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the Central High School
Register
 Wednesday
 February 17, 1999
 Volume 112
 Issue 6

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

Airman speaks to CHS students

Central File-

Name: Charles Lane
Age: 73 years old
Rank: Lieutenant Colonel (retired)
Squadron: Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron
Birthplace: St. Louis, MO



BRIAN JOSEPH & CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

By Brian Joseph

With his warm smile and bright eyes, Retired Lt. Col. Charles Lane looks more like someone's grandfather rather than a man who has fought racism and Nazi Germany. Actually, he's both. Lane, who is Central sophomore Gregory Davis' grandfather, was one of the original members of the Tuskegee Airmen, a squadron composed entirely of

African-American pilots who fought during World War II. In an event sponsored by Central's social studies department and Minority Scholars, Lane spoke to a group of roughly 300 Central students on Feb. 9 about his experiences as an African-American pilot during a racist time. Carol Hipp, social studies department chair, said that Lane was brought in to speak in celebration of African-American

History Month. "We were not liked by the populants of the town of Tuskegee (Ala.)," Lane, who was in the service for a total of 27 years, said. "They didn't believe we were officers. They didn't believe we were pilots." Lane said that he, along with the other Tuskegee Airmen, faced a large amount of discrimination from both civilians and other military men throughout the course of World War

II. For example, he said that he was once arrested by Navy short police officers simply because he was African-American. "They said there couldn't possibly be any black officers in the military," he said. Senior Jamison Richart, who was in attendance at Lane's presentation,

➔ Turn to AIR, page 3

Street 'Smarts'

School opened
 to help troubled teens
 in North Omaha
 by Erik Tritsch

When Flanagan High School, a school for disadvantaged youth, was shut for financial reasons. Attempting to fill that gap is John Parsons, fresh off a two-year stint at the Street School, Parsons, a native of Omaha and graduate of Benson High School, led a similar school in Omaha. Omaha Street School, as it is called, is located in the basement of the First Baptist Church at 6319 Maple. Parsons said that, when the location was still available, he had several offers for a school site in areas in south and west Omaha but he felt the school deserved to be in North Omaha. "To be honest with you, I believed that the school was calling me to open the school in North Omaha," Parsons said. "I believe that North Omaha is an area that is in need of the most help, and I'm trying to give it to them." Parsons, 39, said one of the reasons north Omaha needed the school more than other parts of town was the closing of Flanagan High School. "When Flanagan closed, there was no school for that type of school," Parsons said. Omaha Public Schools (OPS) had tried to put these kids in, but many of them aren't successful in the traditional learning environment. "The type of environment that Parsons is trying to create is one that is small in size, big individual attention and set on instilling confidence and self-esteem in its students, he said. Central senior and north Omaha resident Thompson said that the school is a great place. "I've been around a lot of these kids in my educational career," Thompson said. "They're intelligent people, but for some reason they just aren't very successful in school. I think a school like this would be very helpful for them." The school, which opened the first week of January, currently has seven students. Parsons said the maximum amount that he

Against all Odds

WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING

Junior Selease Avery (left) and senior Jacky Smith (top) both aided the Eagles varsity teams in winning games in the month of January. For the Lady Eagles, their Jan. 29 victory over Northwest was their first of the year. The boys' team, on the other hand went 4-4 during the month beating Papillion-LaVista, Bellevue East, Northwest and Lincoln High. Before January, both teams had been struggling--the girls were 0-7 and the boys were 1-6. For complete coverage turn to Sports, page 12.

CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

OPS Board of Education approves new laser pointer rule

New addition to the Code of Conduct aims at lowering classroom disturbances

By Ally Freeman

Students who bring laser pointers to school beware, the Omaha Public School (OPS) Board of Education has got your number. In an effort to decrease disturbances by

laser pointers in middle and high schools, the OPS School Board has approved a new rule for the Student Code of Conduct. Dr. Doug Bahle, the Director of Student and Community Services for OPS, said. Central freshman Jessica Stober said she is glad that OPS has added the new rule to the

Student Code of Conduct. Stober said she has seen numerous people using laser pointers in school. "They're really annoying, and it's about time OPS did something about it," Stober said.

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■ LASERS

OPS members add new rule to Code of Conduct

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The rule was proposed because principals started complaining more about laser pointers disrupting the education environment and learning climate of school, Bahle said.

Laser pointers were not addressed in the Student Code of Conduct before, but the board has ruled that the possession or use of laser pointers be banned unless the student has written permission from the principal to be used for educational purposes.

Bahle said that the first offense of bringing a laser pointer to school would result in In-School Suspension for one to three days. The laser pointer would also be confiscated and returned to parents following a conference.

On the second offense the laser pointer would be confiscated until the end of the semester, a one to five day suspension would be issued to the student and a parent conference would be held. The third offense would result in expulsion of the student for the remainder of the semester and confiscation of the laser pointer until the end of the school year, Bahle said.

Ryan Cannon, sophomore, said he disagrees with the new rule. Cannon was suspended earlier this year for possession of a laser pointer.

"I thought they were cool so I bought one," Cannon said.

Cannon said he believes his case was not grounds for suspension.

"I wasn't hurting anyone or pointing it at anyone or anything. It was just in my pocket," Cannon said.

Laser pointers should not be banned from school because there are teachers who use them, Cannon said.

Scott Wilson, Central social studies teacher, said he uses a laser pointer as a teaching device to point to maps. Wilson has never had a student harmed by a laser, but he has had to confiscate them from students in the halls. Wilson said he believes it is fair that OPS is going to ban them from schools.

"In the wrong hands, they can pose a risk to students," Wilson said.

Cannon said he agrees with Wilson but sees no problems occurring at Central.

"I understand the reason for the rule because lasers can be dangerous, but if you don't have a laser for that reason then they should not be prohibited," Cannon said.

It is wrong to be punished if you just have an object like a laser on you Cannon said. However, he said he could understand someone being punished if he was shining the laser pointer in other people's faces.. Cannon believes lasers pose no dangers to students in schools.

According to Health Services at Children's Hospital there are presently no long term related health issues caused by laser pointers. However, if a laser is pointed directly in a person's eyes it can cause temporary light sensitivity to the eyes.

OPS has had no instances where students have been harmed at school, Bahle said. The proposal is only there because they are disrupting students, not because students are at risk of obtaining physical problems.



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

JUMPIN' AND JIVIN'... Sophomore Andrew Gobel plays with the Jazz Band during Acapella's swing dance on Jan. 29th.

Swing Baby, Swing

Acapella hosts Central's first Swing Dance

By Courtney O'Malley

Acapella hosted Central's first ever swing dance on Jan. 29 to raise money for the group's spring trip, Lyn Bouma, Acapella director, said.

"The dance was a way to make money and have fun rather than sell candy," Bouma said.

Bouma said that the ideal goal was to sell around 150 tickets at \$5.00 each. Overall, the dance made a profit of over \$600 from ticket sales and donations.

Originally, Bouma said that the junior Allison Gatzke and her family came up with the idea because they had success holding similar dances of their own.

"I was really excited when Allison brought the idea of a swing dance back. I've always been interested in that era and swing dance," junior Katrina Kerns said.

At the dance itself, Central's Jazz Band students performed, Gatzke said.

"We tried to create a colorful atmosphere, with balloons, Christmas lights and a live band to represent a real swing dance," she said.

However, sophomore Aleks Berzins, who is a member of the Jazz Band, said that at the beginning of the dance it appeared that many attendants were not enjoying themselves.

"It was discouraging at first because not many people were dancing, and it's harder to play in front of your peers," Berzins said.

"Yet, later many told us that they really enjoyed our music."

Whatever the case, Gatzke said that the dance was an "experimental project" that proved to have a lot of potential.

"I hope it catches on and it will be fun for all. I hope that we'll get to do it again," she said.

Nebraska public schools receive average grades

Education Week gives state Bs, Cs, Ds in five categories

By Sarah Peterson

While Central students receive their progress report grades, Nebraska's public schools also got their report card.

In a recent report published in *Education Week* magazine, Nebraska earned only average grades for the health of its education system. Nebraska earned a C- for standards and assessments, a C for efforts to raise teacher quality, a B- for school climate, a B for the adequacy of resources, a D for equity of resources and a C for allocation of resources.

One major cause for the lower grades was that Nebraska only recently adopted educational standards, Virginia Brown, official from the research department at Omaha Public Schools, said.

"I think the grades are really sad. Nebraska excels in so many other things, why can't it excel in education?" Central sophomore Ashley Danner said.

Danner said that even though the grades were only average, she still thought that she was receiving an excellent education in Nebraska.

Ulrich Boser, who works for *Education Week*, said that Nebraska's new standards have helped Nebraska make major strides in the standards and assessments indicator.

Dr. Doug Christensen, Nebraska's Commissioner of Education said that Nebraska's

grade of a C- in standards assessments also reflects that Nebraska does not meet mandatory standards.

"The standards that states have developed will be in a local control state like Nebraska and, in fact, will be harmful rather than helpful," Christensen said.

He also said that Nebraska spends a sufficient amount of money on education.

"If we get fairly average grades, which we did, how do we explain that we are in the top of ACT scorers, in the top of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and many other measure of student learning that comes out?" Christensen said.

Education Week's Nebraska

C- for assessment and standards

C for efforts to raise teacher quality

B- for school climate

B for adequacy of resources

D for equity of resources

C for allocation of resources

SOURCE: Education Week
Brian Joseph/the Register

LB 472 aims at fining bothersome telemarketers

By Ally Freeman

The long awaited revenge on telemarketers is finally here.

A new law was recently proposed posing a \$2000 fine on telemarketing companies who call homes registered on a no-call list, Charlotte Eckelbicker, legislative aide for State Sen. Chris Beutler, said.

Eckelbicker said that this bill is basically a take-off of a similar one in Georgia.

The bill, officially known as Legislative Bill (LB) 427, states that telemarketers will be prohibited from calling residents whose names appear on the no call list.

The list will be available to telemarketing companies for \$10.

"We saw a need for something like it in Nebraska," Eckelbicker said.

Sophomore Andrew Klausen, works at West Teleservices as a

telemarketer, said he believed proposed bill is fair because it protects people their privacy.

People don't like being called during certain times and it's telemarketing a bad name, Klausen said.

Eckelbicker said legislative staff saw an edit in the paper on Georgia's bill proposed it in Nebraska.

Under the proposed telemarketing companies will be legally liable if they make more calls in violation.

Anyone who pays \$500 placed on the no call list for years, Eckelbicker said.

Once someone is placed on list, telemarketers will be prohibited from calling that person at all times.

Along with Georgia, Florida, Alaska and Kentucky all have some form of a "No call list" or "Black Dot Law," as they're called.

New court program features teenagers as jurors

By Ally Freeman

The Douglas County Teen Court has used positive peer pressure to help turn juvenile offenders around, the director of the Teen Court Program said.

Holly Juergens said the teen court was implemented because research has shown that teens respond better when other teens hold them accountable for their actions. As a result, the defendants are less likely to commit second offenses, Juergens said.

Travis Hepburn, sophomore said he believes the idea of having teens prosecute other teens might get some

criticism.

"People who can't make legal decisions affecting their own fate without the consent of a legal guardian should not be able to decide the fate of others on their own," Hepburn said.

However, Hepburn said he likes to see teenagers getting the responsibility some teens deserve.

"As a teenager, I applaud it," Hepburn said.

The first cases of the teen court in Douglas County were held in late January. A total of five defendants participated in the first round of hearings. The initial trials were very successful, Juergens said. Hopefully, hearings in Douglas County will

occur twice a month.

