Jan. 3.

The lobby features an illuminated shooting star ceiling that would be an excellent accessory to any movie theater. These go way beyond the glow in the dark plastic stars from the Nature Company.

Getting a parking spot can be the most momentous part of a visit to the Odyssey. Some of the spots available, a person probably would have been better off walking from home.

But even worse than getting a spot is getting out after the movie. A SUV may come in handy, making it possible to bypass the whole crowded scene and off-roading through the undeveloped land next to the theater.

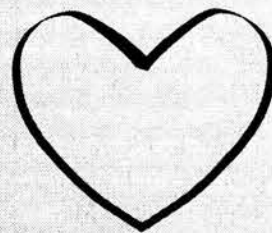
So a recap...seats good, leg-room good, screen good, sound good, and popcorn great. So if you are willing to wade through hordes of people and make the drive, it's a worth while adventure. Just a tip, get there early.



Happenings

♡ in ♡
February

- 5 The Jesus Lizard- Ranch Bowl
- 6 Open Mic Night- Stage Right
- 7 Ground Hog Prom- Sokol
- 7 Degas Exhibit- Joslyn
- 13+14 Andre Watts- Orpheum
- 17 Houlistic Medicine- Barnes + Noble
- 20 Vanilla Ice- Ranch Bowl



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Happy Fun Place

PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2000

The Aliens will decode the English language through vanity license plates.

Smoky the Bear will die of lung cancer.

Milli Vanilli makes a tremendous comeback, this time as women.

The Central administration will catch that silly arsonist that has been setting those fires for the last three years.

Hanson dies in a freak grain elevator explosion. M MMM Boom!

Saturday Night Live becomes funny, maybe.

Bill Gates donates money to resolve national debt.

The chicken disease is spread to cocker spaniels, and Muffy gets killed.

Weekend at Bernies Four, starring Scott Baio and Alyssa Milano, is a huge hit in the box office.


Spice Girls, can you say bye-bye?

Hal Daub mysteriously shot while in police custody, police refused to release records.

Armageddon is upon us!

'NUFF SAID

By Stephanie Holm



Television resolves childhood boredom

Here's the story...of a lovely lady...who was bringing up three very lovely girls...all of them had hair of gold...like their mother...the youngest one in curls.

Hey, it's the Brady Bunch...the show that changed the nation...now not only do we have green, turf yards, but we find our parents praying that they had an Alice of their own.

Then again, there are a lot of shows that we watched religiously...you know what I'm talking about...Saved by the Bell, Silver Spoons, The Facts of Life, and who could forget...that lovable little alien...Alf?

But what was it about these shows that made us watch? I know it wasn't the close relation to everyday life...unless you call Balki, from Perfect Strangers, a normal cousin.

Then again, there's Saved by the Bell, a show that every teenager alive has memorized...where everyone has seen every single episode...yeah, you know what I'm talking about. It's getting so bad that now I can go on the internet and beat everyone in the Saved by the Bell Trivia chat room. Pretty sad, isn't it?

Those were the days when all of the guys slobbered over Kelly Kapowski and her cheerleading outfits, while the girls melted whenever Zack Morris walked into the room.

But lately it's gotten worse...I hear people playing the trivia games in the halls of school...echoes of "Hey, what does Zack order every time he goes to the Max," still ring in my head.

Enough about Saved by the Bell...sure everyone will hear about it else... Moving on...what about Silver Spoons...did that become forgotten in the show? Remember it? Or are you like me and remember the train that ran around the length of the house? I always wanted to ride on that thing...but what ever happened to Rick Shroeder? Guess he was taken by the Zack Morris in the world.

And, hey...you take the good, you take the bad, you take them both and then you have: The Facts of Life. Yep, who could forget a name like Tootie? Well, who could forget Joe, Blair, Natalie, and Mrs. Garrett for that matter? Four girls, living together at a boarding school is enough for me. And I thought my sister and I had a lot.

Last but by no means least...what about that furry, little, big-nosed, cat-eating alien...Alf. Oh yeah...you remember him, don't you? Crash landed on earth in a gas can.

