### **Opinion** President has no real control

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## **Central Focus**

In-depth look at teens behind the wheel Page 6, 7



## **Sports**

Alumnus to play Division I hoops Page 11

Wednesday

January 27, 1999

the Central High School gister

Volume 112 Issue 5

The oldest high school newspaper west of the Mississippi, established 1886



## Behind the bars

Former Central student talks about being charged with first-degree murder and his life in jail.

> Story by Brian Joseph Photos courtesy of Omaha Police Department, Central High O-Book

entral dropout Andrew Westling looks out from behind the Sarpy County Jail's halfinch protective glass with drooping eyes. Since being arrested for allegedly kidnapping and murdering Wayne Webster, Jr. last March, he has spent 10 long months in a maximum-security cell.

"This place is so emotional. It's insane. I never wanted to get married or have kids. But, after the first two weeks [in here], I was like 'I want to get married, I want to have kids," he said. "Jail sucks, especially at Sarpy County."

According to information obtained from Douglas County, Webster's body was found in the early morning hours of March 19th in a dumpster located near the Portland Apartments on 29th and Leavenworth

The ensuing police investigation revealed that Webster had been in Westling's apartment the previous night. Allegedly, Westling became agitated with Webster over some goods Webster supposedly had stolen.

Westling was taken into custody the following day when it was discovered that Westling had in his possession one of Webster's belts and cassette tape player.

Since that time, Westling, who last attended Central in November of 1996, said that he has been a bored resident of the Sarpy County Jail.

Thomas Riley, a public defender and Westling's attorney, said that normally a case has to go to trial

Please turn to Jail, page 2



ABOVE: Westling's mug shots following his arrest in March of 1998. TOP OF PAGE: Andrew Westling's photo in the 1996 Central High O-Book.

## District state law

Officials look to prevent students expelled from other districts from going to OPS schools

#### By Mary Lynn Super

Along with educating its thousands of students, the Omaha Public School (OPS) district has taken on another role--lawmaker.

David Petersen, attorney for the OPS district, said that the OPS Board of Education recently proposed a state law that would keep problem students out of the OPS district.

If passed, he said, the board would have the authority to decide if a student expelled from another district should be allowed into an OPS school.

"If a kid is expelled for bringing a gun to school, why would another district want him in its schools?," he

Junior Samira Nazem said that she completely agrees with the idea

behind the proposed bill. "If a student gets expelled from

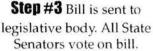
→ Turn to EXPEL, page 2

How a bill becomes

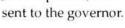
Step #1 State Senator introduces the bill.



Step #2 Bill is sent to standing committee. Committee votes on bill.



**Step #4** If passed, the bill is



**Step #5** If vetoed by the governor, the legislative body can override. If signed by the governor, the bill becomes a

law.

SOURCE: American Government: Principles and **Practices** 

BRIAN JOSEPH/THE REGISTER

## Ohio school offers alternative to GED

By Mary Lynn Super

Ohio students who were a few credits short of graduating from high school are now getting a second chance to go back to school to acquire an actual diploma.

The Overage High School, located in Akron, Ohio, is a program devoted to increasing the number of high school graduates in the school district, John Jacobs, a counselor at the high school, said.

What is different about this program is the fact that the students will eventually receive a high school diploma rather than a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), Jacobs said.

"Otherwise, the program is essentially the same as a GED program. They both include the idea that the student sets his or her own pace," Jacobs said.

The school is open from noon

until 8 p.m., allowing the students to attend whenever it is feasible for them, Jacobs said. He said there is one requirement, though: each student has to be at the high school at least four hours every week.

CHS fifth-year senior Emil Moses said that while the program is a good alternative to receiving a GED, he thinks that the students should be required to go at least ten hours per week.

"Four hours a week doesn't seem like it's long enough," he said.

He also said that he prefers his choice of enrolling in a ninth semester of high school to receive the necessary credits rather than the idea of this type of program.

Most participants in the program find the flexible scheduling not only convenient, but also necessary, Jacobs said.

→ Turn to OHIO, page 3

## entral grad honored as Rhodes' Scholar for work with NASA

Alumnus to spend next three years at Oxford working on her philospohy degree

By Derek Tritsch

From trailer park to Oxford University. It would make for a good movie, but this ragsto-riches transformation took place in real life.

In a nutshell, this is what happened to former Central student Jennifer Gruber.

Despite hailing from somewhat modest addition, the trust provides the recipient with upbringings, Gruber was recently named one of 32 Americans to earn a Cecil Rhodes' Scholarship.

The scholarship will fund two to three is based on four criteria: academic excellence, years of graduate schooling at Oxford University in London, Gruber said. In

a "healthy" stipend for spending money, Gruber said.

The selection of a Rhodes' Scholarship

→ Turn to RHODES, page 3

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#### **JROTC**

### Seven cadets honored for performance

#### By Brian Joseph

The legend of the Magnificent Seven has taken on a new life with some special Central JROTC cadets.

In an award ceremony on Dec. 16, seven cadets were honored with Certificates of Approval for their high rankings at the JROTC Battalion's Annual Inspection on Dec. 4.

Master Sgt. Gen. Brett Stoneberger, Creighton University's senior non-commissioned officer, said that he gave out these unique awards as a way to recognize the overachieving members of Central's tremendous JROTC program.

"The cadets are really busting their butts in all their courses," he

Stoneberger said that at the inspection the seven honorees all passed their uniform inspections and all demonstrated knowledge of leadership and human behavior.

"[Overall] they're in the top 3 in competition," he said.



#### Zac Chapin

However, Stoneberger said that the seven Central honorcesfreshmen Jason Slowik and Justin Rutherford, sophomores Cassia Nebel

and Kyla Newsome, juniors Levi Sena and Elizabeth Coder and senior Zac Chapin—were especially impressive at the inspection.

Chapin, who is Central High's Battalion Commander, said that it was quite an honor to be recognized in this

"It feels good," he said. "Its just kind of a self-esteem booster."

However, he said that he really does not do anything special to merit

"I don't think I deserve it," he said. "The cadets do the work. I've been in this for four years. I shouldn't get an award to look good."



# SIDILI PROFITS

## Tobacco companies lose billions in court settlement

#### By Jeremy Scurlock

Nebraska and Iowa recently won \$11.7 billion from several major tobacco companies which will be paid in annual allotments over the next 25 years, Nebraska State Senator Jim Jensen said.

"The allotments are not really clear," Jensen said. "In 1999, \$2.8 million of it will be given; in 2000, none will be given and about \$3 million [will be given] in 2001."

The settlement between the State Attorney General and several major tobacco

companies has finally been approved. Though the tobacco companies will be paying, so will those who suffer from the large taxes placed on cigarettes.

"These raises in the price of cigarettes are yet another form of 'the man' holding the little guy with his little imperfections down," Luke Stecker, senior, said.

A portion of the money accumulated from the price increase will be spent on decreasing the number of underage smokers, especially high school students like Stecker, Santema said.

Jensen introduced a bill that would make it harder for merchants to distribute cigarettes to underage smokers.

sting operations, which revealed that many underage kids were able to buy tobacco products with out being asked for

"The number of kids who were able to buy cigarettes was appalling. Some store clerks would ask for I.D.[identification], but then they wouldn't look at it. We need to cut off the availability of cigarettes to minors," Jensen said.

The Federal Government recently stated that underage smoking in Nebraska must decline by 20 percent in order to continue receiving the same amount of Medicare and Medicaid, Jensen said.

"About 38 percent of teens smoked He was recently involved in several last year. Now the number is somewhere around 20 or 22 percent, so the amount of teen smokers is increasingly decreasing," Jensen said. "Which makes the outlook for the future a little more promising."

#### EXPEL

#### **OPS** officials propose state legislation

#### Continued from page 1

one school, they shouldn't be ak to [an OPS] school," she said "Itisn school is just trying to push [the we the b on another school because they 0 progr to take responsibility for the prob. John

Paul Semrad, Centra amerce administrator, said that he was nortly af a problem with students from otherica 2 at Central.

He also said that he favors the the cou being able to deny a student with, he sai problem from enrolling in the dist "I'm concerned about the sat

students," he said. Problem students could three

safety, Semrad said. Safety concerns or not, the law. if a public school expels a student to must provide an alternative option student, Jack Gilsdorf, an administration the Nebraska Education Department

"This [requirement] gives; wrong message," he said. "The ultimate consequences for poor de

The current need for the bill at with a new option for Nebraska his students. Students can participa Enrollment Option Program In program through which one can transfer to another district, Peterset

There are several problems with option, he said. One of those p includes the fact that even expelled can apply to transfer to another dis

Petersen also said that the actual the bill sprouted from concerns ra School Board member.

"The Board began to discushypothetical situations, questioning the district would be forced to let the in." Petersen said.

If a student brought a gun tox would be expelled from the distric entire calendar year, he said. But the Enrollment Option Program. apply to go to school in another dis

Petersen said that the board wanot allowed to take past disciplinary into consideration, therefore forcing enroll the student.

Even if the student's applica denied, he can still use the syster advantage, he said.

"[The bill] is trying to keep pare sending their kids, once they get exp. live with their aunt or uncle who ar

in a different district," Petersen sa

#### JAIL

#### CHS dropout talks about his life behind the bars

#### Continued from page 2

within six months of the alleged crime. However, Riley said that Westling waved his right to a speedy

Whatever the case, Westling said that he is tired of being in jail.

"[Here] you have to wake up everyday to the same faces," he said. "Nobody wants to be here."

Westling said that after living in jail for 10 months, he has come to the conclusion that a human could not have invented such cruel punishment as time in prison.

"It's an insane type of punishment," he said. "Everyday is

And, he said that it's not the safest of places in the world, either. "People will punk you out here,"

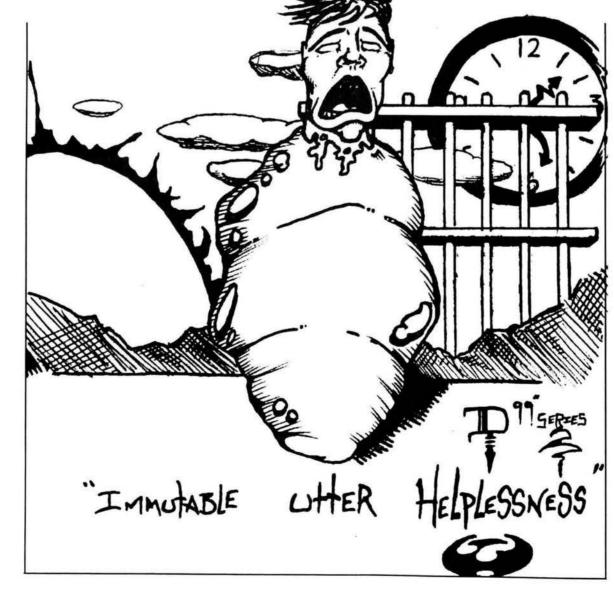
he said. "I've seen people get beat down without the deputies even knowing about it."