According to the Juvenile Justice Update, teen court programs are not a new idea and have been around for more than 20 years. However, in the past few years there have been an increasing amount in the number of these programs being implemented across the country. Since 1994, the number of teen court programs has risen from 78 to over 450 programs in 42 states.

In the program, teens who commit misdemeanor crimes and are between the ages of 11 and 18 have the option of choosing the teen court over the normal juvenile court system. When the teens choose to

divert into teen court, they are already presumed guilty, Juergens said. Teen volunteers recruited from area high schools are then used as defense and prosecuting attorneys, bailiffs, clerks and judges at each hearing. During the

session, the volunteers present the case to a teen panel of judges and the judges take into consideration on the law violation and cases presented to make their decision Juergens said.

The panel of three teen judges

then decides on a sentence for the defendant. Sentences could range from community service to a strict curfew or a letter of apology to the store the defendant had robbed.

Juergens said that successfully completing the teen court program the alleged offender would be dismissed by the County Attorney. By providing opportunity teens are given a chance to maintain a clean record while still being held accountable.

"Teen courts are often more effective than the traditional court systems and alleviate some stress on the overburdened juvenile court system," Juergens said.

"Teen courts are often more effective than the traditional court systems."

Holly Juergens
Director of the Douglas County
Teen Court Program

BACKPACKS

Bringing Pain to the Backs of Students

Uneven shoulder blades from excessive strain

Tension to neck muscles

Lower and upper back pain

Center of gravity thrown off

Improper posture

Constriction of vascular muscle

Restriction of blood flow

Neurological damage

SOURCE: DR. JEFF MALLOY & DR. BOB COX

By Laura Werkheiser

In ancient Egypt, slaves were forced to haul loads of rock upon their backs for long periods of time.

Although the typical high school student is not subject to enslavement, there remains a similarity.

Dr. Bob Cox, a local chiropractor, said he believes that backpacks can be responsible for serious muscular, skeletal and sometimes even neurological damage.

"Carrying them incorrectly can definitely be detrimental," he said. "A lot of parents will bring kids in complaining of neck and back pain."

However, as most students rely upon backpacks to carry books on a daily basis, their presence remains inevitable.

The key is not to avoid using them completely, but to use them appropriately, Dr. Cox said.

"If you look at the shoulders of older students, there's a possibility that one could be larger than the other. Not because they are deformed, just from excessive physical strain on one side of the body," he said.

Dr. Jeff Malloy, another chiropractor, said that he agrees with Dr. Cox and emphasized the importance of using backpacks *correctly*.

"The idea is to keep the load as minimal as possible—no more than 20 percent of your total body weight," he said.

Dr. Malloy also recommends backpacks with wide, sturdy straps and stresses carrying them on both shoulders.

If this is not done, a student's posture will be affected which could lead to more problems down the road, Dr. Malloy said.

Both doctors said that backpacks are not intended to be harmful, it's just that many people unknowingly cause themselves injury by ignoring preexisting aches and pains and continuing everyday routines.

BETH WEIS/REGISTER

AIR

WWII Veteran pilot visits Central

Continued from page 1

said that he was impressed by Lane's retelling of his personal experiences with racism.

"I thought he was impressive," he said. "He wasn't afraid to speak about his experiences. Some men get up there and refuse to answer personal questions."

Whatever the case, regardless of the racism they faced, Lane said that the Tuskegee Airmen were extremely successful pilots.

"We were so good, bomber groups would request our services," he said.

In fact, Lane said that he was so good that he started believing that he was unbeatable.

"Oh, I had an attitude," he said. "I thought I was bullet-proof. I had that attitude until my sixth mission when I lost my brother-in-law."

It is because of men like his brother-in-law, Lane said, that he makes presentations; he wants to be sure the history of the Tuskegee Airmen is passed on to the next generation.

In the process of retelling the Tuskegee Airmen's history, Hipp said that Lane was also offering a lot of insight into the history of the United States.

"Not only were we able to observe African-American History, but also American History," she said. "During his presentation, he said that they [the Tuskegee Airmen] flew as men, not as blacks."

Junior Andrea Thompson agreed saying that Lane offered a lot of information regarding what war is really like.

"He gave an inside view [of World War II]," she said. "The people in the movies don't really know what it was like."

As for the profits generated by the ticket sales of the event, Minority Scholars sponsor Terrie Saunders said that the money would be put toward a scholarship for a minority senior.

"I think problems arise when you try to fit different cultures into one Euro-centric system."

John Parson
Omaha Street School Principal

that someone would receive from home schooling.

How do students enroll in the Omaha Street School?

"They find me by referrals from churches and community centers," Parsons said. "Needless to say, the word is getting out."

Parsons said that he is targeting youth of a low socio-economic status, many of whom tend to be minorities.

Of the seven current students,

four are American Indian and one is African-American.

Parsons said that these minority students have a greater difficulty assimilating into the mainstream education system for cultural reasons.

"I think problems arise when you try to fit different cultures into one Euro-centric system," Parsons said.

"But we're not just trying to teach them academics, we're also

trying to teach them about life.

"We need to keep these kids out of prisons and out of gangs."

The school receives no

financial aid from government sources, Parsons said. Instead, the school program is funded through donations from the private sector.

STREET

Omaha native works to help troubled youth

Continued from page 1

...take "no more than 20." The curriculum is similar to a standard high school and the students ... to earn a diploma similar to one

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the Central High School Register

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High school journalism

Media coverage ethical

What is freedom of the press? What is the purpose of a newspaper in a high school setting? What is sensationalism in the media? What rights do columnists have to express their opinions?

The proceeding were just a few of the questions raised with the release of the January issue of *the Register*. Central students and staff members were both offended and impressed with our newspaper's publication of a story about an alleged murderer and an opinion piece concerning Gothics and Hessians.

In regards to the front-page story about Central dropout Andrew Westling, many readers expressed their opinion that we had sensationalized the news. It was said that the publication of such a story reflected poorly on Central High School and adversely affected its recruiting of junior high school students.

However, regardless of the arguments against the Westling feature, it was not sensationalized. In no way did the story glorify what he allegedly did or portray Central High School in a bad light.

Rather, the topic was extremely newsworthy—the feature not only was interesting to the general society of Central, but it also enlightened and informed the reader.

Plus, this year *the Register* has published numerous stories that spotlight successful Central students and alumni. But yet, *the Register* has never received any feedback regarding these features.

The staff of *the Register* agrees that it would be nice if the topics people want to read about all related to successful, happy students.

However, if one were to look at the professional media, the stories and television news shows that attract the most interest relate to murder, drug use and sex.

As for the accusation that the Westling story portrays Central in a bad light and that *the Register* should only cover the news that makes CHS look good, this is completely incorrect. Regardless of what some teachers would like, *the Register* is not a newsletter, it is a newspaper.

Thus, since we are a newspaper, our job is to cover the news of Central High School, good or bad.

And, in addition to covering the news, our job is to express our opinions about the society and world around us through editorials such as this one and columns.

While Jared Hart's column may have been offensive to some people, it was clearly presented as the opinion of Hart himself. In no way was the column made off to be factual or even representing the opinions of the staff of *the Register* as a whole.

While we believe that every person is entitled to his opinion and should have the opportunity to express it, making death threats and using rude language is not the correct way to do it.

On the other hand, provided that they are presented in a calm and appropriate manor, we not only welcome, but also encourage students, parents and teachers to comment on our publication.

Regardless of all the accusations aimed at us, the staff of the Oldest School Newspaper West of Mississippi will continue to publish the news as we believe it should be: ethically, responsibly and with honor and class.

School athletics

CHS parents respectful

Though the recent events in Tilden Neb. have brought to light the problem of parents becoming too involved in their child's athletic career, the parents of Central's athletes have been nothing but supportive.

Recently, in Tilden Neb., an angry father physically attacked Gale Bly, basketball coach for Elkhorn Valley, after Elkhorn Valley lost to Humphrey High School.

The father was angry because he thought his son did not get enough playing time, so he followed the coach into the boy's locker room and assaulted him, both verbally and physically.

Again, a parent has overreacted to a game that he is not even playing in.

Thankfully, the coaches of Central High School have reported no ill behavior by parents. The parents who attend Central's sporting events are content to let the coaches do their jobs. They may be overprotective of their children, but they also respect the hard work that the coaches put in.

Whenever Central parents attend sporting events, they are very well-behaved. They

will applaud and cheer, but they will not physically interact with the game. A Central parent would never physically attack one of the coaches.

Many parents of other schools believe that the coach or the referee is responsible for a loss, but that their child alone is responsible for a win. Those parents need to realize what many Central parents have already realized, that athletics is just a game, and a game does not warrant threats, vandalism or even attacks.

However, that is not the only danger of this situation. The problem of parents trying to interfere with school sports is spreading, and it may begin to affect Central if it continues.

In fact, several Nebraska coaches that have been threatened in some way have seriously considered quitting.

If the parents continue to threaten their coaches, they may permanently deprive their children of athletics altogether.

Hopefully, this will never happen at Central.

Drugs in school

Dogs may help deter use

A student named Casey Hutsell should be applauded for her great effort to make her school a safer place and more of a "drug-free" environment for both her and her fellow classmates.

With the help of drug sniffing dogs in a Sidney, Neb. school, drug use among students will hopefully decrease.

However, the school in Sidney, Neb. did not begin this program until one student took matters into her own hands.

Sophomore Casey Hutsell collected 100 signatures from both adults and students favoring the use of drug-sniffing dogs. She did so because she believed that drugs and alcohol were a factor in three suicides of other classmates.

For some time now, there has been talk in several school districts, including Omaha Public Schools (OPS), about beginning programs using drug-sniffing dogs to help student drug use end, or at least decrease.

Schools are always making decisions that affect students greatly. And although

students may not always like the new rules, the rules are not there to punish students, but to help protect them and help prevent any situation like the one in Tilden from occurring again and again.

Plain and simple: drugs should never be a part of school life, especially within school or used at school.