Yeah...and I'd invite an alien to live in my home as part of the family, too...uh...uh...uh.

Yep, we can say that the shows of the past are truly unforgettable. I guess the shows of today live up to the standards of those shows of the past...Saved by the Bell to name one.

But, for now, I'd take an episode of Saved by the Bell over Melrose Place anyday. 'Nuff Said.

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MORE THAN A DEGREE

Eagle Basketball wins two of four

By Derek Tritsch

After losing their first six games, the Central boys' basketball team upped their record to 2-8 by winning two out of their last four games.

Central missed a golden opportunity to upset then-Nebraska Top Ten No. 9 Papillion-LaVista on the road, as the Eagles fell 52-49, on Jan. 18.

Central came out firing, as they were led by senior guard John Franzese's four three-pointers in the first half.

The score at halftime was 36-29, Central's biggest halftime lead thus far in the season. The tide turned, however, in the second half.

The Monarchs came out of the lockerroom with increased intensity along with a defensive switch, John said. They played a box-and-one, with one player following Franzese.

"They had [Brandon] Eymann shadowing my every move on offense," John said. "And, I just could not get open."

The Monarchs' heightened defense held Central to just 13 points in the entire second half, as Papillion scored 23.

Central was led in scoring by John's 14 points and senior swing-man Sunn Spurlock's 10.

Yet another challenge lied ahead of Central in the form of Westside, on Jan. 15, at Westside.

Central knew coming in they had their work cut out for them in defending 6'9" senior Mike Preston, Eagle Head Coach Rick Behrens said.

But, Preston, towering over would-be Eagle defenders, had little trouble, as he

scored 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, to lead Westside to a 73-58 win.

When Eagle defenders did collapse on Preston, he kicked it out to an often-wide open Warrior on the perimeter. And Westside was able to capitalize, as evidenced by their 9 of 26 shooting from three-point range.

"We had to leave our men on the perimeter to help out on Preston, and they really made us pay with their threes," sophomore point guard Brian Rahaman said.

Central was led in scoring by Sunn and sophomore center Ben Jacobson, each with 15.

Central ended their six-game losing streak by playing strong defense, Coach Behrens said.

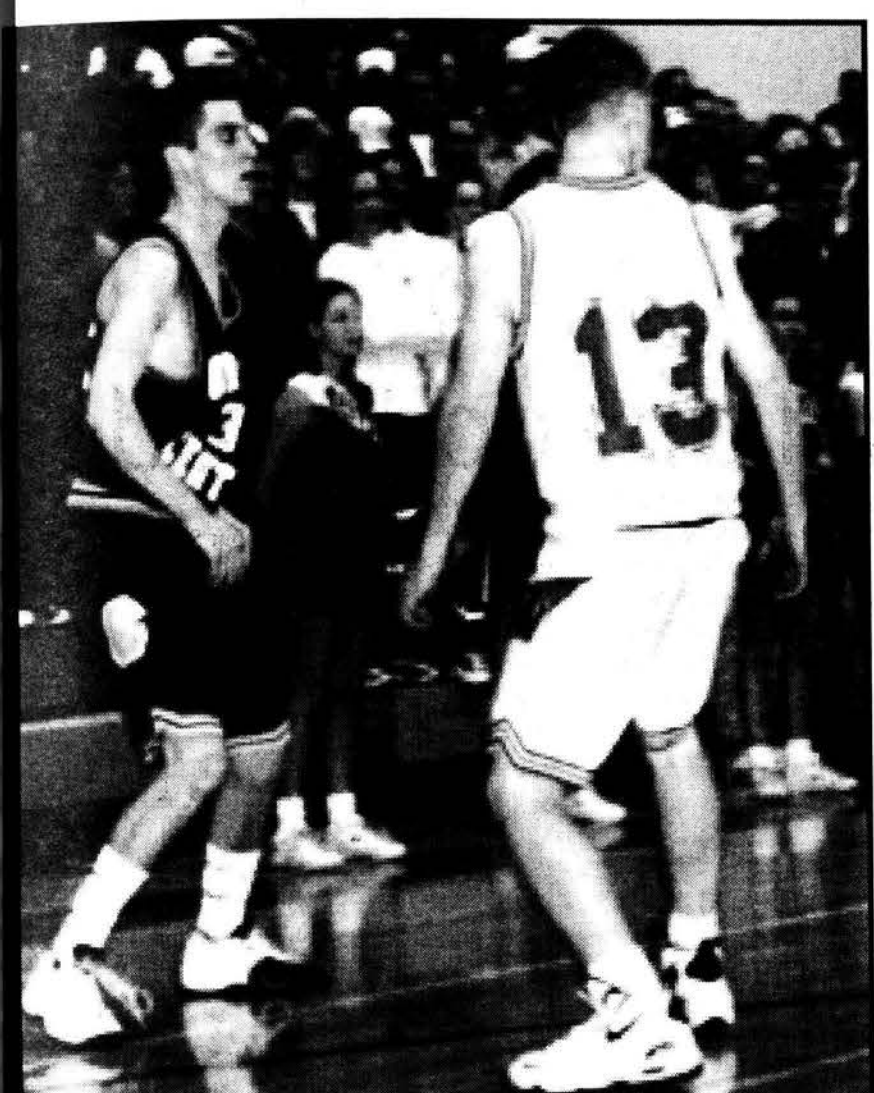
The Eagles' first win of the season came over the Wildcats on Jan. 9, at Norris Junior High.