Westling said that he has learned how to survive in jail. For example, he said that he knows what type of people to avoid: the outspoken, tough

"You tend to stay away from people who think they're hot heads,"

And, he said that it's important to take the whole jail experience with a grain of salt.

the gun that's shooting at you," a bond."



ABOVE is a drawing made by Central dropout Andrew Westling. Westling said that he enjoys drawing to pass the time in the Sarpy County Jail.

Westling said.

However, he said that he has difficulty dealing with other inmates who complain about their situation.

"There's a lot of people in here "You can't let it get to you so on smaller crimes," he said. "They much. You've got to be stronger than whine about [how] they have too high

Westling said that these inmates have no idea what it's like to be in a situation like his.

"My case is very, very sensitive. They're telling me I could do 25 to 30 years," he said.

Deputy County Attorney Ray Daniel, the prosecuting attorney in

Westling case, said that the charge of first-degree murder carries the punishment of either life imprisonment or the death penalty.

"It's a very serious charge," Daniel said. "It's the murder of another person with premeditation [to

Because he is facing such serious consequences, Westling said that he has devoted a great deal of his time to learning about the legal system in an attempt to better his situation.

"Not only do I have to learn about the law, but also what kind of hell I'll be in [if he goes to the state penitentiary]," he said.

The prospect of going to the state penitentiary, he said, makes him especially nervous.

"Its just insane the kind of position you're put into because of the system," Westling said. "[The state penitentiary] definitely isn't the place for me. I don't want any big bubba to think I'm cute."

To make matters even worse, he said there is not anyone he can talk to in the jail. He said that if he were to talk to anyone about anything relating to his case or himself, there could be severe repercussions.

"You'd be surprised about how many people are snitches," he said. "It's so dangerous to talk about anything. Everybody wants to get out [of jail]," he said.

But, even with all of this opposition, Westling said that he is not losing hope.

"Looking at life, it's too crazy a thing to let slip by," he said. "I'm trying to find religion."

However, he said that with the life he has led up to this point, it is difficult.

"I thought it was cool to wakeup everyday and get stoned," he said.

After dropping out of Central, Westling said that he lived in his own apartment and survived by making tattoos and doing odd jobs.

And, he did a substantial amount of drugs. Westling said that he would trip acid almost everyday. But, he said that this was only the beginning of his

"I started doing crank. Ve "It will rule your mind if let it."

Westling said that he be the drug in January of 100 months later, he was arreste on he said that this proves powerful drugs can infli "It was fun at the time." uld

"but looking back, it was hed Knowing what I know now. have stayed in school. I mislife." Senior Dan Wells Westling's closest friends

was arrested, said that if would have stayed in sc stayed away from the hard current outlook would not be "He had some talents said. "He had a good hea

shoulders. I think he could a pretty good future." In fact, junior Jesse another one of Westling's frien that he does not believe W would soberly decide to I However, he said that at the

influenced him. As for the future, Riley Westling's case is slated to go in the next few months.

his arrest, he knows Westling

some powerful drugs that could

Westling said that he is ! remain somewhat optimistic. that he is hopeful that after he will only have to serve some 20 years.

Once out, Westling said would like to start his own to business and possibly get ma an old acquaintance. But. as there are no guarantees.

"I was real stupid for being situation," he said. "[But]. It easy and nobody said it was. It have to grin and bear it."

## Umaha 2000 improve education

ecca Rennard

not sufficient to be average, we need best," the chairman of the Omaha ram said.

Gottschalk said the Chamber of started the Omaha 2000 program fter President Bush started the 2000 program.

started the program because Bush untry was falling behind in educa-

"We [the people of Omaha] don't want a trained workforce, we want an educated workforce that we can train to do anything. There will not always be a demand for a skill, but there will always be a demand for the mind," Gottschalk said.

Although Gottschalk said he feels the educational program needs a great deal of improvement, some Central students said they disagree.

finishes his 13th year in the Omaha Public

School District, he feels Central's excellent faculty and academic programs have prepared him adequately.

"Our testing practices and AP classes are very similar to college, and I've always heard Central students do well, so I'm not concerned," Johnson said.

Other students said they also feel refinedifferent reason.

cational programs, but problems in education originate in society.

"I think we are a society of underachievers because technology is letting us become lazy," he said.

He said that refinement in schools is not possible until society has also been refined.



Sally Hess

junior, said she feels Gottschalk in that change is necessary.

Sally Hess,

Hess said she thinks she could get more out of her education if she had better teachers.

said

She

many of her teachers do not appear to posses a great deal of knowledge.

"I lose a great deal of respect for my teachers when I ask them a question and they can't even show me where to look for the answer," Hess said.

Connie Spellman, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, said one relatively new area in the program deals with finding well-educated teachers.

She said the Omaha 2000 program is discussing the creation of a test for perspective teachers.

Hess said she feels that all teachers, even those who have been teaching for a long period of time, should be forced to pass a standardized test.

Gottschalk said that the problems in education come from a million places.

He said the program is based on six goals set by President Bush in '91 (see graphic at left). The Omaha 2000 program started a committee for each goal.

The committee's job is to develop strategies to achieve the goal and then to measure and report the progress. Spellman said some of the goals are difficult to achieve, but all are equally important.

"One of our goals is to have the best math and science students in the world. I don't think it will happen in my lifetime, but if we don't set the goal, we will never achieve it," Spellman said.

#### ment in school is a waste of time, but for a Johann Johnson, senior, said that as he Bob Gass, senior, said he feels that problems in society do not originate with the edu-Omaha 2000's

BRIAN JOSEPH/THE REGISTER

**■ RHODES** 

CHS alumnus honored with Oxford University scholarship

#### Continued from page 1

enthusiasm and success in sports, community service and leadership, Boston University (BU) Assistant to the President Dr. Craig Klafter said.

"Jenny fit all four criteria, perfectly," Klafter said.

Klafter was quick to add that, although Gruber ended her gymnastics career in high school, a behavior commonplace among female gymnasts, she continued her involvement in the sport by coaching the BU gymnastics team.

All this has left the Gruber family shell-shocked in excitement, as they realized what stiff competition she. was up against, Gruber said.

"One guy had worked with orphans in Romania and another guy had done volunteer work in Egypt." Gruber said. "I was just like, 'Whoa," how can I compete with these people?'

"But you give it your best shot and see what happens. In the end, I came out ahead of those guys."

Klafter said that Gruber was aided by a recommendation from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In the letter, Gruber was described as a "shoe-in" to win the Rhodes' scholarship. Klafter said.

Gruber's mother, Theresas attributes Jennifer's success to her unrelenting determination.

"She sets her sights very high and will absolutely not take 'no' for an answer," the elder Gruber said.

Gruber's determination has already earned her a position with NASA. In fact, she took a year off. from her four-year program of study at BU to work in the Mission-Control center at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

This year, she is back at BU to finish off her BS/MS in her fifth year.

After she graduates, she will go off to London to undergo her doctorate of philosophy, called a "D-Phil," a projected three-year plan.

After she gets her D-Phil, Gruber said she plans to go back to NASA and begin working toward becoming an astronaut.

In fact, Klafter said that Gruber can often be seen walking BU campus wearing a button that reads, "Mars or bust!" Klafter said that those words, coming from Gruber, are somewhat

credible. "If it was any other student I would say it is unrealistic," Klafter said. "But since it is Jenny, you tend to believe it. With her, anything's possible."

All this would seem to be a bit much from someone from such modest beginnings, but it is quite simply a tribute to her hard work, the elder Gruber said.

All children will start school ready to learn High school graduation rate at 90 percent All children will demonstrate competency over challenging subject matter Every adult will be literate and possess skills to compete in global economy Students first in world in science, math Every school will be free from drugs, violence SOURCE: Omaha 2000 Progress Report

### DHIO

tution helps rage high ol students

nued from page 1

ost of the people who use this have jobs," he said. "They not all conform to one set

entine Dixon, one of the m's students, said that the

flexible schedule gave him a wider variety of job choices.

Dixon, 19, works at Best Buy part of the day and goes to school the other part. He said he only needs eight credits to acquire a diploma. The best part of the program, in Dixon's opinion, is the fact that all of the students who complete the program receive an actual high school diploma.

"The program is self-paced, just as if I was working towards a GED, but I actually get a diploma," Dixon

Central senior Adriana Pina said that she thinks that the program may

"The program is self-paced, GED, but I actually get a

> student at the Overage High School in Akron, Ohio

work hard to graduate.

stroll

into

shops

OT

in our

fine

restaurants

ROCKBROOK

VILLAGE

108TH AND CENTER

dine

unique

be a deterrent for some seniors to available, why should anyone work hard to graduate," she said, actual diploma later on."

Dixon said that nothing could be further from the truth.

"Every student that's here wants to be here," he said.

He also said that the program was beneficial because teachers were available to answer questions.

This is especially helpful when trying to learn new information, he

There are currently five certified teachers working part-time at the Overage High School, Jacobs said. While that makes the ratio of students to teachers 50 to one, Jacobs said that it never seems to be a problem.

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just as if I was working towards a diploma." **Ouentine Dixon** 

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## the Central High School egister

Principal--Dr. Gary Thompson Advisor--Matt Deabler Opinion Page Editor--Katie McCann

#### First Semester

## Finals after break absurd

The Omaha Public School (OPS) Board and the administration of Central both have made a grave mistake by holding first semester finals after Winter Break.

The administrators seem to have forgotten that after two weeks of vacation, many students are not ready to take finals.

For the past three years, first semester finals have always been held two or more weeks after Winter Recess.

Though this action was intended to help the students of Central, it is in fact, hurting

Central High School and OPS decided to start the previous few school years two weeks later than normal because Central and other OPS schools are extremely hot in the summer, and the heat often disrupts the learn-

With school starting two weeks later than normal, Omaha Public Schools found that they could not fit all of first semester into the time before Winter Break.

So, two or more weeks, including finals week, were moved to after the break.

However, now students are faced with a major problem. After two weeks of break, students have lost touch with the curriculum and must readjust to school.

The students have not necessarily forgotten any of the material, they have just been away from it for two weeks.

In order to fully refamiliarize themselves

with the curriculum, some students need at least two or three weeks of review.

However, OPS has only scheduled one week for review. Even with that one week, many students are still unprepared for final exams.