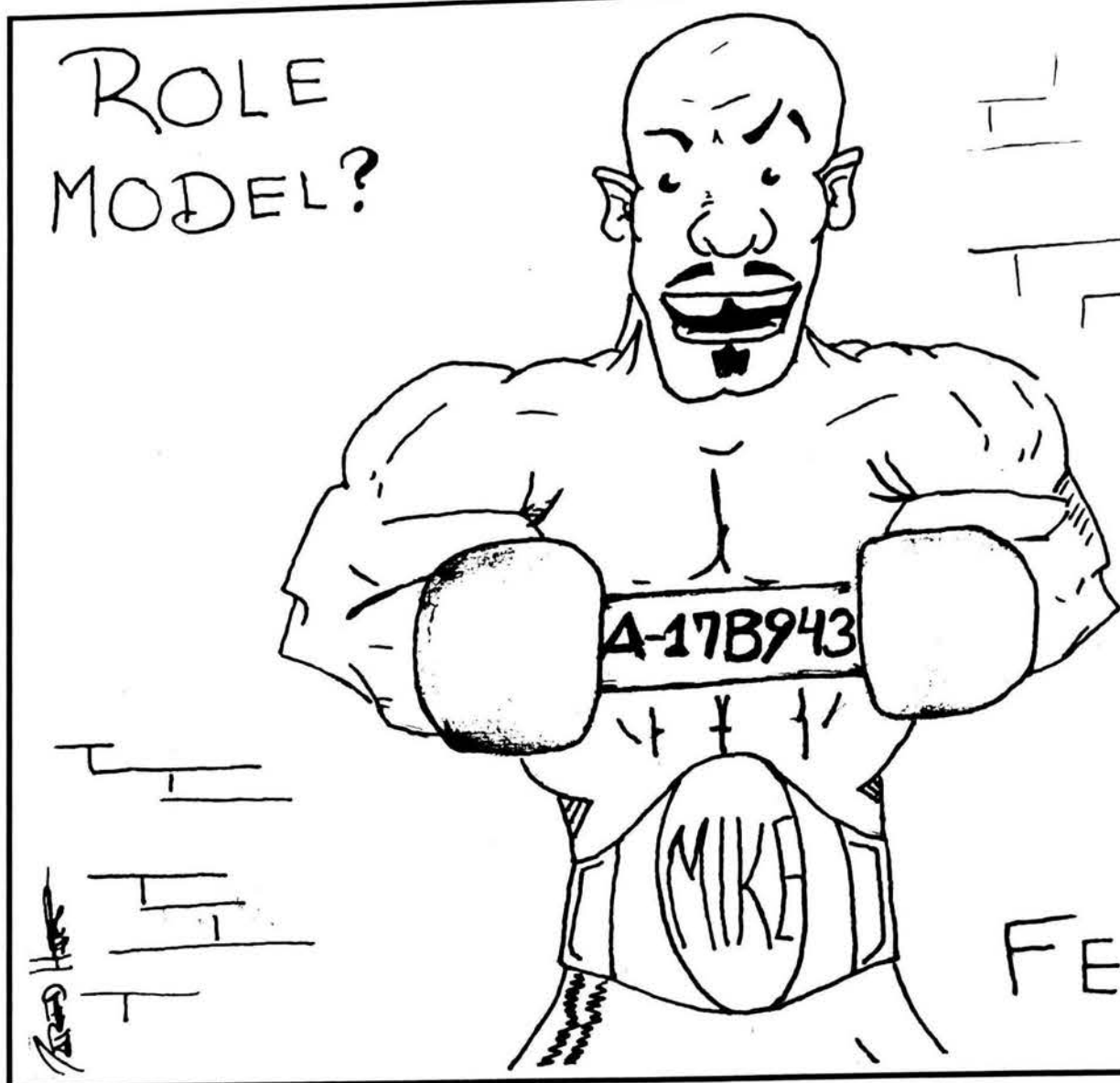
If the only way that this can ever be controlled is with the use of drug-sniffing dogs, then it should be done.

Hutsell is not looking to "punish" her peers, but to help her fellow students. She decided when enough was enough and followed through on her beliefs.

Whether people want to realize it or not, drug and alcohol abuse is a contributor to suicides. Alcohol, for one, is a depressant.

Drug use everywhere has become out of hand. It all needs to come to some type of an end or at least, a "slowing-down" point.

So, if the use of drug-sniffing dogs is the only way to cut back on the use of drugs in school, then it needs to happen.



Drivers interested in more than driving

Taxi cabs. Only these words need be uttered and images of crowded streets and cigar-smoking cab drivers named Harry come to mind.

The summer after sixth grade, my family went to San Francisco to spend some "quality time" as we "young adults" know it.

Having walked all day to our splendid destination from our hotel, the good old fam' had no way of getting home once it was dark and getting close to sleepy time for the kids.

Well, the only thing more common than hills in San Francisco is the taxi cab.

Absolutely pooped, we all piled in the cab. As it happened, I was the last one to get in the back seat, or should I say attempt to get into the back seat.

Once my dad had told "Harry" up front where we were headed, he was on the move. And I was on the move with him, yet I certainly wasn't slouched against some nasty taxi seat.

You see, he took off while I had one foot in the car, the other on the ground, one hand on top of the car and the other gripping the open door for dear life.

Let me tell ya, it is so much easier to put the pedal to the metal than to hop, yet hop I did. Soon my mother looked over, turned the palest white I have ever seen and yelled maniacally, "STOP!!!"

So, of course, what does the driver do but slam on his brakes. Ever heard of whiplash? Well it

works when you're outside the car, too. Let's just say my ribcage and the taxi door were on real intimate terms for a split second. Now comes the analytical section. Exactly

what caused that cab driver negligent in visually checking of his passengers?

This is a question that will remain unanswered.

The most widely accepted concerning "Harry's" actions that the driver was so dumbfounded witty charm and girlish figure control of all brain cells (he was with a different part) and drove witted for the moment.

However, I was 12 people's ya perves—say that one out loud idea as of now is that the driveeenie terrorist.

I mean wouldn't ya think gotten more of a kick out of com drag the poor little farm girl from We actually bleed corn stalks don't

My closing comment: take Eh, whatever works.



Whatever Works Morgan Denny

High-tech love quiz holds the true answer

"I... I um.. love.. um love.. y.. you." Did you have trouble mumbling out those three little, powerful words on Valentine's Day? Good! Just in time for my super-high-tech-computer-calculated-love quiz!

Let's see.. How do you tell if you love someone or not? Could it just be infatuation? Or maybe it is the real thing.

Whatever your case, if your Valentine's Day didn't go as planned, and you didn't say or hear those three little words, don't worry, don't fret, just take this super-high-tech computer-calculated love quiz and it will answer the most powerful question of all: To Love or Not to Love.

1. When thinking about this "special someone" do you:

F. think about how much fun you're going to have this weekend at parties with him/her.

G. vaguely remember the last time you went a whole week without fighting.

H. get that butterfly feeling, turn red in the face and smile uncontrollably from ear to ear.

2. Fill in the sentence. He/She introduces you to friends as "And this is:

Q. that hot guy/gal that I've been talking so much about."

P. my good friend, (your name here)."

O. no introduction necessary, they already recognize you from the picture in his wallet or her purse.

3. When your parents met your suitor, they:

S. told you how happy they were now that you were dating "normal" people..

T. talked to him/her longer than they talk to you most days of the week and invited your catch over for diner again next week.

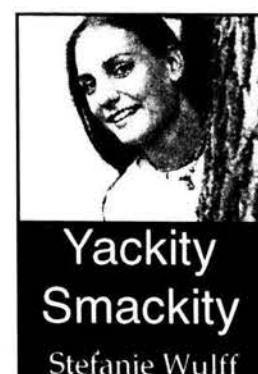
U. were a bit apprehensive at first, noting all the piercings, but eventually lightened up.

4. When your "flavor of the month" met your parents he/she:

C. told you that they've just figured out why you're so weird, jokingly of course.

D. was nervous, obviously, but pulled through and impressed you by acting twice their age during the dinner conversation.

E. swore to you that it would be the last time he/she would actually have an intellectual conversation with someone three times their age.



5. On the dates when the two of you actually alone together, you:

M. go to the movies, again, and out in the back row.

N. go to the movies and out to drive, actually talk about something other than what's going on for the day and how your day was.

O. go for a walk, back to the house, cook spaghetti, and play cards all night.

6. When the two of you go out with a bunch of people:

G. make up secret codes that only you two know that you are bored, hungry, bored to the bathroom, etc.

J. talk to everyone in the room, your guy/gal to catch up on gossip that you missed.

today.

I. only talk to him/her and ignore everyone else complaining that there's nothing to do.

If you spelled H.O.T. D.O.G. as answers then HOT DIGGIDY DOO! IN LOVE!

But I must warn you, those three words are the most powerful. Use caution...

the Register
Volume 112 Issue 6 February 17, 1999 Omaha, Nebraska

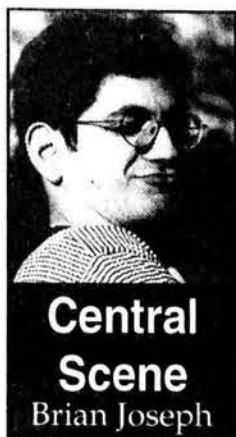
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Central High's *the Register* seeks to inform its readers accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance. *The Register* (USPS 097-520) is published monthly, September through May by Omaha Central High School, N. 20th St. Omaha, NE 68102. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of *the Register* staff. Periodical postage paid at Omaha, NE postmaster: send subscription address changes to *the Register*, Omaha Central High School. *Register* is self-sufficient. To place an ad or inquire about ad prices, contact the business manager at 557-3333.

Laser pointers only cause trouble

They shall not bring laser pointers to school. Recently, school board members made the 11th Commandment of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS). Basically, it states that students will face a suspension if they bring their name-brand Lightsabers to school. Well, duh. I'm sorry, but that *has* to be the most obvious rule in the entire world. Laser pointers have no place in a school setting and are completely unneeded. I cannot think of a single reason why a student would even bring a laser pointer in school. Actually, on second thought, I can think of one: to cause problems. I find it ridiculous that school board

members have to spend their precious time passing legislation for behavior all students should know is incorrect.



Central Scene
Brian Joseph

I could even understand if the bill was aimed mainly at elementary school students—children who are of that age do not necessarily know the difference between right and wrong. However, this bill was aimed at stopping middle school and high school students.

As in, teenagers.
As in, people over the age of 12.

As in, people who should know better (but don't, of course). How sad is *that*? The leaders of the 21st century—and our peers mind you—can't figure out that it's not acceptable to bring their ray guns to school.

As students, the administration and teachers alike tend to not trust us simply

because of our age. By doing such immature and stupid things as bringing laser pointers to school, we are giving them more reasons not to trust us and to think we are not ready to be treated like adults.

Secondly, as strange as this may sound, laser pointers can be rather dangerous if they get into the wrong hands.

If their laser beams are pointed directly into someone's eyes, they can cause permanent damage.

(Besides, nothing is more annoying than having one of those little red dots shined in your face. I swear the next person who does that to me is going to eat that laser pointer.)

Regardless, to save time, I think the OPS Board of Education should eliminate the majority of their commandments and replace them with one, simple rule.

Thou shall not act immature.

High school friends remembered through photos

Now that Valentine's Day 1999 has become a thing of the past, I stop concentrating on significant others, or lack thereof, and begin to appreciate the people who are truly important: friends. I recently looked through a huge stack of photographs that have accumulated over the years, the majority of which were taken during my high school years. (Hey, everyone gets sentimental and nostalgic occasionally.)

The pictures ranged from freshman year homecoming to my fifteenth birthday party to any number of random outings. And each one of them, no matter how insignificant they might seem to anyone else, had a special meaning to me.

Like the matching rings you can see on the hands of my best friend and myself during my sophomore year. The time when another one of my friends got locked in the cellar.

Almost everyone has a stack of pictures like this. Pictures of people, places and events that you can't remember anymore.

And what's the point of all of these random photographs?

The fact that they capture people throughout the years, how they've grown, how they've changed and how they've become the

people they are today.

Friends come and go throughout the years. The majority of teenagers change the people who they consider to be their "main group" of friends four or five times. But there is always a few people who stick around.



S(o)up of the day
Mary Lynn Super

Pictures prove the people who have been there all along—those are the ones who show up in every picture of every sleepover, party and dance.

And when you really think about it, they are also the ones who were there to comfort you through the hard times and celebrate the great times.

Pictures give us the chance to remember the people who meant the most to us, the people who affected our lives in uncountable ways.

And, hopefully, after we realize what great friends they have been, we will have enough sense to thank them and ensure them that we will always be there for them in the exact same way.

So I guess I'll just take this opportunity to thank all of the friends that have been there throughout the years—and you know who you are.

All of these realizations from a simple stack of photographs. Who would have thought?

Students judge each other on basis of clothes, age, music

Anyone who has ever drawn the sweet life knows people judge each other. If you feel you're not judgmental, you're kidding someone. Not even yourself. So do you judge someone?

Here comes more need-to-know information from your own personal god-on-

There are three major keys to judging someone.

The first, and most important, is fashion. Someone looks is how someone acts.

For example, if a person is seen at a new store wearing Abercrombie, American Eagle or Martens, what social level will be the one to initiate contact?

The higher one, naturally.

The preppies, wearing the exact same clothes, will take this "new kid" under their

On the reverse side, if a new student comes wearing JNCO's, Airwalks and a plaid shirt, logically who will be the first to accept this person?

