

THURSDAY
September 20, 2001

the Omaha Central High School REGISTER

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PARKING
Students say parking is worse than it has ever been before, principal disagrees.
PAGE 7A

VINYL
More record labels are making vinyl releases, and more students buying.
PAGE 17C



VOLLEYBALL
The volleyball team has its sights set on the state championship. And now, it may be possible.
PAGE 25D



2001 NSPA/JEA Best in Show

Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi

National Pacemaker Award Winner

Renovations 2001

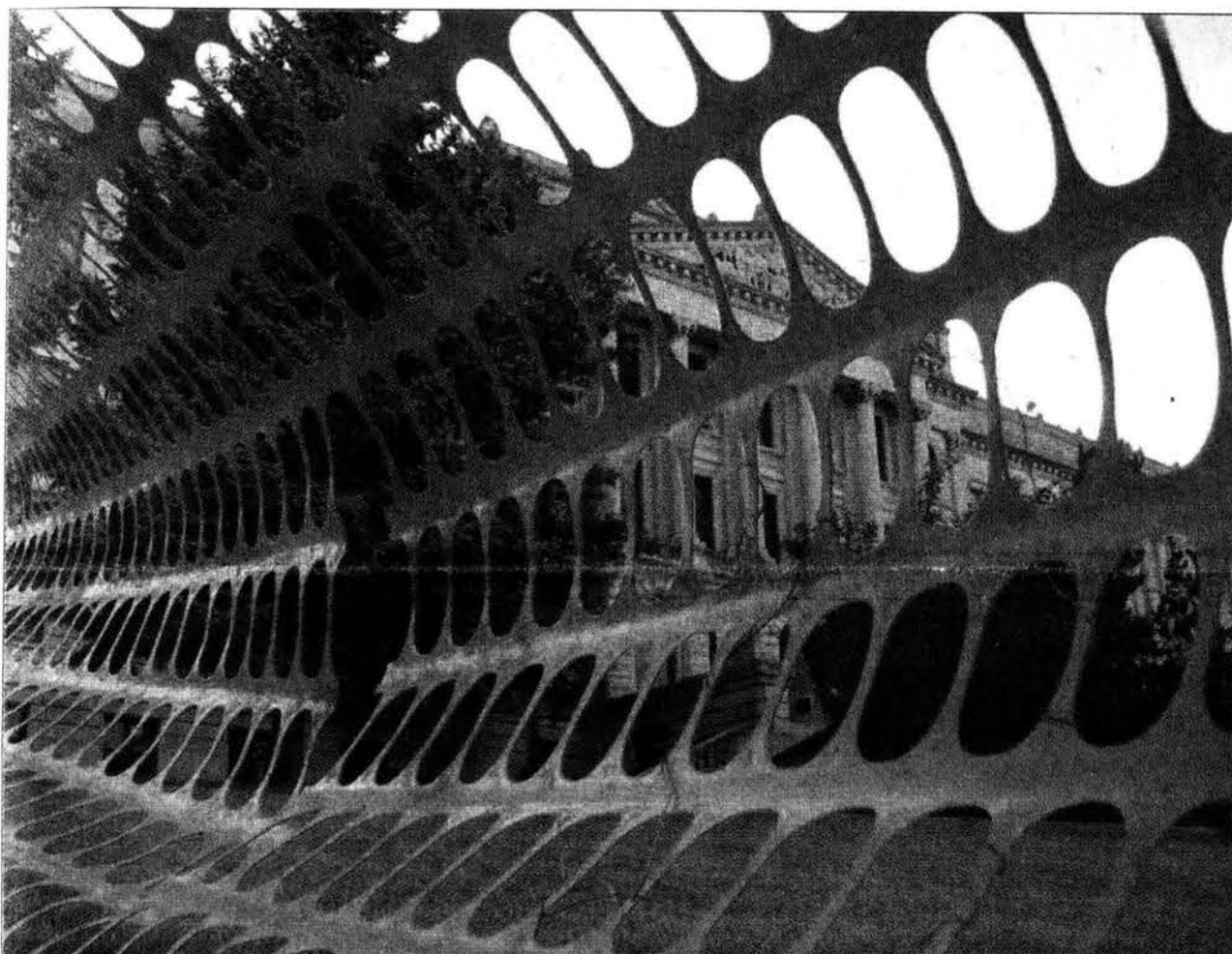


Photo by QUENTIN LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

The building's landscape underwent several major changes this summer. A trench was dug from 20th Street to the school that will eventually supply the school with chilled water for the air conditioning system.



For more about the renovations, see pages:
-2A
-9B
-20C
-25D

Also see our special eight-page renovation pull-out in section E.

Alumnus' killers released from Death Row

By Matt Wynn

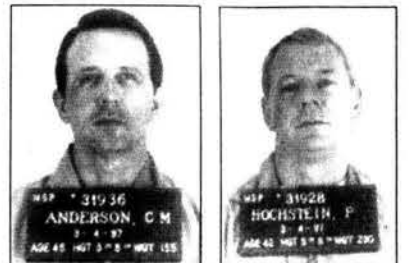
The convicted killers of Central alumnus Ronald Abboud had their sentences commuted from the death penalty to life imprisonment on Aug. 1.

The State Supreme Court said Michael Anderson and Peter Hochstein, on death row for 23 years, should have received life sentences at a 1999 resentencing hearing because their three-judge panel was not unanimous.

The decision to reverse their sentences came less than one week after the release of a study on the past 25 years of Nebraska's Death Row.

The study concluded that the state does not significantly discriminate based on race, sex or economic class.

The Supreme Court's decision reduced the number of convicted felons on Death Row from ten to eight. It also came less than three weeks after Jeremy Sheets was released from Death



Anderson Hochstein

Row into society.

The pair was convicted of the murder-for-hire of Abboud in 1976. Since the late 70s the pair has been on death row after escaping from the Douglas County prison.

Emotions ran high after the court released its verdict.

"I was just flabbergasted," RJ Abboud, Ronald's son said. "They've been on death row for almost 25 years now. They've been filing appeal after appeal. And on every one they've been turned down. Until now."