This problem is becoming unique to Central alone

Millard and District 66 schools use block scheduling and can fit finals in before the

Schools that have modular scheduling, such as North, have multiple options for finals and have more time to review.

In fact, three years ago, Central, along with all other schools in OPS did have finals before the break.

Winter Break occurring before the end of the semester has also caused many other problems.

Teachers have been forced to adjust their curriculum around the break.

Many teachers attempt to hurry through a unit of their curriculum so they can end it before the break.

Other teachers, who cannot end their current chapter before the break, are forced to review the entire chapter with their students after the break.

Basically, holding finals after break is unfair to the students and even the teachers. OPS would be better off holding the finals before break in the first place.

#### School schedule times

## Later start beneficial

The Nebraska State School Board is hindering the performance of its students by not allowing school to start at a later time in the

Even though research has proven that starting school later would be more beneficial to students, the school board has refused to allow it

The question is, why is the State School Board against this issue when there are so many benefits to it?

The performance of the students was one of the first reasons why the issue was brought up in the first place.

Research indicated that students learn more and perform better in school at later times during the day. It was thought that if schools were

started later, the students would perform bet-

Also, the issue of sleep deprivation is to be considered. Lack of sleep is a prominent problem among students, especially teenag-

Students would be able to get more sleep if school started later in the day.

Students would also have more time available at night to do homework. They would be able to stay up later, and, in turn,

Also, by starting school later, getting to school would become safer.

It would be lighter out, students would be more alert and, in winter, some of the ice and snow may be washed or plowed off the

Even though the delayed start of school would have negative affects, the benefits certainly outweigh the costs.

The State School Board voted against the bill primarily for the fact that a later start would cut down on time for extracurricular activities, sports, student jobs and other outof-school student activities.

However, all of those can be rescheduled.

Thankfully, many students, administrators and even legislators still believe this bill would be beneficial and are fighting for it.

These people should be applauded for their efforts to aid students.

This issue needs to be re-examined by the State School Board.

It is plainly obvious that increased alertness and safety of students outweigh the inconvenience of rescheduling some after school activities.

This change would be well worth it because it would improve many areas of stu-

#### Legislative bill

## Education deprived of funds

The Nebraska Education Department along with State Senators want to reverse a state school funding bill, but Gov. Mike Johanns does not want to rush into it.

About two years ago, the Nebraska State Legislature passed a bill that would cause several million dollars to be lost from state aide for schools.

This isn't necessarily helping Nebraska, so something needs to be done to change it.

This is the bill that the education department and the senators want to change. Who could blame them?

Because of this legislative mistake, under-funded schools are losing more money than what they have before.

However, Johanns still has not yet made a decision on the matter.

If he is against it, one would think that he would have made a statement on the matter or vice-versa.

Everywhere people turn, there is news that schools need help financially. People usually want to try to help the situation, but what are people supposed to think in this predicament?

Because of this legislative mistake, Omaha Public Schools are going to lose \$5

And though some may insist that this loss of money is not much of a "problem" for education departments how can it not

Education costs are by far, very

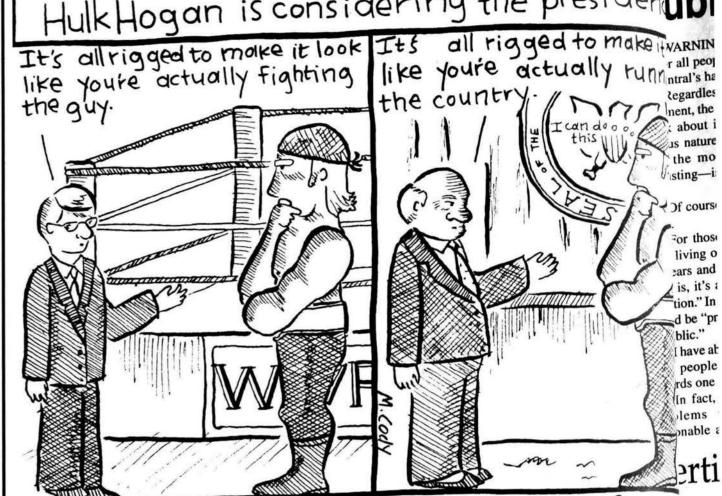
School districts, of course, can use all the help that they can get when it comes to providing the best education possible for

Money is money. The loss of it anywhere is a significant loss and does make an impact, especially in education.

It should not be said anywhere that "it isn't a big deal because state aide is only one source of funding for schools" because \$5 million is, obviously, a good chunk of money that would be missed.

Hopefully this situation will be resolved before anymore money is lost due to a legislative mistake.

## Hulk Hogan is considering the presidenubl



Maybe Clinton will take up wrestling...professio when I then,

## Aliens from outer space exist on planet

Ever stare into space and wonder if they had the right idea too. The idea of being we're really alone?

Now, little green men like Marvin the Martian and Space Jam may all pop into your head.

El-wrongo-that's Morganese Spanish for those of you who are unaware of my little island off the coast of the country

So, at this point, it may seem that I'm the one who fell off her rocker and bonked her noggin. Well, snicker no more... I

have evidence. Where shall our revealing begin?

Beginnings have always worked for me.

Works Morgan Denny

Whatever

big, bad and if you don't like someone... just Extinction, you naggingly

> became, shall we say, undesirable. Sticking with the animal theme: dogs. Come on people, they sniff butts in order to get

acquainted... how advanced.

remind me? Being guests, they

simply left when the climate

We've got some catching up to do, except for maybe Dr.

You see, I'm beginning to believe that movie producers have some special sense with Dinosaurs. They were aliens. And, which they detect alien presence and yet can't

quite pin-point it. And now "The Faculty" has The D

please.

Movies are supposed to depict rem Chul HINT MUCH? That one really hits close to brecent I else would I have failed all the the Jan

a twin,

My gue

a had th

birthd

Why, by George, I do believe The us

aliens' faults.

Can we say grade appeal. And the most recently diber of inhabitants of earth who are origineases e somewhere that is not here...

facts Double-dutch jump-ropers I could never master it when If the elementary school... or high schoolized. matter. Now, at least, I have prohatester,

Jealousy? Nah. Well. whaleve

## 1998's top 26 list gets a little freal gued

The votes on the 1998 ABC's are now tallied and ready to be told. The best and worst people, things and ideas and what we have to look forward to this year all in one alphabet. This year is historic, for it is the last year of the millennium. It is important to examine the ABC's of 1998.

A Absolut Vodka ads. Those have got to be the most simple ads, yet they have that lasting effect on us. They're so

B Bill Clinton, Jeez, Bill! The only reason we would go to war with Iraq would be because you cheated on your masculine wife with a crazy lady.

C Chris Farley. That fat guy in the little coat passed away and so did comedic movies for that matter.

D Dance clubs. No, I don't actually dance, but I do meet tons of people, and clubs are always fun to go to once in a

E Entertainment of Omaha. Wait. Oops, what entertainment?

F Fertility drugs. They should be

G George Michael. No kidding, you're gay? Who would have guessed?

H "Half-Baked," the best movie to watch at 4 a.m. on Friday nights after a rad

I Internet. I don't know if this is a good Saturday Night Live (SNL) becausely. or a bad thing. J Jim Carrey. For the love of God...

can't he make one more decent movie before K Kiss. Okay, it's cool that they're like

80 years old and they can still rock 'n roll, but do they have to have Kiss action figures and telephones in the stores? L Leonardo Dicaprio.

Yeah, he's cute, but will he ever go through puberty? He makes a couple of good films and he's the apple of everyone's eye. M Marilyn Manson.

Okay, you freak, and all the freaks who listen to the freak singing about freaks, put some clothes on and take the makeup off and maybe people will actually gain respect for your

N N'Sync. Excuse me while I vomit at the thought that they make more money than me, and I probably change more lives by working at a grocery store putting milk on the shelf than they do by singing their sappy O Don Ohlmeyer. He fired Norm

Macdonald from "Weekend Update" on

O.J. Simpson jokes dumber than before. P Pamela Anderson's secusierica

abuse by her husband Tommy I confer. If She's now single... Q Quartet of the Spice (link idies)

Spice split. Weren't they suppose Eve

Hilary!

face on the \$50 bill. pugh

government trying to m nt to money look fake?

Need I say more?

W Wrestling. Wrestling made back and Goldberg is my dream ma

X "X-Files". The show is a b weird side, but it is a pretty good ving watch when you have nothing elsel.

suppose to ruin everyone's lives

has ended and we are all still alive

## the Register

Volume 112 Issue 5 Editor-In-Chief/Columnist Brian Joseph

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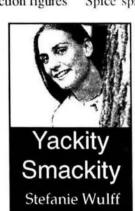
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Y Y2K, the killer computer but Z Zippidy do dah! Zippidy day

Omaha, Nebraska

**January 27, 1999** 

Photojournalist Cathy Colling Cartoonist Meagan Cody

Central

Scene

Brian Joseph

## ublic display of affection going too far

people who constantly suck face

s hallways.

the topic I am going to ut is of an extremely ture. Without a doubt, most defining—and -issue of this school

Of course, I am speaking of

ose of you who have on Mars for the past nd don't know what a 's a "public display of In layman's terms, that practically having sex

absolutely no problem le being affectionate ne another.

In fact, for the most part, I have no with students showing a e amount of affection. (That is,

NING: This column will offend unless the couple is ugly. Then it's just wrong.)

However, what I'm seeing in the halls tless of the preceding sarcastic these days is excessive. (With a particular

emphasis on the "x." As in Xrated.) Seeing students making out (Frenchy style) and groping each other has become

commonplace. You know it's getting bad when you see the same two people making out in the same place during the same passing

period everyday. It's getting so bad that the Register staff has started giving nicknames to its favorite couples that make out near

room 315. (Speaking of which, I've been asked by the staff to tell

"Tall Guy" that we'll be more than willing to chip in a few extra bucks to pay for a hotel room for you and your woman.)

Now, don't get me wrong. By no means

am I prude or saying that students shouldn't be affectionate. What people do in their personal life is their own business.

But, don't do it in front of me and make it my business.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I really don't want to watch other people "get their groove on." (Besides, if I'm not getting any of it, what good does it do me?)

Plus, I can't understand why anyone would want to corrupt such a special moment as kissing someone by doing it in front of everyone and God. Being intimate with someone should be a personal, private thing, not something done in the middle of a crowded hallway.

Besides, I can't imagine it's all that great to play tonsil hockey while your Algebra teacher walks by. (Or, worse yet, your Human Growth and Development instructor. Can we say embarrassing?)

Whatever the case, you know this has got to be a problem if the boy who says more girls need to burn their bras is thoroughly disgusted.