Central played even with the Nebraska Top 10 No. 6 ranked team for the entire game, as no team controlled play for an extended period of time.

A win well within reach, the Eagles' were up by three, 51-48, with 20 seconds left in the game, until Millard West's Joe Robinson hit a three-pointer.

The game tied at 51-51, Central then ran a play designed for Sunn to take the last shot, Coach Behrens said.

With the clock ticking, Brian brought the ball up and passed to Sunn, who then drove all the way to the basket from half court and put up an acrobatic 2-footer that failed to draw iron. In the rush for the loose ball, Sunn came up with it and then drained a fade-away 5-footer as the buzzer expired, to give Central the victory, 53-51.



Alexa Christon

Senior guard John Franzese (left) works to get open against a Westside defender. John's 46.8 field goal percentage is first on the Central team.


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MORE THAN A DEGREE

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

By Derek Tritsch



Players send Osborne out a National Champion

The 1997 college football season finally ended the right way for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, with a National Championship. Problem is, Michigan had one, too. Nevertheless, the Husker players accomplished what they had set out to do: send Osborne out a champion.

The two major polls were split in the crowning of a National Champion: Michigan was No. 1 in the writers' poll and Nebraska was No. 1 in the coaches' poll.

Some think it was an amazing enough feat for Nebraska just to garner that award. I mean, Michigan was No. 1, in both polls, going into the bowl games, and, as everybody knows, the No. 1 team *never* gets dropped if they win their bowl game. It's never happened.

This brings up an interesting question: How, exactly, then, was Nebraska able to vault Michigan and win the coaches' poll?

Well, some say that the coaches got sentimental and wanted to send Osborne out a champion, so they gave Nebraska the title. Don't buy into that theory, though.

Let's face it, Nebraska was 13-0. The coaches didn't *give* Nebraska the title, they earned it on the field. Now, if a 7-5 Nebraska team showed up in the No. 1 spot, then maybe I'd be a little suspicious. But not after this team just capped an undefeated season by beating the No. 3 ranked team in the country by 25 points.

Could it be, maybe, possibly, that the coaches felt Nebraska was a better team than Michigan? Naw, that couldn't be.

Nebraska played a much weaker schedule and wouldn't even be able to move the ball on Michigan, right? And, furthermore, the only reason we're having this discussion is because NU snatched victory from the jaws of defeat at Missouri on a fluke play that never should have happened, right?

Right. Well, right if you're a national media person. Michigan is ten times better than Nebraska. Well, that's what they want you to believe anyway.