RJ said he first heard news of the event over the radio. After that, he called the rest of his family—his mother, brother and sister—and told them what hap-

See ABBOUD, page 7

Tragedy hits home for some students

By Danielle Rollins

Throughout the school the news can be heard from inside every classroom that contains a television.

Though a few teachers are still holding classes as usual, most have halted completely, all eyes glued to the screen as a scene of terror unfolds in a city across the country.

Nearly everyone in the United States was watching when the walls of the World Trade Center came tumbling down and now, at Central High School, students and teachers alike are wondering what to think of this tragedy.

Sophomore Autumn Golonka said that she was devastated when she heard.

Golonka's sister works at the World Trade Center and on Tuesday, when the plane hit, she was in the building.

Golonka said that her family hasn't made contact with her sister or anyone who would be able to tell them her sister's condi-

tion. She said that her family is in a state of disbelief.

"They're holding their breath, maybe she is in the hospital, maybe she hasn't had a chance to call us," Golonka said.

She said that she had cousins who worked in the World Trade Center as well. She said that her family has only heard from one distant cousin since the tragedy.

Though not all of the students are directly tied to the victims of the tragedies in New York and Washington, they are all affected by the events.

Carol Hipp, social studies department head, said that many students do not realize how that the events affect them.

"It can never be the same," Hipp said, "you will never have the same amount of freedom as you had before yesterday [Sept. 11]."

She said that the acts of terrorism performed on the United States on Sept. 11 have caused the nation great fear. Many citi-

See REACTIONS, page 4

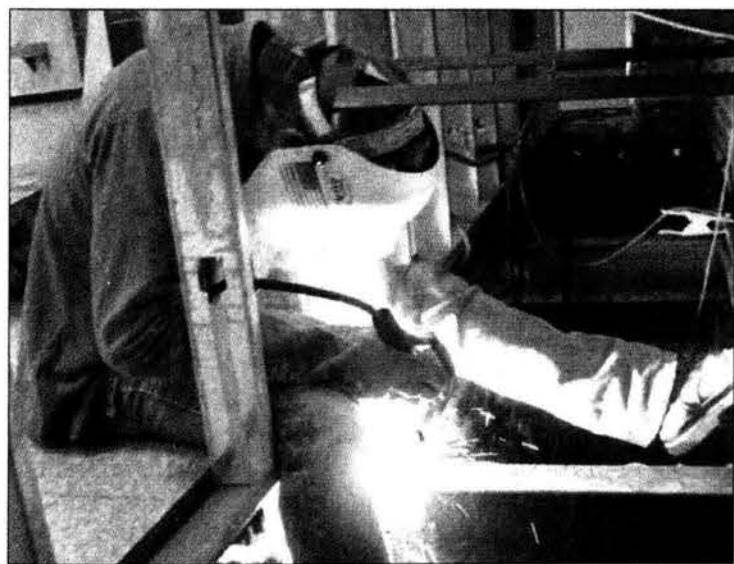


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Ray Mullen with Ray Martin Companies welds a small piece of pipe in the west cafeteria wall. His work will help support mechanical piping that Ray Martin ran during last summer's renovations. The piping will be used to complete the air-conditioning process.

It's underway. Finally.

After years of students complaining and months of planning, the Central renovations started last summer.

It was just small stuff; digging some trenches, laying some pipe and installing wiring. But it was the beginning of a renovation that will change the face of Central forever.

State writing assessment places Central second in city

By Matt Wynn

Last spring, students from all grade levels across the state were required to write a persuasive essay. The essays were to be graded and counted so the state could have an idea of what

schools were doing the best job of teaching Language Arts and writing skills, Tracy Wernsman, head of Language Arts for OPS said.

Now the results of those tests are in. And they have caused a little bit of controversy.

The state writing assessment placed Central as the second best high school for writing in the metro area, putting the school right underneath Burke.

But while Central scored second in OPS, it also placed below the state average.

Across Nebraska, most schools had an average of 72 percent of students pass the evaluation.

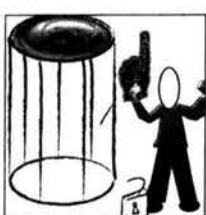
Burke had 82 percent of its students score above passing.

Central only had 69 percent

See WRITING, page 3

INSIDE

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40 pages



Drinking

Students have alcohol at school functions. The school should take more responsibility for their actions.
INSIGHT, 16B



Dundee Theater

Dundee Theater has been in business for almost 70 years. Much has changed, but film is still the same.
A & E, 24C



Tragedy

People across the city still coming to grips with the terrorist attacks in NYC. Special in-depth section.
NEWS, 4-5A

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Junior volunteers during summer

By Aaron Maurice

Junior Vanessa Brutsche volunteered for the United Way Youth Volunteer Corps this summer like she has since the age of 12.

The volunteering group worked for six hours a day, five days a week, for two to four weeks depending on the duration of the session. Sixty people participated last summer, including three from Central.

The group would meet every day and then decide where they would help. The volunteer corps served dinner at the Siena Francis House, maintained flowers at the Botanical Gardens, and did various jobs at the zoo.



Brutsche

The group would then split up into smaller work groups and then went to different places. She worked with nearly every person involved in the program at one point in the summer.

Brutsche enjoyed doing many jobs with the group. One of her favorite tasks was tending flowers. Many places needed this service

done, but few people kept up the landscapes during the rest of the year.

Brutsche said that her favorite place to work was at the Henry Dourly Zoo. She maintained flowers as well as did various jobs in the Jungle.

She liked the Jungle the best because of all the variety of animals present. She said the zoo was a great place to work.

The place helped her decide if she would pursue any of the jobs she did over the summer as a possible field of interest.

"I found out that I liked doing things that I never thought I would even try," Brutsche said.

She said that the summer volunteering helped her gain good work experience. She said that the volunteering was a definite plus on any application for a job or college.