## ertility drugs take pregnancies to unnatural level

I was seven years old, I watched a documentary on the emotional and mental connections between twins. Ever ce then, I have always thought about how great it would be to

ve a twin, someone that shared almost everything with . My guess is that, at one time or another, most people had that very same thought.

But what about having six or seven siblings to share ur birthday with? Doesn't that seem like a few too

The Dec. 20 birth of the octuplets in Houston to em Chukwu is just another link in the seemingly oning chain of multiple births. This event, as well as recent birth of the McCaughey septuplets in Iowa d the Jansen quintuplets in Oakland, Neb., forced me take a closer look at modern medical technology.

The use of fertility drugs to stimulate fertility in omen who otherwise would not be able to get pregnant s become not only accepted, but also encouraged. The imber of women turning to this type of procedure creases every year.

While I understand why a woman would want to go through s procedure, I can not honestly say that I agree with the concept. e facts associated with it are just a little too troubling.

If the drugs work as planned, as many as 10 eggs could be tilized. Even if only half of the eggs survive through the first mester, the woman is still pregnant with FIVE children.

Now comes the decision of whether to participate in "selective reduction," a process that entails eliminating several of the fetuses. In less politically correct words, killing the babies.

Because a baby needs as much room as possible to develop, this process is necessary for a better chance of survival. Still, even this reasoning does not make the process

> any less horrible. But say that the parents choose not to do this. Now they are looking forward to months of hospital visits after the babies are born. Babies involved in

> multiple births tend to have respiratory problems, a deficient immune system and/or learning disabilities. There is just one thing I cannot understand: what

> do these people have against adoption? Thousands of unwanted babies are born every year, both in this nation as well as others around the world. Many of them spend their childhood and adolescent years moving from one foster home to another, constantly feeling as if no one cares about

> > ■ You dress like a Hessian in school,

■ You feel you control the elements of

■ You have more than four body parts

■ And the number one

If you have answered

way to see if you are gothic:

yes for two or more of these

statements, it's inevitable,

you're gothic. Now, how will

we deal with these social

outcasts? Ask and you shall

nudists. Black, white,

Hessian, all will strip to their

birthday suits and flaunt their

God given talents. I've got a

We will all become

You deny you are trendy.

hexes and other ridiculous denominations of

S(o)up of

the day

Mary Lynn Super

It just seems so obvious - why should people spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to create sickly babies when healthy children around the world need families? Because they want their own children? Doesn't that seem somewhat shallow?

The whole situation has made me realize that not every breakthrough in modern technology is beneficial to today's society.

the Black Arts.)

pierced.

but your parents don't know.

## rendy Gothics, Hessians decaying American society

agued society for years. Gothics and ssians are the most trendy of the student

I can't tell one from another. In their to be different from mainstream they have become identical to each you change your dress just because usic you listen to, you must be the

ry Goth uses the same excuse as to wear what they do: "I was the first it." No you weren't. You never ve bought baggy pants if you hadn't n someone else. You never would rn the ugly makeup of death if you anted to fit in. If that's not trendy,

am I picking on the Goths and Pecause I can't rack my brain o understand why someone would look dead. I take that back, I can.

ttention. low must your self-esteem be if y around dolls with pins in them, as more than Dennis Rodman. essian does, to get that recognition

ve always been craving? es this make me a hypocrite? Am I

Goths are those leeches who have feeders when I should be depriving it from them? I don't think so.

People blame the parents--this is uppletely right. Goths and Hessians are nature (this includes witchcraft wicken looking for their parents to say, "No, this has gone far enough. You can't wear that."

But it never happens. In this ghetto world, parents need to come to the realization that they need to stop their kids,

Do you smell that? It's the

not give them space.

decay of western society. If you're like most social outcasts, you're probably in Goth denial. Thus, I have created some handy reference material for you

This checklist can help you tell if you are Goth, Hessian or even a poser.

- You listen to Marilyn Manson, Korn or Nine Inch Nails religiously
- You change your hair color
- Your wardrobe consists of less than five colored items (other than black).
- Of the less than five colored items, four are concert T-shirts.





perfect body--why not show Then, with all this exposed flesh, people will be too embarrassed to worry about what

clique they belong to. How would that not be perfect?





## **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.

### Do you think the American people, as a whole, are ready for a female president?

Yes. Women can do just as good as men. With equal opportunity employment, women have become managers of big companies. Why can't they be managers of the government?



Nicole Lynch, 9



Danielle McLucas, 9

what has become a man's role. Men began this country, and they think there is no need for change.

No. The men would not accept a woman in

Yes. After the Bill Clinton scandal, it would be refreshing to have a change. There are not enough women in political offices.



Noelle Thornburg, 12



Andre Jack, 11

No. The American public is, but the American government is not. The government is simply not ready to accept a female leader.

Yes. America is absolutely ready for a woman president. America is also ready for black presidents and other minority presidents.





Mike Kruger, 10

No. The American public wants to retain the respect of other countries. Many countries and cultures do not respect women as leaders and would lose respect for America if a woman were president.



Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on the sports coverage in the newspaper. During the softball season, the softball team received little coverage by the Register. At the end of the season, there was only a little article in the corner of the paper about the team. We had a very good season and accomplished a lot. Several players received honors for their abilities. The football team received so much more coverage than the softball team. I have no problem with the guys receiving coverage because they did a great job this year and deserve the recognition. However, the softball team deserved more recognition than what it received.

> Sincerely, Sally Hess, junior

Dear Editor,

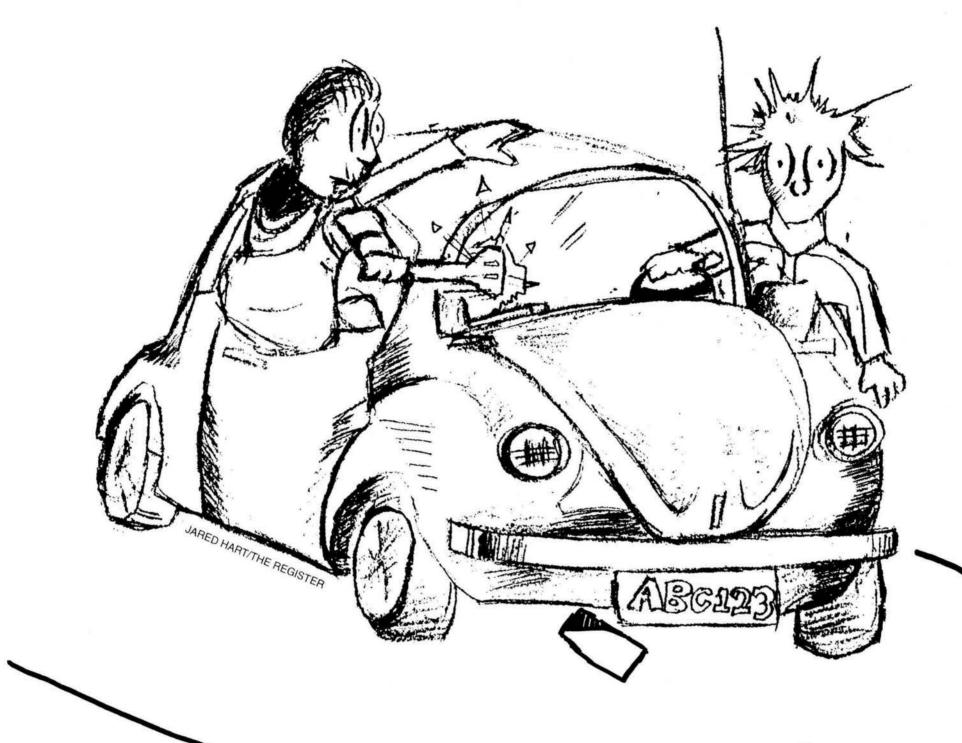
The class of '99 is in trouble. We have no unity. I have always observed how a strong bond forms among seniors. Even though there were always cliques, everyone seemed to know each other and get along fairly well. That was something I always hoped for and even expected for my senior year.

Now that it's here, it's a big let down. It's frustrating to ignore the opportunity to make our senior year a positive experience by getting to know everyone.

I do not know how to do it myself. How do we get the senior class of '99 to unite? Any suggestions?

> Sincerely, Terra Gillespie, senior

→ 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.



## Inexperience leading cause of teen accidents

By Talya Greenspoon

Inexperience behind the wheel Carlson said. along with slippery roads and late nights are among the leading causes of teenagers' car accidents.

Junior Julia Jahn said that she had first-hand experience with a car accident after a terrifying New Year's

"I was going through a yellow light when a woman pulled out without looking and smashed into my driver's side," Jahn said. "I was hysterical and had to run to a gas station and call the police."

Traffic Section of the Omaha Police Department said that Jahn's accident is a typical example.

"The two leading causes of phone and was able to call the police.

teenage traffic accidents are failure to She said that her car was so crushed yield the right of way and speeding,"

He said that accidents involving teenagers can usually be blamed on driver inexperience.

"A lot of little things happen and come together at one time to cause an accident," Carlson said. "There are usually two cars, but other situations also occur."

One of these situations happened to senior Katherine Meigs who said that she also was involved in a car accident in December.

"The roads were icy and hard to Officer David Carlson of the drive on," Miegs said. "I lost control on a curve, spun around and hit a telephone pole.'

Luckily, Miegs said she had a cell

that she had to climb out of her window to get out.

Fortunately in both Miegs' and Jahn's cases, neither was seriously hurt, but physical and emotional damage can still occur, Jahn said.

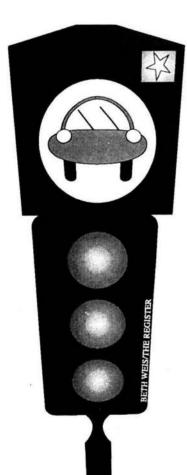
"The best way to avoid accidents is to be aware of your surroundings," Carlson said. "When you are driving, it is a serious responsibility, like flying an airplane.'

Jahn said that another thing to watch out for is not to drive like you own the road. She said that accidents are more prone to happen when you are too sure of yourself.

"I thought that I could speed through the yellow light and be just fine, but I was wrong," Jahn said.

Miegs also said that one has to be

## SMILE! You're on stoplight camera



#### ■ City ordinance plans to enforce basic traffic law

#### By Meredith Kalina

If you are one of those Central students who have a habit of running red lights to avoid yet another tardy, a hefty fine is coming your way.

Motasem Al-Turk, traffic engineer for the city of Omaha, said that in April the city will put cameras in certain intersections to catch people running red lights.

"We have been aware of the problem for some time, and we hope this will help solve it," he said.

He said that accidents related to running red lights cause the most severe accidents that often times result in casualties.

