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the Omaha Central High School REGISTER

Cornhusker Award
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Nebraska Legislature debates spending bill

By Ally Freeman

If Nebraska Legislative Bill LB513 is passed, it could solve the Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) current problems with finance spending, taxing limits and Board of Education authority.

Dr. Dennis Pool, assistant superintendent of OPS, said the bill would not only affect the Omaha school district, but all Nebraska public schools.

The current problems are that finance spending and taxing limits are out of balance, and Boards of Education do not have adequate authority to provide quality education.

Pool said it was these problems, in addition to unmet needs within the district, that prompted the proposed legislation.

Unmet needs include all-day kindergarten, new reading and spelling textbooks, pre-kindergarten programs, competitive staff salaries, enriched summer school offerings and equitable after-school opportunities for all students.

He said it would also allow for greater flexibility with spending and levy limitation.

"It [LB513] is a technical clean-up for the Board of Education," Pool said.

The bill states, "For purposes of this subsection, commenced means any action taken by the school board on the record which commits the board to expend district funds in planning, constructing, or carrying out the project."

Senior Analisa Jacob said she agrees with most of the needs the proposed legislation will meet, especially involving teachers.

Pam Roth, a controller and systems specialist for OPS, said she has been involved with discussions to make recommendations for changes to put in the bill.

She said the current expenditure limitations restrict what the district can do.

The key is making the two limits work together, Roth said.

OPS has outlined four key obstacles to meeting the needs. They include insufficient state recognition of the costs of educating all students adequately, an over-restrictive expenditure limit, levy limits inconsistent with expenditure limit and technical legislative restrictions.

Roth said if the bill passed, the whole district would benefit.

"It will affect everyone in the district, whether staff or students," she said.

Parent groups have also been meeting with district officials to help them better understand the legislation, Roth said.

Going for the pin...



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

DOWN FOR THE COUNT : John Whitmyre (12) struggles for victory at the Metro Conference wrestling tournament held at Millard South Jan. 12 and 13. After a difficult struggle, Whitmyre defeated his opponent, Millard West wrestler Justin Verby. "He pins him with that move every time," coach Jimmie Foster said. For more on Central wrestlers, turn to Profile, page 8.

City releases race-relations study results

Racial inequality found in several organizations, committee says.

By Matt Wynn

The Human Relations department held its briefing of a packet released by the Omaha Commission on Community and Race Relations on Friday, Jan. 24 in the Legislative Chambers at the City County building.

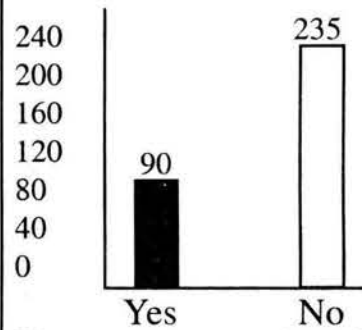
Over 175 signatures of people who "commit to a policy of zero tolerance towards racism, discrimination, or any demeaning actions or behaviors," were collected after the briefing, Kellie Paris Asaka, director of the Human Relations Department said.

Mayor Hal Daub said he was happy with the turnout at the meeting.

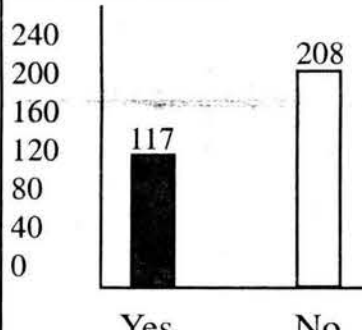
"I am pleased to say that we have nearly two hundred local business and community leaders here to pledge just that," Daub said, "To pledge that they Turn to RACE, page 2

Central's views on RACE

Is racism a problem at Central?



Have you ever experienced racism at Central?



325 students polled
MATT WYNN/THE REGISTER

Central alumnus appointed as new police liaison

By Michael Gerhardt

It may have been 20 years, but for Omaha Police Officer Jerry Paul, not much at Central has changed.

His homeroom teacher, Rita Ryan, and two of his former coaches, Coach Standifer and Coach McMenamin, are still here.

The kids, he said, are still the same.

Paul, an officer for 17 years, is the newly appointed police liaison at Central.

Before being appointed to Central, Paul worked nine years on the streets, policing every part of Omaha from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Paul said he worked with teenagers throughout his time on the beat and always made an attempt to give teenagers the benefit of the doubt.

"I didn't come in here to be a Gestapo and arrest and harass people," Paul said.

He began his application process last year. After turning in an

application and attending multiple interviews with lieutenants, sergeants and principals, Paul was appointed to Central.

"I told them from the outset I wanted Central," Paul said.

Principal Gary Thompson said Central is an excellent place for Paul because of his previous experience at Central.

He said that since Paul had recognition as a star athlete and knew

some of the teachers, Central was the place for him.



Paul

"He has a good feeling of what Central is about," Thompson said.

Paul said he believes his experience with domestic violence, drugs and death as an officer on the streets will help him to educate students beyond academics and assist him in passing on real world examples.

"Through my experience, I can

give the stark reality of life...the good and the bad ends," Paul said.

Paul's placement at Central has many benefits, Thompson said. He could easily act as a deterrent for students who might do illegal things.

Security guard Frank Zavorka said Paul could act as additional support to the security staff, also.

"He'll back us up, we'll back him up. He's not here to arrest anyone," Zavorka said.

Zavorka said he has known Paul Turn to POLICE, page 3

Metro College places extra emphasis on vocational education

By Matt Wynn

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) are different than other area school districts in that they have the Career Center, but Metro Community College can offer certain things that OPS cannot, Dr. Carl Fielder, projects coordinator for Career Education at Metro, said.

He said because the Career Center can attract students interested

in vocational education, Metro works very closely with the Career Center to attract those students to the college.

Next year, the college and OPS are planning to implement a new program, Fielder said.

"What we're doing, we're taking high school juniors and seniors and taking them here in the afternoon. They'll be getting theory in the classroom and practical experience at the same time," Fielder said.

Fielder said Metro offers better equipment than the Career Center for some classes.

"Industry has donated some of this equipment," Fielder said. "You may see something worth \$34,000 in one of our classrooms."

Rachel Wise, coordinator of Career and Technical Education for OPS, said she does not think of Metro as a competitor of the Career Center.

"Omaha Public Schools has a

very good working relationship with Metro," she said.

Wise gave the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) class as an example of how the partnership works.

She said there are not too many students in OPS who want to take the class, so it is not offered at the Career Center. However, if a student does wish to take the class, teachers will recommend taking the course at

Metro.

However, she said she does not believe a student should automatically turn to Metro for vocational education.

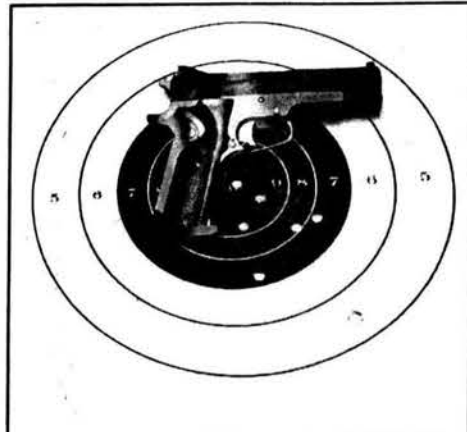
"If a student wants to be an architect, what better way to learn about it than to take Computer Aided Drafting in high school?" Wise said.

She said she does not think it is ever in a student's best interest to drop

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Fahey announces mayoral candidacy against Hal Daub

By Matt Wynn

Mayoral candidate Mike Fahey held his campaign kickoff speech at the Firefighter's Union Hall on Thursday, Jan. 5.

In his speech he outlined his views on several topics, including neighborhoods, crime, taxes, education and his own qualifications for mayor.

He said he would fight to make every neighborhood his first priority, with a real focus on safer streets, community policing, smarter schools and neighborhood services like trash and snow removal.

"I believe in community policing," Fahey said. "I want to provide the police and firefighters with the support they need to assure our safety."

He said that he has a real plan to add police in every neighborhood and he will take a stand against illegal drug use.

"I want the public to have complete confidence in their law enforcement and public safety officials," Fahey said. "There's room for improvement in this area."

Fahey spent a few minutes discussing the subject of education. He said his business sense would help him when making decisions about public schools.

"Education of our children is not the direct responsibility of our mayor,

but I believe we must all lend our voices in support of this critical task and look for ways to help."

Fahey said he thinks he has more than enough experience to make an effective mayor.

He said he built his title insurance company business from the ground up with just \$6,000.

The company, ALT, eventually became one of the nation's largest title insurance companies.

He said his business sense would definitely transfer over to politics. He said he has created good jobs, met a payroll, streamlined budgets and built consensus among many people while solving tough problems.

"The City of Omaha needs a mayor who shows strong leadership by listening more than he speaks," Fahey said. "That is why God gave us two ears and just one mouth."

He said that people should know how candidates stand on the issues before they vote and he would certainly let them know.

"Reaching out to people. Listening—not shouting. Reducing the rhetoric. Building consensus wherever possible. Saying, 'No' when you think it is the right thing to do. These are some of my priorities," Fahey said.

Several prominent members of the democratic community were present for the event. Shelley Kiel, who lost her congressional bid to Lee

Terry in the 2000 election, said she thinks Fahey will be a good mayor for many reasons. She said she thinks he is a very dynamic and exciting person; both qualities that will help a lot of people become more involved.

"In my congressional campaign, I talked to a lot of people who felt very shut out," Kiel said. "I think he brings them in."

Marc Kraft, a member of the Omaha City Council, said that he also supports Fahey.

"Duplicity is not his style," Kraft said. "He doesn't talk out of both sides of his mouth."

The Student Democrats also attended the affair.

Sophomore Devon O'Connell, vice-president of the Student Democrats, said he supports Fahey for several reasons.

"Hal Daub simply needs to go. I've been a long-time democrat and Brian Fahey [Michael Fahey's nephew] is one of my good friends," O'Connell said. "I think Fahey would make a great mayor."

Brian Fahey, sophomore and president of the Student Democrats, said he also thinks the party went smoothly.

"I thought he got a great response," Brian Fahey said. "I think we had more than 600 people who showed up ready to support their candidate. It's obvious the people are ready for a change."

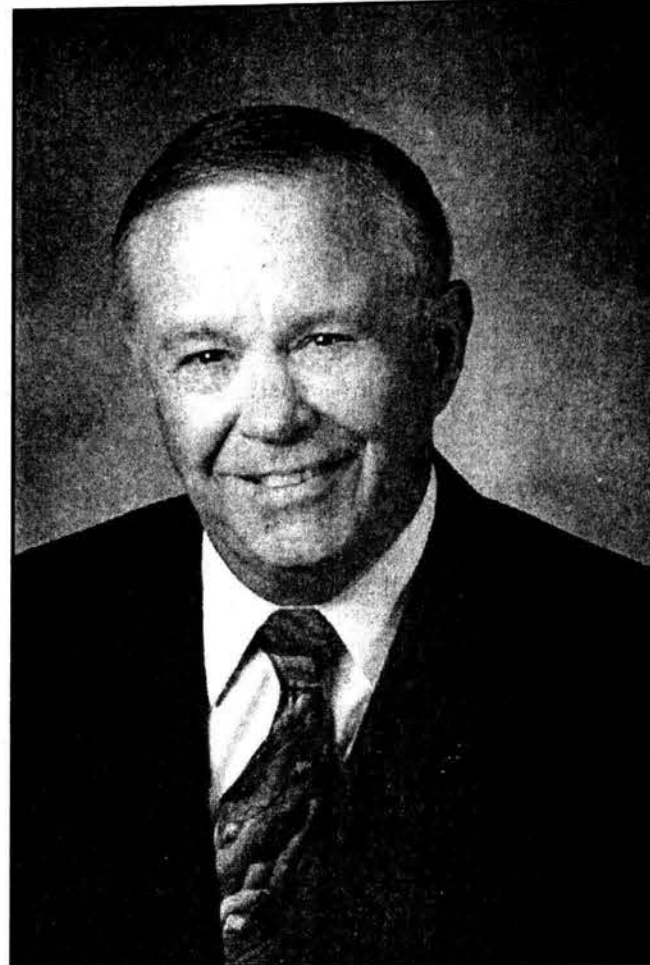


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE FAHEY FOR MAYOR

ABOVE: Democratic mayoral candidate Michael Fahey. Fahey announced his candidacy for mayor Jan. 25 at the Firefighter's Union Hall. In his speech he outlined his views on education, drugs, leadership and city maintenance.

Metro boasts high-tech machinery, director says

From METRO, page 1

out of high school in order to pass a skill at Metro, or anywhere for matter.

"All of our students need a strong foundation in the basics: Language Arts, Science, Mathematics and other academic classes," Wise said. Fielder said he agreed.

"In today's world, education is everything. I encourage students to at least get their high school diploma," Fielder said.

Fielder said that after students get a diploma, they should definitely consider a career as a skilled laborer.

He said that some students at Metro take classes for three days a week, and intern for the other two days.

"There are some students who are working with construction management that are starting at \$15 an hour," Fielder said.

He said Metro can offer more internships because they work closely with various industries coming up in the Omaha area.

He said these relationships will help the college keep up to date with the many changes in the different fields.

"Every one of our programs has an advisory council made up of people from the industry," Fielder said.

He said Metro has an advantage over the Career Center because Metro can boast smaller classes, and all the teachers have at least some experience working in the field they teach.

One of Metro's teachers is Dale Eledge, who teaches Precision Machining.

He said he has over 27 years of experience working with machinery and in the industry.

"What we do is start people at the basics. We start out with basics and work up," Eledge said.

He estimated that the mill machines, engine lathes, surface grinders, saws and other machinery in his classroom alone were worth over \$500,000.

He said other classes like roofing, plumbing and floor covering, would have classrooms worth much more.

Eledge said his classes usually have five to twelve students.

Harold Helm, a junior at Bellevue East, is taking a course at Metro much like the one OPS at Metro plan to put into effect early next year.

"I like it," he said. "Instead of taking seven classes a day, we take five. Then we come here and do some learning about this stuff [machinery]. It's great fun."

He said he does not plan to go into a career that would be based solely on basic machinery, like he learns in Eledge's class. But he does want to go into some sort of skilled labor and he said thinks what he learns in Precision Machining will be useful to him no matter what career he chooses.

Central students said they think the program will be a good idea.

"I think it's a good idea. A lot of students get out early anyway, so they might as well be doing something," Chris Boro (9) said.

FIRST TO SIGN: Mayor Hal Daub was the first to sign the pledge at the meeting of the Omaha Commission on Community and Race Relations. The meeting was held on Jan. 25 at the City County Building Downtown. "The battle against racism is a community effort and we all need to play a part to make a real difference," Daub said during the meeting. He said he was pleased that nearly 200 local business and community leaders showed up to sign the pledge.



MATT WYNN/THE REGISTER

175 signatures gathered at anti-racism meeting

From RACE, page 1

stand against racism and discrimination. That they will abide by a commitment to zero tolerance for the same. That personally, and on behalf of their businesses and organizations they will strive to implement that concept in real terms in their workplaces."

Asaka said the Committee started in Oct. 1997 after the shooting of African-American Marvin Ammons by a Caucasian police officer.

"The creation of the Committee was an attempt to confront racial tensions that erupted due to the Ammons shooting as well as racial discord stemming from police and community relations, and other issues affecting minorities in Omaha," Asaka said.

Asaka led the meeting. She introduced committee leaders who

went on to outline the findings and solutions the different committees found.

Betty Jo Hawkins led the briefing about the findings of the Education Committee.

She said that based on educational research, anecdotal evidence, observations of current educators and community expertise, the committee found that observations and concerns fell into six broad areas: preservice and inservice teacher preparation, programs, curriculum, teacher placement and personnel concerns, community concerns and student leadership development.

The Commission found that racism exists in the current educational system and suggested steps that could be taken to curb this trend, Hawkins said. Among the Commission's solutions were to expect educational teaching tools to reflect and respect diversity, recruit

and maintain minority teachers and encourage parental involvement and participation.

The Commission also decided that a public relations approach should be implemented to combat the negative perceptions of education and achievement held by underrepresented students; promoting such ideas as "Being Smart is Smart."

Junior Tammy Sherrod, an African-American History student, said she thinks the solutions in the Commission's report will not be implemented.

"It [the report] was made in 1999. Something should have been done about it then," she said.

She said now that the Commission has reintroduced the report, they should start taking steps to implement some of the solutions in the report.

"They need to get off their butts and do something," she said.

FBLA selected to organize grant

By Joe Meyer

In order to increase volunteerism among students, Enron Natural Gas Company, Central's Adopt a School Partner, gave the school \$2500 to distribute to various charitable organizations, DeLayne Havlovic said.

Havlovic, technology teacher, said Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) was chosen to organize the project, called Community 101. He said the school group is organized of about 20 to 30 students that are interested in business careers.

Havlovic said the group learned of the grant money in the beginning of the school year, but they have been working hard to try to distribute the money.

The students started the task by writing a mission statement and sending it to 20 charitable organizations. Havlovic said these organizations were chosen because they were United Way-sponsored organizations in Douglas County.

After the group sent the mission statement out, organizations then sent in requests for the money. Nine of the organizations contacted, including the Boy Scouts of America and the Salvation Army, have applied for part of the money. Some of the groups only asked for small sums of money, like \$50, Havlovic said.

The advisor said the group is now in the middle of reviewing the applications.

Julie McCoy, assistant for the project at Enron, said the only requirement the company has is that the group needs to donate the money

to at least two different organizations, with a maximum of \$1250 to each one.

Havlovic said the group is trying to go beyond that requirement. When considering the applications, the group is looking to spread the money around to many organizations, he said.

"We're trying to help as many as we can," he said.

After the group decides who will receive the money, it will hold a banquet to present the money.

McCoy said the project is not completely new to Enron. The corporate offices in Houston established the program before in local schools, but this is the first year it was implemented in Omaha. McCoy said the program will be continued in Omaha, as well.