Brutsche intends to keep working over the summer with the United Way Youth Volunteer Corps until she graduates high school. She said it looked fun when she first started nearly five years ago, and has been working there ever since.

Student donates time at hospital

By Aaron Maurice

Junior Jessi Reiss volunteered at First Immanuel Hospital because she thought it would be a good reference for a resume or college application.

She worked one day a week as a cashier in the gift store, helped children in the child-development section, and delivered mail to the many patients in the hospital.

The job was unique to anything Reiss had ever done. Many of the people she saw were at their most desperate time. They were sick or ill to the point where many would not even help.



Reiss

Reiss did not like the work at first and even wanted to quit after she had got her 100 hours of service she promised to the hospital. She said that the work was not fun or worth it.

"I really wanted to quit," Reiss said.

After a while, though, she liked helping those who had no one else to turn to. It seemed like she was doing something good for people.

"I got to meet people who were fun. They told me their life story," Reiss said.

Reiss said that many people would talk for hours about their life. They had very little to do during the day. The only contact with people usually were people who volunteered like Jessi Reiss, and the nurses and doctors who made their daily rounds.

Her favorite job was delivering the mail to patients around the hospital. Most people would talk to her because she came in the room and then she would listen to what they said. Most of the people she saw had few or no visitors during the day.

Reiss was able to get the opportunity to volunteer through Central High School. She saw an application on the schedule board near the counseling offices. She filled out and turned in the application, and then had an interview at Immanuel with her parents. She passed the interview and then chose one day a week to work for three hours a night.

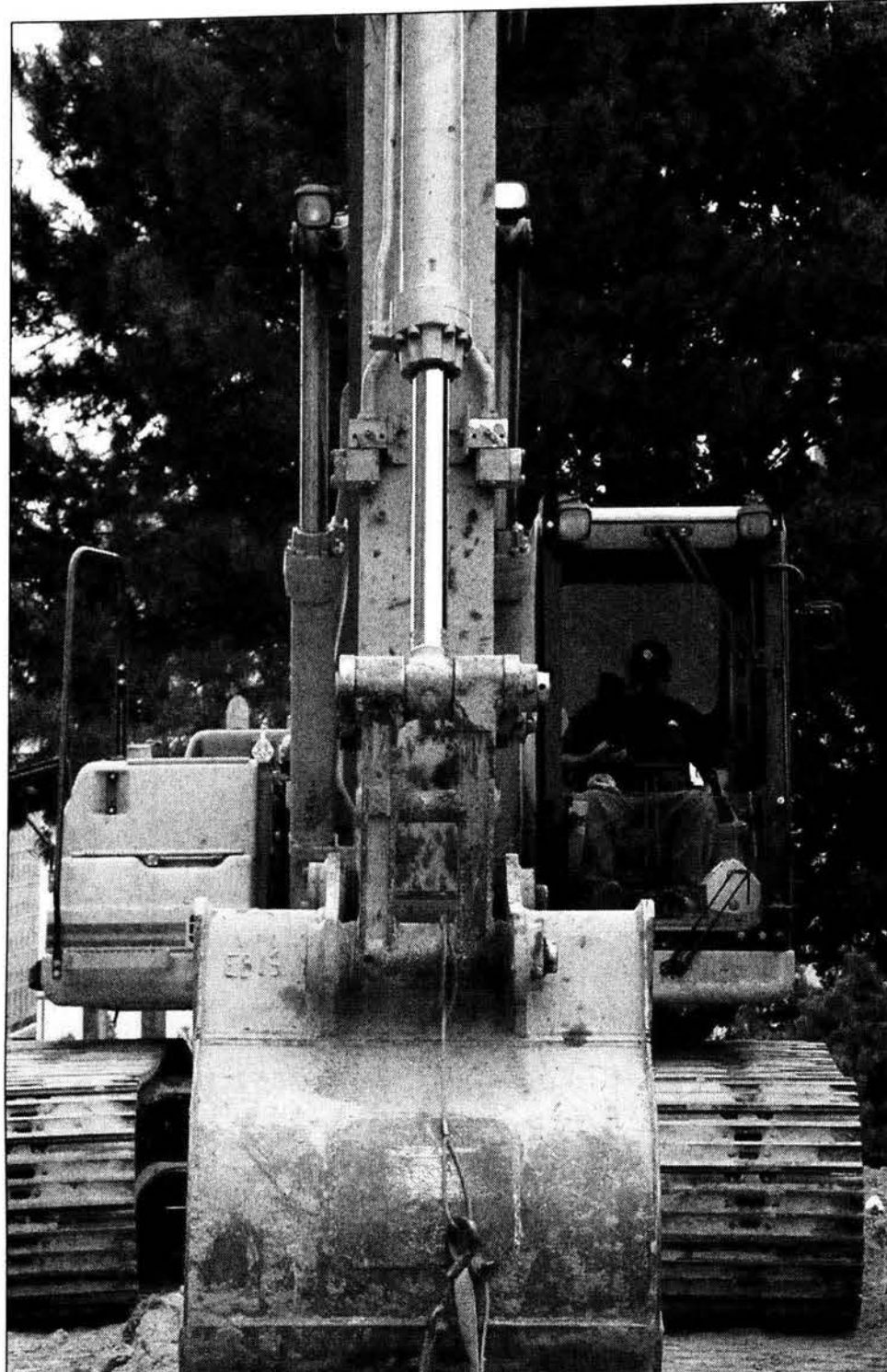
The job presented many challenges, but was a good experience in the end, she said. It was well worth her time. She said that it was less of a job and more of a time to have fun.

She said that the time spent at the hospital is good for not only her, but also the people she helps. Reiss said that the patients really felt touched just to have someone to talk to.

Jessi Reiss still volunteers at the hospital because she enjoys the time.

"It is worth it to me," she said.

News Calendar



RENOVATION 2001

Kyle Curtis digs up the west lawn during this summer's renovations. The first phase of the project was completed throughout the summer. The second part of the project will continue in March with the construction of the new gym addition. For complete coverage of this summer's work and an advance look at what the school thinks the final project will look like, see pages 33-40.