"I think that the cameras will be good because they will protect people

from a lot of traffic related accidents," junior Mandy Monette said.

She said that people will also begin to respect the police more.

"By putting these cameras out, we hope that people will be more careful and that the numbers will drop," Al-Turk said.

Al-Turk said that the idea was proposed by the mayor's office, and it was approved that they would be put out on the streets.

He said that a series of contracting companies made their bids on the production of the cameras.

"We are now in the process of admitting the contractor with the lowest bid to the city to be voted on,"

When the contractor is chosen, he will have two months to finish the project, he said.

He said that these cameras will also benefit the police in many ways. Al-Turk said that the police will no longer have to spend as much time sitting at intersections waiting to chase

Because of these reasons, he said that these cameras will be well worth the time and effort.

Al-Turk said that the camera is made up of a camera, a flashlight, a computer and a radar.

He said that the camera is placed 50 feet above an intersection pointed at the stop bars.

He said that when the light turns red the radar is sent to the stop bar to catch any cars that are going through.

Al-Turk said that the camera is then triggered by the radar. He said that a picture of the car is put on a computer screen and then a second picture is taken as it leaves the intersection.

He said that the close-up picture of your car is blown up to see the license number, and the computer prints the needed information about the

"A citation is then sent to the owner of the car caught on film," he said.

With a citation, he said, the person will be fined \$85, which must be paid for in 30 days or less.

"If they do not pay the fine on time, they get sent a second fine of an additional \$35," Al-Turk said.

He said that he is very optimistic of the results that the camera will produce.

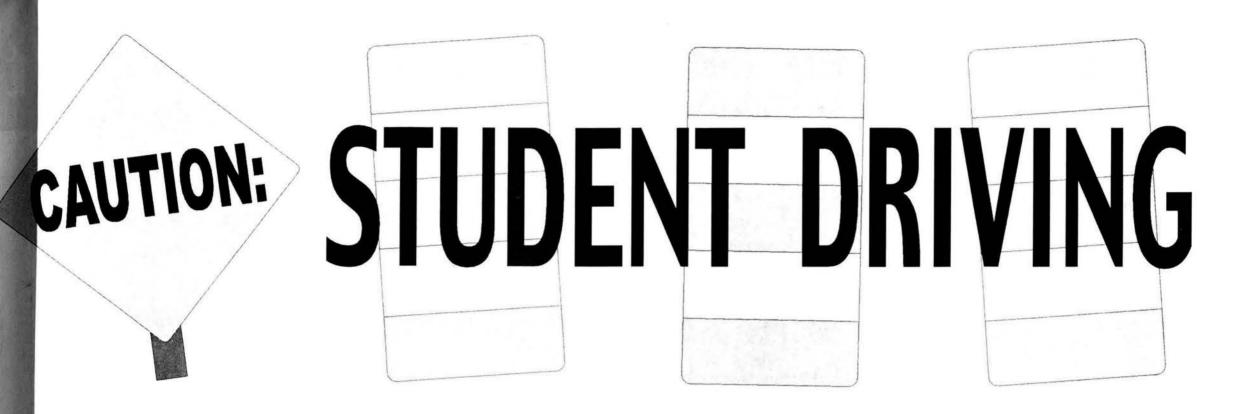
"When the city begins to enforce the law, we are sure that the number of violations will drop," he said.

Al-Turk said that other cities of similar size of Omaha that have the cameras produce ten citations per day for each individual camera.

He said that the city knows that the cameras will be put into use in Omaha.

He said that the city conducted a research experiment on the intersection of 72nd and Dodge.

"We counted 85 vehicles who would be ticketed in a period of six hours," Al-Turk said.



## New license cracks down on driving

#### By John Eubanks

Nebraska is undergoing a new licensing law which all teens who turned 16 after Jan. 1, 1999 will have to abide by, the Driver's Education Program Manager at the Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha said.

Bill Mulherin said that the new law requires certain rules for teenage drivers.

Mulherin said that 16-year-olds no longer receive a driver's license.

Instead, students will receive a Provisional Operator's Permit (POP), which will allow them to drive from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.

"The only exceptions to this rule are if students are coming home or to work," Mulherin said.

their POP, they will either have to log 50 provable hours with a licensed resident above the age of 21 or students can enroll in an approved driver's education course, Mulherin said.

ing," Mulherin time.

Mulherin also said that students who already had their licenses would not have to abide by the certain regulations of logging the hours and taking the driver's course.

Some students such as Central juniors Beyra Amaya and Tierrah Hervey, both currently 16 years of age, did not receive their driver's license before Jan. 1, 1999 and will, therefore, have to abide by the new law.

Amaya said that she is upset that she did not get her license before the new law.

"I seem to be well-educated enough on the driving procedures," Amaya said. "It is going to be a long and useless process."

On the other hand, Hervey said In order for students to receive that she is glad she waited to get her operator's license.

"Now I can better educate myself and have time to get more experience by taking a driver's education class," Hervey said.

Mulherin said that students tak-"These hours must be ing the driver's education course need provable by submitting to accomplish 20 hours of classroom, the times and dates of 5 hours of behind the wheel practice the practiced driv- and also at least one hour of testing

"Driver's education is an advantage to students," Mulherin said. "It teaches them the basics of how to be a good driver."

Some students, such as junior Bill Littrell, said that driver's education taught him absolutely nothing that he did not already know.

"Driver's ed. was early in the morning and I was barely awake," Littrell said. "Plus, I already knew half of the criteria covered."

The advantage of taking a driver's education course is that students no longer will have to take their driving test nor their written test when they go to receive their POP, Mulherin said.

Amaya said that even though driver's education will be more convenient for students, she believes that the POP thing is a little bit ridiculous.

"The POP is taking away a lot of

our freedom," Amaya said. Students with POP's will keep them until they are 18 years of age. driving license, Mulherin said.

"If students disobey the law in any way, their POP can and will be sus- the need for a decrease in accidents and skills.

BETH WEIS/THE REGISTER

pended," Mulherin said.

Mulherin said that the reason behind all of this is that teens have proven to be the highest risk group involved in deaths and accidents with vehicles.

Nebraska

JOHN JONES 1713 N 73 ST OMAHA, NE 68138

"The main factor is inexperience with driving and all the precautions," Then they can receive their operator's Mulherin said. "This law will bring about improvement."

Date of Birth

PROVISIONAL OPERATOR'S PERMIT

"I have had many friends who were so inexperienced that they did not know how to handle situations of danger," Hervey said.

Hervey said that the new law Hervey said that she agrees with should improve new teenage driver's

# SIGGAT RAPS

## Central Driving Standards Are you for or against Nebraska's new graduated licensing for teens? **AGAINST** Do you think that it is a good idea to have cameras on stoplights? 37% Are you affected by the new 1999 driving law? 175 Students

### ■ Police program attempts to stop wreckless driving

#### By Rebecca Rennard

"Some guy jumped out in front of my car. I thought it was someone trying to commit suicide," a Central senior said.

Adam Moeller said the man who jumped in front of his car was really a police officer, pulling Moeller over to give him a speeding ticket.

Moeller said police officers had "conveniently" located themselves at the base of a

"It is impossible not to pick up speed down that hill [at J.E. George and Western]," he said.

Capt. Joe Davitt of the Southwest Precinct and the Traffic Division of the Omaha Police Department said traps like this were part of a program to cut back on reckless driving, Initiative 17.

Davitt said the initiative started because the department had been receiving many complaints about excessive speeding, especially on the interstate system.

He said the people are now calling to let the officers know the community enjoys seeing them on the streets.

He said the officers were targeting interstate speeders.

never for such a long time period. Our goal is

that the extended time of the initiative will change their [speeders] habits," he said.

Joe Friend, officer for the Traffic Section of the Omaha Police Department, said the Traffic Division worked towards achieving this goal by placing officers in three locations around the city, from Dec. 18 to Jan. 17.

He said Initiative 17 has worked effectively, and there have been six to eight officers collecting between 80 and 100 tickets a day at each location.

He said he feels that although the recent initiative has cut back on speeding, the officers will need to remain on the streets.

"It is not reasonable to expect a change so quickly. Behavior like that, which has been going on for years is not going to stop after 30 days. It is going to take a long time effort, but we have already received positive feedback from the community," Friend said.

Pete Trerice, junior, said that despite Friend's optimism, he feels the initiative is not doing anything, and he still finds himself constantly driving over the speed limit.

"The police are not doing a good job, or else I would have a ticket by now," Trerice

April Dixon, junior, said she used to feel the same way, but after receiving two tickets, she changed her mind.

Dixon said that while the first ticket had little affect on her, the second, which she received in November, forced her to drive more cautiously.

Friend said that officers will remain on "We have done things like this before, but the streets, even though Initiative 17 has been completed.

## intertainmen

## Chili Greens offers golfing year-round

By Meredith Zendejas

Driving down Center Street you may have noticed a large white, alien spaceship thing. Well, it's not a spaceship, it's a indoor golfing range!

"Chili Greens was just what Omaha needed for all those people who like to golf and need somewhere to go during the winter months," Juan Elizondo, co-owner of Chili Greens,

Chili Greens located at 6808 Spring Street, is a dome that is 48 thousand square feet and is 70 feet high. It is held up completely by air pressure and is made with only a Polly



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

FORE! Jeff Lind takes advantage of Chili Greens, the new indoor golf range, to next golfing season.

plastic material.

Elizondo said that the air pressure is so high that when opening the door the air pressure would throw you down

Because of that reason, the dome has to have a special revolving door to keep the pressure in.

Elizondo said that he got the idea of the dome from seeing a dome in Minneapolis.

He said that it took him a while to research the dome and talk to manufacturing companies to make the material. But he said it was well worth it because the public has responded

They started construction in September of last year, and finished in December. Nine days after they had the dome inflated, someone came by and sliced it. He said that was the only problem that he has had so far.

Since, they have fixed the patch, he said that business has been good.

Elizondo said that they have also opened the door for indoor soccer, softball and flag football leagues. He said that all of the non-golfing sports are played after 8 p.m., when the golfing ends, until midnight or 1 a.m.

All of the sports after 8 p.m. are from junior leagues.

He said that he has had some high schools contact him for practices.

Jon Fitzpatrick, junior, said that he is glad that there is some place for him to practice his golf during the winter.

Chili Greens is open seven days a week, and opens at 9 a.m. Chili Greens, work on his swing for the in addition to the dome, has a new golf course that opened on July 2 of last year.

## CHS A Cappella sponsors dance

By Meredith Zendejas

Throw on your swinging Gap khakis and dust off your zuit suits, Central's A Cappella Choir will be holding a swing dance on Fri., Jan. 29 from 8 p.m. until 11p.m., Lyn Bouma, A Cappella director said.