Hmm, could it be the skaters?

To prove this point, take this same skater and have him initiate contact with the

Now, what happens?

Duh. He will receive the dirtiest looks

of his life. Then, after the self-named 'cool crowd' mocks this poor chap thoroughly, he will search for his native skaters.

This happens whether this new student is handsome, nice or even the Antichrist. This is the first judgement everyone makes, no exceptions.

The second factor in judging is age.

You might not realize it now, but everyone judges on the basis of age. Think of your petty life now.

No matter where in high school you are, you still hear the question, "what year are you?"

Then if the answer "freshman" is heard, the taunting begins with little to no hesitation.

Immaturity is linked with freshman for a reason.

I know all stereotypes have a logical, and usually true, explanation. If you want to believe it or not, freshmen are immature.

What judgment quality is behind door number three? Music.

Music is and always will be one of the defining points in judgement.

If a person's favorite artist is Jimi

Hendrix, obviously that person is a stoner. If it's the Goo Goo Dolls, preppy.

The list goes on. For some reason science can't find, music is how we judge each other.



I'm better than you
Jared Hart

In any given situation, how many times have you found yourself asking what type of music someone listens to? You wouldn't care if you weren't judging them.

How will we, as students, change this judgmental world?

Divide and conquer. If we make different students go to different schools, what could be the problem?

The All-Goth High would be the least populated, and "White-Trash High" would

have an overcrowding problem. (That's not much different than high school now.)

I would make myself superintendent. Then, as life would go on, I would bring capitol punishment back to schools.

With me at the helm of high school, I will lead us into the new millennium smiling.

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 Mackiel's plan to end mandatory busing and still promote desegregation will be successful?

No. If you go to school with a wide variety of people, you become more comfortable with them. People have to learn to get along with different kinds of people.



Brian LaFollette, 12



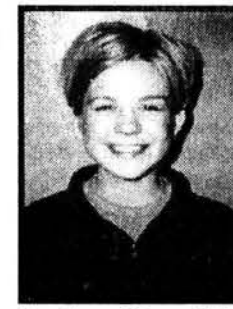
Erin Cannon, 10

Yes. The students will not be shipped away from their home schools. Students are most comfortable in their neighborhood schools.

No. By ending forced busing, Mackiel's plan would only hinder the current plan and make the races even more divided.



Nick Jacobson, 9



Audrey Kosmicki, 11

Yes. The busing plan is redundant. The students are the ones who decide whether or not they want to segregate themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A READER OPINION FORUM

Dear Editor,

I would like to make a comment on the article that Jared Hart wrote about Gothic people and Hessians. I didn't really have a problem with what he said; in fact I agreed with some of it. However, I cannot in good conscience, let what he said about witchcraft, or Wicca, go by without protest.

It is a common misconception that people who practice witchcraft are devil worshipers or associated with the Black Arts. This is not true. Wicca is an internationally recognized religion that has nothing to do with the devil. I did not take offense to his statement that it did because it is a common misconception. I just thought it was about time for someone to tell the truth on the matter.

Wicca has nothing to do with the Black Arts. It has as much to do with evil as Hinduism, Judaism or even Christianity. Furthermore, I would like to express my concern over the lack of professionalism that Hart has displayed in this particular article. I believe it would benefit him greatly to take more care in researching the things he plans on presenting to the public.

Sincerely,
Erin Braun, junior

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see a new twist on the front page of *the Register*, not many schools would have the courage to print such a vivid story. Yet, as much as I was pleased with the front page I was equally disgusted with the column section of the paper. What I am directly speaking of is Jared Hart's column.

I sincerely believe in freedom of speech and freedom of the press. I also respect both of these points to the fullest extent, but I never thought that ignorance and poor morals was included under these two principles.

In the last issue of *the Register*, Hart attacked religion. As if this column wasn't enough, he had the audacity to print a column full of one-sided views and social ignorance for the January issue. His sarcastic views and his "I am better than you" thoughts were not welcomed by this reader of *the Register*.

I found the comment, "Goths are leeches who have plagued society for years," the most appalling of all. The only thing that plagues society are those people who are self-centered and absorbed and who find pleasure in attacking other's beliefs or the way that they dress.

I guess if ignorance is bliss then Hart must be king! If attention was what he wanted from his column, I guess Hart has met his goal. But, I am not the one who has to face the masses of students at Central who have been judged and ridiculed because of Hart.

Sincerely,
Becky Storm, junior

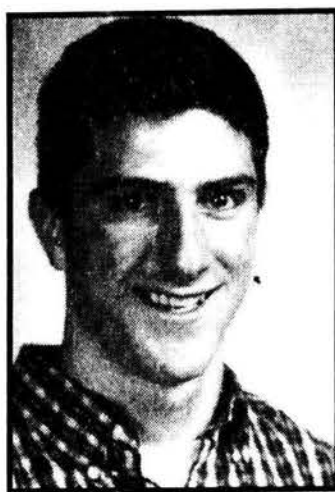
➔ Send all letters of opinion to room 315 or find the box on the two side of the courtyard. It is the policy of *the Register* not to print unsigned letters.

Could this be

bused

"The change is good; no one should be forced to go to a school that he does not want to attend."

Dusty Friedman
junior



*New students
plan aims to
forced desegregation*

Plan sparks conflict in the community

By Meredith Kalina

Omaha residents voiced their opinions on Superintendent Dr. John Mackiel's new Student Assignment Plan in a community meeting held at Lewis and Clark Middle School.

"We wanted to give the community a chance to express their views on the issue before the plan is voted on," John Langan, the president of the OPS Board of Education, said.

Langan said the school board held the meeting, which was on Jan. 26, because they are concerned with listening to the people who the new plan will affect and how they feel on the matter.

Barbara Hudson, a graduate of Central High School and a grandmother of six children who also went to Central, said that she has been following the issue for a long time and has attended many of the community meetings.

"Because of the busing, the schools in certain areas of town went to hell," she said.

Hudson said that the only people actually benefiting from the desegregation plan is Laidlaw, and that educationally, there has been no change since the desegregation plan was implemented.

Lisa Harak, a parent of OPS

school children, said that she is against the new plan because she wants her children to get the best education possible, and feels if the new plan is acted upon certain areas of town will have a better education program than others.

"I don't care if my kids are the only Caucasian kids in the school," she said. "If it doesn't bother them, it doesn't bother me."

Central Spanish teacher, Vickie Anderson, said that she is excited about what the new plan will accomplish.

One of the reasons that Anderson said she is for the new plan is because of the magnet school program that would be implemented.

"Students have different interests, and with magnet schools focusing on certain academic subjects, they will have a chance to explore those subjects," Anderson said.

Ethel Smith, with grandkids in OPS, said that she is upset that this new plan is being considered because she said that she has seen good results of the present plan.

She said that before the original plan was in existence, there were few, if any, black teachers and administrators in the public school system, and now a person can easily find one.

The cultural benefits give stu-

dents a better understanding of the world and people of all different kinds," she said.

She said that if this plan is accepted, she hopes five to 10 years down the road, they won't have to go back to mandatory bussing because they did the wrong thing.

Eddie Chamber, who taught at Burke High School, said that he too believes it is important to mix races in the schools.

Chambers said that bussing allows students to become aware of other cultures, and allows them to be introduced to global technology.

"Busing prevents backsliding into the 60's," he said.

Doug Kagan, who works with the Nebraska Conservatives for Freedom, said that he is excited about the new plan for a couple reasons.

He said that the new plan will cut down on the costs because of bussing, and that it will be a lot safer.

"Parents will feel better about the safety of their children because they will be much closer to home," Kagan said.

John Langan said that it appears to him that more conferences are needed with the community before they can make a good decision.

Central to be affected by plan

By John Eubanks

It just became easier to become a Central High Eagle.

That is, if Superintendent Dr. John Mackiel's new Student Assignment Plan is passed by the Omaha Public School (OPS) Board of Education.

Nancy Houston said that under this new proposed student assignment plan, students would have the choice of choosing Central or any school to attend in the city with no regulations.

"The only drawback is that transportation will not be provided for everyone at Central," Houston said. "With the desegregation plan, race played a big role in determining transportation."

Junior Tia Nelson said that since she was an African-American who lived out west, she could

not be bused for free to Central, but she could if she attended Bryan High or South High in order to integrate schools with equal races.

Nelson said that she currently wakes up at an early time just to attend Central as opposed to Burke, her home school.

"It was my choice and I am very glad that I chose to do so," Nelson said. "Central is so much more diverse, not just by race but by different types of people."

Many ESL (English as Second Language) students have been brought into Central as well as other schools, Houston said.

"The growth has been tremendous," Houston said. "They too will be able to attend their home schools."

Houston said that in order for any of this to happen there must be a bond issued.

"It is going to be very expensive and there must be a dollar figure involved," Houston said.

Houston said that there are several schools that need to be renovated to acquire a certain number of students who may attend.

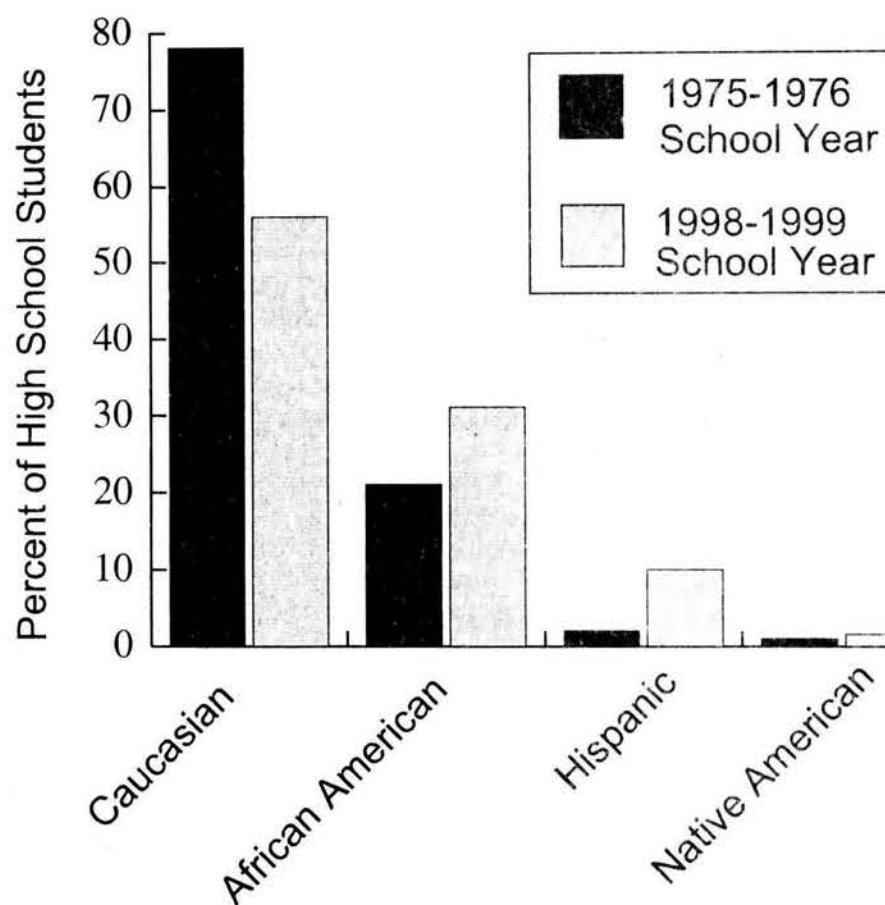
"I think that it will be a great plan," Houston said. "We just need to make sure that everything will run well."

Houston said that this plan was not proposed to re-segregate the schools because the schools are already desegregated.

Junior Aaron Brittain said that the new plan would be a great asset to many students here at Central.