For some reason there seemed to be somewhat of a regional bias this season, in favor of Michigan. It seemed as though the national media had been waiting for a Rose Bowl with

National Championship implications, and this year, they had one.

Problem was, it wasn't the only one with title implications. Yeah, you remember that "other" big game this bowl season? What was it, the Orange Bowl, I think? To say that the 1998 Orange Bowl played second fiddle to the Rose Bowl would be an incredible understatement.

I mean, was that the same Orange Bowl I'm used to seeing? With the lack of hype I thought it was the Weedeater Bowl or something. And from the looks of many national newspapers and television shows, I think they thought it actually was the Weedeater Bowl.

The 1998 Orange Bowl: it was a National Championship game, for God's sakes (Okay, Alliance National Championship). No. 2 versus No. 3. The Blackshirt defense versus Peyton Manning's arm. This was a huge game. But if the national media had their way, it would have been on the back page.

I guess it's a fitting way for Osborne to go out, by winning an enormous game that the national media didn't quite see so enormous. Kind of resembles his 25-year career at Nebraska: so many legendary accomplishments—three national titles, fastest coach ever to win 250 games, etc, etc—but he will never be fully appreciated in the

minds of sports "experts" throughout the country.

In an era of news coverage that always focuses on the negative—it's what sells newspapers and gets the ratings—the media seems to be going a little too overboard in their assessment of Osborne. They're focusing on the problem players who never quite managed to stay out of trouble (mainly Lawrence Phillips, Christian Peter and Terrell Farley), through no fault of Osborne.

And I guess that's fair. But just don't let three players negate 25 years of service by Osborne to the University of Nebraska and to college football. And don't forget about the numerous problem players who did pull their life together under Osborne's guide.

Let me tell you, there are way more than three players on that list. Remember Irving Fryar? He was the wide receiver who had so many brushes with the law while at Nebraska in the early '80's. Now he's the go-to-guy with the Philadelphia Eagles, but, more importantly, he's an ordained minister. I guess CNN forgot about that one.

Remember Tyrone Williams? He was Nebraska's most physical cornerback on the '94-'95 championship teams, but, while at Nebraska, he also got accused of shooting at a car that was driving away.

He was a problem-child that got in with the wrong crowd, they said. You all saw that on tv, I'm sure.

But what you probably didn't see, is that he was later proved innocent to those charges and is now a starting cornerback on the defending

Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packers. And no one has heard a negative peep about him since. Guess he wasn't such a bad guy after all. Evidently the folks at ESPN forgot about that one, too.

There are countless examples of troubled youths turned role models, under Osborne. Quick, what school leads the nation in Academic All-American football players? Notre Dame? Penn State? Northwestern?

All good guesses, but all wrong. Believe it or not, Nebraska is by far No. 1 in that area. Nebraska has had 52 first-team Academic All-Americans. Of those 46 have been coached

by Osborne. Second on the list is Notre Dame with only 35 in their history.

My point here, is that the media has to portray Osborne as a greedy, selfish, at-all-costs coach. But if you examine the facts, you will come to find that he is nothing but that.

For some reason, after Osborne's winning National Championships, while coaching players with behavior problems, it's trendy to bash him as a win-at-all-costs coach.

After he won his first title in '94, he was given a \$50,000 cash bonus just for winning. Greedy Osborne, they said. Furthermore, he set the wrong example for the rest of the country, that "winning is the only thing" important, they said.

Well, if the national news people had looked into the situation a little more, they would have found that Osborne even kept the \$50,000 for himself, he put it into a pot for all of his assistants and he divided it up for themselves. Now how is that?

Adding yet more fuel to the fire is Osborne's stance on allowing Proposition 48 players. For those who don't know, Proposition 48 is for those who do not qualify academically directly out of high school. Under Proposition 48, these players are allowed to receive a scholarship.

You remember the Big 12 vote of 11-1 dissenting, with Osborne and Nebraska being the only ones in favor of them? It was added to the already-forming image of Nebraska as a renegade program.