Also, McCoy said the company gave a similar grant to Creighton Prep. She said Prep's National Honors Society was selected to organize that grant.

"We do plan to run the program again in 2001," she said.

McCoy said Enron has included the project in next year's budget, but she still is not sure which schools will receive the money next year.

Havlovic said the grant is a learning experience for the students.

"They [Enron] are doing that [donating money] and getting students involved," Havlovic said.

Members of the group also think the program was a success.

Aravia Phillips, secretary for FBLA, said the project allowed the group to become more involved in the community, while having fun giving money away.



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ACLU to file lawsuit against amendment 416

By Joe Meyer

Because Initiative 416 passed, the Nebraska branch of the American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU) has decided to pursue litigation against the state of Nebraska claiming that the law violates homosexuals' civil rights, a representative of the group said.

Tim Butz, executive director of ACLU Nebraska, said the board of directors of the group voted unanimously to continue with federal litigation against the state, claiming the initiative violates constitutional rights of homosexuals in the state.

Butz said the organization has contacted lawyers from the National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the ACLU and they will come to Nebraska to identify and screen potential plaintiffs for the case.

Michael Adams, associate director of the ACLU's National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, said that the legal process has just begun.

"We are in the process of developing our legal strategies," he said.

Adams said the group of lawyers working with the project has not yet decided what they will do. The first step is to file a com-

plaint that lays out their legal theory.

The complaint will actually be filed in April, at the earliest, Butz said.

Adams said they could choose whether to file the case in federal or state court. No matter what court the issue ends up in, Adams feels confident in the result.

Adams said he believes the courts will declare the new law unconstitutional and that it will be revoked.

"The focus is not on money, but on changing that [the initiative]," he said.

Whatever the outcome is, it will not be for a while and the group does not have a deadline for action, Butz said.

"We are not going to be rushed into court by an artificial deadline," he said.

The Nebraska attorney general's office said it has not been formally notified because no definite legal action has been taken by the ACLU.

"[We have heard] only that they [ACLU] have had a couple of meetings," Steve Grasz, chief deputy attorney general said.

Grasz said once the ACLU files their complaint, the Nebraska attorney general's office will be officially contacted.

Then, they will be given a period of time

to respond to the civil rights group's claims before the matter actually goes to court.

After that, there will be a discovery period when the sides will be able to record depositions and plan legal strategies.

Grasz said the state does not expect any action from the ACLU in the near future. He also said the length of the trial cannot be predicted because of motions, extensions and briefing periods.

No matter how long it takes, he said he believes the new amendment will be upheld by the courts.

Sophomore David Hatfield also thinks the court should uphold the constitutional amendment. He thinks the ACLU is focusing on the wrong area.

"I don't think they need to file a lawsuit," he said. "There's no use for it because we need to keep morals in Nebraska."

Junior J.J. O'Neil disagrees. She said she thinks the ACLU's actions are justified.

"I hope they [the ACLU] do [file litigation]," O'Neil said. "People should be able to marry whoever they want to."

O'Neil also said she hopes the courts reject the new amendment because it is unconstitutional.

Student experiences robbery first hand

By Faith Lynn

During winter break, when the rest of Central was sledding and sleeping in, junior Deshayla Caldwell was in robbery training classes.

On Saturday, Dec. 23 at 10:15 a.m., there was an attempted robbery at American National Bank, where Caldwell works.

A tall, dark man walked in with a blank checking slip and handed it to Caldwell's trainee, Jason Smith, 22. Caldwell informed him that there was nothing they could do with the slip, and the man told her to turn it over.

On the back he had written, "Give me all your money."

Caldwell looked up at him and he said she had better get the money quickly and quietly, or he would shoot her in the back. He wipped up his jacket to show her the silver-handled gun he had in his belt.

"I was just so scared. I thought he was

going to kill me," she said.

Smith took the slip to the back of the bank, saying he was going to see what he could do about it. Caldwell went to tell an older woman what was happening.

By the time the two came back to the front of the bank, the man was gone. Caldwell said she still has the checking slip the man gave her.

After the police came and got descriptions of the attempted robbery from witnesses, the bank enrolled Caldwell and Smith in robbery classes.

The classes are a requirement for every teller at the bank, but they took place while Caldwell was in school. She had not taken them prior to the robbery.

The classes are not usually very large and the bank held a special session for Caldwell and Smith after the robbery.

The sessions, which take place in one

intensive two-hour class, teach the tellers how to stay calm during a robbery and operate the bank's alarms.

The students receive a packet and watch videos and learn that getting the "bait money" is the most important thing to do during a robbery. They are instructed to do whatever the robber tells them to, but to go at the teller's own pace and ring the alarms without the robber noticing.

Another facet of the classes focuses on making accurate physical descriptions and analyzing situations quickly. Students were shown a scene for ten seconds and then asked to write down everything they could remember about it.

Tellers were also reminded to always be prepared and alert and were given lectures by the head of the bank's Robbery Training department.

Caldwell said she thought that they would be shown a staged robbery, but the teacher said it would scare people, so the students did not get to see one.

Caldwell said that they should have had the classes before she started to work at the bank, but that they were very helpful.



Caldwell

Officer receives warm welcome at Central, Thompson says

From POLICE, page 1

for seven years, through weight lifting and work with fire department/police department.

Paul said the primary goal of his placement is to break down the barriers between teenagers and the police and to inform students.

"From what I know, it's to educate

everyone about what I do," Paul said

Paul reluctantly acknowledges the need for police at Central, but said it is not the only school with the need.

The police get calls from all the high schools, Paul said.

While Paul said he received a warm welcome from the students, he understands there will be some animosity towards him.

Paul is not too concerned, though.

"I want to show students here that I'm the same as them," Paul said.

Thompson said any animosity towards Paul would result from having to deal with students' behavior.

Thompson said the consensus he has heard towards him has been nothing but positive.

COLLEGE

CORNER

Drake University

Location: Des Moines, Iowa
Admission: 93 percent of applicants accepted
Average test scores: 1010-1260 SAT, 22-28 ACT
Enrollment: 3,000
Housing: Dormitories, apartments, fraternities and sororities
Academics: United Nations semester, Washington semester, internships and exchange programs
Tuition: \$15,300
Interesting facts: Students communicate with faculty through computer voice network, electronic mail and file transfer services.

University of Delaware

Location: Newark, Delaware
Admission: 69 percent of applicants accepted
Average test scores: 1040-1220 SAT
Enrollment: 13,400
Housing: Dormitories, apartments, fraternities and sororities
Academics: Combined bachelor's/graduate work in business administration, internships, study abroad and dual enrollment for high school students
Tuition: \$11,690
Interesting facts: All graduates must complete three credits involving multicultural, ethnic and/or gender-related studies.

Georgia Institute of Technology

Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Admission: 56 percent of applicants accepted
Average test scores: 1230-1410 SAT, 28-32 ACT
Enrollment: 8,700
Housing: Dormitories, apartments, fraternities and sororities
Academics: dual degree program and transfer program with eight Georgia colleges
Tuition: \$8,871
Interesting facts: Graduate degrees are offered in 35 major fields.

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Guns & Society

...the right to bear arms

A glance at gun fatalities

Shooting range provides stress relief for some

By Paula Salhany

Shooting ranges provide stress release and a safe environment for people who want to improve marksmanship, Linda Ewasiuk of the Bullet Hole, a shooting range in Omaha, said.

Guns in the right circumstances can be good and safe, said Ewasiuk. Shooting ranges provide a safe environment for people to practice shooting either for their job, stress release or sport.

"Every Thursday night we have competitions such as bowling pin shooting, where the shooters come down to have fun and relax," Chris Shelley of Best Indoor Shooting Range in Kansas City, Missouri said.

Other competitions include IVPA combat training and marksmanship, Shelley said.

Of the 200 to 250 people that come to each shooting range weekly, many of them use guns in the work place, such as government officials.

"About ten to 15 people a week come in just for their own pleasure. Of that, about one in every eight shooters are women," Shelley said. "The women usually carry their guns for self protection and come in to improve their shot."

For some people, shooting is a hobby, Shelley said.

"Shooting is a form of stress release, just as any other hobby is," he said.

While shooting can be a good hobby and stress release, psychiatrist Patrice Jenks said, there are many other ways to overcome stress.

She said a psychiatrist would rarely prescribe "shooting range therapy" to a patient. There are too many people who think of guns as a way to commit suicide.

"With guns being the top cause of successful suicide in teens, I do not think that using a potentially dangerous weapon is good for stress release," Jenks said.

"Not all people are successful in their attempt to commit suicide and end up doing more damage than not," she said.

She said the best thing for stress release is physical action, such as going to the gym and working out.

Shooting ranges do, however, provide a good community service, Ewasiuk said.

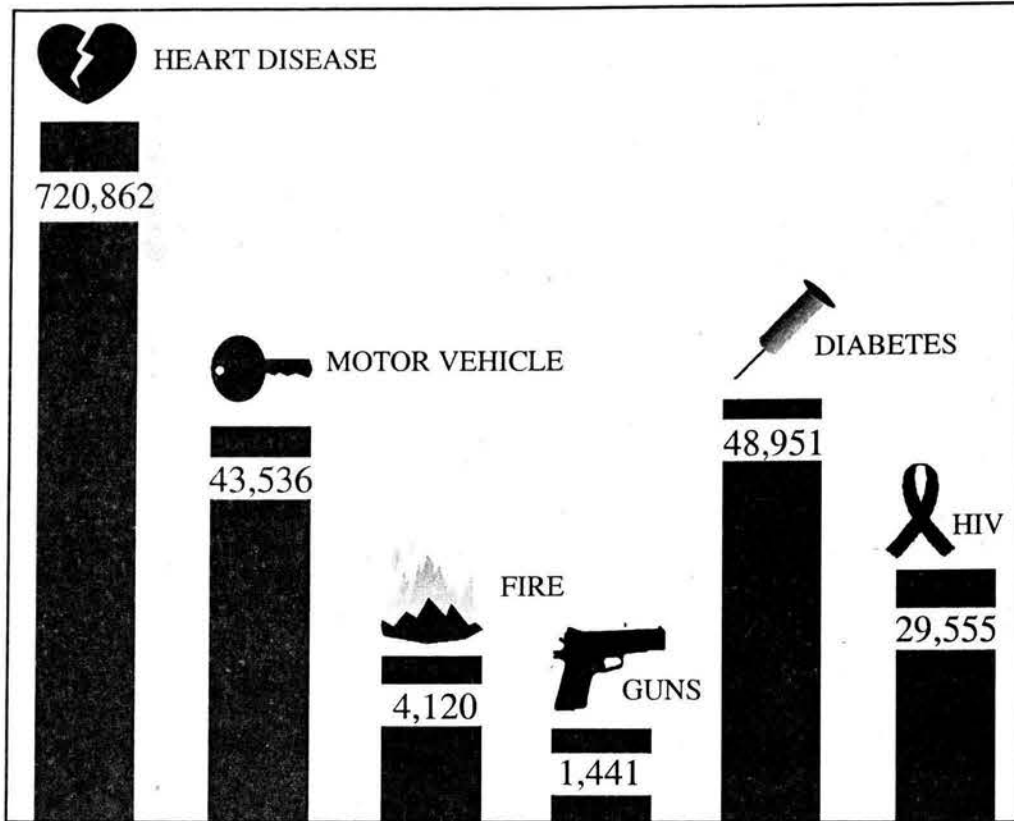
"The range gives people who are interested in shooting a safe place to shoot and improve their marksmanship," she said.

While ranges are relatively safe, Shelley said, there are some injuries associated with shooting. These include damage to the ears, eyes and lungs.

"We have strict rules about wearing protective glasses and ear plugs here," he said.

All of the ranges are required by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to have ventilation systems that extract the lead that is put into the air every time a gun is fired.

If you follow the rules, there is virtually no risk when you are shooting at a range," Shelley said.



The graph (left) compares the number of deaths by gun violence to some of the other ways that people died in 1995.

Total deaths in 1995 - 2,169,518
Total number of deaths analyzed in graph-848,465
Info taken from National Center for Health Statistics, 1995

Video games market guns to kids, expert says

By Danielle Rollins

Gun companies are beginning to aim at grade school and teen-age children as a target market for gun sales, Violence Policy Center (VPC) executive director Josh Sugarman said.

Many gun companies currently target their products mainly to middle-aged white males, he said.

Sugarman said that with many gun companies losing their clients due to old age and death, they must find another way to make a profit from their products.

"We are very close observers of the gun industry," Sugarman said.

He said that by creating video games that promote the guns they sell, companies such as Remington, Colt and Guns and Ammo can market to the "future" gun customer: today's grade-schoolers and teenagers.

Central High School Marketing teacher Alice Bunz said that, as far as marketing goes, the manufacturing companies are simply doing their job.

"From a marketing point [of view] they're doing what most businesses want to do," Bunz said. "They're developing customer loyalty at a younger age."

Bunz said, while she feels the way that they are going about developing this customer loyalty may be slightly unethical, they are doing what any struggling business would do.

"It is strictly a marketing technique," she said. "Schools market themselves the same way."

Colt Manufacturing Company, producers of the "Wild West Shootout" game, had no comment about this.

Other producers of these games were Remington, with "Upland Game Hunter" and "Top Shot," and Guns and Ammo, with "The Ultimate Target Challenge," Sugarman said.

"They are trying to use [video games] to appeal to youth to get them in the gun industry," he said.

Sugarman said that the gun industries are trying to get kids to go from gun games to gun stores. The gun manufactures are using video games that appeal to the average kid.

By making the games incredibly realistic and using the real names of the guns used in the games, the gun industries are setting up a prime, enticing advertisement, he said.

"They [the video games] sell guns masquerading as entertainment," he said. "The gun industry is, plain and simple, marketing guns to kids."

Bunz said by using the name of the gun, the model and the brand name, the companies are creating a recognition that children will remember when they are old enough to buy guns.

She said the gun companies have the right to market their products as they wish to. She said government interference is not always a good thing.

"I always hate to see government controlling every part of business," she said.

Sugarman said that incidents of school shootings are expected with these new marketing techniques.

"If we accept the youth culture," Sugarman said, referring to the youth's increasing interest in guns, "[Then] incidents like Jonesboro and Columbine are inevitable, are we willing to pay that price?"

He said that the NRA (National Rifle Association) has repeatedly said that increasing the younger generation's knowledge in guns and gun use will eliminate the school shooting problems.

Sugarman said that this is not the case. The students who killed their classmates in Jonesboro were the "model" NRA members.

"In the end, that just made them better shots," Sugarman said.

He said that the society has to make regulations about the gun use in America.

While citizens regulate alcohol and cigarettes, they do not seem to be concerned at all with the gun problems.

"If it was the Budweiser drinking game, or the Marlboro smoking game people would be outraged," Sugarman said. "But since it is guns it's okay."

He said the gun market is not regulated by the government and because of this increasing problems would arise.

"Every consumer product is regulated by some government organization except two, guns and tobacco," he said.

Sugarman said that he thinks the government should step in. He said that there should be certain regulations placed on marketing products to people who are under-aged.

He said he feels marketing guns to children is unethical. Bunz agreed that the advertisements might not be of the best morals.

"Personally I think this is on an ethical borderline," she said.

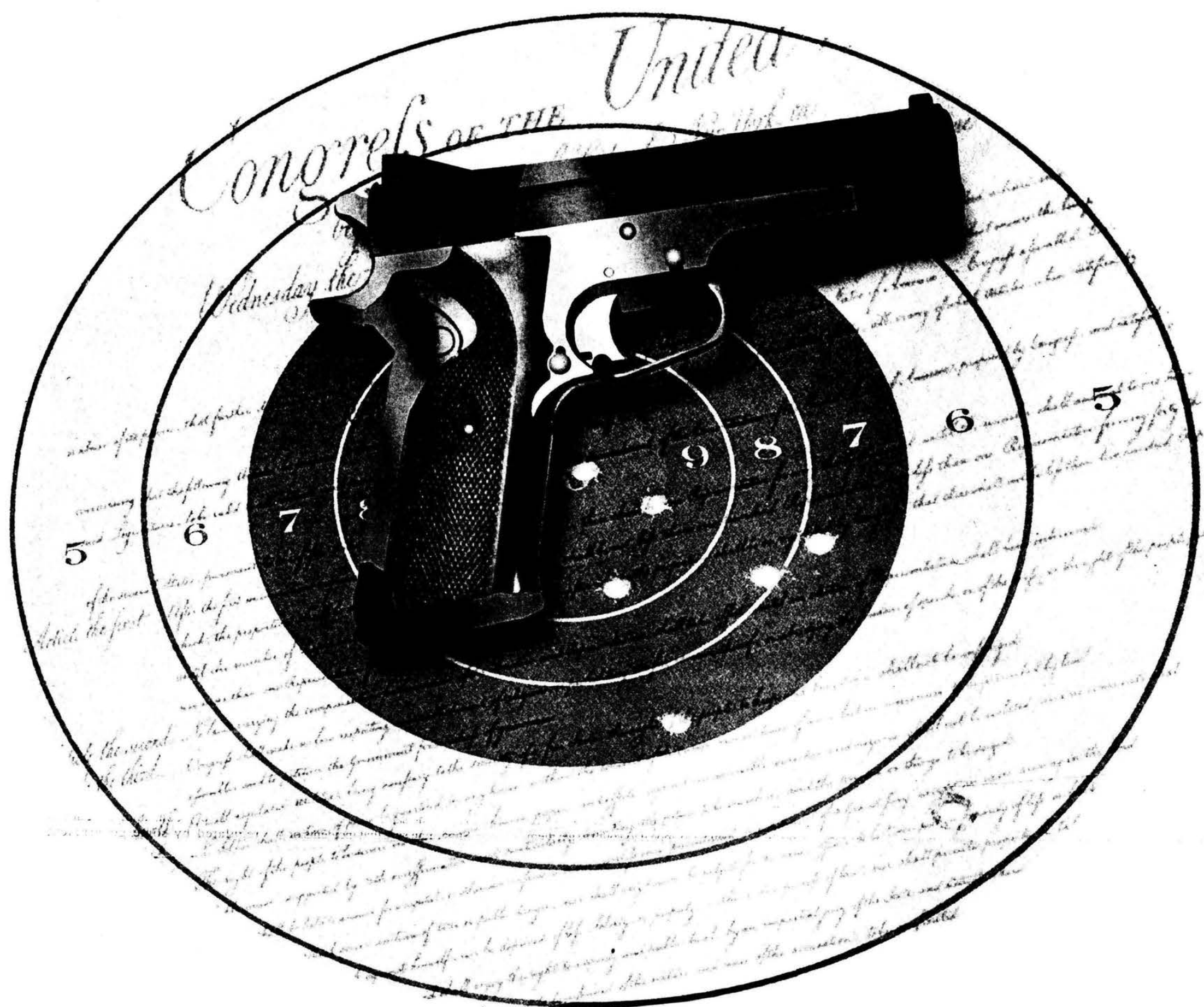
She said that even though she feels this way, governmental control is not the best answer.