Junior Matt Smith, A Cappella representative, said that one of the reasons for throwing the swing dance is to raise money for a trip to Toronto, Canada or Chicago which will be taken over spring break or in early May.

Smith said that they are hoping to raise at least \$1 thousand dollars. He said they are charging \$5 to get in the

He said it is also a lot better than selling candy, and it's a good way to

have another school dance.

Bouma said that the dance will be co-sponsored by CHS VOICE (Volunteer Organization Investing in Coral Excellence), which is a group of A Cappella parents.

Bouma said that the jazz band will be playing live swing music for 45 minutes to an hour, and there will be a DJ for the rest of the time.

Smith said that the jazz band has been preparing for this for several

He said that the dance is in the courtyard and is open to only Central students unless they bring a date, which, he said is encouraged.

He also said that they will have some instructors for those who do not know how to swing.

## FUMBLE

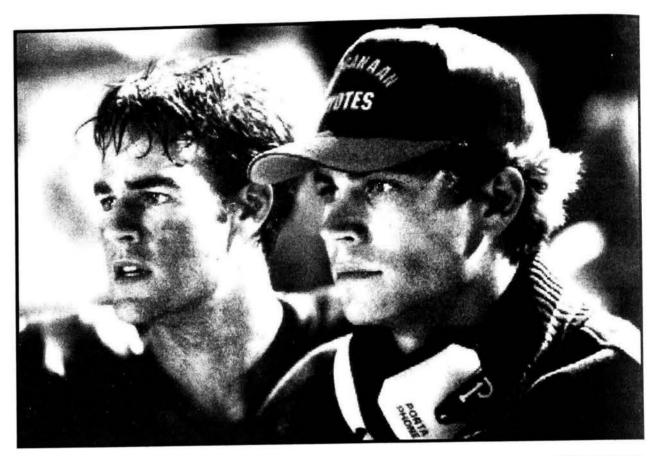


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IT'S OFFSIDES! "Varsity Blues" co-stars James Van Der Beek and Paul Walker watch the football game with intensity. The movie opened Jan. 15 at theatres everywhere.

## "Varsity Blues" lacks originality

By Mary Lynn Super

Between the somewhat intelligent dialogue and the insane antics of the football players, "Varsity Blues" is basically "Dawson's Creek" meets "The Program."

While this may sound like an interesting combination, the movie is anything but interesting. Predictable and stereotypical, yes; interesting, no.

From beginning to end, "Varsity Blues" is the essence of the stereotypical football movie.

The abusive head coach, the injury of the star quarterback, the main character becoming a hero: all of these events make up a movie that would definitely score high on the predictability scale.

Set in a football-crazed town in Texas, "Varsity Blues" begins with a high school pep rally that, of course, revolves around the star quarterback, Lance Harbor (played by Paul Walker).

When Harbor gets injured halfway through the season, the

second-string quarterback, Jonathan Moxon (James Van Der Beek, a.k.a. Dawson) has to fill in. His success is somewhat

unbelievable, especially since he usually sits on the bench reading Kurt Vonnegut rather than watching the

predictability aspect, the typical bare the plot.

From Darcy's (played by Ali Larter) whip cream bikini to the Sex Education teacher who is a stripper on the side (played by Tonie Perensky), "Varsity Blues" is by no means lacking the hormones one associates with high school students.

The movie was lacking in the comedy category, though.

The only scenes that drew laughter, more like snickers, were the ones involving either Billy Bob's (played by Ron Lester) pet pig or the stunts of Tweeder (Scott Caan), another football player.

The movie did have one

especially redeeming quality: all of the characters were cast well.

It almost seems as if the part of Coach Kilmer, the abusive head football coach, was written with Jon Voight in mind.

He plays the character with as much vigor and enthusiasm as the Along the same line as the script requires—probably even more.

Amy Smart plays the role of Julie

skin scenes are randomly tossed into Harbor, Mox's girlfriend and an extremely level-headed and intelligent girl.

Not once did she give the impression that she was anything less

All in all, "Varsity Blues" was a major disappointment, definitely not worth the amount of money MTV is spending to advertise it (on every channel, at least once per hour).

The plot line left much to be desired, which is a shame given the excellent cast involved with the movie.

But if you HAVE to go see it, either wait for it to come out on home video or go to the twilight showing. It is not worth \$6.50 to see.

## St. Louis band wins crowd at Ranch Bovins

#### By Meredith Zendejas

The Urge gave the gift of flavor at the Ranch Bowl Entertainment Center on Dec. 19, singing songs from their rerelease Receiving the Gift of Flavor.

The Urge is a mixture of many modern rock genres with the added flavor of a brass section.

And to summarize the band in a few words, The Urge puts on one of the best shows in the industry today. The Urge is not the type of music I

would normally listen to. When I showed up in a sweater and a pair of khakis, I have to admit I felt a little out

But despite my obvious fauxpas, the music was definitely worth it.

After a while I found myself dancing along with the aggressive mixture of punk, funk and ska.

And, though I was exhausted from my exploits with a few rambunctious concertgoers, I went home with a feeling of exhilaration that a great band like The Urge usually

Although some of the crowd's enthusiasm was herbally induced, it seemed to me that they were impressed by the band as much as I

However, the opener, Clever, was not as impressive.

Clever, who is critically acclaimed to be one of the best bands on the local scene, had one good song.

Unfortunately, they played that song over and over for 45 minutes, but with a differently title and slightly different lyrics.

And knowing of a few other local bands (a few based at our very own Central High School), I don't think that this band was worthy of its rating as one of the best local bands.

When The Urge came onto the stage you could really tell who the crowd was there to see.

At the end of the night, I was left with at new appreciation for the many different types of music that I had the pleasure of being exposed to, and the stench of a few types of naturally growing plants that I couldn't get out of my clothes for days.





BACK ROW: (left right) Jerry Jost (guitar), Todd Paints (trombone), Steve Ewing (vocals), John Pessoni (drums), Kar Grable (bass). FRONT ROW: (let to right) Bill Reiter (sax), Matt Kwiatkowski (trom

PHOTO COURTESTY OF SONY RECORDS

## ffriends"

Characters friendly enough for double dose

edith Zendejas

reaters of the show "Friends" can mowing that their show has earned f a classic due to the fact that reshow are being played twice a day , as well as its regular Thursday

want to see some of the newer ows, you will have to watch the 6 p.m. But you are not always

how is about six friends, three girls guys, helping each other through derful misfortunes.

of the misfortunes that they all go

fer Aniston, who plays Rachel, and hwimmer, who plays Ross, is a perple of the dating game.

are firends, and they are dating. he time this situation is supposed to t not this time.

minute the two will be fine, and the are bitting eachothers heads off.

rtney Cox, who plays Monica, and Perry, who plays Chandler, is one ore recent things to have happed on

and Perry are secretly dating. They been caught a couple of times, but they ays seems to cover things with a little lie. Kudrow, who plays Phoebe, is the e girls. Kudrow plays the part of a blond," who writes and produces her

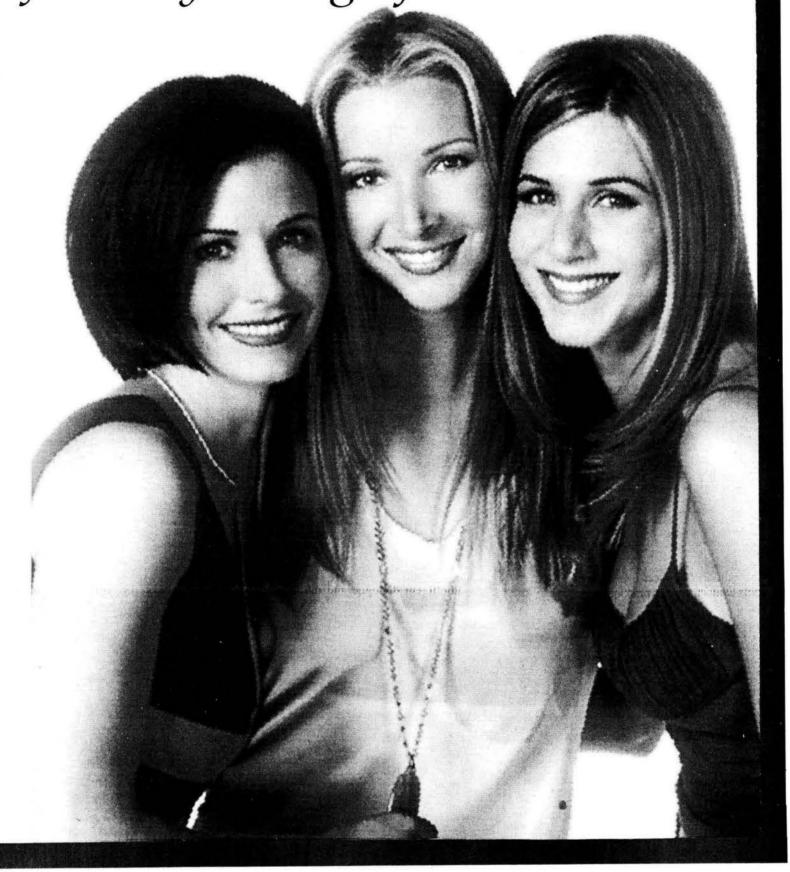
other guy is Matt LeBlanc, who ey. LeBlanc is a actor who is conout of work.

together this cast of characters is a

ou miss the show at 6 p.m.,the show gain at 10 p.m., which makes for a dose of great comedy.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: rtney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, and Jennifer Aniston

COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS



## hursday night line-up brings laughter to viewers

**BACK ROW:** Shawn Wayans ("The Wayans thers"), Marlon Wayans ("The ans Brothers"), nie Foxx ("The Jamie Foxx Show"), Steve vey ("The Steve Harvey Show") FRONT ROW: **Holly Robinson** Peete ("For Your

**10TO COURTESY OF** 



By Meredith Zendejas

Why do homework when

you can watch television? Thursday night seems

like the best night to slack off a bit, even more so because of the WB's Thursday night line-up.

It is a full two hours of comic relief, without the stress of homework.

The night starts off at 7 p.m. with "The Wayans Brothers," staring Shawn and Marlon Wayan.

The show doesn't really have any point to it. Maybe that is why it is so funny. Both of the brothers work and own a newsstand.

They live with their

father who still dresses like he is still stuck in the 1970s.

The Wayans brothers are trying to live with each other without killing each other first.

If you haven't run out of chips and dip yet, here is your chance to go to the refrigerator, while you are waiting for the next show.