Now what the media didn't tell you about this issue is that there are absolutely no ball-playing junior colleges in the state of Nebraska and only a handful in the state of Missouri. So what will happen to all the high school seniors in the region deemed academically ineligible? Chances are, they'll go to a school where there's a junior college around the corner.

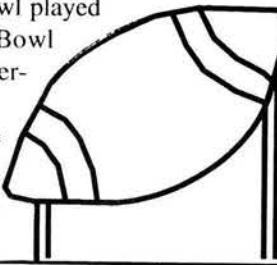
So, for the Texas schools, it wasn't a vote against Prop 48ers, it was a vote for getting those Prop 48ers in two years so they get their grades up. Big deal.

Believe me, I'm not saying that we should make Osborne out as a god-like figure or anything that he obviously is not, but simply at all the facts when you assess this man's career. It's only fair.

Oh well, at least it all worked out in the end, with Osborne getting his national championship trophy. That's all that matters.

Not quite. Not to this man. To Osborne winning the Sears trophy was merely a thought. It probably wouldn't even qualify as "icing on the cake" for this guy.

The attainment of the final goal compared to the thrill of the journey is Osborne. The 1997 season was one of the most efficient ones, both offensively and defensively, in all of Osborne's coaching career. And what a thrilling journey it was.



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Sophomore leads CHS in scoring, rebounding



His per-game scoring and rebounding are 20th and ninth, respectively, in Nebraska.

Ben is averaging double figures despite shooting only 38.8 percent from the field. That is a number Coach Behrens said he wants to see improved.

"I think that percentage is low for Ben," Coach Behrens said.

"We think he can shoot 50 percent from the field."

Ben is also quick to point out that, despite his position, he can be a three-point threat.

"We like to have Ben take threes; he is shooting 40 percent so far," Coach Behrens said. "He's a good three point shooter."

It's an aspect of Ben's game that sets him apart from other players his size, Coach Behrens said.

"Ben has always been a good shooter," Coach Behrens said. "Even when he was younger, playing in summer leagues, he always had a good shot. I've always loved that about his game."

Ben's numbers are even more impressive considering the beating that Ben has taken this

year guarding some of the biggest—and best—centers in the metro.

"It's kind of rough because there are some really good centers this year, but I've held my own," Ben said.

Coach Behrens said that Ben is also an asset to Central's defense.

"Ben can guard the big players from the other teams," Coach Behrens said.

"That's why we have him at the center position."

Even though Ben is only a sophomore he is not lacking in experience. He saw considerable action on last year's team that finished 20-5 and was ranked No. 1 in Nebraska at one time.

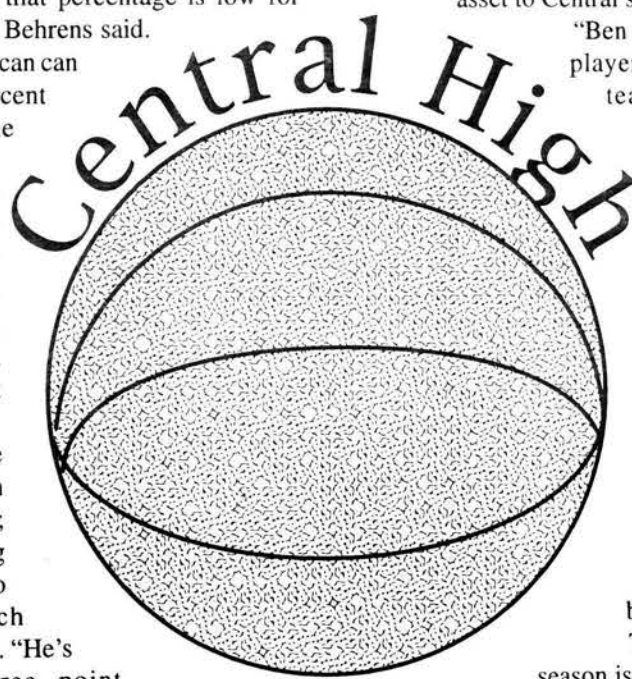
The 1997-98 team season is seeing fewer wins; their record was 2-8 at week's

end.