Sugarman disagrees. He said that any way to get guns out of the hands of children is worth it.

"Do we think it's right for companies to market guns to kids?" Sugarman said, "No, kids and guns don't mix."



shall not be infringed?



Amendment brings debate over rights

by Danielle Rollins

The second amendment poses questions about whether or not gun ownership is really a constitutional right, Desmond Riley, the communications director for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence said.

Many people believe the Second Amendment guarantees that the Federal Government cannot strip American citizens the right to bear arms, Riley said.

But he feels many have misunderstood the intent of this amendment.

The second amendment reads that, "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of the state, the right to bear arms shall not be infringed."

Riley said that while everyone knows the part of this amendment that states, "the right to bear arms shall not be infringed," the first half is commonly misunderstood, or ignored completely.

"I do not believe owning a gun is privilege

granted by the constitution," Riley said.

He said the constitution allows individuals the right to bear arms provided they belong to a militia, this, he said, does not allow everyone the right to own a gun as some might think.

Bill Powers, the Public Affairs Director for the National Rifle Association, (NRA) said the constitution refers to any, average, American citizen as being a part of a militia.

"The founding fathers' view of a militia was essentially any able citizen," Powers said.

He said he feels this amendment was added to protect the freedom of every American and is important to the constitution.

"The second amendment was established in the Bill of Rights to guarantee citizens the right to bear arms," Powers said.

Junior, Miguel White said the rights of average citizens should be respected, whether they are concerning to guns or any other right granted by the constitution.

"I believe that the second amendment is important because the right of the average citizen to arm themselves

should not be infringed," White said.

Riley said he respects what the second amendment grants. However, he thinks most people don't understand what the amendment says.

"What needs to be changed is people's knowledge of the second amendment," Riley said. "It [the amendment] is fine as it is."

Riley said he doesn't think that any more gun laws are even necessary, as long as people's knowledge of the second amendment is correct.

Powers said, while he understands why more gun laws may be needed, there is not much more that the federal government can do without literally outlawing guns.

"There are some very tough laws on the books," Powers said. "The problem is that most of those federal laws are not enforced."

Powers said the laws should be enforced, not amended. He said that if the laws already placed on guns were obeyed, Columbine would have never happened.

"There is nothing those kids did that was more illegal than it already was," he said.

"In our [the NRA] view, it does not make sense to pass a law when some laws are not enforced," he said.

The problem with tragedies like Columbine and other school shootings is not the guns; the problem runs much deeper than that, he said.

"There have been some horrible tragedies involving deeper issues than can be solved through some legislative fix," Powers said. "[around] 20 firearm laws were violated through that tragedy. [Columbine]"

White said that guns do not make as much as of a difference people think.

"If I shoot someone with a gun, he is dead," White said. "If I break a beer bottle on the table and kill someone with that he is still dead. What does it matter?"

White said that while he believes that some restrictions should be put on guns, licenses and other such regulations are ludicrous because they are not going to work.

"You can not just walk into Wal-Mart and pick up an AK 47," he said, "But you shouldn't have licensing either, that is not going to solve anything."

Childhood problems may cause gun violence, psychologist says

Lydia Coleman

"Violent crimes involving firearms have increased dramatically in the past few years, possibly on account of the history and nature of our nation," psychologist Randy LaGrone of the Nebraska Health System said.

LaGrone said the most dramatic difference in the rate of firearm-related crimes is the fact that there has been an unexpected rise in the number of youths contributing to the problem.

He said one influential factor might be an increase in child abuse.

"When a child is exposed to a situation or an environment where they experience any form of abuse, they are likely to act out [their] aggressions in a violent manner," LaGrone said.

He said that the most vulnerable stage in any

person's life would be their childhood. If a child is mentally, physically or sexually abused they have the option of keeping their anger and disappointment to themselves or letting their anger explode all at once, LaGrone said.

"We all have certain psychological resources, partially intelligence, partially how motivated we are, that influences how we handle what the outside world presents to us, which determines what kind of person we are," LaGrone said.

Often, a person will look for what they think is the easiest way to heal their pain, LaGrone said.

He said that since guns are so readily available, they are the most frequently utilized weapons.

The United States has the highest rate of childhood homicide, suicide, and firearms-related death among all the industrialized countries, according to the Federal

Center for Gun Disease Control and Prevention.

"Gun violence is becoming the norm because," psychology graduate student Matt Palmatier of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln said, "not only are the guns extremely obtainable, they are almost promoted by society."

Palmatier said although general violence is at a downfall, gun violence is becoming more obvious due to the fact that the people using the guns are getting younger.

"[The decline in overall violence] is in line with the general decrease in crime that has been going on for some time now," Stuart Smith of the Bureau of Justice Statistics said.

Crime rates throughout the United States are down for the eighth straight year, according to the victimization survey.

In the area of violence, many have concluded that anger or misunderstanding is often the cause, Palmatier said.

The reason for the continued use of firearms, however, is due to the fact that guns are the latest trend. He said that warning signs of progressive anger can be detected, but no one can anticipate the use of deadly firearm.

Intense anger, extreme irritability, and impulsiveness are all warning signs of violent behavior to come, Palmatier said.

He said that not all acts of violence come with prior indication.

"Gun violence is getting the biggest promotion in history, partly because of guns being so abundant in society, but mostly because people don't know how to cope with their problems," Palmatier said.

TRAINER'S CORNER



Jeane Weiss

Training can reduce risk of injuries

What can an athlete do to maintain their skill level during the off-season?

During the off-season, the choices an athlete has for maintenance of their skills and conditioning are vast. At this time the athlete has the opportunity to try different forms of exercise programs during the off-season to add variety and reduce the chances of causing over-use injuries. For instance, if you are a track runner, during the off-season you may choose to swim, ride bikes, play racquetball or other activities that will help maintain your cardiovascular system and strength, yet are not as hard on your knees and legs. So, the key to off-season workouts is to vary activities and add "fun" activities to help motivate you.

Are athletes that don't train during the off-season at a greater risk for injuries during the season?

Yes. If you do not maintain your fitness level during the off-season you put yourself at a greater risk of sustaining injuries when you return to practice/competition. Injuries such as muscle strains, sprains and heat-related injuries are common when an athlete takes up a sport with little or no conditioning prior to the start of the season. Your muscles, tendons and ligaments lose their elasticity over a period of time with no activity. In conclusion: the better your exercise program during the off-season, the better prepared you will be and the easier your first weeks of competition.

How does playing different sports help an athlete in their primary sport?

Participation in daily practices and games will only maintain, if not improve, their overall fitness level. In addition, the sports complement each other by reinforcing skills that are vital in both sports. For example, a football player may run track in the spring to maintain their cardiovascular system, and well as improve their speed.

Success in ice skating takes dedication, talent, student says

By Paula Salhany



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Junior Virginia Meyer practices her routine at Hinkcock Ice Skating Rink. Meyer said she excels most at figure skating.

PAULA SALHANY/
THE REGISTER

Virginia Meyer is one step away from being in the senior level in ice skating, coach Brenda Eby said.

To get to nationals a skater must make the top four at the regional competition and then the top four at the Mids competition.

"At Mids I placed fifth and sixth in the first and second circle figures and first in the loop figure. That placed me in third," Meyer said.

At nationals Meyer placed first in the loop figure and last on both of the circle figures, placing her in eighth.

"It was so cool to be at nationals," Meyer said. "You walk down the halls and you can run into famous people. It was so awesome."

She said figures are her strength. If the figures section of the competition is taken out of Nationals, Meyer said she probably would not go back.

"I would be happy to get to Mids if figures were taken out," Meyer said.

Normally Meyer is preparing a long program and a short program at the same time. This involves many hours of skating and choosing music with her parents as well as much dedication.

Meyer said it takes her about six months to get a program completely together.

"Virginia is my most successful skater," Eby said. "She is also the only skater that I have taken to nationals."

To be a successful skater there has to be the right combination of dedication and talent. This is on the part of both the parents and the skater.

Meyer has all of these, Eby said.

Meyer said she skates two to three hours a day and more on days that she has off from school. She spends most of her summers skating and rarely takes time off.

"As far as goals go, I don't really like them. Of course I would love to go to the Olympics, but that is a pretty unattainable goal," Meyer said.

She said she would like to skate in college, but does not necessarily want to go to a skating college.

At a skating college, all the students do is ice skate. They schedule everything around skating and academics come second in priority, Meyer said.

"I don't just want to be another skater," Meyer said. "But I don't ever want to quit."

Changes cause problems, Pennington says

From PROPOSAL, page 8

Pennington stated several other reasons for opposing the measure.

"The biggest reason I have against it is that the fan base of the Omaha schools will not follow the teams," Pennington said.

This plan will also cause team travel expenses to go up, he said.

"Two years ago when the football team went to North Platte for a playoff game, Central only made \$4.22 after deducting travel costs," Pennington said.

This plan would make the western schools equal to the eastern schools, Miller said.

"The western part [schools] pays for travel and they want to be able to share that expense with everyone else," he said.

It also has drawbacks to the NSAA, Pennington said.

"The current system benefits the NSAA because the bigger the gates (revenue from ticket sales) at an event the more money they make," he said.

"To enact this plan would cut the gate."

Pennington said that a few sports such as basketball could be okay under this plan, but "non-revenue sports" like volleyball and softball would suffer.

"State soccer should be in Omaha because most of the teams that play in it are from this area," he said.

Pennington said districts excel because of how they are put together.

"The main reason to keep the current set-up is because it allows for random chance with the criteria being the luck of the draw and size," he said.

Despite all of the potential drawbacks, Miller sees his plan increasing the fairness in Nebraska high school athletics.

"It [the current set-up] doesn't make any sense. You never know if the luck of the draw is going to be fair," Miller said.

Green's speech at banquet draws decades of football stars

By Joe Meyer

When Ahman Green was at Central, he went to the Omaha Sportscasters' Association's annual banquet to hear Lou Brock, a famous baseball player for the St. Louis Cardinals, speak.

He never imagined he would be the featured guest in 2001 at the OSA's 36th annual banquet on Jan. 25 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

Former players like Calvin Jones, DeAnte Grixby and Lornell McPherson joined current Eagles like senior George Davis and juniors Jamar Dorsey and Mark Leflore at the event.

For the majority of his speech, Green focused on the hard work and determination that it takes to play professional football.

When the Seattle Seahawks drafted him after college, he said he was slightly disappointed.

When Green arrived in Seattle, the system that head coach Dennis Erickson was using confused him. He compared it to calculus.

"He [Erickson] wanted us to learn calculus overnight," he said.

Because of this, Green said he spent his rookie season playing exclusively on special teams.

"I didn't think I would be doing that [playing special teams] my rookie year," Green admitted. "Never would my faith waver from when I would get

on the field running the ball."

His chance came last year. After a trade from the Seahawks to the Green Bay Packers, Green rushed for over 1,000 yards last season as the Packers feature running back.

Central students who were at the banquet said they were very impressed with Green's presence.

Leflore said it was fun to meet Green and all the other great running backs that have graduated from Central.

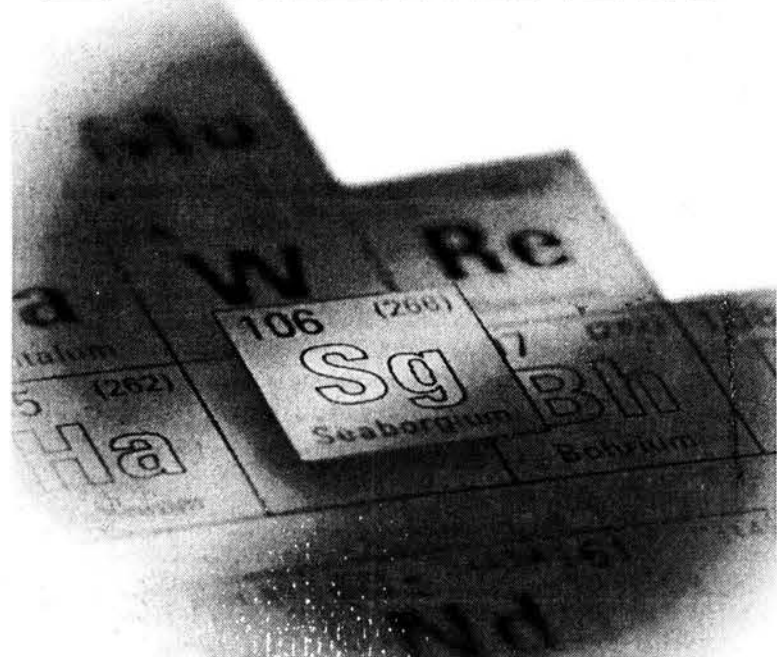
"This is history and I'm happy to be a part of it," Leflore said.

Green's former head coach, Joe McMenamin, said the event was total success.

"I was glad we could get a lot of the former players together," McMenamin said.

McMenamin said he was happy to see that Green had a good season last year. He said talent is not all that is needed at the professional level and Green deserves the opportunity.

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Junior fences way to top of sport

By Chris Aponick

After only two years, Central junior Philip (P.J.) Haubrich is already one of the top fencers in the state.

At this summer's Cornhusker State Games, Haubrich won the gold medal in the seventeen and under division.

In the fencing final, the match shifted back and forth and it was 14-14 towards the end of the 15-point match, Haubrich said.

"I won the final with a direct attack called a lunge and I got the touch," Haubrich said.

Haubrich said that his style of fencing is called foil. It was developed by the French in the medieval ages. The foil is the name for the sword used in this style of fencing and is used for direct stabs called touches. Each touch is worth one point.

Fencing tends to be a complicated sport because of all of the various components of the sport, Haubrich's fencing coach, James Askew, said.

For example, the playing surface in fencing is called the piste. It is about two meters wide and 14 meters long.

"The surface makes fencing more linear than circular. You can't pass the other fencer. Therefore, you always have to face your opponent," Askew said.

The fencers start in the middle and can advance and retreat in this strip. However, they have to stay in this area, Haubrich said.

In foil fencing, the target is pretty much the front and back of the torso minus the arms, Askew said.

Each time the foil touches the opponent it is a point, but the foil cannot hit twice in a row, Haubrich said.

The three biggest challenges of fencing

are keeping up with the speed of the game, maintaining stamina and following the rules of etiquette, he said.

"Etiquette is a big thing in fencing," Haubrich said.

The rules of foil fencing make it allowable for both fencers to attack at the same time but points are not awarded unless one person misses.

If they touch at the same time it is called a double touch and no points are awarded but if one fencer lunges at the other as a defensive maneuver, the other person is awarded a point. However, a fencer may block, or parrying away his opponent's weapon with his own, then attack, he said.

"This is the rule of right of way. You get right of way when you initiate an attack. Right of way depends on who follows the rule and who doesn't. If someone does not follow the rule, they tend to get stabbed and points get awarded to the other side," Haubrich said.

Fencing is also a very expensive hobby because of all the equipment.

This equipment includes the foil, which is a sword, a face mask, a jacket, the plastron which is a heavy cloth that is put over the shoulder and the lamé, which is wire mesh with plastic on the inside.

The lamé and the foil are always electronic. They are connected to a scoreboard by body cords to record the points, Haubrich said.

The body cord is on a reel that keeps constant tension so has to not interfere with

the fencers, Askew said.

Fencing has been an Olympic sport since the first modern Games in 1896.

The United States Fencing Association (USFA) is responsible for sending fencers to the Olympics and international competitions, Askew said. Haubrich said the USFA gives out rankings of A through E, with A being the best.

However, Haubrich was unranked at the Cornhusker State Games by the USFA. The association said that the Games were not an open event because only Nebraskans could participate.

There lax atmosphere at the Cornhusker State Games tended to cause some other problems, he said.

"They did not check the equipment beforehand," Haubrich said

EN GARDE: Junior Philip Haubrich shows the proper starting form for the sport of fencing

FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

Player enhances recruitment by attending camps

By Troy Schulte

Getting the attention of college basketball recruiters is hard when you live in the midwest, that is why junior Kris Kuhn is going to basketball camps all over the country.

The past two summers Kuhn has gone to the Five Star basketball camp in Pittsburgh, PA. He said the camp is one of the best in the country.

"The Five Star camp is probably the best around. Some kids come from Europe to go to it,"

KUHN (Right) shows how difficult it is to play basketball with one hand.



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

Kuhn said. "At one point last year there were 360 college coaches on the same court."

He first went to the camp in July of 1999 with his brother Mike who graduated last year and is now a redshirt freshman at Hampton University. He returned last year and plans to go again this summer.

He said, the Five Star camp is not there to teach a player fundamentals or improve his basketball skills. It is two weeks of scrimmages against the top high school players in the country so college recruiters from all over the country can see the

players play.

"It's a lot of basketball," Kuhn said. "You wake up at 7 a.m., play basketball all day and go to bed at midnight."

To get noticed by the recruiters, Kuhn said that a person almost has to go to the camps because many colleges do not come to Nebraska for recruiting.

"Being in Nebraska and the midwest, you don't get a lot of look from eastern schools," Kuhn said.

Kuhn is in his second year on varsity and head coach Rick Behrens said that the camps have helped him a lot and he has the potential to be a great player.