September

05 Future Business Leaders of America

FBLA met for the first time on Wednesday, September 5. FBLA meets every other Wednesday after school. The club is actively trying to recruit new members, sponsor DeLayne Havlovic said. Members have many events planned, including a state leadership seminar.

11 American Technology Honor Society

American Technology Honor Society met for the first time on Tuesday, Sept 11. Membership is based on teacher recommendation. The group's goal is to promote technology literacy and have fun.

13 French club

French club had its first event of the new school year on Thursday, Sept 13. The picnic featured fun and food, sponsor Jeffrey Sill said. The club has monthly events planned that range from a progressive dinner to a Mardi Gras celebration.

18 Skateboarding Club

The first-year skateboarding club had its second meeting Tuesday, Sept 18. The club is an open forum for people who enjoy skateboarding, group sponsor Christine Mills said. The club's goal is to have a club that is run by the members. The group plans to have field trips to skate parks and other activities.

19 Hiking club

Hiking club had its first hike on Wed, Sept 19, group sponsor Mike Pederson said. Members hiked around the Fontenelle Forest area. Hiking club have many more hikes scheduled for weekends and after school on Wednesdays.

October

04 Math Club

Math Club will have its first competition on Thursday, Oct 4, 2001 at Omaha North High School. The club is currently practicing for this competition. They meet twice a month. On Sept 5, Math Club elected officers. For more information, please contact Amanda Beery.

11 HALL OF FAME

A banquet will be held at 6:30 in the Courtyard for all eleven of the new inductees into the Central High Hall of Fame. Among this year's honored is "Doc" Moller, a previous principal of Central, Alan Heeger, a Nobel Prize winner, and Alexandra Hunt, a prominent operatic soprano.

15 Men's Chorus

Men's chorus will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:30. The club will welcome new members for their University of Nebraska Men's Chorus Festival on Oct 15th. For more information, please contact Lynn Bouma.

Group starts year off early

Student Democrats have many activities planned for the upcoming school year, club member Brian Fahey said.

The club has been meeting since school started. It meets every week to talk about current events and discuss how they are important. The club currently has around twenty members.

The group's goal is to promote active participation in government. Student Democrats want teens to understand how the government works and its inherent problems, Fahey said.

During last year's elections the Student Democrats participated in campaigning for national and local offices.

This year members are thinking about visiting a City Council meeting. They also want to take a trip to Lincoln and visit the Nebraska Legislature to see how it functions.

The club volunteered at the YWCA to help prepare for the upcoming women against violence month in October. They made ribbons and organized supplies to hand out to help those in need, Fahey said.

Later in the year the club is planning to host a winter-coat drive in December. The club will then give the coats to Channel 3 for their Warm Up Heats coat drive, Fahey said.

DECA to attend state conference

The DECA Fall Leadership Conference in Kearney will teach DECA students responsibility and ethics and sets the tone for the rest of the year. Events, DECA adviser Harry Gaylor said.

The leadership conference helps to develop chapter leadership and sets the guidelines and rules for the upcoming events, he said.

"It helps get the year started," he said.

Included in the conference events are seminars, conferences and workshops. Gaylor said that there will be better speakers this year because the conference is being state sponsored.

This year only about 30 students are attending the conference. Gaylor said that this is because the conference is being held on October 15th and is so close to Homecoming and midterms.

The conferences include information on attitude, success, volunteering and marketing management and entrepreneurship.

"Any time that you go and get experience that other students are not getting, you can't help but help yourself," Gaylor said.

The conference this year will have around 400 participants, Gaylor said.

Decathlon to tour Chicago museum

Academic Decathlon is planning a trip to the Art Institute of Chicago on Oct 1, sponsor Vicki Deniston-Reed said.

The club is preparing for its regional competition in January. Each year a museum is chosen around the country for the students to study.

Decathlon is planning to send around thirty-five students along with principal Gary Thompson, Steven Bouma and Deniston-Reed as chaperons.

During their trip, the art museum will feature a touring Vincent Van Gogh exhibit.

Decathlon will tour Chicago during the morning and then visit the museum for the rest of the day.

Program expands school activities

The 21st Century Learning Project is getting bigger and better in its second year, Patti Gatzke, director of after school programs, said.

The project gave \$12,000 to Central's after school activities last year.

This year, the project is arranging for more clubs to be started.

The new clubs are a skateboarding club, a Future Educators of America club, a hiking club and a robotics club.

In November, the grant will also cover the startup costs for an intramural basketball league.

Schools prepare for asthma attacks

By Paula Salhany

Approximately 3,800 students in OPS have some form of asthma.

Because of this and the fact that many students who are diagnosed with this disease do not follow their medical regime, OPS has set up a protocol for treating life-threatening asthma attacks or systemic allergic reactions, said school nurse Jenny Conahan.

"The protocol was set up so that when a student is having an asthma attack or allergic reaction, a nurse can begin treatment before a rescue squad arrives," she said. "Before, even if I knew a student was having an attack, I could not legally administer any medicine."

When a child is having an asthma attack, the school nurse is required to call 911.

Then they are to evaluate the patient looking for signs of wheezing and shortness of breath, rapid heart rate and lightheadedness.

If the patient shows any of these signs, it is now legal for the school nurse to administer an asthma drug called Albuterol and

or a drug called Epinephrine, which reverses allergic reactions.

The protocol required Conahan to train three other people in the building. This makes sure that someone in the building is qualified to give a treatment if Conahan was gone.

So far she has trained Charles Williams, Jeanie Weiss and Sharon Cooper. She plans on training more as the year goes on.

"Being able to start treatment as soon as possible gives me a little piece of mind," she said. "A lot of people do not realize that asthma can be life threatening."

The protocol was set up in OPS three years ago after two asthma related deaths, Geri Hansen, health supervisor for OPS said. Since then the EpiPens have been used eight times.

"We knew something had to be done," she said. "Once we decided to do it, it took us a while to get it approved. But now the state is looking to make it a state wide protocol."