"I was so angry during the six-game losing streak," Ben said. "I kept thinking back to how good we had it last year, but I know I've got to be patient. This team will improve."

Ben has already received letters from the University of Denver as well as UNO.

"I want to play for a top college," Ben said. "Hopefully, I'll get a scholarship."



Fast Facts:
Ben Jacobson
 Grade: 10th
 Birthdate: March 4, 1982
 Sport: Basketball
 Honors: Two-year letterman, starter on 15-Under Nebraska Team
 Accomplishments: Reached 20th at AAU National Championship in Greensboro, NC

by Derek Tritsch
 It seems fitting that, in a rebuilding year, the Central basketball team's hopes rest squarely on the shoulders of an underclassman.
 Those shoulders belong to Ben Jacobson, Central's 6'5" center. And those shoulders have been busy thus far into the season. Ben leads the team in both rebounding (8.0 avg.) and scoring (13.4 avg.).
 "I knew, since I was the most experienced player coming back from last year's team, that I had to produce for us to be successful," Ben said. "But I didn't expect my numbers to be that good."

Eagle Wrestling getting better, coach says

by Michael Sheehan

The Eagles have improved by leaps and bounds despite their youth, their coach said.

Head Coach Jimmie Foster said that the season was going as expected.

"Well, I started out real slow, but I'm starting to improve a little bit. So are a lot of guys on the team." Sophomore Ishrat Husain said. "I think our team will really come together toward the end of the year."

Coach Foster said the most improved wrestler was sophomore Will Garcia.

"Will 'The Thrill' Garcia has proven through hard work and determination, anything is possible." Coach Foster said, "this young man is an excellent blend of machismo and determination."

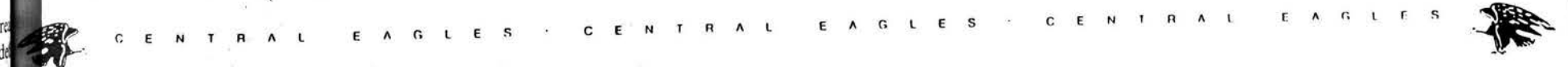
He said that the team, despite all its improvement, has one main weakpoint: its inexperience.

"We are improving daily in practice," senior Joe Wojtkiewicz, a four-year wrestler, said. "And that is the main goal."

He also said the team has made leaps and bounds in toughness and conditioning.

"We are in great shape," Joe said. "Every wrestler is focused and that should help us later in the season."

In the Metro tournament freshman Anders Christian defeated third-ranked Justin Valdez.



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Former Eagle flies to NFL

By Brian Joseph

After turning in a record-setting Orange Bowl performance, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (NU) junior I-Back and Central alumnus Ahman Green said that he will forgo his senior year and make himself eligible for the 1998 National Football League (NFL) Draft.

On Wed., Jan. 7, Green, who rushed for an Orange Bowl record 206 yards on 29 carries earning him the game's MVP honors, officially made his announcement that he was leaving NU.

Green said that it was after the Orange Bowl that he began to realize that it was time for him to go. He said that having as a productive game as he did in the Orange Bowl made him realize that he should go on to the NFL. Also, he said that he has accomplished a lot in his three years at NU, including earning two National Championship rings.

"I did all that I can do for Nebraska," he said.

In making his decision, Green said that he weighed the opinions of his family and his various coaches at NU. Also, he said that he talked with an NFL committee and former Husker football players who have gone pro including Central alumnus and former Green Bay Packer Calvin Jones and Miami Dolphins running back Lawrence Phillips.

Green said Phillips told him next level of the there is more of a Plus, he said that the NFL is a busi-Physically, he said he is prepared.



that Jones and that the NFL is the game and that mental aspect to it. they told him that they believe

that the NFL com-him as being a mid Draft choice.

Also, he said mittee projected to late first round

"It's a privilege to be touted like that," he said.