"Central offers many things that other schools don't," Brittain said. "Its diversity among people makes it a good environment."

Change in Demography



SOURCE: DESEGREGATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

Desegregation Plan adds to district history

By Talya Greenspoon

The Omaha Public Schools [OPS] have operated under a desegregation plan that has included voluntary bussing, the opening of magnet schools and the closing of elementary schools for over 20 years, the Head of the Social Studies Department at Central said.

Carol Hipp said that she has taught in the OPS district since before the desegregation plan started, teaching first at Lewis and Clark Middle School before coming to Central.

"Through the years I have seen the effects of the desegregation plan, but the new policy also deserves a good, fair listening," Hipp said.

According to the OPS Student Assignment Plan Recommendation, OPS started desegregating beginning in the 1975-76 school year under a federal court order.

This order lasted until Sept. 17, 1984, when the U.S. District Court said that OPS had attained unitary status and was no longer under court supervision, according to the Recommendation.

Unitary status is when a school district has fulfilled obligations to remedy discriminatory acts from the past, and does not have to operate under a court order any more.

After the initial court order, OPS continued to make changes including closing 26 elementary schools and joining the school populations with other nearby schools, according to the original Desegregation Plan.

Also according to the Plan, since the beginning of the 1980's, three junior high schools were restructured, six magnet schools were opened and one high school

was closed.

Although there is a new proposal up at the school board, not every member of the board is something wrong with the old plan.

Ron Gray, a member of the original board that created the desegregation plan, said that the old plan should still be enforced.

Gray said that there will not be enough support for the new plan to succeed.

Hipp said that, while she was teaching, the plan was first put into action, the effects of desegregation were not as visible as one might think.

"There was no problem with it," Hipp said. "Everyone was there to get a good education." She said that the voluntary bussing was not either.

She said that different races all had transportation systems including yellow buses and MAT buses.

According to the Plan, free transportation was provided for any student who improved racial balance, called a Racial Balance Transfer [RBT].

Other transfers were also allowed, according to the Plan, but if they did not improve the racial balance they did not receive free transportation and Open Enrollment transfers [OE].

One thing that Hipp said she noticed at Central during the 1970's to 1980's, the desegregation plan was first in effect, was that it was at its fullest.

"One year, students had to share a lock of three people," Hipp said.

By Reb

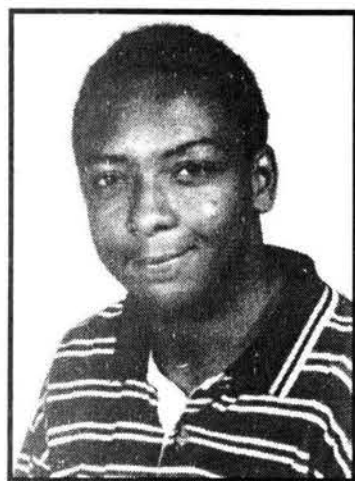
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the end of busing?

Assignment Eliminating Segregation



"I like the old desegregation plan, because it is important to have racial balance in schools."

David Durden
sophomore

Superintendent proposes new plan

By Rebecca Rennard

Which is more important, diversity or academics?

This question was raised when Ocala Public School Superintendent John Mackiel proposed a new school assignment plan, which relies on voluntary desegregation.

He said he feels the city has moved in such a manner that forced desegregation may no longer be the answer.

The natural integration of neighborhoods, general growth of the city and changes in the demographics are all factors that led to the review of the present desegregation plan, Mackiel said.

"They [diversity and academics] are both vital aspects of education," Mackiel said.

Because of the changes in demographics, however, Mackiel said he has chosen to focus more on the academic issue.

He said that everything around a child affects his or her learning, and that something is being overlooked by the school district.

He said that while no official decisions have taken place yet the new plan has been proposed to the school board.

Director of General Administrative Services for the Ocala Public School district, Janelle



"They [diversity and academics] are both vital aspects of education."

Dr. John Mackiel
Superintendent of OPS

Mullen, said the proposed plan includes recommendations to end all forced busing, to bring all schools to the same level and to assign students to a school in their home area, while at the same time giving them alternative choices.

She said that all parents and students would receive the right to choose which school they wish to attend.

When students reach the high school level, they will originally be assigned to a school in their home area, but will be allowed to apply to any high school in the OPS school district, Mullen said.

"All applications will be accepted, unless the school is overcrowded," she said.

Mullen said that allowing students to choose which high school they wish to attend would force the schools to become more competitive and develop aspects that will attract students.

She said that all students attending a high school outside their original attendance area and more than two miles from their home will be provided busing by the district.

With the old program, only certain students could receive free busing to school.

For example, Maya Taylor, freshman, said that she was not provided with free busing to Central from her home near 132nd and Dodge.

She said that because Central has a smaller percentage of Caucasian

students than most OPS high schools, under the current plan, only Caucasians are bused to the Central.

Taylor said that because she is biracial, her parents had a difficult time finding her transportation.

She said they had to apply to the busing company and then pay a sum of \$400 for the same transportation other students were receiving free of charge.

"I think Central is an awesome school, and the new program would give kids in other areas a chance to go here too," she said.

Although students at the high school level will have more choices and a different busing situation, Mullen said children in the elementary and middle school levels

will be more greatly affected by the new school assignment plan.

The district has redrawn the elementary attendance zones, so that all children would be assigned to a school in their home area, she said.

Mullen said according to the new plan, the students would then have the choice to attend the district magnet, a zone magnet or a focus school instead of the school to which they were originally assigned.

She said that the district magnet is King Science Center, and that the attendance zones have been separated into zones, each containing two zone magnets.

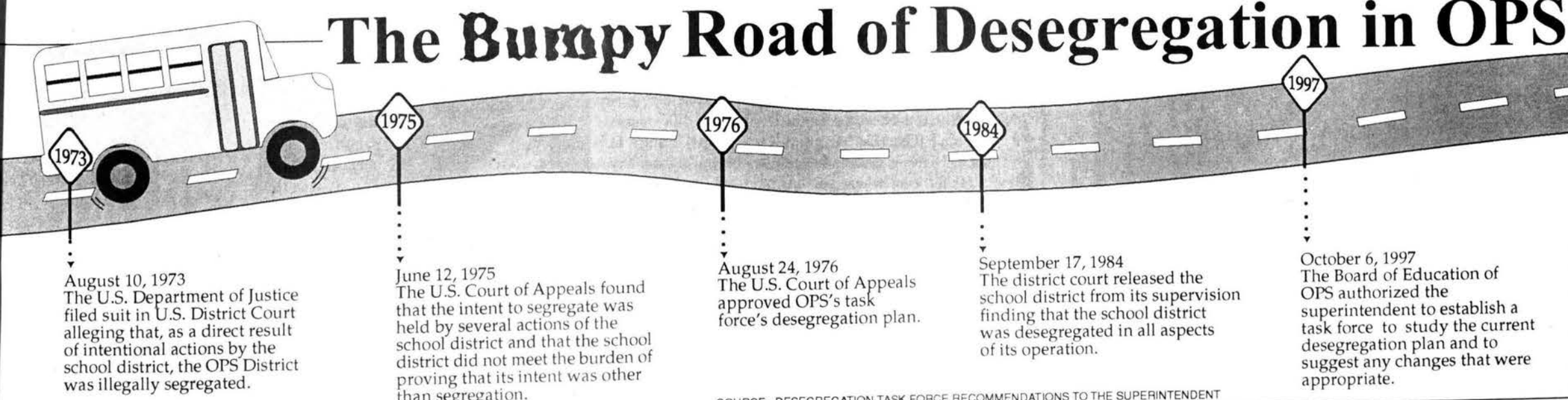
In addition, focus schools, located around the city, have been designed to help students develop their educational abilities through a smaller classroom environment.

At the middle school level, all students will be assigned to a school in their designated home attendance area.

Mullen said that middle school student will then have the opportunity to attend one of the four district magnets.

She said that if the new student assignment plan is accepted by the school board, a great deal of money will go into making sure that each school, especially those at the elementary level, can provide the students with adequate facilities.

The Bumpy Road of Desegregation in OPS



SOURCE: DESEGREGATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

Entertainment

Reel **BIG** Fish



West coast band making it big in midwest

By Mary Lynn Super

Still considering themselves little fish in a big pond, the members of the nationally known ska band, Reel Big Fish, said they are content with the fact that they are not "hugely famous" yet.

"It's nice to be able to walk down the street like an ordinary person," Tavis Werts, trumpet player for the band, said. "No one recognizes me as being from a band."

But in a band, a successful band, they are. Reel Big Fish has recently become a very popular band, especially on the east and west coasts, judging by their record sales from the past two years.

"It's really weird to think about the fact that teenagers across the nation listen to our music," Aaron Barrett, lead singer and guitarist, said. "I'm still the exact same person I was in high school, except with shorter hair."

Besides Werts and Barrett, members of the band include Grant Barry (trombone), Scott Klopfenstein (trumpet and vocals), Dan Reagan (trombone and vocals), Matt Wong (bass) and Carlos DeLaganza (drummer).

DeLaganza replaces Andrew Gonzales, the band's usual drummer, after Gonzales decided to leave the band due to a stressful touring schedule, Werts said.

When asked about their feelings on losing Gonzales, the reactions of the band members varied very little.

Barrett simply said that the last show they all played together, held Feb. 1, was an extremely emotional experience.

"It was kind of a relief, actually," Werts said. "Kind of a turning point for us all."

But the loss of one led to the gain of another. DeLaganza said that his transition into the band was in no way awkward.

He has known the members band for over six years now, making them all anything but strangers.

"We all used to play together back in



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

ABOVE: Dan Reagan, trombone and vocals, sings during their concert on Feb. 8.

the day [in high school]," DeLaganza said.

He also said touring was like living with nine of your closest friends.

"At least your house is always right outside the door, just a few steps away," Barrett said.

They also said that playing for the fans that love their music, whether at a large venue or a small one, makes up for the downfalls of touring. When asked about where their favorite place to play was, they answered Omaha, of course.

"There's no place like Omaha," Werts said.



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

A "SELL OUT" crowd at the Ranch Bowl witnessed an amazing performance by ska band Reel Big Fish. Aaron Barret, lead singer and guitarist, entertains the crowd on Feb. 8, when the band came to Omaha.

Review

Fish entertain crowd at Ranch Bowl

By Mary Lynn Super

The band that made "Sell[ing] out" cool recently performed in front of a sell out crowd. Those who did not buy a ticket to the Reel Big Fish concert before they sold out missed an unbelievable show.

Between the energetic crowd and the varied style of music, almost everyone would have been able to find an element of the show, held Feb. 8 at the Ranch Bowl, that fulfilled their personal tastes.

When Reel Big Fish came out, every person in the room, ska music lovers or not, seemed to get into the music. The sound of the horns mixing with the guitar solos was enough to make anyone jump into the music.

If there was ever a time when the audience made the concert, this was it.

The audience participation was on such a high level that one could barely keep from moving along with the rest of the crowd.

Between shouting lyrics, raising arms in the air, and just the basic dancing along to the music, it would be safe to say that every single person in the room was enjoying themselves.

One of the best parts of the concert occurred when the members of Reel Big Fish expressed their opinions on crowdsurfing and stagediving. Basically, they hate crowdsurfers.

The fact that everyone was allowed to listen to the music without having to constantly watch for a crowdsurfer's shoes flying towards their heads made the show that much better.

Road Show fun for a

By Caroline Walburn

There are two words up the 85th annual Show... variety and talent.

With 21 acts and participating students, the 1999, "This Joint is Jumpin'" was just the year's Road Show will be one of the best ever.

The student matinee performances on Feb. 18, with the high quality performances filled with drama and flair.