"His shooting is a lot better and he has great quickness," Behrens said. "He has the potential to be one of the

best all-around players in the state."

In the fall of 1998, Kuhn was a freshman at Creighton Prep high school and his brother was a junior on the varsity basketball team. Then when the basketball season started in December, Kris had a disagreement with the coach, which persuaded him to switch schools.

"Prep [coaches] promised me that I would play varsity, but at the beginning of the year I was on junior varsity," Kuhn said. "I thought I was better than that level."

With the combination of Kris' decision to transfer and him wanting to focus more on his academics, Mike thought that transferring was the best decision for him as well.

"I think my leaving had a lot to do with his decision [to transfer to

Central]," Kris said. "People go to Prep because of the name, and it's really not as good of a school as people say it is."

Through it all Kris said that he does not regret a thing and thinks that with the combination of him being at Central and going to the Five Star camp in the summer he has a good chance to play Division I college basketball.

Behrens said that he thinks Kris has the ability to play at the Division I level and said that he has been receiving letters from schools since his sophomore year.

Kris said that he has received letters from schools like Penn St., Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Maryland and some others. But the one he really wants is Georgetown.

Harvard recruits Davis

From HARVARD, page 8

opportunities will help him continue to learn.

"The idea that Harvard produces the best students provides tons of great opportunities for its graduates," he said. "That's the part I'm most excited about."

Despite Harvard's reputation for difficulty, their support staff tries to help the students succeed in the classroom.

Harvard also has over 41 different sports, which is the most for any university in the nation, he said. Davis said he will have to get used to playing and learning at the college level, but that is not his biggest concern.

"The biggest transition is living far away from family," he said.

Davis said he is ready for these challenges, but for right now he is enjoying this accomplishment.

"I've always had the dream of playing college sports," he said. "Now I may even get the chance of getting out there and playing early."

Alumnus donates money

From WEIGHTROOM, PAGE 8

The new equipment should also help the teams improve, Sherrod said.

"I think it will provide us [the football team] with an extra chance to win state next year," he said.

Baseball coach Scott Hodges read into the new equipment a bit more.

"It's good to see that we're getting equipment which is just as good as other high schools. In others' eyes we'll never have an attendance problem so we don't need the extra money for athletics," he said.

Junior Jamar Dorsey says the old equipment was in bad shape.

"What we had was adequate, but some of it was over twenty years old," McMenamin said.

However, with the new equipment just as liable to be broken as the old, many athletes advise caution in its use.

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This Week

VARSITY BOYS
2/9 at Benson 7:15 PM

VARSITY GIRLS
2/10 at Lincoln East 5:15 PM

VARSITY WRESTLING
2/9-10 Districts TBA

SPORTS

February 5, 2001

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2/16 Bryan 7:15 PM

VARSITY GIRLS
2/16 Bryan 5:15 PM

SWIMMING
2/15 Ralston Last Chance Meet

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Charging the Mound



Troy Schulte

Football season proves similar to predictions

At the start of the 2000 college football season I gave you the answers to the five most important questions regarding the season. Now that the season is all over I thought I would look back at those and see how right I was.

Q. Who if anybody will upset preseason top ranked Nebraska?

I said that if anybody could beat the Huskers this year it would be Oklahoma. Going into the season it didn't seem like anybody took a second look at the Sooners, except me. The Sooner win against Nebraska on Oct. 28 gave them the No. 1 ranking and put them on the road to the national title.

Q. Can super sophomore Michael Vick lead Virginia Tech to another undefeated regular season and a BCS bowl birth?

Looks like I was right about that one, too. I said that even though the Hokies have one of the best players in the country in Vick, the hole left in the defense by departing seniors was too much and getting by Miami in the Big East would prove to tough for them. What was Tech's record this year? 11-1. Its only loss coming to conference champions Miami.

Q. Out of the four most recent CHS graduates to go on to Division I schools (Terrel Gardner, Colorado St.; Brandon Williams, Michigan; Ja'Maine Billups, Iowa St.; Lornell McPherson, Nebraska), who will be the most successful?

Given that neither Terrel Gardner nor Lornell McPherson saw action in any games this season, it was up to either Williams or Billups. Williams played in every one of the Wolverines 12 games at defensive back and had about 35 tackles. While Billups played in eight games for the Cyclones, mostly at special teams. With neither of them doing anything spectacular I would have to say Billups had the better year just because of his 70-yard punt return for a touchdown in its Insight.com Bowl win over Pittsburgh.

Q. What was the biggest surprise of the 2000 season?

I said that Bob Davie's turnaround of Notre Dame from a 5-7 record to a 9-2 record and a birth in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl was the biggest. But, after watching them get smashed by Oregon State I would have to say what Lou Holtz did for South Carolina was more impressive. Holtz took over the Gamecocks and took them from an 0-11 record a year ago to 8-4 this season including a win over Ohio State in the Outback Bowl.

Q. Now the question everyone wants to know the answer to, who will play Jan. 3, in the Orange Bowl for the National Championship?

I was half-right, I said Florida State would lose to a Big XII school. Only I said it would be Nebraska beating the Seminoles, not Oklahoma.

Nobody thought the Sooners would do much better than its 7-5 season in 2000. But, they surprised everybody by beating Texas, Kansas St. and Nebraska in successive weeks. Even after all that and beating Kansas St. again in the Big XII championship game, people still gave them no chance going into the Orange Bowl.

The Seminoles were 11 1/2 point favorites going into the game and the players thought as much as anybody else they were on the better team. Then Oklahoma shocked everyone again by winning the national championship 13-2 in one of the best defensive matchups in a championship game.

Out of those five questions I answered way back in September, I was right on about 3 1/2 of them. Which would come to be about 70 percent. That's a three in some classes, so that's good enough for me.

By Chris Aponick

Central quarterback, George Davis, has verbally committed to attend Harvard next fall, Central's head football coach, Joe McMenamin said.

McMenamin said persistence was Harvard's key in getting him to commit.

Harvard sent coaches to visit Davis every week from the beginning of January until he committed on Jan. 19.

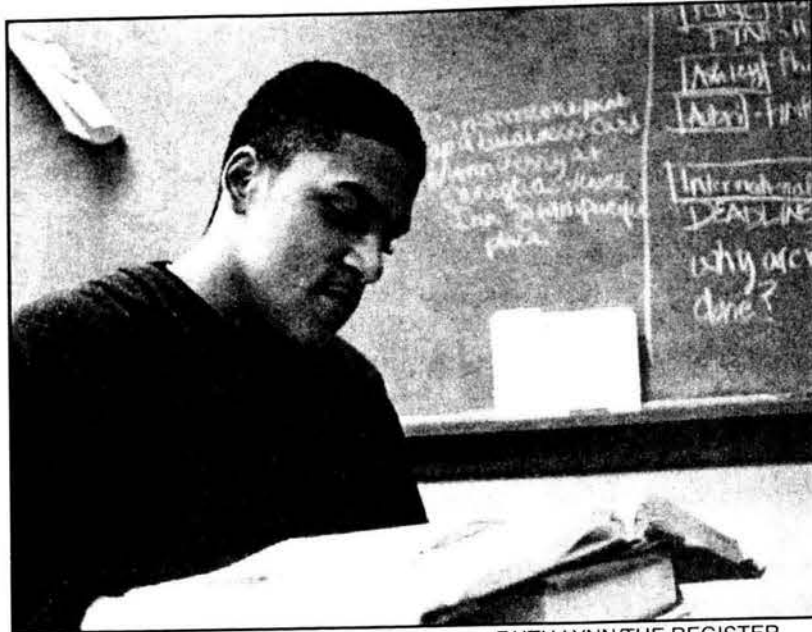
"The Harvard coaches visited me at my home and at school several times to answer any questions and to tell him more about their programs," Davis said.

The Harvard coaches had to keep Davis interested because Yale was also trying to get him, McMenamin said.

"Both schools are pretty much similar in everything, but it was just down to the fact that Harvard wanted him more," he said. "You can't make a bad decision [between Harvard and Yale]."

In general, Harvard made him feel comfortable than Yale did, McMenamin said.

"It was a dead tie. I couldn't



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

HITTING THE BOOKS: Senior George Davis has managed to maintain an A+ average by studying hard.

(RIGHT) Davis shows off his football stance. KATIE PATTEN/THE REGISTER

decide for my life," Davis said. "I had to rely on a gut feeling."

Davis said he was also influenced by the visit he made to Harvard.

"Everyone has a certain perception that the people at Harvard are geniuses or rich, but when I went there everyone was down to earth,"

Davis said. "They have a great attitude for learning in their overall school environment."

Soon after his college visits Davis made his decision, McMenamin said.

"That [the visits] was the final piece of the puzzle," he said.

However, getting to the visits took a long time, Davis said.

"The toughest part was sorting out the schools that were genuinely interested," he said. "I received letters from tons of schools and I had to narrow it down to two or three schools."

Harvard's head coach flew in on Jan. 19 and met Davis at his house. He told the coach that he was going to commit to Harvard that night, McMenamin said.

"When he told me his decision, I shook his hand and congratulated him on being the first player I ever coached that will go to Harvard," he said.

Next, Davis had to call Yale to tell them about his decision.

"The hardest part is telling the other school that you are not coming to their school because usually the players form friendships with coaches during recruiting," McMenamin said.

Davis said the Yale coach wished him good luck. The phone call was very short.

"It's not everyday that you get down an offer to go to Yale," Davis said.

With his commitment, Davis became the third Central athlete to commit to an Ivy League school in the last 30 years, athletics director Paul Pennington said.

Central's principal Dr. George Thompson said Davis' commitment to go to Harvard reflects well on Central.

"It's a pleasure to have athletes that do well academically," Pennington said.

He has a terrific opportunity because of the hard he worked while at Central, Thompson said.

"I'm very proud of him for being able to get in at Harvard, shows that he is the best of the best academically and athletically," McMenamin said.

However, Thompson said Harvard will bring about challenges that Davis would experience at another university.

"The main difference is the academic standards at Harvard are extremely high," Thompson said. "Not every great athlete can qualify to go there."

Davis said Harvard's

Turn to HARVARD page 7

Central wrestler works towards state title

By Michael Gerhardt

Three hours a day, five days a week and seven hours on the weekends is what it takes to be the best.

Senior Anders Christensen, one of the top wrestlers in Nebraska in the 130-pound division, knows this.

"I work as hard as I can. I take every opportunity and practice lots of extra hours to be the best," Christensen said.

Junior wrestler Shane Smith said Christensen's success can be attributed to his work ethic, wrestling experience and simple desire to win.

Christensen said he has been wrestling since he was five and has progressed both mentally and physically since he began.

"I learned to love the sport of wrestling a lot more," he said.

Wrestling coach Jimmy Foster agreed about his overall progression.

"Anders started out as a 97-pound freshmen wrestling guys who were ten to 15 pounds heavier than he was and has grown into a senior who weighed 155 and dropped to 130," Foster said.

Foster said Christensen has progressed mentally as much as he has physically.

"He's gone from thinking he can win every match to knowing he can win every match," Foster said.

Smith said one of Christensen's improvements is his attitude. He said Christensen used to get angry after matches, but has learned to cool off.

Christensen is an excellent wrestler because of his physical abilities and his mental attitude, Foster said.

Besides practice and hard work, Christensen said he has other reasons for his success. The support of Foster, he said, has been critical.

"My coach is one of the best. He's

taught me a lot, both on the mat and off the mat," Christensen said.

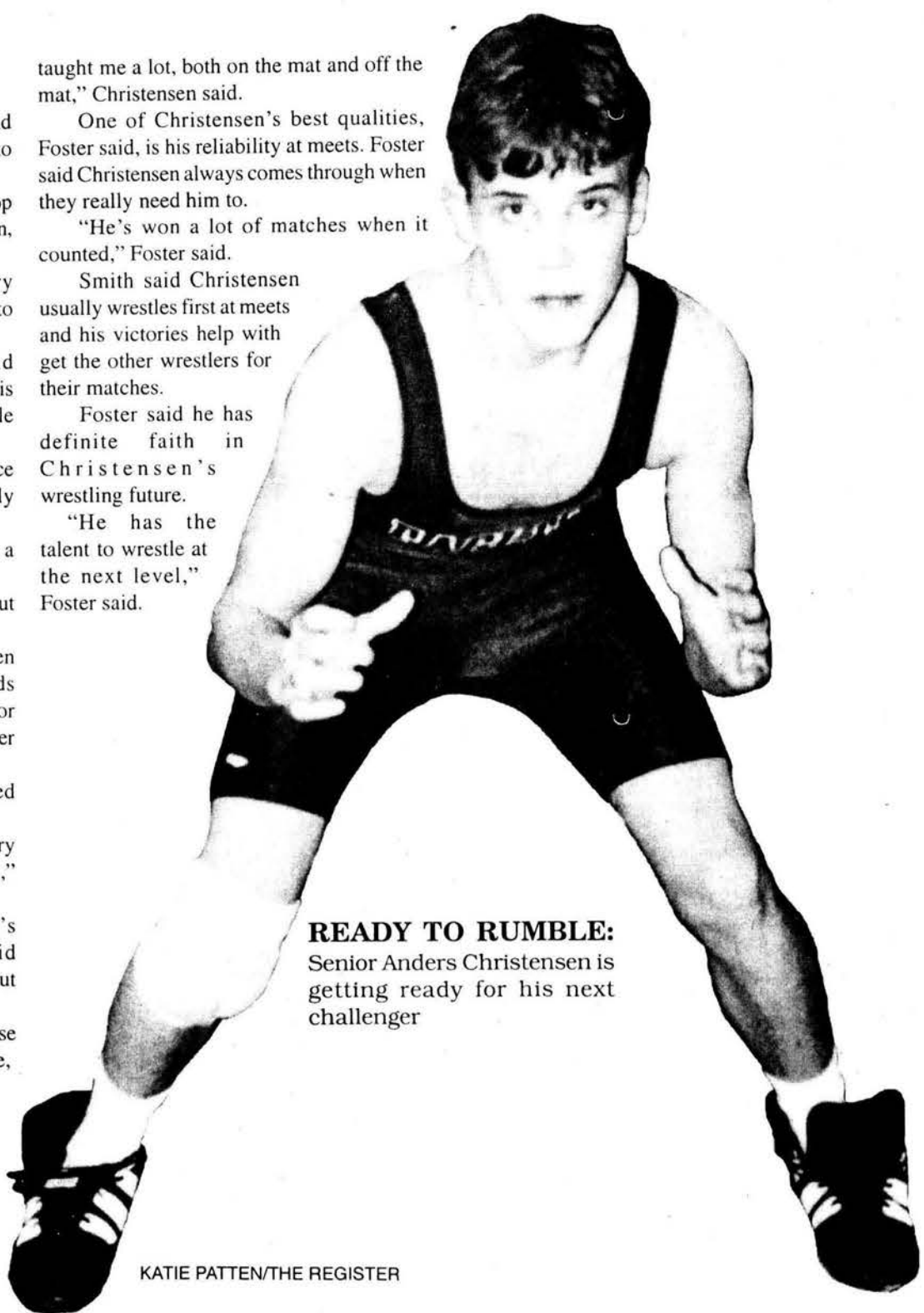
One of Christensen's best qualities, Foster said, is his reliability at meets. Foster said Christensen always comes through when they really need him to.

"He's won a lot of matches when it counted," Foster said.

Smith said Christensen usually wrestles first at meets and his victories help with get the other wrestlers for their matches.

Foster said he has definite faith in Christensen's wrestling future.

"He has the talent to wrestle at the next level," Foster said.



KATIE PATTEN/THE REGISTER

READY TO RUMBLE: Senior Anders Christensen is getting ready for his next challenger

New proposal to change criteria for placement into districts

By Chris Aponick

A proposal that will alter the way that district assignments are made has sparked an intense debate between the athletics directors at Central and Marian. Central's athletics director, Paul Pennington said.

The districts are four to five team divisions. The team with the best records in their district advance to the state tournament, he said.

"The teams are placed in districts at the beginning of the school year based on the number of students in attendance and their location. However, this measure could change that criteria," Pennington said.

This proposal, which has already passed in Omaha, will shift the emphasis from school size and distance from other schools to how an individual team performs during the season. It will also make it so districts are decided at the end of a team's regular season, Marian athletics director, Jim Miller said.

This will hurt schools in trying to prepare for their seasons, Pennington said.

"It makes it so you can't scout the other teams in your district because you don't know who they will be," Pennington said.

Currently, the NSAA places the Omaha and Lincoln teams districts with teams from their respective city

by student population, then it puts the westernmost schools in the districts containing schools closest to them.

"The reason I created this proposal was due to lack of district rotation," Miller said.

The current district set-up makes it so two or three of the top teams in the state end up in Marian's district, Miller said.

"Basically, this proposal came about because Omaha Marian did not qualify for the state volleyball tournament," Pennington said. "However, the goal of districts is not to get Marian into the state."

The current set-up gives the best teams the benefit of the doubt by offering wildcard berths into the state

tournament. This usually makes it so that the top eight teams make it to state tournaments, Pennington said.

"Although Central is not in the top eight in a lot of sports, I favor the [current] system," Pennington said.

Miller said the districts would work better if the teams were organized differently.

"It's not equitable doing districts by size. Districts should have balance like a tournament," Miller said.

Any tournament uses a team's record to decide where to put the team in the tournament. For example, the NCAA basketball tourney goes by records for its pairings, Miller said.

Turn to PROPOSAL, page 6

New weights help fitness levels increase

By Steve Packard

Central coaches and athletes are highly impressed with new weight room equipment that was donated by a Central alumnus, Physical Education department chairperson Joe McMenamin said.

"I'm just kind of flabbergasted actually," he said. "This equipment is top-of-the-line."

Central junior Nick Lemek thinks the equipment will benefit students.

"We have the ability to do the timate workout," Lemek said. "The [weight room] gives the players a chance to come in and reach their potential."

The Van Metres, a family with a history of Central alumni, donated nearly \$55,000 for the new weight room. After David Van Metre, father of two Central students, Jim and David Van Metre, visited Westside High School's updated weight room, he was obligated to donate the money.