However, he said that such a projection is simply a prediction, not reality. He said that he knows athletically he matches well with other running backs that are going to be eligible for the NFL Draft.

"My athletic ability is up there," he said.

But, he said that he does not know how the different teams will rate the various players. Thus, there is no guarantee as to when, or even if, he will be taken in the Draft.

Yet, he said that playing in the NFL has always been a goal of his.

"It's a dream of mine," he said.

Green said that ever since he was a little kid, he has watched the NFL greats, wanting to be like them.

Also, Green said that he wanted to enter the NFL Draft as a way to earn money to provide for, and to help establish, his family. Currently, he said that he is raising his daughter.

When he came to his decision, Green said that his parents were very happy for him. He said that his parents had left the decision up to him.

"They'd rather me think about it," he said.

Green said that his parents took the attitude that he is an adult and can make his own decisions about his future.

Also, he said that retiring NU Head Coach Tom Osborne and his replacement, the current Assistant Head Coach and Running Back Coach, Frank Solich, are supportive of his decision.

"They are behind me 100 percent," he said.

When he was making his decision, Green said that there were basically three advantages to him staying with NU for his senior season. He said that one of these advantages would be increased media attention.

"A lot of guys don't stay when the NFL calls for them," Green said.

As a result, he said that if he were to stay, the

media would focus on him more because of his decision. Also, he said that if he were to stay, NU could win another National Championship.

"That's the team's goal," he said.

Although, Green said that NU will be successful without his services. He said that his back-ups at I-back, sophomore DeAngelo Evans and freshman Correll Buckhalter, are very talented. Also, he said that NU is bringing in a group of good recruits.

Another advantage to staying, Green said, would have been that he could win the Heisman Trophy. He said that players who have had productive junior seasons and forgo entering the NFL Draft until after their senior year, are top contenders for the Heisman.

"It was in (University of Tennessee Quarterback) Peyton Manning's future," Green said.

Nevertheless, while Green said that winning the Heisman was a goal of his, it was not a major one.

As for the disadvantages to staying, Green said that during his senior season, he could have been injured. Also, he said that his on-field productivity may decline.

"I may not have the kind of season like I did this year," he said.

Days before making the announcement, Green said that his coaches and teammates all basically had the same opinion on what his decision should be.

"Most of my coaches and most of my teammates wanted me to stay," he said.

However, he said that other teammates of his did not have an opinion on the matter. Rather, he said that they wanted him to do what was best for himself.

Either staying or going, Green said, would have been positive.

"It was basically a win-win situation," he said.

Yet, he said that it was somewhat difficult to come to a decision. Green said that what he was feeling before making the decision was anxiety.

He also said that he will miss NU. He said that he has met many friends during his time at the University and has learned a lot. He said that in the future, he would like to help the NU football program in any way that he can.

Also, Green said that he is only three semesters away

from graduating. Green said that graduating from a goal of his for the future.

Currently, Green said that he needs to begin to the Combine, the testing of the players that are eligible for the NFL Draft.

"It's very strenuous," he said.

Green said that those who are involved with the have to do drills that involve such things as picking up in blocking situations and running receiver routes.

"They'll run through

said. To prep said that he w out with a friend that he athletes. He he plans to de running to pre the Combine will take place February.

"I've got come more dis in my work."

Green sa his strong port Combine will speed, agility tical jump.

As for wh he would mos play for in the Green said that Francisco 49 the Miami D top his list. that he has be of both teams long time. In said that his st sparked his int the 49ers.

Green sa both the offer the Dolphins 49ers are well for him. He sa both have run offenses. so would have a him.