As for the acts themselves, range from the usual instrumental combos and skits to original ethereal interpretive dances.

All of the acts are except for two, Ragged Green and Franz. The Ragged Green has the same and radiant sound they did, and Hans and Franz are back you up.

After three piano year that all sort of sounded, judges stepped it up this year accepting one. The lucky one and a Smile, showcases the talents of senior Josh Lamoreaux, "On

Student renditions of songs that are played on the most common acts this year.

Senior Noelle Thoeners will perform an emotion-packed version of Sarah McLachlan's "Possession."

Junior Erik Smith All nine Counting Crow's "Sullivan & Son" with talent and ease. And independent Smith performs the Dave Light-after-Band song "Ants Marching." The band great accompaniment who shows before to be a hit.

Regardless of how matinee and evening performances go, the Road Show clarified on boot that Central's drama and departments are among the musical little mistakes can't mask it, if you of this group of people.

Students soap opera

By Caroline Walburn

A dream came true for Central sophomore Paula Roberson. There who was given a leading role in a new show, "In Our Lifetime," being filmed in Omaha in March.

The show is a teen soap in a school setting. Conner LuDawn Fredrick, a social who is trying to save her best friend from being used by the crowd.

Auditions, which were January, attracted about 400 from all over the Midwest.

"I just sent in my picture an application to get an audition," Conner said. "It was simple and I didn't expect to be called."

Little did she know she would later be given one of the major roles on the show.

"There were people from as far away as Kansas City, thought that would be too far to travel once taping begins," said Roberson said.

Roberson, who previously for the hit comedy "Fresh Prince Bel Air," was impressed Conner's audition.

"Paula went in and did her and we expect great things from Roberson said.

The pilot episode will be in March in Omaha. This will be an introduction to the characters and setting, but episodes will deliver complicated plots and story.

"We were really impressed Paula. She hasn't really had acting experience, but she does work," Roberson said.



Snaky Billy



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

THIS TIME, WITH FEELING... Seth D. Kirshmen, the lead singer of the band Snaky Billy, gets the audience's attention at the Ranch Bowl during the band's performance on Jan. 30. Snaky Billy is a local band that has been rousing-up audiences all over the city.

Prom Queen's not all that

By Kara Lund

Miramax's "She's All That" is clearly not all that different from the dozens of other teen comedies with an unoriginal plot and a predictable ending.

There is not a moment in this movie that will surprise you.

Laney Boggs (Rachel Leigh Cook) is a dork with a capital D; we can tell because she wears — GODNO! — glasses and works at a falafel joint where she has to wear a hideous hat.

Will Boggs undergo a startling transformation? What do you think?

I about died when Zack Siler (Freddie Prinze, Jr.) unleashed the classic line, "Do you always wear those glasses?"

See if this sounds familiar. The unbreakable rule in teen movies always is that the ugly duckling always turns into a beautiful swan.

What do you think the chances are that Siler will fall in

love with Boggs while at the same time making a bet with Dean Sampson (Paul Walker) that he can make any girl into the prom queen?

Get real. You know the answer.

And, guess what?! Boggs turns out to be gorgeous. Of course (gasp!) Laney is beautiful from day one, so the only transformation that occurs is that she loses her clunky glasses.

"She's All That" is not very funny.

One of the only scenes I thought was funny was when Siler's ex-girlfriend, Taylor Vaughann (Jodi Lyn O'Keefe) was trying to seduce her new man, Brock Hudson (Matthew Lillard).

Hudson plays the role of a

conceited cast member of MTV's "The Real World" (a resemblance to Puck from the real "Real World").

Vaughann tries seducing Hudson while he is watching himself on "Real World" reruns.

A disgusting scene I thought was definitely not called for was when Siler makes a bully eat his own public hair on a pizza. How gross!

"She's All That" did not seem very convincing to me maybe because all the high school students seem to be 20 years old with no zits, drive perfect cars and have Usher as the DJ for their prom.

"She's All That" fits in every predictable pattern with an overdone plot.



Rachel Leigh Cook

CD REVIEWS

Kravitz flies away with new release

Stefanie Wulff
Attention Kravitz fans and all who want to bust a move. Lenny Kravitz is back with his recent release, "5," which features 13 tracks that will make you bust a move. You've heard the hit "Fly Away" a million times on every radio station, and now it's just the beginning of Lenny Kravitz's attempt to take you away into another dimension of music.

All the tracks on "5" are loaded with mixes of musical instruments from horns to the stylaphone.

The music is catchy, vibrant and full of life. It even makes me want to dance, and I absolutely hate to dance.

Obviously, the next step was to buy the CD and hope all the songs were as good as "Fly Away."

All (okay, most of) the songs on "5" are as catchy as "Fly Away" and I was very impressed upon my first trial of the CD.

Usually I have to listen to a CD ten times

before I decide if I like it or not.

Songs such as "It's Your Life" teach lessons about falling in love and dealing with the pressures of unacceptance by peers who do not think your love will last.

Kravitz repeats over and over, "All I want to do is take it all the way with you/ it's your life/ it's your life."

However, there are some songs with just one verse and a ton of music, such as "Straight Cold Player," which is the most basic song ever with lyrics plainly saying, "I'm a straight cold player!"

Kravitz twists love songs in with his retro style as well. "Little Girl's Eyes" is the sweetest song I have ever heard in my whole life.

Kravitz serenades by singing, "You're my star and when I'm far/ You're not alone cause your heart's my home."

Kravitz is blessed with writing, singing and instrumental skills. "5" is a must have for everybody's CD collection even if you do not consider yourself a Kravitz fan.



COURTESY OF VIRGIN RECORDS

311 rocks Omaha

"Sessions" showcase of simplicity

Stefanie Wulff

311 is nothing more than a number to you, its latest release, "Omaha Sessions," will fail to rock your world. Hardcore, "I'm [lead singer] Hexum's 84th cousin"-claiming fans will appreciate the native band's compilation of previously released tracks.

Nine of them, written from 1991 to 1992, come from the band's independently produced, and highly successful after albums.

The band distributed them at live shows before relocating to Los Angeles in 1992.

Until "Omaha Sessions" hit stores, the albums' rarity put them on bootleggers' tables.

"Omaha Sessions" is a showcase of musical simplicity, an acquired taste if you will.

After all, where are the hit songs? Where are the pre-announced "rock anthems" you'll be singing? That's not the "Omaha Sessions" style.

Nevertheless, the tracks demand attention. After all, what were you listening to in 1988?

"Omaha Sessions" is like the blueprint for 311's now notorious mix of rap, rock, funk and hip-hop.

There's something to be said for listening to the same groove" for a decade.

The overall sound exudes a laid-back spirit that only the absence of a million-dollar recording studio budget and only true fans can appreciate.



COURTESY OF CAPRICORN RECORDS

THE ALTERNATIVE BAND...311 rocks with members (left to right) Tim Mahoney (guitar), S A Martinez (vocals), Nick Hexum (vocals), Chad Sexton (drums) and P-Nut (bass). The Omaha band hit it big with "Down" 2 years ago and recently released "Omaha Sessions" and "311 Live," which include mixes of songs from all of the band's albums.

Hip-hop disc something to jam to

By Stefanie Wulff

Put on your steel-toed boots, grab your tickets and lets go hear "311 Live" to listen to jammin music and hip hop lyrics that will put you in a dancin' mood and ready for action.

The newest release from the Omaha-born band, 311, will take you to its concert and then some.

"311 Live" has mixes from most of its previous albums and the songs are all preformed and recorded from live shows.

The CD starts off with the hit "Down" from its self-titled album. With the bass stronger and the drums louder, "Down" clearly illustrates the band's natural talent.

Hearing songs like "Beautiful Disaster" from the album "Transistor," and "Omaha Stylee" from "Grassroots" is much more pleasant live than not.

311's new album is just like the concert, but you'll go home with fewer bruises than actually attending the show.

311 plays more variations in the songs of "311 Live" than on its other albums. There are added verses, drum and guitar solos in several of the songs, as well.

The live soundings of "Hydroponic" and "Who's Got the Herb?" bring 311 back to its roots, Omaha.

Since there are extra solos in the songs, it is more pleasant to listen to because you never know what's up next.

"311 Live" would be an excellent addition to your CD collection and is a great disc to pop in at the next party.

Shallow lyrics bring Goo Goo Dolls to poor status

By Caroline Walburn

Although its hit single "Name" knocked it out of obscurity three years ago, the Goo Goo Dolls newest album, "Dizzy Up the Girl," just throws the group back into the boiling pot of radio-pop bands.

All of its new material blends together with the sounds of other

big-name alternative groups, such as Matchbox 20 and Third Eye Blind, with child-like rhyme scheme in the lyrics and commercial appeal.

For those of you that may remember The Goo Goo Dolls from its older albums ("Superstar Carwash", "A Boy Named Goo") and expect the same scrappy spirit and acoustic diversity on "Dizzy Up the

Girl"—you're in for a surprise.

The band has left its punk roots behind for all the fame and glory of... heavy radio rotation?

While the scratchiness and sincerity of vocalist Robbie Takac's voice impressed the band's original stuff, the new stuff is what I would call "Top 40 music."

The shallow lyrics and catchy

guitar riffs have turned the Goo Goo Dolls into a made-for-radio special.

While a few of the tracks retain some reminder of the past with sophisticated tunes, the majority of the album is an alternative façade.

"Slide," the song you hear every time you turn on the radio, is practically one of the worst songs on the entire album.

Not only is it overplayed on radio, the video is also overplayed on MTV. That would be fine.

However, the video is not all that great.

Yet, it's nice to know that talent brought this band to the top.

It's just sad to see that it had to make an MTV-conditioned album to stay there.

the go go dolls dizzo the up girl

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Central Scopes

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You may be a little tense this month. Loosen up by staying calm and finishing all of what you started.

Aries (March 21-April 19) The unexpected is at your doorstep. Everything becomes a riot. Think before making any commitments.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Even though you're giving 100 percent, others don't notice, which causes frustration. Hang in there, follow your heart and do your thing.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Keep a low profile this month, you may not like everything you hear. Evaluate all your options before jumping into something new.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Give your friends some space, you're getting too close. You don't always have to be the center of attention, give others a chance.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) The power is with you this month. You seem to get whatever you want and you like it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Clear your mind from all confusion. Take a breather once in a while. You need to relax in your spare time.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) A change in your lifestyle is for the better. And if you don't like the change, you can always go back.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Unexpected happiness is just around the corner. But keep your glasses on or you'll miss it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Surprising news excites you, but don't read into it too much. If you show your emotions, it may turn out to be untrue.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A disagreement with a friend leaves you upset and irritable. Turn your frown upside down!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Think about things from others' perspectives. It's not always a good thing to get what you want.

By Stefanie Wulff



Entertainer of the Month: Sometimes Wonder

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOMETIMES WONDER

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Sometimes Wonder members Mike Pongruber, Kevin Hill, Tom Daley, Christy Rossiter and Chet Crinklaw play March 13 at Sokol Underground.

Central grads dream of recognition

By Meredith Zendejas

For three former Central students, their dream of making it big in the music industry is close to becoming a reality.

Mike Pongruber, Kevin Hill and Chet Crinklaw all graduated from Central in the early '1990s.

Pongruber (bass), Hill (guitar and vocals), and Crinklaw (guitar and vocals), along with Tom Daley (drums and percussion) and Christy Rossiter (keyboard and vocals), form the band Sometimes Wonder. Sometimes Wonder is a pop/rock band that has been together for a little over a year, Hill said.

Since the band has been together they have put out a self-titled album. Daley said that they

play for the love of the music.

"We want to be able to play our music for a living, and for people to know who we are when we walk down the street," Daley said.