"I could see that it [the old weight room] was bad," Van Metre said. "The [Van Metres] think of Central highly and wanted to give something back."

Four new Cybex weight machines were acquired from the donation, along with five new benches, three incline benches and an extensive dumbbell set, ranging from 10 pounds to eighty-pound dumbbells.

In addition to new equipment, new industrial strength flooring was installed and the walls repainted.

"It's [the weight room] a great motivator for athletes in weightlifting classes," McMenamin said. "The work ethic is improved when you have better equipment."

Turn to WEIGHTROOM, page 6

How districts decide state

Step One: Every Class A team placed into divisions with 3-4 teams

Step Two: Teams play against the district opponents in a tournament or in a series of games during the regular season.

Step Three: The district winner automatically entered into the state tournament.

Step Four: The Nebraska Scholastic Activities Association puts all teams into state based on game records during season play.

SOURCE: NSAA
MATT WYNN/THE REGISTER

Internet censorship
Police in school
Mackiel's pay raise
OPS spending cap

PERSPECTIVE

The opinion of the Register staff

February 5, 2001



I'm a Jerk
You're a Jerk
Michael Gerhardt

2001 will bring disgrace to boy bands, Huskers

So 2000 was gone in a flash. With all the terrible disasters that were supposed to happen and didn't, I don't think anyone noticed that 2000 lasted roughly four hours.

But forget 2000. It's 2001! So here are my predictions for the year 2001. Every one of these is absolutely guaranteed to happen.

Prediction 1: All of the fanatics who got into long, meaningless arguments over whether the new millennium was this year or last year or three years ago will be lined up against the wall, shot and fed to starving dogs.

Prediction 2: The Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera will form one large, suicide-inducing conglomerate group, called "The BackNSpearsChristinaBritSyncBoyAguilera People."

Prediction 3: The AOL/Time Warner merger will have your family killed.

Prediction 4: As the trend continues, even more tapes of Richard Nixon's conversations will be found, this time resulting in the general public's knowledge of his hemorrhoids, fondness for pink angora sweaters and his obsession with pirates. Something like this will be found...

Nixon: Arrr matey, those <expletive deleted> Democrats be costing me my <expletive deleted> election. They'll soon sleep with the fishes.

Advisors: What?

Nixon: Ye scurvy dog, off the <expletive deleted> plank you go! Ye scalawag dog <expletive deleted> <expletive deleted>!

Advisors: Huh?

Other advisor: This is the largest <expletive deleted> tube of Preparation H I've ever seen.

Nixon: <Expletive deleted> Arrrrrrrr, <expletive deleted> fairly be thee warned, says I! <Expletive deleted> <expletive deleted> Now, where be my sweater, asks I, arrrrrr <expletive deleted>!

Prediction 5: Rather surprisingly, every member of Limp Bizkit will be killed in a freak logging accident involving a horde of extremely intelligent badgers.

Prediction 6: Every member of the Nebraska football team will be severely disgraced when it is uncovered that they are all members of a nocturnal moon-worshipping cult obsessed with three-legged donkeys.

Prediction 7: The newest wave of slang for this year will come from lumberjack speak.

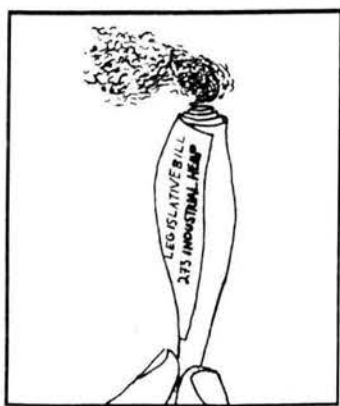
Prediction 8: As opposed to a religious apocalypse (which is most commonly expected) mole people will come from underneath the crust of the earth and slaughter the inhabitants of the "Bright Land." Those not killed in the ensuing battle will be melted by the mole people's horrible plagues.

Prediction 9: Every member of the failed dotcom industry will use whatever money is left to build a giant robot which will create a reign of terror until it falls apart, because, well, it is dotcom related. Then the mole people will eat it.

Prediction 10: When Central actually gets air conditioning installed, not only will the Lindbergh baby finally be found, but also a way to fold a piece of paper more than seven times and Dick Van Dyke's evil twin, Rick Von Abbadon.

Prediction 11: After finally discovering the secret to the magic strength stones, several brave students will discover that no, the tunnels underneath Central do not lead to 72 Street, but, instead, a portal to Samoa.

Political Cartoon



Pg 11: Hemp debates continue to carry on.

HEMP



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Nebraska's next cash crop?

Passing Legislative Bill 273 (LB273), which would allow the growth of industrial hemp in Nebraska, would be a wise step for the state to take.

On Jan. 5, state senators Ed Schrock, Carroll Burling, Ernie Chambers, Douglas Cunningham, Cap Dierks, DiAnna Schimek and Floyd Vrtiska introduced the bill to the Nebraska Unicameral.

The bill states that, "Any person in this state may plant, grow, harvest, possess, process, sell and buy industrial hemp (cannabis sativa) having no more than three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol."

The bill makes sense. Three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is an extremely small amount of the chemical, not nearly enough to produce an effect for anyone who may smoke it.

With so little THC, the hemp would hardly be a threat to drug regulations; it would, instead, help out Nebraska in many ways.

Industrial hemp could be a huge benefit for struggling Nebraska farms. Nebraska farmers are constantly facing a financial crisis and as a result,

rural communities are dying. Growing industrial hemp would allow for farmers to diversify their crops, something they are always looking to do.

The market for hemp products is also expanding rapidly. A study completed by North Dakota State University's Institute for Natural Resources and Economic showed that retailers sold \$75 million in hemp products in 1997 and expect enormous growth in the coming years.

The uses for hemp range from construction materials and cosmetics to paper and textiles.

Hemp is the world's strongest natural fiber. It can be used to make rope, paper and cloth.

Industrial hemp can yield 3-8 dry tons of fiber per acre. This is four times what an average forest can yield.

Some scientists even believe that hemp could eventually be used in place of gasoline and other exhaustible natural resources. This could lead to incredible leaps in industry and revolutionize the way that America works.

Industrial hemp is also an environmentally

friendly crop. It is unique among crops in that it generally does not require insecticides, fungicides, herbicides or irrigation.

Hemp also tends to naturally repel pests. The leaves continually replenish the soil and, because it grows quickly, weed growth is limited.

But despite all of these reasons to pass the bill, there are still people who think it should not be done. They worry industrial hemp and the related illegal drug marijuana will be grown side by side.

That scenario is extremely unlikely. Even if it did happen, it would never work.

The two plants are actually quite different. Growing the two breeds in the same field would weaken both plants because of cross-pollination.

The two breeds are also planted in very different ways. Hemp is planted in closely packed rows, marijuana in widely spaced bushes.

Unfortunately LB1079, a bill very similar to LB273, was "indefinitely postponed" by the previous Legislature in April of 2000, only three months after its initial introduction.

Hopefully, the newly elected Legislature will reassess its motives and make it legal for the farmers of Nebraska to grow this extremely beneficial crop.

EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register

Gender roles become blurred; explanation fairly simple to see

"I can't figure guys out anymore," my friend Hazel said. "All of them are so afraid of date rape and sexual harassment that the only guys who approach me anymore are goons."

"Either I have to jump on someone to date them or take the goons. Why are all of you guys turning into pansies?"

She's right. So what's turning "normal" guys into pansies? (Translator's note: Pansy is an old term that has many meanings. It has meant homosexual, effeminate and weak-willed, among other things. I'm only using it in the weak-willed sense.)

During the sixties, a Spanish term came into English: "macho." Its English connotations were negative. It was a disease that

liberals had to struggle against. (Conservatives are another story.)

There are evil aspects to "macho". Bravado, jingoism, possessiveness and superiority are the parts of macho that should go down the sewer pits.

But "macho" is more than that. Aspects like courage, loyalty and even courtesy — all good things — also were shoved into the political definition.

Using the term, it was no longer justified to stand up for a friend who committed a political impropriety.

I am standing in an elevator in a big office building when a woman in a blue business suit gets in and pushes the elevator button going to the same floor as I am. When the door opens, I motion for her to go first.

"I don't need your condescension," she says as she saunters out the door.

I didn't give her a look and scream "Screw you!" But I probably should have.

I would have held that door open for anyone; male, female, or in between! It's polite, and it shows respect. But respect is another casualty of pansification.

Pansification? Where did it come from? What's the cure?

One possible explanation is that power is like oil. There's only so much of it to go around.

If some people have more of it, others have less. That would explain why, when feminists "empower" themselves, there's that much less power left for everyone else.

That explanation is wrong.

Power isn't a limited resource - it's more like voodoo. If you believe in it, it works. If enough people believe in it, it's very strong. Feminists have support groups. They tell themselves of their own power. They perform the rituals. They say the magic word: "Em-

powerment," and POOF! They have the power.

Guys have an awful lot of voices telling them they have no power. It's the same voices as feminists have, only for guys there's no compensating voodoo. When is the last time you saw a support group for men?

So, no, it's not because of a lack of power that guys are becoming pansies.

It's all much simpler than that.

The real reason for pansification: sex drive.

Guys see that the kind of girls they like want them to be nice, well-mannered, sensitive, whatever, and they cave in. They become meek little mice.

This is normal. If sex required that a guy stick his head in the toilet and whistle "Sweet Home Alabama" while shaving his leg hair and balancing a plate, he'd do that, too. The urge for sex maintains itself.

So Hazel, it's partly your fault that all the guys you meet are pansies. It's partly mine too.

Read Between the Lines



Matt Wynn

Editorials

"Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

Internet censorship limits students' education

The way that Central censors the Internet does not work. It should be changed to better serve the students who require access to the Internet through school computers.

Central currently censors the Internet using a district-wide filtering program.

The filter blocks out "offensive" words, as well as sites containing certain content such as e-mail or chat rooms.

Changes are constantly being made to the filtering program.

The changes can be broad, blocking a single word or phrase, or be very specific, blocking only a certain web site.

The ideal situation would be to develop a program that blocks out all objectionable material while still allowing all educational material in.

But what happens when

objectionable and educational material are the same thing?

For example, in certain classes, students are required to do reports on the different effects of some controlled substances on the human body. It is a perfectly reasonable and educational assignment.

EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register

However, when a student attempts to research a drug on the Internet, he may find he has run into a few problems.

A student cannot access the web site for the Drug Reform Coordination Network.

In fact, a student cannot access many web sites with useful information about drugs. Drugs are objectionable and have therefore been blocked by the filtering program.

But despite all of this, a

curious student can still easily find access to several web sites filled with pornography.

It quickly becomes apparent that the way the district currently censors the Internet does not work and it is ridiculous to ever expect a perfectly functional filtering system.

So instead of trying in vain, the district should simply drop this

method of censorship completely and take a cue from Lincoln Public Schools (LPS).

In LPS schools, students are given full access to the Internet. They are not blocked from sites by software. They have other things stopping them: responsibility.

At the beginning of every school year, LPS students are required to sign a contract stating

that they will not break certain guidelines of computer use.

The guidelines are fairly simple to remember:

1. Students will not intentionally access information that may be obscene or offensive toward any other individuals.

2. Students will respect the security of any computer system and will not try to gain access to

system programs, computer systems or another person's files.

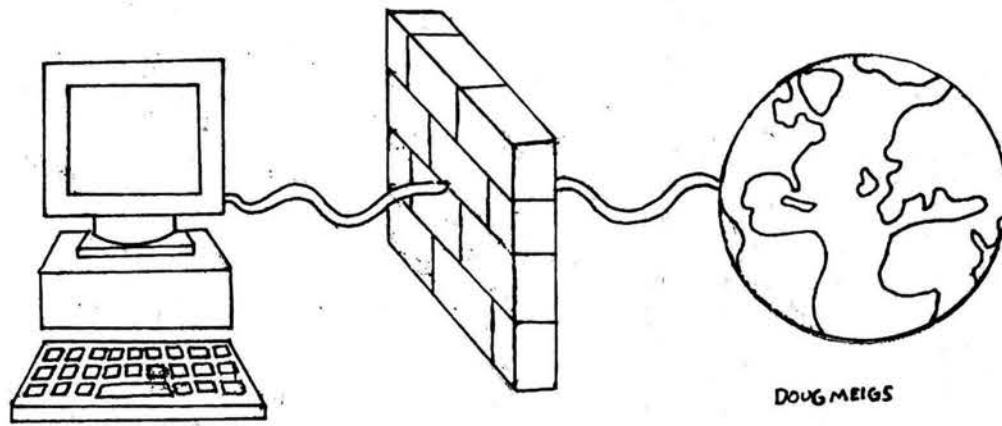
3. Students will not use the network for financial gain or commercial or illegal activity.

4. Students must understand that Lincoln Public Schools is responsible for any expense incurred or purchases made while students access any on-line service, such as the Internet.

The contract also notes that violation of the above statements will make the student subject to disciplinary action which can include immediate suspension of computer privileges.

By implementing guidelines like these and removing the current Internet blocking software, Central would be encouraging responsible Internet use and a more productive learning environment.

It would surely enrich the education of all students, and the district would be wise to consider the option.



DOUG MEIGS

Dr. Gary Thompson
Principal
Matt Deabler
Adviser
Matt Wynn
Opinion Page Editor

HEROES

-Drug awareness week

Raising awareness about drug abuse is always a good idea, especially in a school environment. These four days might not have been enough, but it is a good start for trying to stop drug use among teenagers.

-Central's new weight room

Thanks to the Van Metres, a family of Central alumni, the school received \$55,000 to revamp the old weight room into a top-of-the-line facility. This kind of private support is needed for school improvements. The donation is greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed for many years to come.

-8th grade open-house

This year, the eighth grade open house attracted 1050 students, 200 more than last year. The open house allowed for Central to put its best foot forward to prospective students that may be coming to this school.

-Playing musical chairs with finals

At the beginning of the year, administrators announced that students would take final exams before Winter Break, but this never happened. The snow days before the break caused a delay, but the school still allowed for the wasted day, pushing some finals into the new year.

-Omaha Convention Center

Because of an increase in costs, the city has cut some features of the proposed convention center/arena. The atrium's height was cut and other features have been dropped. These spontaneous changes need to be carefully considered, because if the city does not think about them, Omaha may end up with multi-million dollar eyesore.

-George W. Bush

He didn't win the popular vote of the nation and the Floridian vote is still suspicious. He shouldn't be president because he was appointed, not elected.

NEROS

Superintendent earns well-deserved pay raise

Under no circumstances should the leader of the biggest school district in Nebraska be the third highest-paid superintendent in the state.

Before the Omaha School Board voted unanimously to increase Superintendent John Mackiel's salary, he was the third highest-paid superintendent in the state, behind Lincoln and Grand Island respectively. Now, his pay ranks as the highest in the state, for good reason.

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) school district is the biggest school district in the state. Mackiel is the head of the largest district, so, logically, he should be the highest-paid superintendent in the state.

Mackiel has been the superintendent of OPS for three complete years. He has lasted longer than the average urban superintendent by half a year. His new contract is also significantly less than superintendents in school districts that are similar in size.

Mackiel's salary was the last to be set for the upcoming year. The district was concerned about

settling volatile teacher negotiations before they address the issue of Mackiel's pay.

Also, Mackiel did not want this big of a raise. He didn't want to receive a higher pay raise than the teachers in the district did. He did not ask for the substantial increase in pay, but the board voted on it anyway.

Mackiel deserves the money because of the job he does. He has a very important responsibility. He is the person that is responsible for everything that happens in the district, and

EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register

maintains a seat on the school board.

Also, increasing Mackiel's pay might increase his job security and performance. Last year Mackiel was looking for another job in Minneapolis before the school board convinced him to stay. Increasing his pay will help keep him in Omaha.

By increasing Mackiel's salary, the school board finally set the record straight. He is the head of the Omaha Public Schools and he deserves to be the highest-paid superintendent in the state.

Legislature should loosen spending limits, free funds

The current spending limits implemented by the state legislature to control the school district's spending should be loosened to allow the district to spend all the money that it raises.

This year, the school district is asking the state legislature to increase the amount of money that it can legally spend. This would be a good idea for the state and the school board.

In current years, the spending limits have caused problems, especially when the district is looking for new things to do with tax dollars that it has collected.

For example, at the beginning of the school year, the district issued a notice telling principals not to spend unnecessary money until the teachers' salary issue was resolved.

The ongoing teacher negotiations stressed the budget allocations, causing the district to look into other parts of the budget to locate enough money to increase teachers' salary.

If these proposals are passed this will allow for OPS to better use the money that it collects.

Currently, the state's limitations have led to the district not being able to buy some textbooks and start some summer school programs.

The state does not need to control how much money the school board can spend down to every cent. These restrictions should be loosened so the school board can utilize all the money that it has.

These over-regulations lead to money that cannot be budgeted and used because of government watchdogs.

Educational spending should be kept at the local level.

The Unicameral should not over-regulate Omaha's school board, making it so the school board cannot use all of the money that it collects. The state legislature should give the school board more responsibility over the district's loosening the spending regulations.

Letters, E-mails and Faxes

Players' criticisms hurt team

Certain members of this year's varsity men's basketball team have no right to badmouth players from past teams.

These players, one in particular, should really not be disrespecting last year's team when they are guilty of the same mistakes.

One of the things they criticize last year's team for is having too many low post players that repeatedly take, and missing three pointers. However, this year's team does the same thing.

Also, I think it is ridiculous that varsity coaches never lose their jobs, despite obvious problems managing their respective teams.

When it is clear that a coach is unqualified to be running a team, they should no longer have that job.

This would improve most sports and allow Central to take full advantage of the talent available this year.