She thinks that overall it has been a good move.

Even though only 10-20 percent of students with asthma even tells the school they have the disease, some students with severe cases of asthma have plans to help prevent them from having an attack.

Junior Andrea Wilson has a severe case of asthma and keeps a nebulizer in the nurses' office. She said it is comforting to know that nurses are able to do something for her if she were to have an asthma attack.

"Having an attack is one of the scariest things. It's terrifying having to fight for breath," she said.

Her asthma is primarily triggered by cat hair but it can be triggered by other things such as mold, dust and extreme climate shift.

Because of the asthma Wilson has to take a nebulizer treatment every day, two inhalers and an allergy pill.

"It is really important for people who are on asthma medicine to stick to their regiment," she said. "Once you miss a treatment,

it's hard to get back to where you were and the chances for having an asthma attack is heightened."

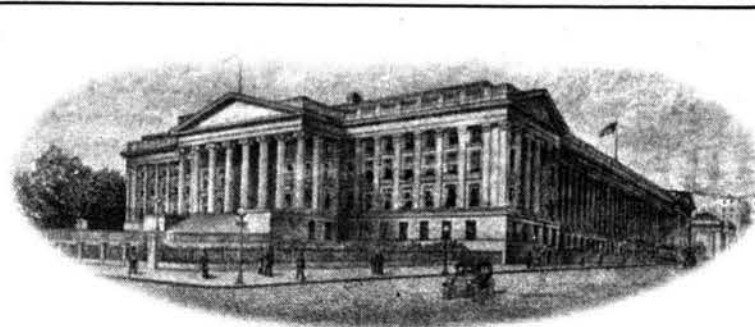
Asthma can be a life-threatening disease. Wilson used to be in the hospital for weeks at a time after an attack because she would catch pneumonia or another disease connected to asthma.

On several occasions Wilson almost died because of an asthma attack.

"I was at Sea World and I began to have an asthma attack. It was especially scary because people didn't know what they were doing and I was in another city," she said. "Having an asthma attack is terrifying. You have no control over whether or not you are able to take another breath."

Central is not the best building for a person with asthma. The dust from the construction has made it worse this year along with the large amount of stairs and the overall temperature of the building, Conahan said.

"Over all the protocol has been a good thing and because of it, lives will be saved," she said.



College Corner

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Location: Syracuse, New York

Admission: 65 percent of applicants accepted

Type: Four-year private university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 4,891 men, 5,289 women full time.

Special facilities: Lowe art gallery, audio archives, laser spectroscopy laboratories, advanced echnology center, Institute for Sensory Research. **Freshman admissions:** High school curriculum and performance most important, followed by SATI or ACT scores, essay, recommendations, portfolio or audition. Interviews and alumni relationship considered.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Location: Knoxville, Tennessee

Admission: 75 percent of applicants accepted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 8,180 men, 7,825 women full time.

Special facilities: Museum, 2 theaters, new science engineering reearch facility, new international heart, largest on-campus stadium in the U.S.

Freshman admissions: Admitted according to scale of high school GPA and test scores. Must have a minimum 2.25 high school GPA. Required test score determined by GPA.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Location: Warwick, Rhode Island

Admission: 71 percent of applicants accepted

Type: Four-year private technical college, coed.

Undergraduate enrollment: 1,635 men, 417 women full time.

Additional facts: B.S. degrees offered in business, manufacturing technology, engineering technology, computer programming, communications.

Freshman admissions: Open admission

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

Location: Gary, Indiana

Admission: 80 percent of applicants accepted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 738 men, 1,675 women full time.

Special facilities: Art Gallery

Freshman admissions: School achievement record and test scores most important, Applicants should be in top half of class.

TEST

Writing assessment inaccurate, principal says

From TEST, page 1

of its students pass.

Though those numbers are disappointing to many, there is not much concern that it means Central is failing to teach English as well as it should.

Principal Gary Thompson said he thinks the results do not accurately reflect the writing or teaching ability of teachers.

"To compare scores based on standardized tests is, in my eyes, foolishness," Thompson said.

He said he thinks the test scores should not have been released outside of the public school realm.

"This was supposed to be for the experience, and not to be reported. And there are a number of schools that are a little angry that someone released these numbers," Thompson said. "But I think this being the first time this test was administered, that there was a whole lot to learn."

One problem that was raised when the numbers were released was how the numbers should be accurately compared.

Betty VanDeventer with the

Nebraska Department of Education said she knows of no way the results could be compared fairly.

"There are simply too many variables and too many unknowns to factor it all together," VanDeventer said.

Terrie Saunders, English department chairman for Central, said she thought the test was not realistically geared towards all grade levels or even to all schools at which the test was administered.

Saunders said Central has always had a reputation for educating some of the best writers in the state.

But to say that one persuasive essay test would accurately reflect that, she said, would be wrong.

"What happened to expository, descriptive, narrative; especially in our school?" she said.

Saunders said the English department had no plans to change the curriculum simply because the school scored below the state average.

"Unless we teach toward the

test, our kids aren't going to do that well," Saunders said.

Central is not the only school that had a problem with the test, however.

"Central is certainly not alone in voicing that concern," Wernsman said. "For the most part, when you look at the English curriculum, especially juniors and seniors, we hit expository writing more."

Almost everyone involved with the test said it went fairly well, especially seeing as this was a trial run for what will pave the way for future writing assessments.

"We felt pretty good about the tests, recognizing that we didn't have anything to work from," Wernsman said.

She said one reason the district may not have scored so well is that recently, English classes have started to teach formal writing in a newly innovated way.

The six trait writing method is a more comprehensive way of teaching English, Wernsman said, but since it is new, it still is not

perfected.

In the six trait method of teaching, students are taught six main aspects of any formal writing piece.

Teaching English in this method may have contributed to the reason Central did not score as well as some would have liked, Saunders said.

This will be the first year the state writing assessment results will officially be made public.

The grading process will be more streamlined to ensure fairness, Wernsman said.

This year, she said, schools could choose whether to send their papers off to a regional grading location or to grade the papers at the school at which the tests were administered.