Crinklaw, along with Hill, said that they write all the songs and the rest of the band critiques them and adds the music.

Hill said that writing a song can take anywhere from five minutes to six months.

He said that on their newly self-titled album, one of the songs is about the '1997 October snow storm.

"Writing a song is like a painter painting a picture," Crinklaw said.

Pongruber said that they practice three times a week at Rossiter's house in what used to be her bedroom.

Happening

- Feb. 17- March—Dali's Mustache at the Joslyn Art Museum
Feb. 17-- 3 Day Meat Sale at the Ranch Bowl
Feb. 19-20—Gigglebox at the 18th Amendment
Feb. 20-- Janglepop at the Ranch Bowl
Feb. 20-21—Mozart Metamorphosis at Strauss Performing Arts Center (UNO)
Feb. 20-21—Chamber Music Ensemble at the Creighton Lied Art Center
Feb. 23- Kings of Swing at the Ramada Hotel Conference Center
Feb. 24--The Ruby Dare at the Cog Factory
Feb. 24-- Cleaver at the Stork Club
Feb. 26-- Jolie Edwards Benefit Concert for St. Jude Children's Hospital at the Sokol Auditorium
Feb. 26-- Noizewave at Sokol Underground
Feb. 27-- Five Story Fall at the Ranch Bowl
March 1-- Magician David Copperfield at the Civic Auditorium
March 6-- Sugar Ray at Sokol Hall
March 13-- Sometimes Wonder at Sokol Underground

Cupid Trivia

What Greek God is commonly represented in art as a naked, winged infant, often blindfolded and carrying a bow and arrow?

Who is Cupid's counterpart in Greek Mythology?

Eros is best known as the handsome young god who falls in love with what beautiful maiden?

Eros played many roles in the Theogony of Hesiod. For example, Eros fathered Uranus (heaven), the sea and the mountains. Who mothered these three?



SOURCE: Grolier Encyclopedia

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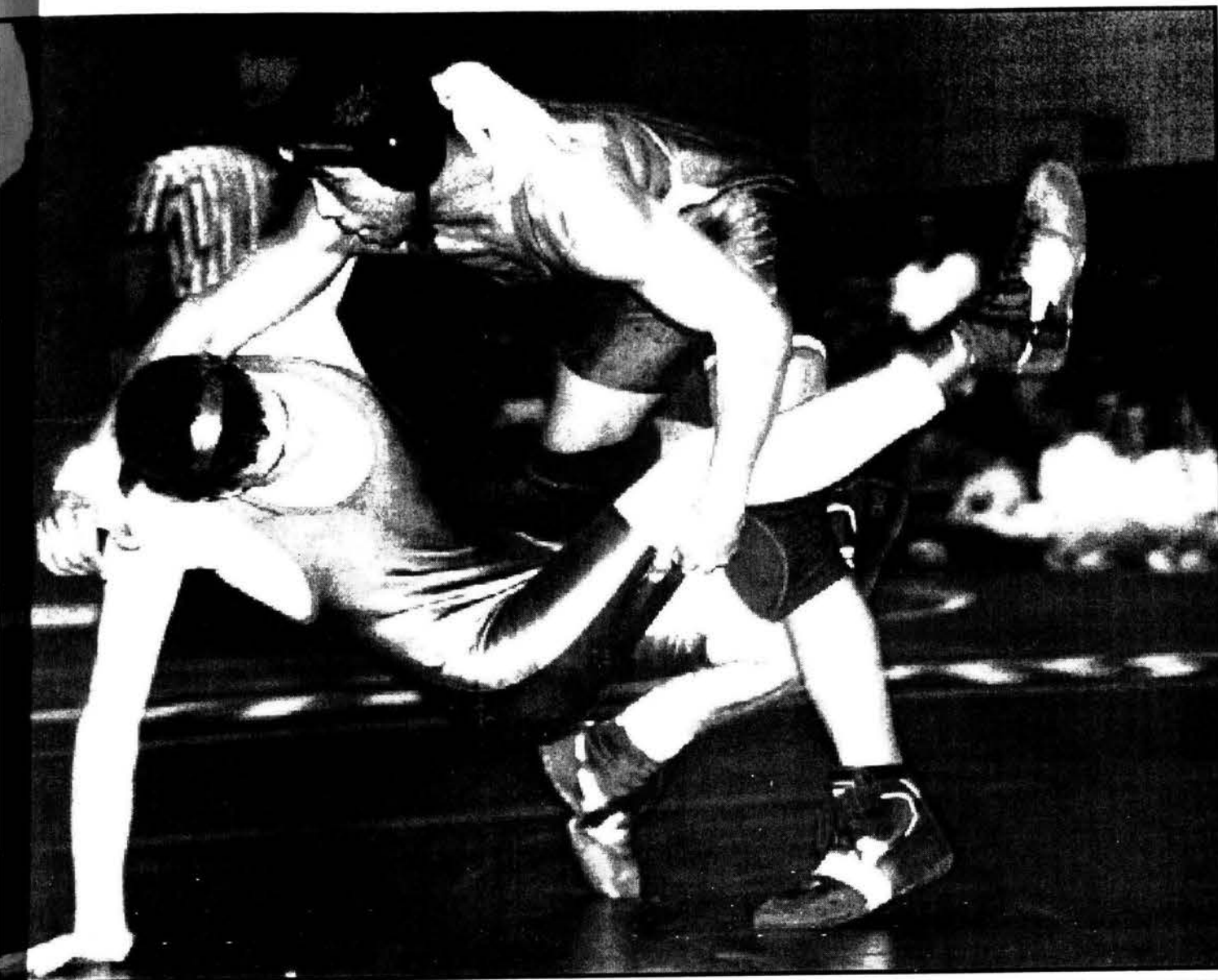
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CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

CHS duo sign letters of intent

By Brian Joseph

It's official: Brandon Williams is going to Michigan and Terrell Gardner will be heading off to Colorado State.

In a press conference held on Feb. 3 in the Central conference room, the two seniors signed national letters of intent binding both of them to play for their respective schools next season.

After Williams, Gardner and both their mothers signing the letters of intent, Central's Head Football Coach Joe McMenemy made a short speech about his two highly-recruited players.

"I want to congratulate both of you and your parents," McMenemy said. "Very few people are doing this right now." Whatever the case, once all the official proceedings were done, both Williams and Gardner said that they were relieved that the college recruiting process was over.

"It feels good [to sign]," Williams said. "It [the attention] was getting annoying. I don't have to screen my calls anymore."

Athena Gardner, Terrell's mother, said that she agreed.

"I'm just glad he's getting this opportunity to further his education," she said.

However, even though all involved said that they were glad to have the recruiting process over, both Gardner and Williams said that they are looking forward to moving on to the next level.

"I know I'll have to start all over again next year," Williams said.

Williams, who was also heavily recruited by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), said that he expects to play as a back-up cornerback and kick-returner for the Wolverines next season.

In fact, he said that the reason he chose Michigan over Nebraska was due to the fact that the Michigan coaches told him that he will not be required to redshirt his first year.

"There were a lot of people disappointed that he didn't go to Nebraska," Paula Bartee-Williams, Brandon's mother, said. "[But], I'm very, very proud of Brandon and I look forward to going to Ann Arbor."

On the other hand, Gardner, who was also recruited by New Mexico State University and the University of Wyoming, said that he chose Colorado State because of the offense their team runs.

"They pull [in their offensive blocking schemes] and that's what I like," Gardner said.

While he is unsure about specifics next year, Gardner said that he expects to play at either guard or tackle for the Rams.

Wherever he ends up, Gardner's mother said that while she is extremely proud of her son, she did expect him to earn a full scholarship to college.

"I did see this coming. But, I thought that he would get it through basketball, not by playing football," she said.

CENTRAL WRESTLER Ray Kizzee takes down an opponent at the Metro Tournament, which was held at Millard South on Jan 15-16. Since transferring from Chicago this summer, Kizzee has compiled a winning record along with finishing first in the North Invite. Kizzee began the wrestling season seeded 13th and last in his weight division. He is now among the top two wrestlers in the 140 lb. weight class.

By Amy Yin

Even though senior Ray Kizzee just transferred from Chicago, he is finding success on the wrestling mat.

Kizzee is getting the most out of his unknown persona by winning most of his matches against wrestlers.

Kizzee's most recent match was a second place finish at the Metro Tournament where he lost to a North wrestler in the 140 lb. division.

Kizzee's next scheduled match is at State, which will be held on Feb 19-20.

"One of my goals is to take first place in the 140 lb. Division at Metro," Kizzee said. "This is the competition that I am looking forward to, and I hope the team will do well."

Kizzee said that his other goal is to win State.

"I have four brothers who have all wrestled and have never won State. One of my brothers was a wrestler for the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), and he won a National Championship while he was there."

Kizzee said that the biggest moment in his wrestling career was his first place finish at the North Invite.

"Since I had just moved to Omaha from Chicago, they seeded me No. 13, which was last," Kizzee said.

"My last match against Tiant Epperson, from North, was like a big fight. Epperson kept trying to throw me off my game by swearing and screaming at me. The referee finally disqualified Epperson for unsports-

manlike conduct."

Even though he is wrestling in Omaha, he said that there are two differences between wrestling in Omaha and wrestling in Chicago.

"There is a lot more competition in the weight classes in Chicago. Out here there are only a few quality wrestlers in the 140 lb. weight class," Kizzee said.

"Another big difference out here are the coaches. Not all the coaches get on their wrestler's case about doing things right, like in Chicago."

With such an emphasis on Metro's, one would wonder what Kizzee has in store for next year.

"I plan on going to UNO next year," Kizzee said. "I've already talked to UNO's head wrestling coach."

Central transfer
by Kizzee from
Chicago wrestles
way to a win-
ning record

Freshman standout starts football, basketball

McWhorter

Central multisport athlete at the level of Bo Jackson yet, but Jared Ruffin is off to a positive start.

Ruffin became one of two ever to start on the varsity football team at Central High this season, Head Football Coach Joe McMenemy said.

"We were a little thin at guard this year and he exhibited a great deal of strength and athleticism," Behrens said.

Ruffin got his opportunity to prove he could be a starter during the third game of the season against Millard South where he caught a few passes and made some crucial blocks, McMenemy said.

For basketball, Ruffin has

pound Ruffin's goals, he certainly achieved them.

"We had a big scrimmage one week into practices and he played well," McMenemy said.

The basketball coaches only got to look at Ruffin during a few tryouts because football prevented him from attending any preseason workouts.

"The players in Texas are much bigger and stronger. They focus more on strength and speed," Ruffin said.

Behrens and McMenemy said they agree that he is able and eager to learn from the more experienced players around him.

"Ruffin is aggressive and he always goes hard in game and practice. He still has a lot to learn though

switched back and forth from point guard to shooting guard, rotating with fellow guards senior Lorenzo McMorris and junior Brian Rahaman.


Part of Ruffin's success in basketball can be attributed to participating in a Midnight Basketball League in Midland, Texas over the summer.

"The players in Texas are much bigger and stronger. They focus more on strength and speed," Ruffin said.

Behrens and McMenemy said they agree that he is able and eager to learn from the more experienced players around him.

"Ruffin is aggressive and he always goes hard in game and practice. He still has a lot to learn though

CHS File: Jared Ruffin

<p>Class: Freshman, graduates in 2002</p> <p>Sports: Varsity Football and Basketball</p> <p>Position: Wide Receiver, Guard</p> <p>Future Goals: High School All-American in Football and Basketball</p> <p>College Plans: University of Arizona, University of Florida, or Florida State University</p>	
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as a freshman," senior teammate Lorenzo McMorris said.

In the future, Ruffin said that he aspires to be an All-American in both basketball and football at a big name college.