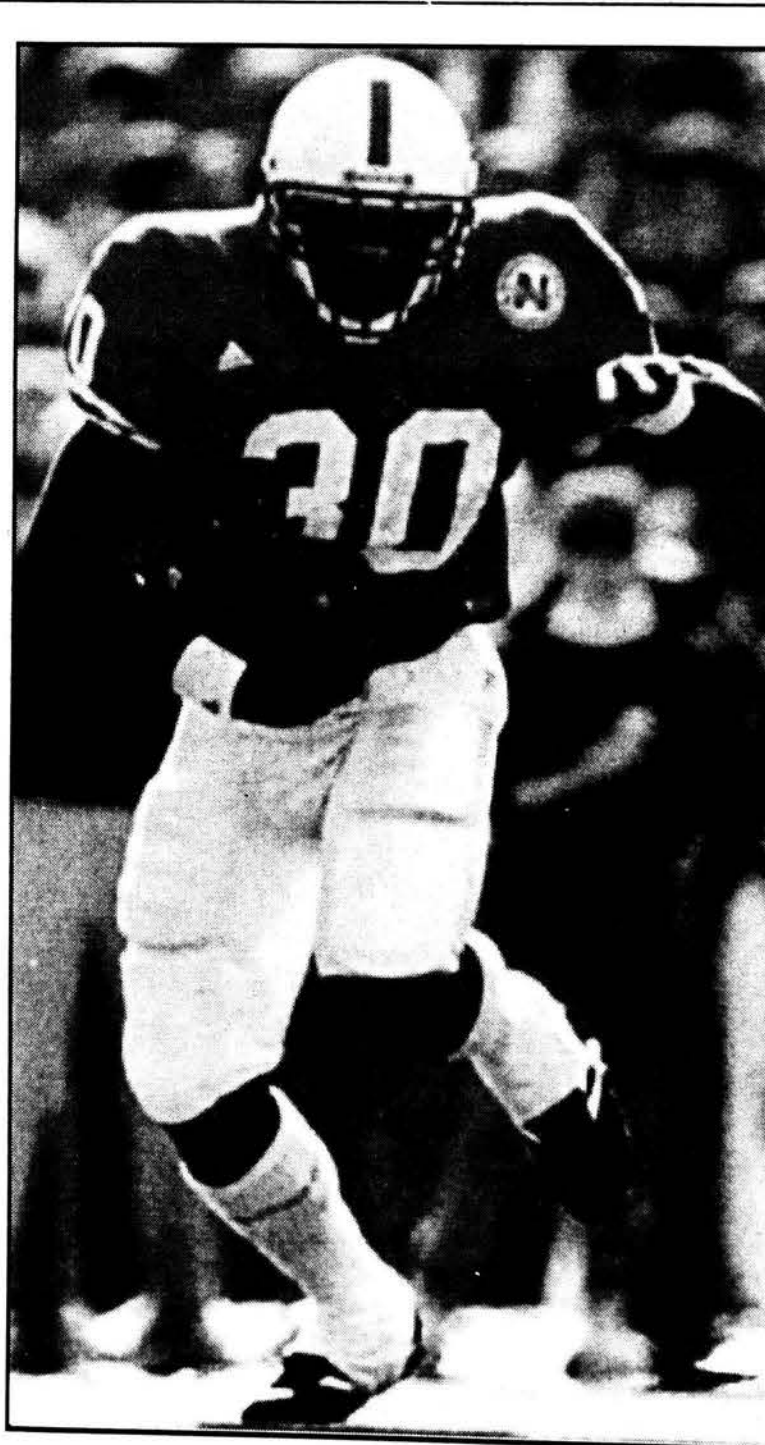
As to how reer in the NFL progress. Gre that he is unse said that he know if he will break-out row son or take a pace in crea name for him

Editor: Late DEB

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Courtesy of UNL

Going pro... Central Alumnus Ahman Green, coming off a season in which he finished second in the nation in rushing, will forgo his senior season at Nebraska to enter the NFL draft. His 1997 season garnered him many honors, such as Doak Walker Award Finalist and Second Team All-American.

said. However, Green said that he wants to do more career in the NFL than simply play ball. He said that he wants to help out whatever community his future team

Player (Yrs.)	Yards
1. Mike Rozier, IB (81-83)	4,780
2. Ahman Green, IB (85-87)	3,880
3. Calvin Jones, IB (91-93)	3,153
4. Ken Clark, IB (87-89)	3,112

Courtesy of UNL

DEPARTMENTS

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