All OPS schools sent their papers to the regional location, she said.

Next year, all schools will be required to send their scores to a regional location.

"This will be the first year where the scores are all standardized," Wernsman said. "This will be a more reliable test."

Best Wishes in 2002



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September 11, 2001, will forever be remembered for the tragic events that took place. Although the true disaster was hundreds of miles away, it hit home for many Central students. The Register takes an in-depth look at the events of that day and the aftershocks.

Stranded

After the FAA closed all airports in the country, a local hotel became a camp for weary travelers

By Paula Salhany

Approximately five hundred passengers were stranded at Eppley Airport on Sept. 11 because of an alleged terrorist attack on the United States.

Rows of cots were set up in the ballroom of the Double Tree Hotel by the Red Cross to accommodate the stranded people.

Some people sat at tables eating snacks while others reserved their cots for later. At one table a group of women sat reading the latest issue of the newspaper and discussing the events of the day.

Clara McLeary from Muscatine, Iowa was on United flight 717 on route to Las Vegas. They had been in the air 45 minutes before the plane landed.

"They had just started serving. Soon they started picking it all up...The stewardess came on the intercom and said the pilot wanted to make an announcement.

He said some of the planes had been sabotaged and two of them had hit the World Trade Center," she said.

By the time they landed, the first tower of the World Trade Center had collapsed, another plane had crashed into the Pentagon and a bomb had gone off outside of the state building.

No one knew the overall extent of the damage.

McLeary was with her sister and a group of her friends who were on their way to Las Vegas for a "slot tournament."

But instead of gambling in Las Vegas the ladies decided to take advantage of the next best thing, going to Harvey's casino.

After McLeary's plane arrived in Omaha at about 10 o'clock, they were able to come to the Double Tree to settle down and have something to eat.

Mary Leng was on another

flight from Toronto destined to San Francisco when the pilot landed the aircraft at Eppley.

They landed at Eppley because it was the nearest airport. The passengers were not told anything else until the plane had landed.

"They did a fairly good job of keeping everyone on the airplane calm," Leng said.

Leng would rather be back in Toronto than in the U.S., but she was happy there was somewhere for her to stay.

"It's shocking really, I still don't know what I feel about the whole situation yet," she said. "I have been stuck in an airport all day and I didn't really know what was going on, so it hasn't quite sunk in."

Both Leng and McLeary were able to call family and friends once they landed to tell them they were all right.

"They didn't know which plane was missing and our family just knew we were in an airplane. We were able to let them know we were safe," McLeary said.

The Red Cross was busy making sure everyone was comfortable while people waited for more news. Kenneth Koehler, Red Cross shelter manager came up from Trainer, Iowa at around noon to help set up the area.

"We are just setting this up so that people have an option. Some people are booking hotel rooms and some are finding other ways to get home," he said.

About three hundred cots have been set up at the hotel, but no one knows how many of the beds will be used.

"We're just trying to make people comfortable," he said. "We know all the everyone here want to go home, but there are all those people in New York City [who] can't go home—ever."

at the Chicago airport earlier than they would have if this had not happened. Because of increased safety precautions, it will probably take the group longer to get through the airport.

Melton said the teacher told the group that they need to arrive at the airports two hours before their departure.

This might cause the group to have to leave the museum earlier, since they are returning the same day.

But she said she will not complain about that minor inconvenience.

"It's no big deal," the teacher said. "If that's the biggest disruption, we are lucky."

Steele said if airlines do not allow the students to carry baggage on the plane, it will complicate the process, but she understands the increased safety concerns.

Reed said she has considered driving on the trip, but that would have negative impacts on the trip.

"I don't want them to miss the art opportunity, but it has to be practical," she said.

Thompson, who is traveling with the decathlon team, said he has not heard anything from the district about students traveling on trips. Instead, the principal is confident that the trip will go as planned.

"I'm not concerned about it," the principal said. "They've done so much right now. It's probably the safest time to travel."

Academic trips still planned, sponsor says

By Joe Meyer

Despite the recent terrorist attacks involving commercial airliners, no school-sponsored trips have been cancelled yet, principal Gary Thompson said.

Thompson said he has not heard any concerns about upcoming student travel. The airlines are safe for Central students to fly, he said.

Vicki Deniston-Reed said the attacks have not caused any setbacks in the Academic Decathlon's scheduled trip to Chicago on Oct. 1. Although this is the first time the group has flown on a trip, it is still planning to fly to the city, visit the Chicago Art Museum and return the same day.

Reed said no students have changed their minds because of the recent events.

Seniors Tammy Steele and Ryan Melton, who are both planning on making the trip with the group, said their parents have expressed concerns about the trip.

Melton said his mother was worried for his safety on the day the incidents occurred, but she has calmed down as more information has been released.

Steele said her mother is concerned, but she has not decided to stay home yet.

"If it (the airline situation) is anything like the way it is now, she would not want me to go," Steele said.