"The Jamie Foxx Show," staring Jamie Foxx, is about a bach-

elor trying to get a date. One of the subplots of the show includes Foxx's constant attempt to impress the receptionist at the hotel where he works, but everything he tries backfires on

him. Even thought he doesn't know it yet, he is one of those guys who is destined to be a bachelor forever.

Foxx is one of those guys who nothing ever seems to go his way, he is definitely not a ladies man.

The next show for the viewing of the public is, "The Steve Harvey Show."

Steve Harvey plays the part of a former jazz musician who teaches music in an inner-city high school.

The last show of the night is "For Your Love," starring Holly Robinson Peete.

"For Your Love," is a romantic comedy about a dating couple,

newlyweds and an older couple. All three couples are friends who help each other through the

different stages of life.

Now that you just got comfortable in the couch, it is time to get up and do your homework.



## "Felicity" portrays teens well

By Caroline Walburn

After a few lame excuses for TV shows about typical college kids, such as "Boy Meets World," "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Saved by the Bell the College Years," the TV producers finally hit it right on the money with the WB's new show "Felicity."

Following the trials and tribulations of a college freshman alone in New York City, "Felicity" changes the scene of college shows through its realistic plots and characters to which the typical student can relate.

The show recognizes that college is all about being an individual and finding yourself.

Felicity, played by Keri Russell, is an introspective yet intelligent girl with plans to study medicine close to her home in California at Stanford.

That is until her crush, the

popular and mysterious Ben Covington, played by Scott Speedman, writes a simple message in her senior yearbook that changes her life forever. Blinded by love, Felicity decides

to follow Ben across the country to the University of New York—a bold move for a shy girl.

Needless to say the first few days are a little shaky for Felicity, being in a strange city and a new school.

But eventually she meets Julie, played by Amy Jo Johnson, who is an electric new bud. And Noel, played by Scott Foley, is Julie's residence advisor who has a crush of

As luck would have it, Felicity runs into Ben and a friendship begins.

The two of them, along with Julie and Noel, start an adventure into adulthood that can only lead to confusion and heartache.

Trouble seems to run wild, a lot of it brought on through the taped messages Felicity gives to Sally, her old French tutor.

The tape recorder narration is a simple twist of the ordinary innernarration that most shows use.

The magnificent acting and real life-based story lines have drawn plenty of attention from viewers, especially from the "My So-Called Life" generation.

Russell navigates the jeopardies of adolescence as well as Claire Danes did, aithough, the innocent Felicity isn't quite as enigmatic as Angela was.

This is positively a show that will travel a rocky road, as most teen "dramedies" do, and my advice is to jump on for the ride.

The new beginnings and obscure futures could definitely liven up your Tuesday nights.

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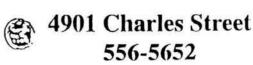
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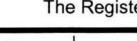
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Artes (March 21- April 19) Thank God finals are over! Now that you got them out of the way, it's time to play.

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Gemini (May 21- June 20) Someone has been watching you... No, not an obsessive freak, but a crush. Someone has a huge, lovedrenched, sloppy-wet crush on you.

Cancer (June 21- July 22) You and a friend are getting closer and closer. Keep your eyes open for love signals.

missing something? Clean your room and maybe you'll find what you are looking for. Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22) Get

Leo (July 23- Aug. 22) Are you

back on task and pay back all your debts. The longer you wait, the more trouble you'll get into. Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22) Good

things come to those who wait. You will be rewarded for all you've waited Scorpto (Oct. 23- Nov. 21) Of-

ten times it's good to suffer for others. As long as they're happy, that's all that matters.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Like the Beatles say, "All you need

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19) UGH! What is that gut wrenching smell?! Remember, hygiene IS im-

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Stefanie Wulff



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE SAKLAR

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Eric Ebers, Randy Cotton and Mike Saklar.

## Band plays with original style

By Stefanie Wulff

Citizens of Omaha have enjoyed the music of Ravine, a band that sprouted from the late Ritual Device, created by three Omaha rockers.

The Omaha rooted band includes Mike Saklar on guitar and vocals, Erick Ebers on drums and vocals and Randy Cotton on bass and vocals.

The band was created Device, Saklar said.

Saklar also said that the soundtrack "Killing Diva." imagery in Ravine's music is

a lot more dynamic than that of Ritual Device's. He said that the depth of the songs are much more intense.

"The band use to be Ritual Device, then we broke up, but still stayed friends," Saklar said. "We got back together to write songs and formed Ravine," he said.

Saklar said that writing songs is the hardest part of being in a band. Ravine only has one album.

The album, which is selfafter the break up of Ritual titled, includes 16 songs plus "Non Human" from the movie

The independent film and

soundtrack is a first for the band. "Killing Diva" is being filmed in Omaha and Los Angeles, he said.

Saklar said that Ravine will begin working on a second album as soon as they are finished with the soundtrack.

Ravine plays at clubs such as Sokol Underground and the Cog Factory, he said.

However, he said that clubs in Omaha are not that good and there are few that they play at.

Ravine has a show coming up at Sokol Underground on February 11, so check it out, Saklar said.

# • ENTERTAINMENT •

Jan. 27-28- Sesame Street Live at Aksarben Coliscum

Jan. 29- The Salamanders at The Exchange.

Jan. 29- UNO Hockey vs. Niagra University at the Auditorium.

Jan. 30- Big Band Gospel at Faith Evangical Free C

Jan. 30- Whitman's Overbite at The Exchange.

Jan. 30- Delbert McClinton at Guitars and Cadilacs. Feb. 1- Discover Stars on Ice at the Civic Auditorium

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Feb. 4- Janglepop and Febzo at the Ranch Bowl.

Feb. 8- Reel Big Fish with Zebrahead at the Ranch

Feb. 11- Ravine at Sokol Underground.

Feb. 19-21- TAP Dogs at the Music Hall.

## Music Video Triv

What was the first music video played on MTV?

I state ope killed the Radio Star" by a British band called Buggles What Michael Jackson video cost \$1.1 million, had dialogue 1though no

IWCC H The 1980s rock star Rick Astley, films what music video in London athletic club in one day? Hint: One of his background dance is said not know the dance, so the director had to try and hide her while shoot

nosi noung cunc Xou Up" What Sugar Ray music video set was inspired by the Sum Cher comedy?

In what Jackson video did the director want Michael to weat that said "pervert," but he refused?

> SOURCE: The Making of a Revolution: MTV By Ton MTV logo is a trademark of MTV, All Rights

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# entral grad to ay Division I asketball

y Scurlock

have a chance to play asketball next season, d Coach Rick Behrens

Iorrison, a sophomore at rn Community College erages 18.0 points per shooting 40 percent from ange for the Reivers. ng play has earned him

attention from several asketball programs such rsity of Georgia, Kansas sity, Arkansas University, tate University and the f Texas at Austin.

gh no solid been made Head Athletic



up with a full scholarship somewhere.

"He always lead by example," ner CHS basketball Morris said. "He wasn't outspoken; he'd simply show up and try to get some points to help the team. He's done a good job of developing himself into a prospect worth going

> Morrison, who graduated from Central in 1997, led Class A in scoring his senior season with a 25.0 points per game average.

> "I wanted to go [to junior college] to gain a little more playing experience, work on my strength, and work on running point," Morrison

Morrison said that he would like to continue playing point guard after this year.

"Being able to continue playing basketball and at the same time getting a chance to further my education is great, playing ball in college is something I've dreamt

> about for a long time," Morrison said. Behrens expressed little

doubt as to whether Morrison is capable of playing big-time college basketball.

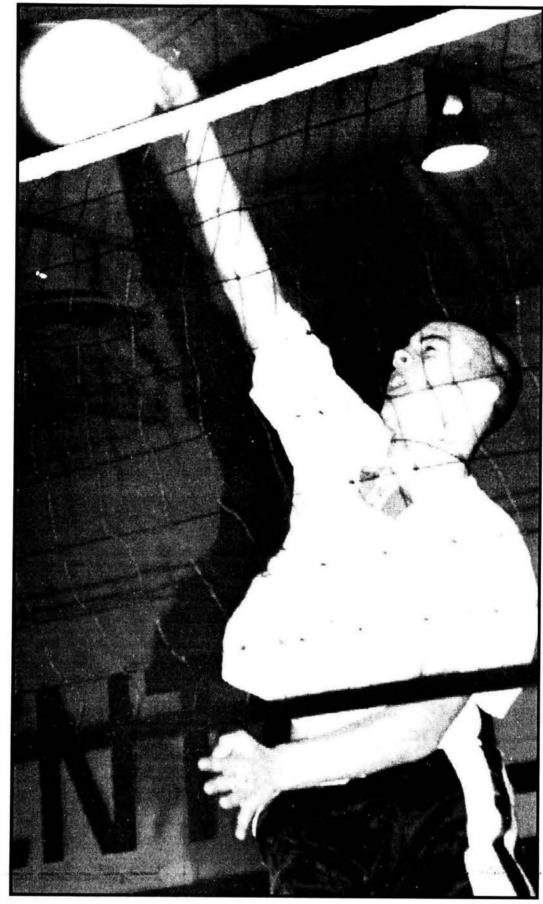
"Galen is an outstanding scorer and leader," Behrens said. "He can drive strong to the hole or pull up and shoot a three. His shooting range reaches out one or two feet past the three point

With so many colleges showing interest in Morrison, only two have made definite offers. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Southeast Missouri State University made offers early, but Morrison turned both down hoping that a better offer would come along.

"I'm not leaning towards any particular school," Morrison said. "Where I go is not as important as how well I do in my studies once I'm there. My education is No. 1, not my basketball."

DURTESY OF IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## WHAM!



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

student athlete should defi-

nitely concentrate on getting

his or her education first."

JUNIOR JAMES Roark goes up for a spike against a teammate during one of the Central's varsity practices. The Eagles' first match will be in a preseason tournament on Feb. 27, which will be held at Central.

## CHS I-back chooses Michigan

By Derek Tritsch

Opportunity was the word of the day on Jan. 20, as Central senior, football player Brandon Williams announced his decision to attend the University of Michigan over the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"At Michigan, I will have a better chance at playing earlier on defense,"



Williams said, who looks to play defensive back and possibly return kicks for the Wolverines. "At Nebraska, I would have had a better shot at playing offense

earlier, but I want to play defense." Williams also cited good rapport ",

with Michigan Head Coach Lloyd Carr as a possible determining factor for the decision. "I like how [Carr] relates with his

players," Williams said. "He's a very quiet, respectable person. I think that that type of coach is very good for Central football Head Coach Joe

McMenamin said that he did everything he could to aid Williams in his decision. "I tried to point out the pluses and

minuses of each school," McMenamin said. McMenamin said that distance

was a very important factor in, Williams' mind. "This is the reason that it took so

long for Brandon to make his 1 decision," McMenamin said. "If . Michigan was only one hour away, Brandon would have committed there a long time ago."