Scott Pearson, 12

Centennial story misinforms

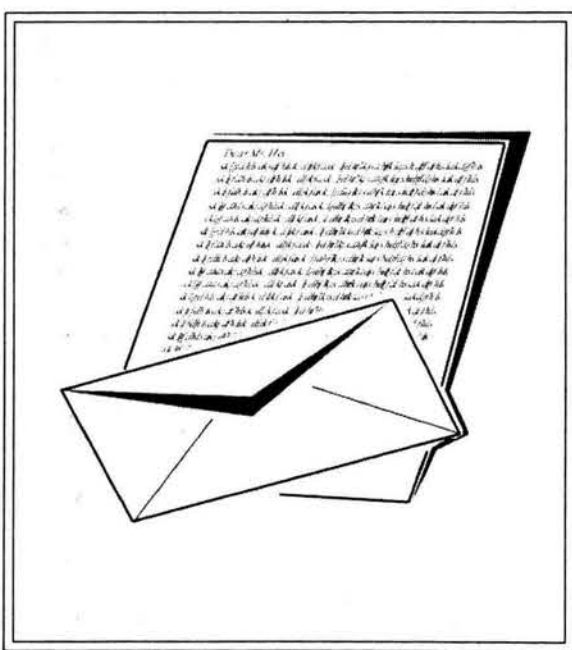
An article, "Central celebrates centennial," in the December 18 issue of the Register states that, "Central turned one hundred years old on Nov. 16..."

That statement ignores more than 40 years of Central history.

The festivities planned for April actually will celebrate the centennial of the building, but not the school, which can trace its beginnings to 1859.

In point of fact, only the east side of Central's present building can claim to be 100 years old.

Construction on that side, which holds the cornerstone to be opened during the April celebration, was begun



in 1900.

The rest of the building was added, a side at a time (south, west and north in that order), over the next twelve years.

T.M. Gaherty
retired faculty member

Drug awareness misses focus

Though its intentions were good, last week's Drug Awareness Week was a joke. Showing anti-tobacco video clips, while all the nearby students laughed and everyone else in the courtyard ignored it, probably did not make one iota of difference.

I do not know one smoker who does not know that smoking will kill them. They all know that, either it does not mean that much to them or they are trying to quit. Maybe if the school offered help with quitting, they might make a difference, but I think the school wants to act like this is all preventative. It's not preventative. Everyone knows that teen smoking is a problem and the

solution won't be found in a poster on the courtyard wall.

The other days were just as bad. A stone-faced woman from some anti-drug council left a pamphlet on my lunch table entitled "Club Drugs: From Rave to Grave." It had bright graphics to catch your attention, but once you read the information, all you could do was laugh. It was written in a way to seem "hip" or "young," but just seemed sad.

The answer to the problem of teens and drug use won't be found in a pamphlet, or on the courtyard wall or in Nancy Reagan herself coming and saying, "Just Say No." It is found by knowing the person and knowing "why" they do it - it can't be mass-produced.

Kaitlin Butz, 10

Columnists whine, complain

Ever since I received my first Register last year I have put up with some less-than-interesting editorial columns. However, in the last few issues, two have gotten out of hand. Danielle Rollins' and Joe Meyer's editorials are just pure, unadulterated crap. All they do is whine and complain about their day or how they have to work.

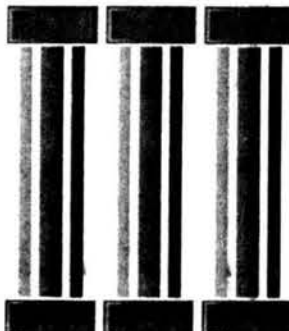
Who cares?! We have jobs too. We have to put up with annoying crowds in the halls and stupid people in our classes. They are using valuable space in our newspaper as their personal journals.

Does anyone really care if Danielle doesn't like to work? Does anyone want to give Joe a cookie because he met Shelley Kiel? I have nothing against them personally, but if they don't have anything interesting to write about, just stop writing!

Jovon Dorsey, 10

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Opinion



New technology fills America with false hopes

I recently heard that we are now entering the age of technology. To me, this means that in the near future, I will not be able to brush my teeth without learning to use some new gadget that I absolutely must have in order to make sure that my teeth get their brightest.

In truth, technology is crap. I realize that things such as electricity and indoor plumbing may have increased the quality of living a bit, but when am I ever going to use half of the stuff that is advertised on television as "must-haves?"

They say technology is making peoples' lives simpler. They say the average citizen won't be able to live without it.

Yeah, because now instead of learning to do simple things like cooking and cleaning,

I have to learn how to work stupid machines that they say will cook and clean for me, but they don't. Instead, they blow up in my face, forcing me to do a lot more cleaning and order a lot more takeout.

The problem with technology is that it makes life more complicated. It creates a want for stupid contraptions that no one needs until the television set tells them they need them.

And what are these companies trying to prove anyhow? We already have computers and a million other useless machines that do everything but what they claim to do. It isn't about creating a product to fill a need anymore. Now it's about making more complicated inventions to fill up space.

Of course I have come to the conclusion that only stupid people believe in technology. It is an ongoing theme in the world today that

all of life's little problems have developed from another person's idiocy.

It is the stupidity of human nature that has developed a need for technology. I oppose it. I don't oppose it because I am too dense to figure out how to work an answering machine without the help of at least three other individuals.

I oppose it because it forces an individual to sit for hours on end studying an instruction manual that doesn't make sense. Then, that individual finds out that the reason that the instruction manual doesn't make sense is because they were reading it in Yiddish.

No good can come out of humanity's obsession with technology. People may think computers are their friends, but would a "friend" break down in the middle of a book report the first time someone forget to save? Would a "friend" ever so conveniently lose a file that a person has worked on for four hours straight?

Computers are not peoples' friends.

Whoever it was who said that inanimate objects could not feel was wrong, because I know for a fact that computers possess a sick, deranged hate for me.

So what is the solution to keep the putrid hands of the technology age from grasping the human race? Give up. Marketers are smarter, richer and much more goal-oriented than any of us, so what's the point?

The complicated part of this little equation is that it has no point. Technology is never going to work the way that we, the people, want it to. Marketers, inventors and consumers do not realize this.

They will all continue going about their sorry, pathetic lives, trying desperately to create that automatic page-turner they have been working so long and hard on.

They know that, though no one actually wants an automatic page-turner, people will buy them anyway, and the whole system will start over again. It is the way of life. We may as well get used to it.

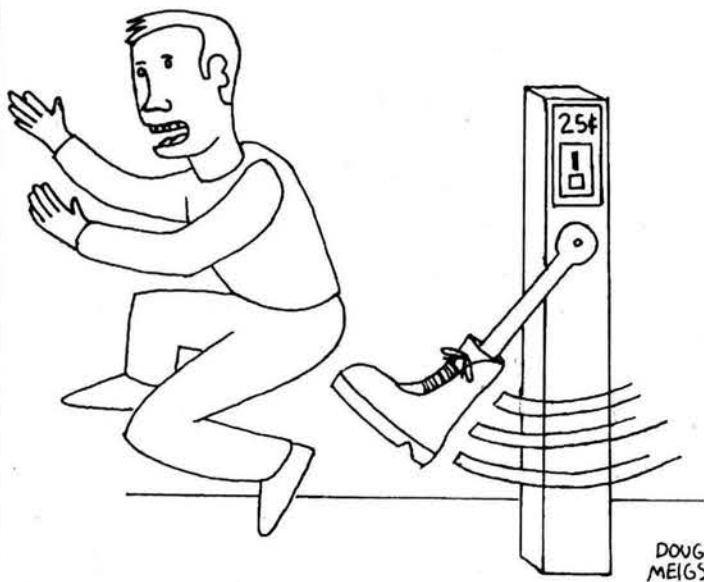
They'll All Laugh at You



Danielle Rollins

Top Ten Failed Inventions

1. The automatic roundhouse kicker. It does automatic roundhouse kicks whenever you desire.
2. The monkey gun - capable of launching monkeys upwards of 100 yards.
3. My magic river dam.
4. E-Z Necromancy. Now YOU can raise the dead all by yourself.
5. Learn to fake an aneurysm in 15 min. or less! Scare your friends! Trick your enemies! Hurt yourself!



DOUG MEIGS

6. Charlton Heston's Trigger Finger Workout Machine-Three easy payments of \$89.95.
7. Do-it-yourself Wart and Boil removal kit by Kraft.
8. The amazing toenail clippings organizer. Keep those pesky little guys in order!
9. Teach yourself how to Riverdance - 20 min. instructional video included!
10. Quench-O-Matic's instant water pills (just add water).

Constant focus on scholastic sports hides school's real goal

Think for a moment of any extracurricular high school activity, any activity at all. What is everyone thinking about? Sports. Not any sport, just a limited few. Football, basketball, soccer, baseball, wrestling and maybe even track.

Why has high school become synonymous with sports? What academic value do sports have to high school athletes? They do not have any academic value, so why is so much emphasis put on them?

Movies about high school football teams are a dime a dozen these days. Also, the NBA drafts some students straight out of high school today.

Which is more likely: little Johnny does

well in art class, wins a heap of awards at math competitions and becomes an architect earning six figures or little Billy barely passes the classes he does not fail, is third string tackle on the football team, gets a scholarship to college and becomes a multimillionaire playing in the NFL? Probably the first scenario, considering the lack of NFL-ready high schoolers these days.

Face it. The majority of student athletes do not make it to the pros. Most high school athletes cannot even make it as walk-ons at decent colleges.

Theoretically, sports improve social skills in students, but some sports are notorious for bloating egos and creating elitist attitudes.

There are some redeeming qualities of sports at the high school level. All kids should

be able to play what they want. Considering their lack of academic value and minimal social skill gain, however, sports should be kept separate from all school curriculums.

Everyone realizes that separating sports from the school environment right now is impossible. School athletics have become so ingrained in American culture that other, more practical options cannot be considered.

Currently, Central athletes need to only pass four classes a semester to compete in games (their PE credits are near shoe-ins, which means it is very possible for a student to be a three-sport starter, yet not even pass most of their classes). There is definitely something fundamentally wrong with that.

School bureaucracy is behind the "program," though, so its success is somewhat expected. What is even worse than schools' acceptance of academic failure at the hands of athletic capability is many parents' complacent attitudes toward scholastic advance-

ment.

There seems to be an attitude of "It is okay if Joe fails English as long as he gets a double-double next game" in both schools and parents. That should never be the case. No matter how good the athlete is they are students and should be expected to pass their classes.

Don't get me wrong. Not all student athletes are terrible students, and those who are both varsity players and part of Honor Roll or National Honors Society should be commended. Those students, who are students before athletes, are often given a bad name by falling into the dumb-jock stereotype that has unfortunately become the archetypal high school persona for Americans.

Too much emphasis is put on sports in school. It is something that needs to be dealt with. Stronger academic requirements are needed to change what the real priority in school should be: scholastic achievement.

Never Look Back



Quentin Lueninghoener

City captures park, hurts sledding

"Sled at your risk," the sign read. It held its reign on the top of the hill like an alert lifeguard on a hot summer afternoon, but it was not alone. Orange fencing around the trees also served as barriers to stop any possible casualties on the way down.

I had my suspicions about these precautions. Charles Darwin disproved spontaneous generation after a voyage on the HMS Beagle in 1843, so there must have been a reason for them being there.

My conclusion: Memorial Park, easily the hottest sledding spot in town, had been the latest victim of government bureaucracy and protection from liability lawsuits.

A child had been hurt this year while sledding down the hill. This wasn't any normal injury either - he injured his back when his sled hit a tree.

I have personally been injured while sledding, and it hurt a lot. I ran into a garage while sledding down an alley.

My left knee swelled up to the size of a cantaloupe. I was on crutches for three days and couldn't walk for a week after that.

I'm honestly sorry this kid got hurt. I am not an advocate of letting children get hurt at the park, but the city acted in its best interest, not the best interests of the children at the park. The city protected itself, plain and simple.

Instead of trying to overcompensate for

citizens' mistakes, the city should stand up to ill-founded lawsuits.

I can only imagine what the city's next action will be.

A Personal Sledding Assistant (PSA) will greet each child wishing to head down the hill. This municipal worker would examine each vessel to see if it had proper restraints and air bags. All insufficient sleds would be destroyed.

All of this would be done for safety reasons, of course.

If the sled passed the examination and the sledder paid the quarter fee to "The City Doesn't Want to Get Sued for Foolish Kids Hitting Trees at the Park"

fund, he would be able to enjoy the hill. The PSA would have to accompany every child down the hill, for safety reasons, of course.

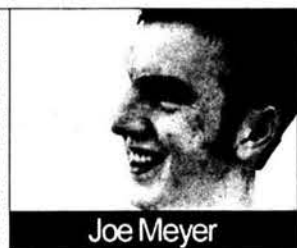
This voyage would not be worth it. It would be a straight run with padding on both sides and at the bottom to prevent injuries, like bumper bowling. For safety reasons, of course.

Anyone older than 18 wouldn't be held to these requirements, because adults can be as irresponsible as they want.

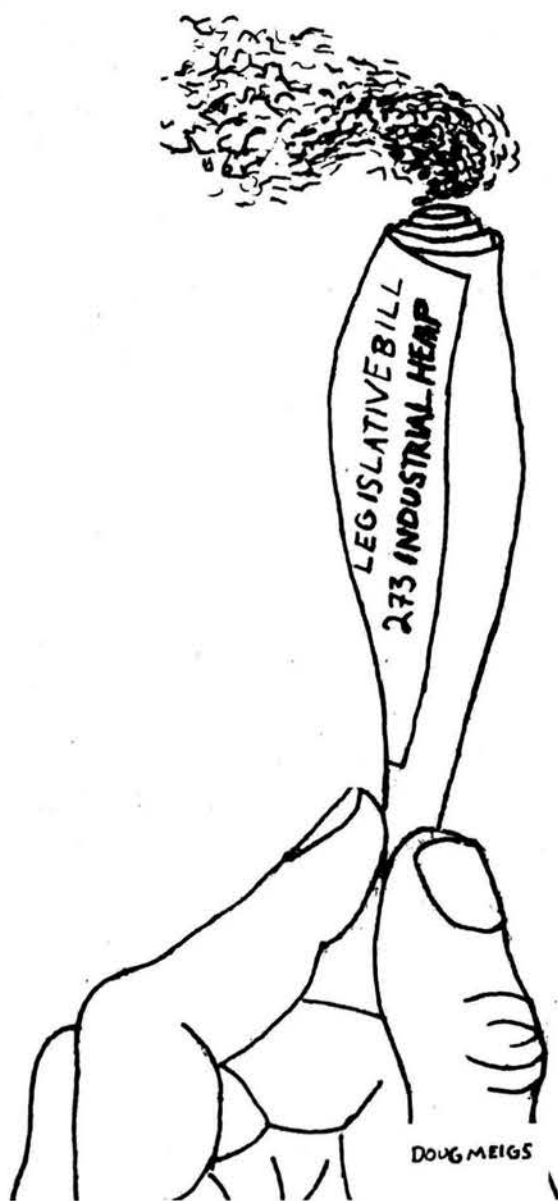
If these precautions continue, it would only lead to more illegal activity. If all the traditional hills were ravaged of all value, kids would develop bootleg hills. This would get more kids hurt, like when I hit that garage.

This sense of governmental responsibility is not always the best thing. Far too often, it is only aimed at protecting the government. Well, welcome to the Bahamas.

Welcome to the Bahamas



Joe Meyer



DOUG MEIGS

...I feel nothing

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

What do you think about the district-wide Internet filter system used by OPS?



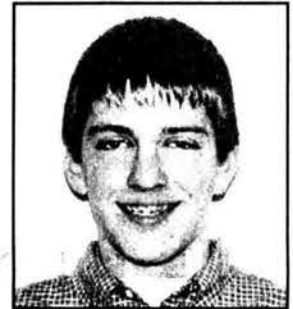
"I agree with it because it's not what people should be doing at school."

Tony Driscoll, 10



"It keeps kids away from sites that aren't actually bad. It cuts accessibility to information."

Noah Moe, 12



"It's too restrictive. It blocks out sites that are educational."

Nick Goding, 9



"I'm in two computer classes and I can get to porn - all you have to do is go through search engines."

Adam Galvin, 11



"It's good because we are here to learn. We should not be looking at inappropriate sites."

Makayla Townsell, 12



"You can't get to harmless sites because of the filter."

Pasha Fountain, 9



"It's too obstructive because you cannot go anywhere."

Rafiq Kamal, 11

Police officer

The New Guy in School



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Officer protects school, relates to students

Jerry Paul is a great addition to the Central faculty.

He's not a teacher or an administrator. He's not a custodian and he doesn't work in the cafeteria, but he's still a valuable addition to the school.

Paul is a police officer. His appointment to Central has brought confusion and opposition, but the school, and the Omaha police, have good intentions and should be commended for their efforts.

Neither the school nor the police are trying to keep a closer eye on the students. The police are not trying to arrest half of the student body for jaywalking, either. Obviously, the officer is trying to keep the peace, but the purpose of him being here is more diplomatic.

The primary objective of the police presence is to increase the relationship between teenagers and the police. Currently, the relationship between police officers and teenagers is not the best it could be.

Historically, police have always been isolated from other people in the community, especially younger generations. They are civil officers who try to remain objective and

courteous while trying to deal with very stressful situations. Usually, their names, personalities and identities get lost in favor of generalized stereotypes.

EDITORIAL
The Opinion
of
the Register

By stationing an active police officer in the school that students will be able to associate with, some of the generalizations about the police might disappear.

Also, Officer Paul may serve as an additional administrator or counselor, becoming more involved with students while not being an official part of the faculty. The fact that Paul is not an administrator will allow him to associate more with the students, but he will also be able to interfere concerning police matters.

If nothing else, the mere fact that a police officer is here might help the school and its students. The police presence might deter crime from happening in the first place. If students see a police officer here at school, they might not get in trouble because they know they will be caught.

Paul also gives Central the police's most fundamental asset: protection. If something illegal were to happen here, the school would

have an experienced and familiar police officer to take care of the situation, quickly. The students now know where to go if they have problems with illegal activity.

The fact that Central now has a police officer is not a poor reflection on the school. Central is not a violent school and the police officer's presence might not be completely needed, but it cannot hurt to have the added security.