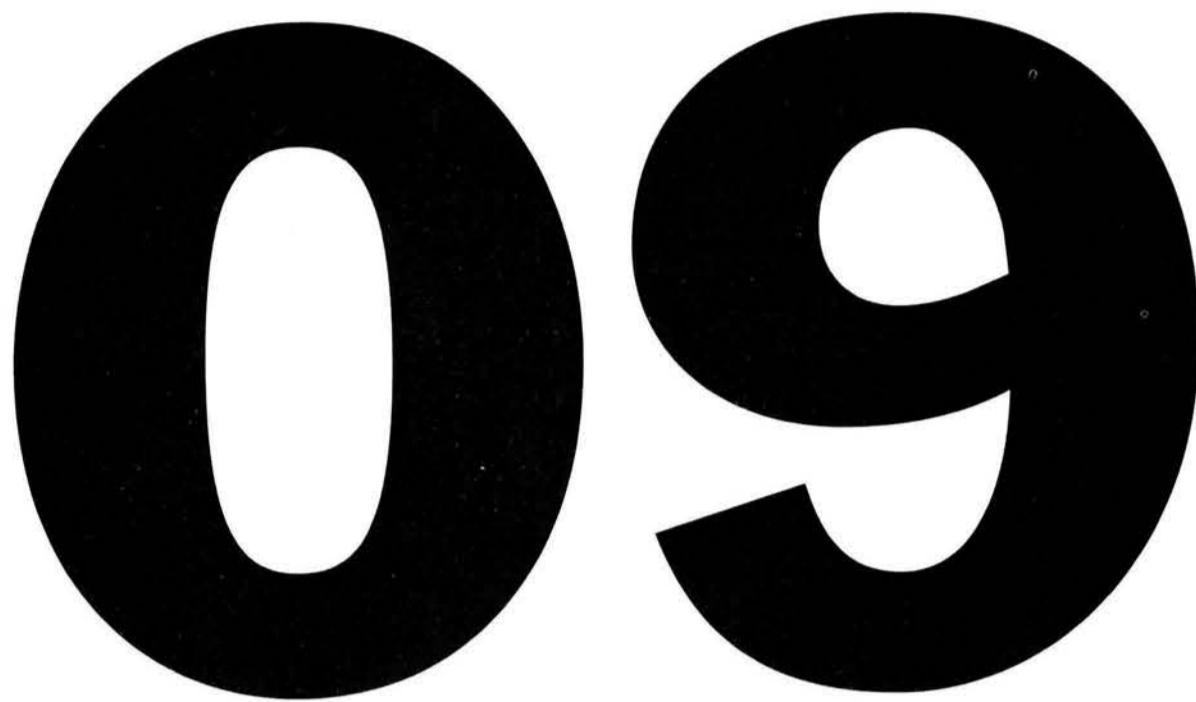
The only hassle Reed foresees is the need for the group to arrive

"A great loss to the U.S.A."

-Kyle Soars, 10

"I was shocked."

-Becca Sullivan



How the disaster unfolded (all times Eastern)

8:45 a.m.

A large hijacked plane crashes into one of the World Trade Center towers, creating a gaping hole and setting the structure on fire.

9:03 a.m.

A second plane, apparently a passenger jet, crashes into the second World Trade Center tower and explodes. Both buildings are burning.

9:40 a.m.

The FAA halts all flight operations at U.S. airports, the first time in U.S. history that air traffic nationwide has been halted.

9:43 a.m.

An aircraft crashes into the pentagon, sending up a huge plume of smoke. Evacuation begins immediately.

9:45 a.m.

The White House evacuates.

Students quickly volunteer after attack

By Kaitlin Butz

Central students responded immediately to the needs of victims of the attacks on New York and Washington.

Student organizations like the Tri-M Music Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), as well as students affiliated with the Red Cross, have all started projects to help the victims.

Tri-M collected donations by the "C" before and after school and in the courtyard during lunch.

Senior Michael Heller, president of Tri-M said the idea originated from fellow Tri-M member, senior Kaitlin Davis. Heller estimated that about 10 students were actively involved with the project.

The collected donations were given to the Salvation Army, Heller said.

Students who had previously volunteered with the local chapter of the Red Cross were contacted by the youth volunteer coordinator Michelle Dworak, who informed them of things they could do to

help, junior Folasade Hinson said.

Hinson volunteered at the Hy-Vee at 51st and Center, carrying signs in the parking lot and collecting donations.

She said that children were bringing in Tupperware containers and piggy banks full of change they had collected and that one person wrote a \$500 check, while another man donated \$200 cash.

"People were really generous," she said.

Dworak said over \$112,000 was raised on the first night of fundraising at Hy-Vee stores.

She said most of the fund raising done by high school students was impromptu, like passing around donation baskets in class.

Dworak said the reason they collected cash instead of tangible supplies was that the local chapters of the Red Cross had no idea what New York or Washington DC chapters might need.

Sending cash allowed them to purchase the supplies they require, she said.

Dworak said that many teens

did contact the Red Cross, because they wanted to help.

"Most people feel compelled to give what they can, that includes teens," she said. "It's a way for them to be proactive and not be a victim."

Duties that teenage volunteers completed included manning donation tables, making phone calls to businesses to let them know what they can do to help and doing family welfare inquiries, Dworak said.

Senior Keiante Brazile and junior Michelle Harris both volunteered at the Red Cross on Friday, Sept. 14, when there was no school due to a teacher in-service.

Both girls felt strongly about volunteering.

"I love helping out in the community," Brazile said. "I want to make a difference, or try to make a difference at least"

Harris said she wanted to do what she could to help during the nation's crisis.

While other groups focused on raising money, FBLA decided to

start a drive for medical supplies, such as peroxide, rubbing alcohol, gauze and bandages, sponsor DeLayne Havlovic said.

Havlovic said he decided FBLA should be involved in volunteer activities after he learned about other efforts on the

He said he contacted members of other FBLA chapters at the state and that some of them were interested in starting similar drives.

Once the supplies are collected, they will be given to the Salvation Army, who will distribute them, said senior Starks, vice president of FBLA.

From the number of students who volunteered over time, it was obvious that Central students did care about victims of the terrorist attack along with the after effects.

"I was scared for all the people who died and everything that happened, but I was really scared for the consequences," Starks said.

Reactions

Students deal with days events while school continues

From REACTIONS, page 1

zens, she said, would trade a few of their rights in order to feel safe.

Social studies teacher Ryan Wise said that, instead of holding classes as usual, he allowed the students to ask questions about the tragedy.

Wise said that he was having a hard time believing what was going on. He could not imagine what students were thinking.

"[It was like] watching a movie, like it wasn't really happening," Wise said.

Wise said that most of his students seemed like they were in a state of disbelief as well.

He said that when he opened his classes to questioning, the first few classes wouldn't ask much, but as the day wore on, they became more interested in the events.

Principal Gary Thompson said that the school did not do much to

react to the crisis throughout the day. He said he made an announcement to let the students know what was happening.

"As far as we know everything will go as planned. Normal is good," he said.