Williams also cited his mother, Paula Bartee-Williams, and his uncle, South High Principal Jerry Bartee, as people who helped him come to a decision.

One factor that Williams said was not overly important was that of the schools' playing surface. Michigan's home field is made of natural grass and Nebraska's is made of artificial turf.

'I mostly tried to focus on academics and my overall comfort level." Williams said.

## brmer Eagle adapts to college baseball, life

McWhorter

ransition from high school o the collegiate level is defiarning experience for Cennus Brandon Myers.

rs, who graduated in 1997, ed a baseball scholarship to Division I college baseball nville (Ala.) State Univermecocks Head Baseball Rudy Abbott, personally yers and asked him to play, id. After finishing his senior the first man in Central's rotation, Myers attended a of baseball camps over the in order to improve his playo get noticed by college and ts, he said.

At one camp, Myers almost made the decision to skip college and take a shot at playing in Major League Baseball. An agent offered him a contract, but he said he decided against it because he didn't feel he was ready.

"I almost made a terrible decision," he said. "Many young kids get preved upon by the majors. I wanted to get my education, and I realize now I was nowhere near ready for the pros."

What Myers realized is that there is a lot more to pitching in college than there is in high school, let alone the majors. Instead of strictly tossing fastballs at the competition, now he must develop the other pitches in his arsenal and be able to throw them to an exact location, he said.

years and I'm still working on my mechanics and improving, but I still have a long way to go," Myers said.

The words improving and performing have both taken on new definitions, he said.

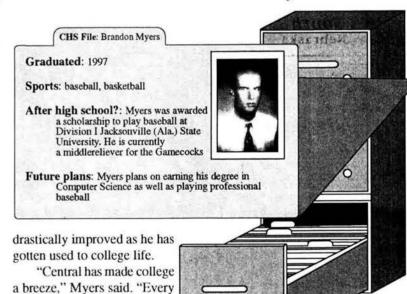
"At the end of the day I always make sure I am tired," Myers said. "I have to focus because my schooling depends on how hard I work everyday. If I don't perform the coach can vank my scholarship, just like that."

On a competitive team such as Jacksonville State, which became Division I only four years ago following a Division II National Title in 1992, Myers must always make sure he is pushing himself to the limit, he said. This season he will most likely

"I've been here one and a half see action on the mound as a middle reliever and an occasional starter at away games, he said.

"My goals are to be a solid middle relief pitcher and to gain some experience," Myers said. "Our team usually hits a few homeruns and relies on our pitching and defense to win the game."

Facing such opposing teams as the University of Georgia, University of Alabama, Georgia Tech and Rice University, collecting valuable experience and making improvements toward the future should not be a problem for Myers. And thanks to Central's strong academic program, keeping up his grades has not been a problem for Myers, either. He said his grades were "shaky" at first, but have



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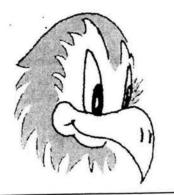
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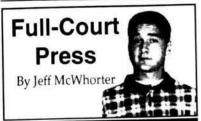


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## Pro wrestling, is this a sport?

The issue I'd like to tackle in this edition of Full-Court Press may be somewhat controversial to many kids around the school. Especially those that frequently wear New World Order (NWO), Diamond Dallas Page (DDP), Degeneration X (DX), World Wrestling Federation (WWF) or World Championship Wrestling (WCW) t-shirts, proudly representing their favorite pastime.

If you know anything about professional wrestling and its many acronyms, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Is pro wrestling, as seen on TNT, USA and, of course, pay-perview, really a sport?

I'm probably not qualified to answer this question, considering I'm not a huge fan of pro wrestling. So we'll just examine the facts.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines the word "sport" as "any activity or experience that gives enjoyment or recreation; pastime; diversion."

In this case, despite the critics, I'd have to say that pro wrestling is by all means a sport. After all, there are definitely those who gain enjoyment and recreation from the WWF and the WCW's antics.

Personally, I can only stand watching washed up truckers and muscle bound football rejects pretend to duke it out in front of thousands of screaming fans waving idiotic signs for a few minutes. I apparently, am not part of the masses.

Tickets to WCW Nitro and WWF Raw is War sell out in virtually a few hours when they visit cities, including Omaha, to tape their shows. I personally know people (and you know who you are) who have been so desperate for tickets to one of these events, that they dressed up as their favorite wrestlers and proceeded to parade around a radio station's studio for all to see. Do people do things like this for Chicago Bull's tickets? Most likely.

If professional wrestling isn't a sport, then why, during, "Bowl Week," were The Best of WCW 98 and WWF wrestling television programs ranked No. 2 and No. 3 on cable television's rating chart. The only sports programming to beat these two out was the Culligan Holiday Bowl. Thank goodness Vince McMahon hasn't lured Nebraska fans in as well!

As you can see, fans just can't get enough of the Bad Ass Billy Gun, Mankind and The Undertaker. They'll go as far as to pay astronomical prices to watch pay-per-view specials where their favorite factions, whether it be DX or NWO, slug it out to see who can claim the title as the champion. One extremely popular pay-per-view event is WWF's Wrestlemania. This term can almost be used to describe the state of the country right now.

We've covered enjoyment and recreation, how about exploring pastime and diversion now. I find this the most telling factor that pro wrestling should be considered a sport. You know, mainly because it parallels all other professional sports so well.

As with all professional sports, a tremendous amount of marketing and merchandising figures into the mix of pro wrestling.

## Trophy comes to Omah

#### **ByDerek Tritsch**

If home is truly where the heart is, then the home of the Outland Trophy, given annually to the nation's top collegiate interior lineman, must be Nebraska, arguably the heart of the nation's offensive line tradition.

finally got something right.

The 53rd Outland Trophy was awarded to University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) junior offensive lineman Kris Farris, and for the second year in a row the award dinner was held in Omaha.

Central varsity football head coach Joe McMenamin said the event is something that the city of Omaha can hang its hat on.

"It gives Omaha national exposure," McMenamin said. "I was talking with some coaches in Nashville a couple days ago and they were telling me how excited they were for the event.

"It gets Omaha out in the public

Former Husker player and current Pinnacle Sports Network commentator Adrian Fiala was the emcee for the event.

He said that the event was "wonderful" last year and went even better this year.

He credited the event's success to the quality of people in Nebraska.

"Football is almost sacred around here," Fiala said. "And more than that, people around here have a tendency to support things that are good and this is one of those things that everyone in Nebraska can rally around."

Nebraska football head coach Frank It looks like college football Solich said he was impressed by the turnout this year.

"Everyone expected it to be sold out last year because the winner was [former Nebraska standout] Aaron Taylor," Solich said. "Some people were kind of wondering if there'd be as many people here this year since the winner was from

"But it looks like there are even more people here this year, and I'm really not surprised."

Also introduced that night was the All-Nebraska team, of which two Eagles, seniors Brandon Williams and Terrell Gardner, were members.

The players were each presented crystal footballs.

Williams said the event was a nice reward for a good season.

"Ever since I saw [former All-State Eagle] DeAntae [Grixby] come here last year, I knew that this was something that I wanted to do," Williams said of the dinner. "I guess you could say I set a goal of being here at the end of the year. And I accomplished it."

## AMARIE CIVE

- Outland Trophy (nation's top interior lineman): Kris Ferris (pictured), junior offensive lineman (UCLA)
- Tom Novak Trophy (Husker displaying best attitude): Monte Christo, senior quarterback
- Guy Chamberlain Trophy (Husker who performed in image of Chamberlain): Joel Mackovicka, senior
- Cletus Fischer Native Son Award (top native Nebraskan): Chad Kelsay, senior rush end
- Outland Legends Trophy (Previous Outland winner Dave Rimmington, offensive lineman (Nebraska, 1979-82)



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said. "That was yesterday; I need to worry about 'Today' for Sayers includes serving as president of Sayers Computer Source in founded in 1982. The

employees, distributes computer hardware and software and the accompanying services to Fortune 500 companies.

"I've been out of football for so long," Sayers

Sayers also said, though, that the Award will

said, "it's just a nice reminder of my football

not cause him to dwell on his past success.

"That's not what I'm

about as a person," Sayers

Sayers said that the business, and the frequent travel that goes along with it, takes up nearly all of his time and that he has no thoughts of retirement in

"Right now I'm just worried about running my business at a high level and leaving it in good hands when I do retire," Sayers said.

Sayers, who held 16 Chicago Bears records upon his retirement, remains the youngest player in NFL history to be inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

After football, Sayers served as commissioner of the Chicago Park District.

He also directed Mayor Daley's outreach program for the youth of Chicago and was a trustee for the Boy Scouts of America Chicago Chapter.

Former Eagle is inaugural Doak Walker Legen Atte

accomplishments."

today."

By Derek Tritsch

Years after playing his final football game, former Central great Gale Sayers is still receiving awards.

Sayers was the inaugural recipient of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Doak Walker Legends Award, the Southwestern Bell/Southern Methodist University (SMU) Athletic Forum announced on Dec. 17, 1998.

Sayers received the award at the Dr Pepper Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet at the Dallas Fairmont Hotel on Jan. 19.

The award was based on nominations by the 176-person Dr Pepper Doak Walker Award Chicago, a company he National Selection Committee, Southwestern Bell/ SMU Athletic Forum Executive Director Kit company, which has 180 Sawers said. The Athletic Forum Board of Directors then selected the winner.

"We whittled the number of possible candidates down to eight," Sawers said. "And, from there, Gale Sayers was judged to be the most deserving of this award. It's extra special for Gale because he is the first recipient ever."

Candidates were selected on the following criteria: sportsmanship on the football field, leadership in the community and good citizenship within and beyond the athletic sphere.

To be considered, each candidate must have played collegiate football at an NCAA institution after 1949 and at least 20 years before Jan. 2 of the year the Award is

Sayers said he was proud to be recognized for his accomplishments on and off the field.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO BEARS

Gale Sayers during

the Chicago Bears

his playing days with

#### Super Bowl XXIIIDenver Broncos vs. Atlanta Falcons CORECARD Sports staff Total points calls 'em like Margin of **MVP** Winner scored victory Derek Tritsch John Elway Denver 52 22 points Sports Staff Editor leff McWhorter Atlanta 24 7 points Jamal Anderson Assistant Sports Staff Editor Denver 44 16 points John Elway Assistant Sports Staff Editor

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