This action is strictly a precautionary measure. Central is not the only high school in OPS to have a police officer patrolling the halls. In fact, all of the public high schools in Omaha currently have a full-time police officer in the school.

Also, seeing a police officer in high schools is not a big stretch from the present. Police are fairly common to see in places where a lot of people gather. Officers patrol concerts, parades and sporting events, so having a police officer in a building with over 2000 students seems like common sense.

Having a police officer at school is a good idea. He allows for added safety, but the best thing that Paul provides is an increase in relationships between the police and teenagers. Having Officer Paul here can only be beneficial to the school.

One Strike
Against Me



Jon Lathan

Stereo lovers deserve rights

Surely everyone has heard Dr. King's "Have a Dream" speech. Yeah, the one where he states we should let freedom ring. I have freedom that I want to let ring, and those who don't want to hear it can bite me.

What is this miraculous freedom? The freedom that I had to play my stereo as loud as I wanted to and to spend my money on useless devices like speakers. The freedom had to be a stereotyped African-American male who spends all of his drug money on Bentleys, Rolexes, other iced-out jewelry and platinum teeth.

Why drug money? Because there's a way that a legitimate employee could get me stuff from a job that would fire him because he dropped a bun, licked it, and put it back on the grill. And, no I didn't work the grills, worked the condiments.

Ungrateful people who don't like a little bass don't have to cease my pleasure. Have your bass on 36, treble at -40, and systems 60, riding through neighborhoods at 3:00 a.m. shouldn't be a crime.

Acts like these are not acceptable in society. Screw you. Quit whining and just submit. Me playing my music is part of my identity. That's how I work.

The noise ordinance made it so that if a pig can hear me 100 feet away while eating Krispy Kreme donuts and drinking Crane Coffee, I get a ticket.

By creating this ordinance, you are imposing on my rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Blasting my stereo makes me happy. People rolling up car windows is funny. Waking once-quiet neighborhoods brings me fulfillment.

I bet if I played country, I wouldn't get ticketed. If I was Caucasian, I wouldn't get pulled over. If I listened to KGBI I wouldn't get pulled over. If you ask what that is, you need a religion. It is Christian radio. Never mind. I probably would get pulled over for listening to that crap. The songs have a rhythm, and it's mostly acoustic. The only person I know who listens to it is my mother. I will continue to blast my stereo and wake people up, at least until I get ticketed. Maybe I'll add a few 20s. Or perhaps I'll go all out and steal a Blazer.



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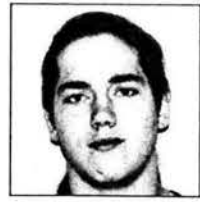
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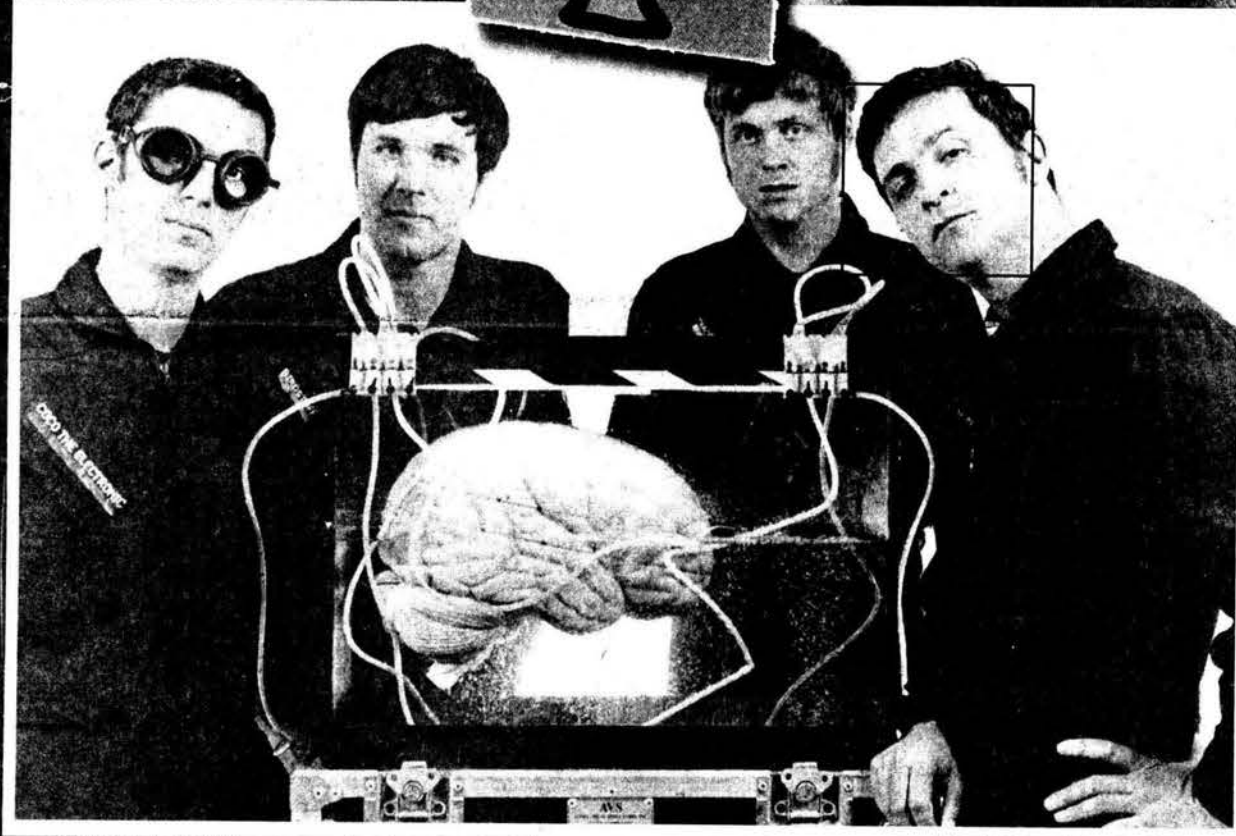
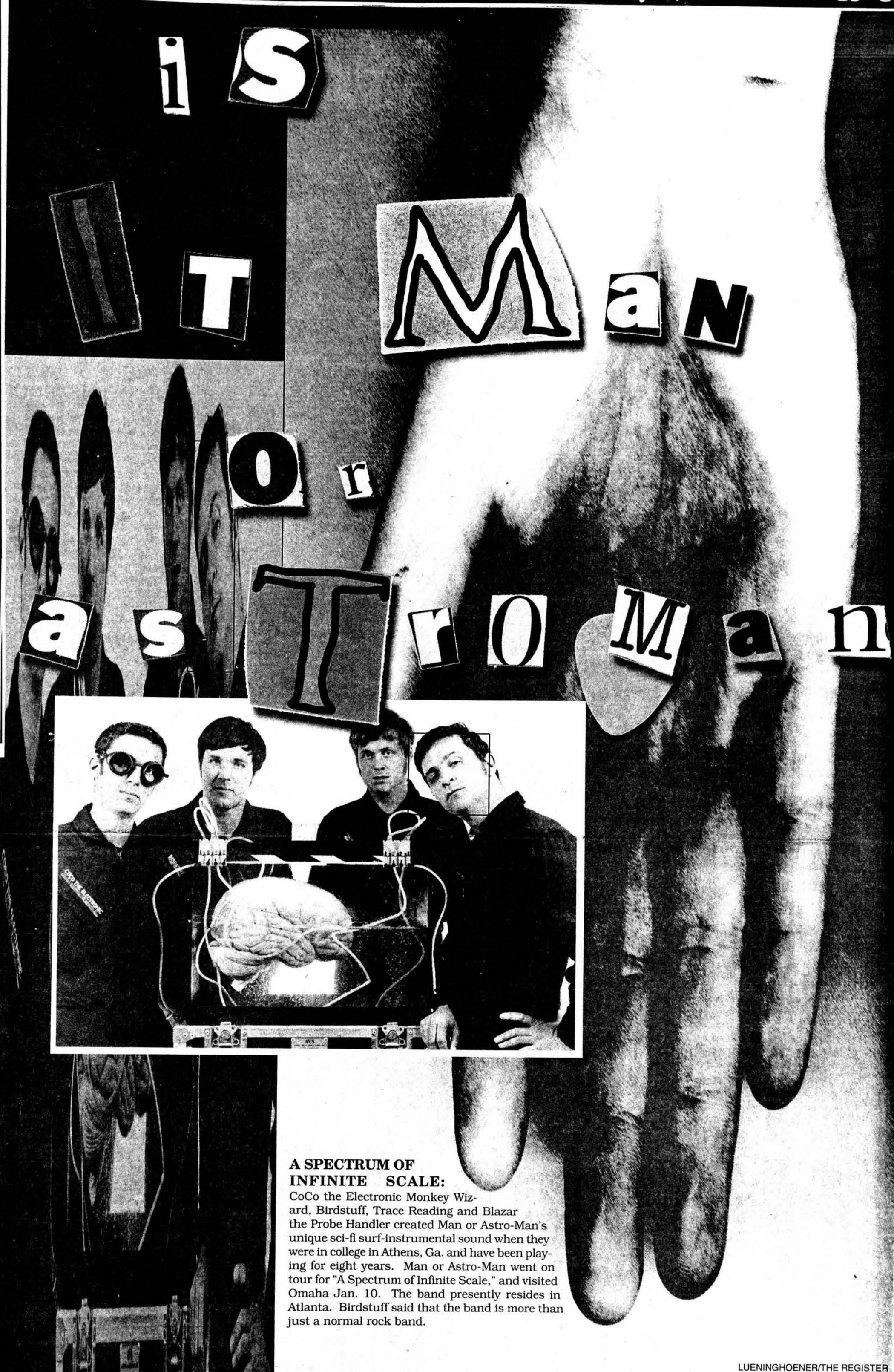
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A SPECTRUM OF INFINITE SCALE: CoCo the Electronic Monkey Wizard, Birdstuff, Trace Reading and Blazar the Probe Handler created Man or Astro-Man's unique sci-fi surf-instrumental sound when they were in college in Athens, Ga. and have been playing for eight years. Man or Astro-Man went on tour for "A Spectrum of Infinite Scale," and visited Omaha Jan. 10. The band presently resides in Atlanta. Birdstuff said that the band is more than just a normal rock band.

LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

By Layne Gabriel

"Half human or half beast...It loves like a man, is it man or astro-man?" was all of the tagline to "The Human Vapor" that Brian Teasley, nicknamed "Birdstuff," remembers seeing on a poster in a record store.

Years later, when he formed a band with his friends, Teasley remembered that quote. Now, they are Man or Astro-Man.

"It seemed so ridiculous that it stuck with me for years and years," he said.

The name seemed to fit perfectly for a band that plays retro sci-fi surf music.

Man or Astro-Man has been together for about eight years. The band started while all four members were in college in Georgia and became interested in changing the local scene, Teasley, the drummer, said.

"We started our band on the idea of hatred. We hated all the bands in our town so bad," Teasley said.

He said that all the bands in the town were carbon-copied and sounded like whoever was popular at the time.

"If Sonic Youth was popular, they'd sound like Sonic Youth," he said. "We were more influenced by things we despised."

He said the band was in need of help in the early days, but Man or Astro-Man has developed its own distinct style.

The band became stronger through its errors and got noticed in a small town.

Teasley said he never would have guessed that Man or Astro-Man would be so big and that he would be touring the world.

"I guess being annoying did get us some attention," he said.

Teasley said that he loves affecting a small group in a large way and although the audiences at concerts have leveled off, the attendance is great.

Although shows and albums are great, Teasley said he enjoys meeting people and

getting closer to his bandmates.

"Part of the reason why we do this is for the camaraderie," he said.

Aside from the numerous album releases, Man or Astro-Man has made songs for the Cartoon Network and the BBC.

The band's songs often use sound clips from old sci-fi films to go with the music.

Teasley explained that the band has been collecting sound clips from records, movies and old films. He said the band basically has a "Library of Congress for nerds," with all the movies, films and albums they need.

"It [the sound clip] also helps us remember the songs," Teasley said.

The band uses samplers and computers to create some of its music and has been touring with a PC and a Macintosh.

Each band member listens to different types of music, which helps round out the band's unique style. Members listen to everything from psychedelic 60s rock to

electronic dance music to current indie rock, Teasley said.

The band's most recent album, "Spectrum of Infinite Scale," was recorded at a studio that the band built for itself.

Teasley said that using the band's new studio, Zero Return Studios, helped them with time and money restraints that buying studio time would have impaired.

"You wanna goof off, but you're paying \$50 to \$60 an hour," he said.

Man or Astro-Man considered the new studio a tremendous accomplishment and is really glad that it has been able to record at its own studio.

The band went on tour to support "Spectrum of Infinite Scale," and played a show in Omaha on Jan. 10. Teasley said that the band has always enjoyed shows here and that it was excited to come here.

"There's enough going on [in Omaha] that people stay pretty hip," he said.

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'A Hard Day's Night'

Spring fashion filled with color

By Layne Gabriel

In 2000, spring fashion was known for its pretty pastels and ladylike look, but this year, fashion has taken a different turn.

"There's been a really big black and white trend," Tara Savin, spokesperson for Express, said.

Savin said that Express has 35 of its own designers. Then buyers choose from the designs and decide what will be sold in the 684 Express stores nationwide.

Savin said that this spring has women in very feminine and flirty clothing - mainly composed of ruffles, miniskirts, soft feminine colors and wrap dresses.

"Another big look that's coming up this spring and summer is the military look," she said.

She said green, brown, gold and tan are hot colors this spring. She said the military look is slightly tomboy, but is still sexy and modern.

Savin said that the rock 'n' roll look continues on into this year, as well.

Rock 'n' roll fashion is reminiscent of the 80's, with miniskirts, one-shoulder tops, sweater sets and slits on the sleeves, she said.

Jane Buckingham, Trend Correspondent for the Style Network, released a report about fashion trends in the upcoming year.

Buckingham's report said hot colors are blue, coral, nudes, black and white and silver and gold.

She said for women, vertical and horizontal stripes are a huge trend, along with metallic colors.

Pleats in blouses and skirts will also be a hot item, with some two-toned pleats

creating optical illusions.

According to her report, dance-inspired clothing should also be flying off the shelves, since they create a goddess-like feeling.

For an outfit that is a reminder of youth, exciting prints like jellybeans, tropical fruits and floral patterns will bring out the fun in everyone.

Buckingham's report also addressed men's fashion for the upcoming year. Plain colors like earthy brown, gray and white are fashionable for men this season.

Asymmetry with strange zippers and shirt tails that fall at odd angles are great for guys this season, which shows that casual and comfortable are sometimes the best way to go.

Tailored clothes that show off the man's figure are also one of the new things for spring, along with mid-length sleeves and pant legs branching away from women's fashion and towards men's fashion.

Thin versions of regular fabric have been used to make sheer clothing for men. This along with the tailored clothing makes a man's figure more visible.

Spring accessories like sandals are also a big hit with men and can be paired with everyday clothing or business suits.

Senior Anna Rafferty said she thinks comfortable outfits are in style this year. She said separates for prom are common for girls and that metallic tones are in.

As for guys, Rafferty said she thinks a vintage look will be in style.



ABOVE: FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER, LEFT: EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

WRAP DRESSES, TIES, AND BELTS, OH MY! (Above) The popular wrap style is shown in dresses and shirts. (Left) Courtney Beals (11) models the one-shoulder look in a playful flower print and a simple black skirt. All clothing shown is available at Express in Westroads Mall.

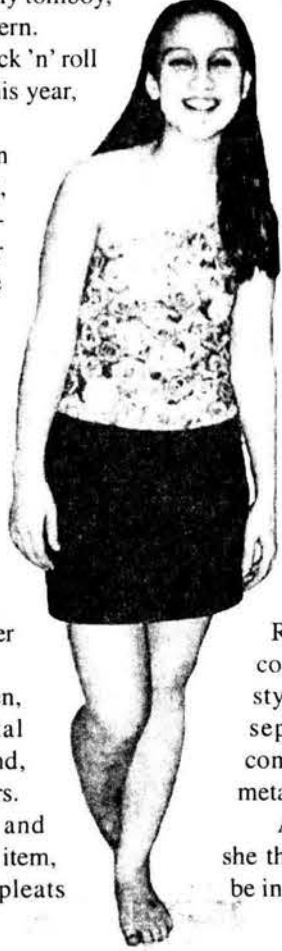
"I think the shaggy natural hair is a lot better than gelled up hair," she said.

The natural look is big for teenagers, Rafferty said.

"Calista Flockhart is not even sexy anymore," she said.

As for trends that have gone out, Savin said really everything is acceptable.

"I think we're in a time where there's very few fashion no-nos," she said, "The only fashion don't is 'don't limit yourself.'"



ALL PHOTOS BY PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

LET'S BE FRIENDS: Elmo and his friends start a club to help Zoë (far right) feel more accepted.

Muppets enchant all ages

By Danielle Rollins

Screaming children, neon lights, a huge yellow bird and cotton candy can only mean "Sesame Street Live."

The live version of Sesame Street had many of the same qualities that made the kids show so popular. It was funny, interesting, educational and really held the interest of the audience.

Zoë, a yellow monster, was very upset because she did not think that any of the other monsters wanted to be her friend.

In order to help her realize that she had a lot of friends, Elmo, the obvious favorite of the crowd, started a friendship club that only allowed red and yellow monsters.

After a while, however, the club expanded to include all kinds of different monsters.

This show was no wishy-washy children's event. With the bright neon lights, moral lessons, amazing songs and cute choreography, the atmosphere seemed to be a mix between a circus and a Broadway musical. Even Bert and Ernie gave the audience a treat with their expert breakdancing moves.

The festive atmosphere and enjoyable show were definitely something anyone would benefit from.



RED AND CUTE: Elmo was a crowd favorite.

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Master P's latest release full of hard beats, lyrics

By Jon Lathan

"Ghetto Postage," by Master P, is No Limit Records' newest attempt at a comeback into the music industry and the CD was off the hook.

The new CD "Ghetto Postage" is not the best No Limit CD to ever come out, but it is close. I liked the beats before I had even heard what Master P had to say.