With a lot of hard work Ruffin will have a chance at fulfilling his

goals. For now he is just beginning and has much to learn.

"He has awesome potential," McMenemy said. "He has all the qualities needed to succeed."



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SPORTS



Pres
cha

Full-Court Press

By Jeff McWhorter



Central season brought to life

Eight losses in the first nine games of the season. It's a tough pill for any team to swallow.

Many would think a team should give up, quit and go home crying with its tail between its legs.

This, of course, was the scenario facing the Central boys' basketball team this season following its first nine games.

The team hung tough, though, and came back to redeem itself, going 4-4 in the month of January.

The team never gave up, they didn't quit and they didn't come home crying with its tail between its legs.

The best game of Central's season came Jan. 30 at home against Lincoln High.

What game was I watching? I didn't even recognize the team in the purple and white home uniforms.

It was a team I had imagined seeing all season, but never dreamt possible.

At long last, the Eagles were playing like they were capable of.

Tough defense, tough rebounding and smart, savvy play lead Central to upset the then-Omaha World Herald Top Ten No. 3 team.

After the Lincoln High victory I predicted--hoped--that Central's transformation would be for good.

I talked to the players at the beginning of the season and they all seemed extremely excited to finally get the season underway.

After weeks--months, for some--of playing together, the team was ready to make its debut.

The relatively inexperienced squad was hyped to test its ability, and show the Metro what it was made of.

The Eagles, however, lost eight of their first nine games by an average margin of 11 points, with the lone win coming against South in the Metro Holiday Tournament.

Turnovers, disorganization, lack of experience and leadership and all around sloppy play were all contributing factors on a team that beat itself more often than the other team for eight early-season losses.

Moments of brilliance would make you think the team had finally worked out all the kinks.

Then, they would lose their composure all over again.

After the first five games, varsity player Jared Ruffin expressed the team's main goal to me quite simply.

"We are just trying to improve everyday, but mainly we want to get some wins," he said.

Nevertheless, if Central can finish out its season strong, the Eagles still have an opportunity to prove that they can compete with any team in the Metro, or the state.

Their district, consisting of Creighton Prep, Fremont and Norfolk is easily within grasp.

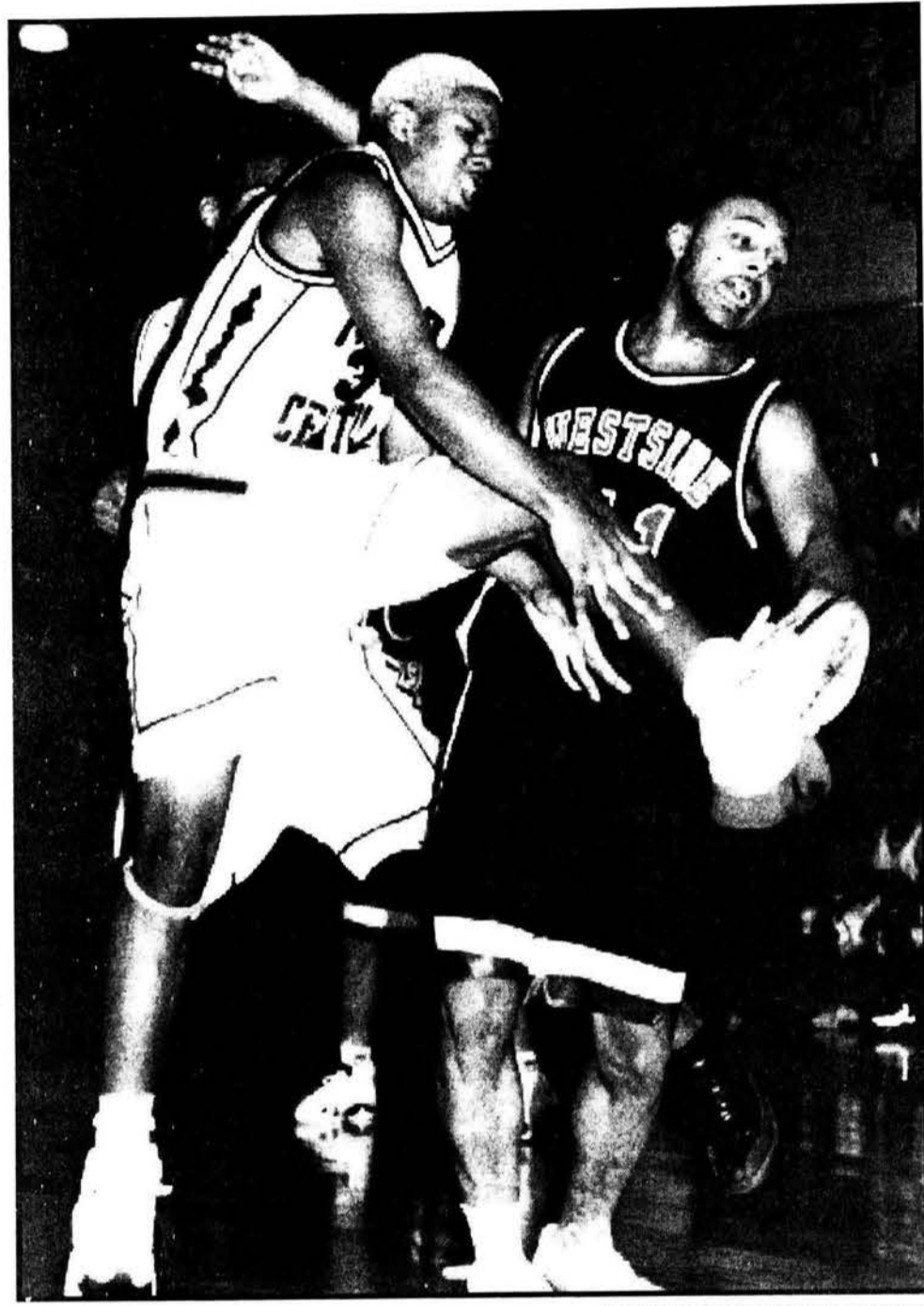
There isn't a better way to finish off a shaky season than with a strong finish at the state tournament in Lincoln.

I have faith in these Eagles, and I really would love to make the trip down to Lincoln to watch them play.

Who knows, maybe we'll give other teams a dose of our own medicine, and win the last seven games of the season?

Back on the

Winning track



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

(ABOVE) CENTRAL SENIOR Jacky Smith takes his anger out on the floor during the Eagles' Jan. 14 game against Westside. (Right) Junior Mike Kuhn, a 6-foot-8 transfer, shoots over two Lincoln High defenders during the Eagles' 68-55 win. Central, which started off the year with a 1-8 record, went 4-4 in January and will begin District play on March 1.

Bolstered by the addition of a 6-foot-8 transfer, the Eagles went 4-4 in January and breathed new life into its season

By Derek Tritsch

To many Central students, chemistry often proves to be a subject nearly impossible to master. To the Central boys' basketball team, developing chemistry seemed to be just as hard. Until January.

Despite a 1-8 start to the season, the Eagles have rebounded to win four of their last six games. The week included a three-game winning streak with wins over Papillion-La Vista, Northwest and Lincoln High.

The increased success is due to the team coming together more as a cohesive unit, Central Head Coach Rick Behrens said.

"It took a while for them to realize what their strengths as a ball club were," Behrens said. "For instance, at first we were shooting too many three's. Now they've realized that to have success we're going to have to get it inside."

Leading the charge in the Eagles' upswing has been senior center Ben Jacobson. In the three game winning streak, Jacobson scored 18, 29 and 27 points, respectively.

His performances raised his season average to 19.3 points per game, good for eighth in Nebraska.

Jacobson cited improved team efforts as the main reason for his score increase.

"I've been happy with my efforts this year," Jacobson said.

"But now, since everyone has turned it up a notch, it seems like I'm playing better, too. We feed off each other."

Another reason for the improvement has been the addition of Creighton Prep transfer Mike Kuhn, Behrens said.

The 6-foot-8 junior became eligible to play for the Eagles at the semester's end.

Although he has had little practice time, Kuhn has made sizeable contributions to the team, culminating in a 14 point, 11 rebound performance against Lincoln High, Behrens said.

Aside from his game contributions, Behrens said that he was also pleasantly surprised with Kuhn's leadership in practice.

"I enjoy practices a lot more at Central," Kuhn said. "Coach gives me a lot of time to work on the stuff I need to. I think it helps my game a lot."



Creighton Prep transfer aids Central

By Jeremy Scurlock

The Central High School boys' basketball team made a large addition to its roster at the start of the second semester in the form of a 6-foot-8 transfer, Head Coach Rick Behrens said.

Mike Kuhn, a junior transfer, left Creighton Prep at the semester break in hopes of raising his grade point average enough at Central to qualify to play for a Division I college, Kuhn said. Kuhn began practicing with Central as soon as his transfer was final.

"Prep's team is a lot more strict during practice than Central," Kuhn said. "Behrens

allows more freedom in his practices, which I like. It allows me time to work on my weaker points."

Kuhn's enthusiastic attitude and competitive nature only add to his natural ability, Behrens said.

"Kuhn has good hands and great balance, two things rare for a kid that's so tall," Behrens said. "He is good at defense and offense, his ability to dribble and pass so well is a real advantage for him."

Since Kuhn has joined the Eagle basketball squad, the team has won three of the six games they played.

"I'll hopefully be able to help the team and be a leader," Kuhn said. "I like being

a leader on the floor."

Although Kuhn has not yet started for CHS, he said that by the end of the season he can start.

"The team's depth is hurting right now, so we need guys who can come off the bench and play well enough to give the starters a chance to rest," Behrens said.

Against Lincoln High, ranked third in the Omaha-World Herald Nebraska Top 10, Kuhn scored 14 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Kuhn provided needed help off the bench, and at the same time helped Central outscore one of the top teams in the state, Behrens said.

NU's Grixby excels at winter conditioning

By Derek Tritsch

When forced to sit out a year, a football player can build up a great deal of aggression. Just ask current University of Nebraska-Lincoln player DeAntae Grixby.

Grixby, a member of the Central High class of '98, found an outlet for that aggression, though, at the Cornhuskers' winter conditioning drills in January.

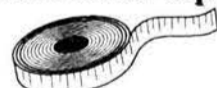
In the drills, he tied sophomore

quarterback Eric Crouch with a ten-yard dash time of 1.56 seconds, good for best on the team.

Participation in the drills is the I-back's first action with the team, as he was forced to sit out a year to surgically repair a shoulder that he separated in the 1998 Shrine Bowl. The 1998 football season was to be his first on scholarship with the Huskers, but Grixby chose not to enroll at the university until the second semester. Nebraska Football Head



the tale of the tape



Grixby's stats:

10-yard dash: 1.56 seconds
40-yard dash: 4.67 seconds
vertical leap: 30 inches
overall score: 2,200 points

Coach Frank Solich said he is excited about the prospects of having Grixby on the field next season.

"It certainly was tough for him to sit out a year," Solich said. "But we think he's an outstanding athlete, and I can't wait to get him on the field."

Grixby, who is still recovering from the injury, said he should be ready to go around the middle of March.

"I feel great right now, but I don't think the coaches would let me play in pads yet," Grixby said. "I'll be ready to go full speed by the spring game, though."

Grixby said he is excited about his prospects of playing next season.

"The I-back position is open right now," Grixby said.

Central Head Football Coach Tom McMennamin, who coached Grixby at high school, said that Grixby could make an impact with the Huskers this year.

"With the running back position being so depleted down there, I think that he could end up as the 1 running back," McMennamin said. "I think he's just an excellent athlete."

Grixby also said that he would like to earn a place somewhere in the three I-back positions on the depth chart.

SCORECARD

NCAA Basketball Tournament No. 1 Seeds by Region

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