I would not even have listened to the rest of the CD if the beats had not caught my attention right from the start.

Although I was not interested in listening to the CD at first, I found myself turning up all of the tracks. I thought that the only good song on that CD would be "Bout Dat," the one I had seen in the videos.

You know how that goes. When you buy a CD, and the only good song on it is the one that you have already heard.

When is the last time anyone heard any major news about No Limit? Last I heard Master P was trying out for the NBA again. So, naturally when I found out that there was a new No Limit CD out, I had little interest in it.

The reason No Limit came back is beyond me, but whatever the reason, I am glad that they did. The lyrics on this CD are dope also, right up there with the beats.

Of course they are still talking about the usual topics - making money and "the South" - but the way that they are saying it this time actually works.

The only difference is the new phrase "Ghetto Postage," which is the same as money. They still have the hilarious phone conversation on the CD just like the rest of the releases do.

This time it is an answering machine. Master P is talking about moochers and people who always try to use him. From family members to aspiring artists, he lets all of them know the "deal."

The deal is that they are not going to get any money or fame from him. Then he says, "If you ain't callin' bout none of the followin', leave a message."

The CD also has former No Limit artist Snoop Dogg on it. That is tight. Even though he left No Limit Records, he still associates with them.

The only major problem I had with the CD was the title. Master P already has a CD that begins with "Ghetto."

Master P also refers to himself as "The Black Slim Shady." Master P is no Slim Shady. He should be calling Slim Shady the "White Master P."

Don't get me wrong. Slim Shady is not bad, but Master P is a lot better, and he does not make half as much cash.

Best pizza made by Zio's

By Ally Freeman

If you are one of the 96 percent of Americans that go out for pizza each year, the search might become difficult. Luckily, Omaha offers numerous restaurants serving up delicious pizza for your culinary pleasure.

Trovato's Italian Restaurant demonstrates the essence of a true Italian eatery. Located in Dundee, the restaurant is very dark and candles grace each table. The tables are covered with red and white tablecloths as well.

Trovato's allows the customer to create their own pizza. There are three types of sauces: Red, White, and Green, and 15 toppings to choose from. The pizza at Trovato's has a very thin, crispy crust. It was good, but slightly greasy.

Specialty pizzas are also offered at Trovato's. These are for the adventurous customer only - such offerings include a white pizza with a combination of shrimp and black olives, among other toppings.

Big Fred's Pizza is a great restaurant as long as you don't mind waiting a while (the wait was 20 minutes on a weekday). It resembles a sports bar, yet manages to serve great pizza.

The restaurant has a wide variety of pizzas and also offers specialty pizzas. Big Fred's has a very thin but soft crust. While not gourmet, the pizzas are filled with spices and flavor.

The pizza was served at a perfect

temperature. The cost of a small pizza is surprisingly inexpensive for the quality received.

Unfortunately, the quality of Valentino's pizza has gone down as their buffets have grown longer. Each time one enters the restaurant, there is yet another type of international food gracing the area. Yet the pizza is still respectable and they continue to offer a wide variety of toppings.

The only chain pizza tolerable to eat is Godfather's Pizza. Far less greasy than other chains, they offer three types of crust: thin, original, and golden.

The pizza has no defining trait, but will satisfy a late night pizza craving if necessary. Godfather's also deserves credit for crazy types of pizza, such as the Taco pizza.

Zio's Pizzeria is probably one of the most expensive pizza eateries in Omaha, yet the price is worth the

price they serve. The atmosphere of the restaurant is fun and at most locations you can watch the employees make the food.

It is evident that the pizzas are prepared fresh after you order them. Hailed as New York-style pizza, the term proves correct. Toppings are generous and the crust is so good it can be eaten by itself. Zio's also offers a multitude of toppings and specialty pizzas.

Cut Me A Slice

Trovato's	
Big Fred's	
Valentino's	
Godfather's	
Zio's	

Ranked 1-5 with 5 being the best pizza

LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER



Grammy picks are bad choices

The Grammy nominees are out and what are we to do?

The world of music has officially been flushed down the toilet by money-hungry corporate rockers. I'm sick of seeing some of these vile creatures on lists of what are allegedly the best musicians of the year. But, for entertainment, I'm throwing in my picks.

For Record of the Year we have "Say My Name" by Destiny's Child, "I Try" by Macy Gray, "Music" by Madonna, "Bye Bye Bye" by NSync and "Beautiful Day" by U2. I'm rooting for U2 on this one as well as for Song of the Year. If Macy Gray won, however, that would be all right.

As for Album of the Year, I highly recommend "Midnite Vultures" by Beck, since it was so under-appreciated by the obnoxious Eminem fans. I've heard good things about Radiohead's "Kid A," though.

All of the pop categories I'm going to skip, just because I can, and because I could really care less which ugly little urchin wins.

Best Female Rock Vocal Performance goes to Fiona Apple for "Paper Bag."

Best Male Rock Vocal Performance is definitely Nine Inch Nails' "Into the Void." It's possibly the best song on "The Fragile" and Trent Reznor deserves some credit for all the work that he's done. This nomination makes up for quite a large bit of the drivel that was nominated.

Best Performance By a Duo or Group with Vocals is a tough one. Although I adore Creed (I know the band's Christian... if you were literate and read something about Creed, you'd know it's not all about religion), I'm going for "Californication" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers on this one.

Best Rock Performance goes to any band but Limp Bizkit and Kid Rock. Pearl Jam's "Grievance" and Stone Temple Pilots' "Down" are my choices.

"Bent" by Matchbox 20 wins Best Rock Song almost by default. Creed, 3 Doors Down and the Chili Peppers are decent, but "Bent" rocks more than the others.

Matchbox 20 and No Doubt are a toss up for Rock Album of the Year. They come from different genres, but I like them more than Rage Against the Machine, Foo Fighters and Bon Jovi.

One category where I really don't care what wins is Best Alternative Music Album. Fiona Apple, Beck, The Cure, Paul McCartney and Radiohead are all great choices, but the Cure's "Bloodflowers" is my top choice.

I'm going to step back from most of the other categories, due to the fact that I don't really care who wins in all those categories that I'm totally naive about.

But I am rooting for "Touched by a Polka" to win the polka category.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Now Playing 'THIRTEEN DAYS'			hannibal released	square dancing classes @ creighton
		13	14	15	16	17
		dispatch @ ranch bowl	Valentines → 7 day		the movies @ ranch bowl	
18	19	20			23	24
ecostjik hookah @ ranch bowl						+twelve tribes @ cog
25	26	27			23	24
	norbert kleintlein & andreas grunert @ bemis				cogfest I cogfest II @ cog	
4	5	6			9	10

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Now Playing In Theaters Everywhere... 'Double Take'



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

WHO'S WHO? Orlando Jones (right) stars in the action/comedy movie "Double Take" as Daryl Chase and Eddie Griffin stars as Freddy Tiffany.

New York investment counselor Daryl Chase has a beautiful fiancée, successful job and a normal life. He is framed for laundering millions of dollars for a Mexican drug cartel and his life gets flipped upside-down. Chase is forced to switch identities with Freddy Tiffany in order to save his life. Chase does not know that Tiffany is more wanted than he is.

HAPPINESS IS EASILY DISRUPTED: Chase (left) appears to lead a normal life with everything a man could want, including a romance with model Chloe (Garcelle Beauvais).



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRAMAX

SHE LOVES YOU, YEAH YEAH YEAH! Beatles George Harrison, Paul McCartney, John Lennon and Ringo Starr romp from Liverpool to London in "A Hard Day's Night."

Beatles bring sixties back to life with film

By Layne Gabriel

Any Beatles film is wonderful, but "A Hard Day's Night" is possibly the best.

In the early 1960s, the Beatles took the country by storm sending girls into screaming fits and wild crazes. The original 1964 production has been cleaned up and sent back to the Dundee Theatre for all generations to watch.

Seeing the Beatles on the silver screen is a fun experience and the light-hearted setting of the film is sure to keep one in a happy mood.

Watching all the girls chasing John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr around the city while the boys are trying to film a television show goes way back to how it was in the 60s. The hysteria is easily understood and incredibly entertaining from the viewer's point.

Some of the Beatles' most wonderful early songs of love and loss are scattered throughout the film.

It is hard to believe that the boys were so young and chipper once. All of the one-liners that each of the Beatles used made them seem much more real than the average rocker of the day.

The Beatles begin on a train from Liverpool bound for London and while there they meet McCartney's grandfather, John, played by Wilfred Brambell. He is quiet for the beginning of the movie, but then wreaks havoc on the boys' attempts to get some ladies.

Grandpa John just keeps making things worse and worse throughout the film, popping up during a dance performance and making a crazy cameo during the Beatles' set.

Of course, the boys spent most of the time not doing what their manager ordered and carousing the town. They met some ladies, went dancing and, of course, made it back into the studio just before they were supposed to go on air.

Another notable scene is the press conference in which a reporter asks Starr, "Are you a mod or a rocker?" and Starr responds

with "I'm a mocker." The press conference gives all of the Beatles great one-liners.

The plot of the film was ideally nonexistent, but the fact that the film is so different from any other movie that can be seen in the theatres makes it appealing to viewers of all ages.

It is easy to tell that the Fab Four made the film for simple fun and enjoyed making it. They ran all over a field during "Can't Buy Me Love" and then smarted off to the field's owner.

Starr was inspired to wander the town and picking up ladies was a common pastime. The black and white cinematography was a bit choppy, which gave it a home-movie look.

The film seems to be a documentary of a day in the life of the Beatles, but is successful in explaining the ladies chasing the boys and their wanderlust.

"A Hard Day's Night" also offers an exclusive behind-the-scenes look on what it was like to be a rock star in the 1960s. The preparation for the program was interesting to watch.

The most interesting part of the film was watching the Beatles actually perform. Making it to a concert back in the 60s was tough, but "A Hard Day's Night" definitely brought them alive.

The performance of "She Loves You" on the television show was possibly one of the best scenes in the movie because it showed the boys being their lively selves with teenage girls overflowing into the aisles, screaming and crying.

The fact that the film was black and white gave it a very rustic and vintage feeling, which made it easy to forget that it is 2001.

The film moved very quickly, but it was easy to keep up with all of the scene changes. Understanding the Beatles' accents is difficult at times, but getting the gist of it all is not very tough.

"A Hard Day's Night" is a must for anyone that loves movies, since it is fun, funny and filled with great music.

'Pride Players: Project #2' touches audience with true stories about gay youth in Omaha

By Layne Gabriel

A fabulous performance about being young and gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender recently wrapped up its run at Westside High School on Jan. 23.

Twelve Central students had roles in "Pride Players: Project #2," which was put on through the Omaha Theatre Company for Young People. Two other students were involved behind the scenes.

The performance was compiled of 25 skits, poems, stories and monologues created through improvisations. From those, the project was scripted.

The production opened with a poem, followed by a story by junior Danny Whelan. Whelan's story was very frank and truthful. It was incredibly touching, which set the tone for most of the other personal stories.

Freshman Steve Salavec also presented his story about a friend that was raped and senior Kathryn Aagesen told a story written by Lindsay Adams, another performer in the production, about her girlfriend dying of cancer.

A majority of the rest of the performance was humorous, with funny jokes and one-liners.

One of the highlights of the show was the skit "Keep it in the Closet," which was a game show parody. Junior Marcus Brown was the host of the game show with the purpose of outing contestants. It had a lot of audience participation, with the audience saying "Out of the closet" whenever anyone's secret was given away.

One of the most serious and disturbing skits was called "Why Don't You Understand Me?" Freshman Pearl Boyd played a teenage girl whose brother was trying to convince her to get tested for HIV. Her father, played by senior Alex Garcia, found the testing

pamphlets in her bag and became really upset.

At times, the actors would stop the scene and give monologues addressing other actors, without them being aware of what they were saying. Boyd's performance was awesome and she did a wonderful job portraying a scared teenager.

The Shakespearean parody "Ophelia and Juliet" was also one of the more interesting skits in the production. It was about two teenage girls that were going to a homecoming together in the past.

The teachers would not let the pair pay as a couple and would not let them touch. It brought to light some of the more serious aspects of society's thoughts on homosexuality.

Garcia's monologue, "Alex's Humble Retort," was about his fights against Initiative 416. His piece was touching and well-written.

Each of the actors played multiple roles and all of them did well. Garcia played a very convincing gay teen and many actors did well even while stretching from their personal sexual preference.

Garcia said that he thought being involved with the production was a helpful experience.

"I am proud to be a part of such a controversial yet educational production," he said.

Director Brian Guehring said that he began the Pride Players projects because there were few pieces of material that would explain what it is like to be a gay teenager in Omaha.

Guehring said that the cast felt passionately about the issues described in the project and many of the members have gone back to their schools

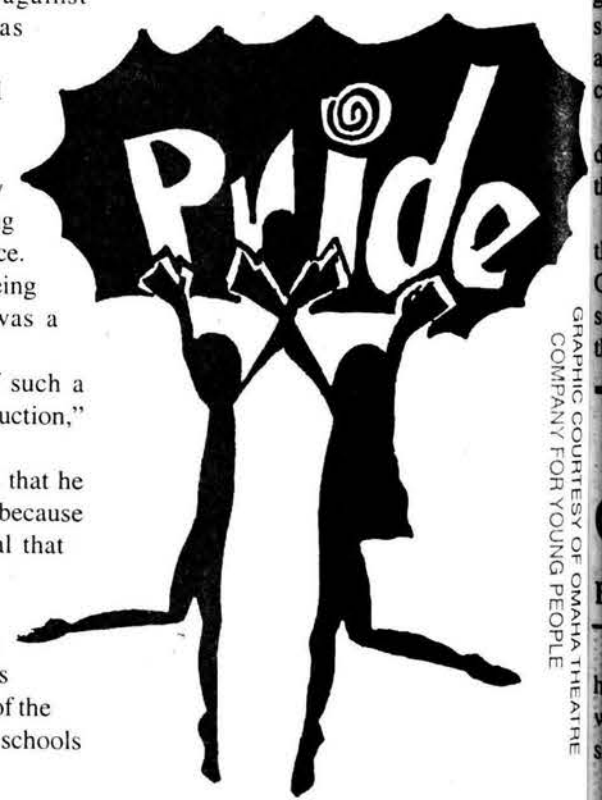
to start Gay-Straight Alliances and helped with gay rights activism.

Boyd has been involved with the Pride Players for the past two years. She said this was one of the most amazing experiences she has ever had.

"Right now, this is our fight. Inequality, inequality wherever you go," she said.

The audience's response was one of the most poignant things to Guehring. He said many members of the audience were emotional during the production and were amazed at the honesty and courage of the teenagers in the production. He is also pleased that everyone was willing to stand up for their beliefs.

Everyone should have had the chance to see "Pride Players: Project #2." It was a very inspiring and intelligent production. The production is one to look forward to.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF OMAHA THEATRE COMPANY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Dying Fetus releases whirlwind of destruction with new CD

By Michael Gerhardt

Controlled chaos is always something astonishing to listen to.

Dying Fetus' new album, "Destroy the Opposition," is not only controlled chaos, but also the closest thing possible to a musical building explosion. When it's hard to tell exactly what a band is doing, it's usually an impressive listening experience.

A note about the name: Dying Fetus is not a super satanic, animal-killing, child-molesting, baby-eating band. Rather, Dying Fetus is an intelligent group of astounding musicians and lyricists.

Besides, the name certainly draws attention.

Every track on the CD shines. It's a combination of insane guitar riffing, hardcore, grindcore and every other type of music extreme in nature combined into an absolute beat down on the senses.

The political content of the lyrics, written in the most blunt manner possible, compliments the music perfectly.

One of the most impressive aspects of the band is how the members arrange their music. The tempo changes constantly and the band rarely plays the same thing twice. Guitarist/vocalist John Gallagher wrote most of the music for the album, which is quite a feat, considering what is being played.

Bassist Jon Netherton shares vocal duties with Gallagher, creating some interesting vocal patterns.

Starting off with a slow, heavy groove on "Praise the Lord (Opium for the Masses)," the band gets down and dirty, lashing out some of the most incomprehensible riffs and beats possible.

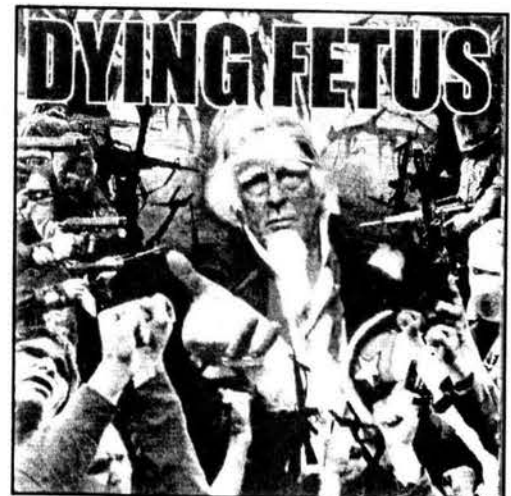
The two-guitar attack of Dying Fetus is one of the songs' best aspects. The lyrics are not satanic as one might think, but rather a treatise on religious intolerance.

The lyrics, "Jews killing Muslims, and Christians killing Jews, the circle is unending and all sides always lose," sum it up well.

"Pissing in the Mainstream" is a super-fast, technical rant on the stupidity of modern media and mainstream society. The music ranges from raging speed to slow grind and everywhere in between. The only complaint with this song is its length; it's less than two minutes long and with the

momentum they had built up, the song could have gone much longer.

"Born In Sodom" starts out with a set melodic (melodic, that is, for Dying Fetus) and switches between old-school hardcore



ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF RELAPSE RECORDS

riffing and shredding (even more amazing since it matched by bass).

The song deals with corruption, greed, abuse, power, Satan.

It's hard to define the best song on the CD. Every song is simply amazing. The way the slow

heavy parts of the songs combine with the hypersonic speed blasts are some of the best in the scene.

The production of the album is ideal. Every instrument mixed almost perfectly. Still, it can't cover up the fact that the low vocals sound a lot like very manly burps.