He said that security had been told to keep a look out for strange occurrences and the counselors are remaining available for distraught students.

Counselor Doug Stansberry said that on the day of the tragedy they had about 30 students come in for counseling. He said that some students were sent home because they were too distressed to continue throughout the day.

Some teachers are worried that students were not taking the traumatic events as seriously as they should have.

Hipp said that she did not think the students understand the

magnitude of the situation and the consequences that it will have in the future.

"It's too abstract, it's too far away, you only connect to these people by a TV," Hipp said. "Unless you have family there, you are not connected."

Golonka said that she doesn't think that her classmates understand what was going on. She said that she often hears ignorant comments.

"They don't take it seriously," she said.

Golonka said that she and her family were doing all they could to help the victims of this tragedy.

She said that they have made several donations and have given blood.

She said that her family is still hoping to hear from her sister.

"We're just hoping for the best, that she's okay," Golonka said.

Other effects caused by the Sept. 11 attacks

Gas rush: Because of rumors that the attacks would increase the gas supply in the country, citizens rushed to fill tanks. Prices rose to \$6 a gallon locally. The problem became so bad that Nebraska Attorney General threatened litigation against any business that was gouging prices.

Nebraska football: Out of respect for the victims of Big XII conference, Nebraska postponed all games on Sept. 15, including the Nebraska-Rice match. No time set for makeup.

“I didn't know what it meant for our country.”

-Kathryn Batallion, 12

“I thought we were all going to die.”

-Tisa Kelly, 11

Day the Nation Stopped

9-11-01

10:05 a.m.

The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses, plummeting to the streets below creating a massive cloud of debris and dust.

10:10 a.m.

A portion of the Pentagon collapses. United Airlines flight 93 crashes in Somerset County, Pennsylvania southeast of Pittsburgh.

10:28 a.m.

The World Trade Center's north tower collapses from the top down as if it were being peeled apart.

1:04 a.m.

President Bush, from Barksdale Air Force Base, says "Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

1:27 a.m.

A state of emergency is declared by the city of Washington.

2:50 p.m.

Bush arrives at Offutt Air Force Base.

5:20 p.m.

The 47-story Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex collapses. The evacuated building was damaged by the twin tower's collapse earlier in the day.

7:45 a.m.

The New York Police Department says that at least 78 officers are missing. The city also says that as many as half of the initial 400 firefighters died.

Mourners find peace at local vigil

By Doug Meigs

Set against the backdrop of a solemn church, the father of a young boy sits in deep thought while his son plays beside him.

A child's muffled cry echoes through the cathedral.

A teenage boy passes by in reverence making the sign of the cross.

The pews are full.

Observers stand near the entrance.

This is the scene of the vigil being held at Saint Cecilia's Cathedral in response to the terrorist attacks on Tuesday Sept. 11.

Old and young people of every race and walk of life continue to stream through the open doors.

Looking out across the congregation one can only think of unity...unity of a nation, despite the fact that at this time no one actually knows what the nation is unified against.

The bulletin reads "Interfaith Prayer for Peace."

"The vigil was very comforting, the turnout was excellent and the archbishop had a lot to say," Central teacher Diane Allen said.

Allen said the service provided her and her family with a source of control in a world that had run amuck.

"It was the closest to peace that I had been during that day," she said.

A program titled "Interfaith Prayer for Peace," is handed to those entering the cathedral.

White, marble walls offset a spacious arched ceiling and enormous blue stained glass windows above.

The stark contrast of blue on white, white on black, and the reassurance of comforting words mark the ceremony.

The Archdiocese wanted to respond to the devastation caused by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Father Cook said.

And so, a vigil was created.

Around noon, the Office of Divine Worship for Omaha Archdiocese began making arrangements for the vigil, he said.

The vigil was arranged in con-

junction with Trinity Episcopal and a number of other Christian churches of various denominations, Cook said.

The vigil began at 7:30 PM with the Archbishop addressing the congregation.

"All are invited to pray silently upon entering the cathedral as the tower bell tolls for those who have perished this day," he said.

"Only love can overcome hatred. Only people who care about other people can bring peace to our society," Archbishop Francis Curtiss said in his sermon.

"There cannot be peace without justice," he continued.

Singing voices echo wall-to-wall, hope's reverberations against a day so incomprehensible, especially in this time of global economies and worldwide peace talks.

A trance is cast across the vigil; "O God of Every Nation" is sung.

The archbishop asks the congregation to partake in a silent prayer for the triumph of good over evil, and for the victims of all terror.

Dead silence...

The congregation kneels in prayer.

Dead silence...

"Pray for our country," the archbishop says.

The cantors' voices roll forward through the high-ceilinged cathedral.

The booming echo of the congregation repeats the refrain sung by the cantors... "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

As the congregation begins to leave many have the first signs of tears in their eyes.

A woman chokes back sobs as she walks out of the cathedral consoled by her husband's reassuring arms.

The lights dim, the vigil has been over for quite some time yet many people remain seated.

Gentle contemplative expressions hold their faces still...no sign of movement, no sign of leaving, no sign of forgetting this day.

Set against the solemn vigil, the young boy's father is America's present; his son is America's future.



Central graduate Noel Thornburg lights a candle remembering the victims of the terrorist's attack at a vigil held at St. Cecilia's Cathedral the night of the tragedies.



Alan J. Heeger
Class of 1953
Heeger won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2000 for the discovery and development of conductive polymers. He holds 40 patents and has authored over 650 scholarly publications.



Barbara J. Waldron Coffey, PhD
Class of 1947
Coffey graduated from Central when she was 15 years old. She has received numerous awards for her roles as educator, manager, and volunteer. Once served as director of Metropolitan Community College.

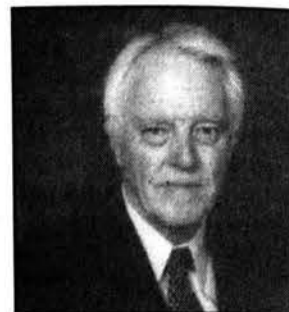
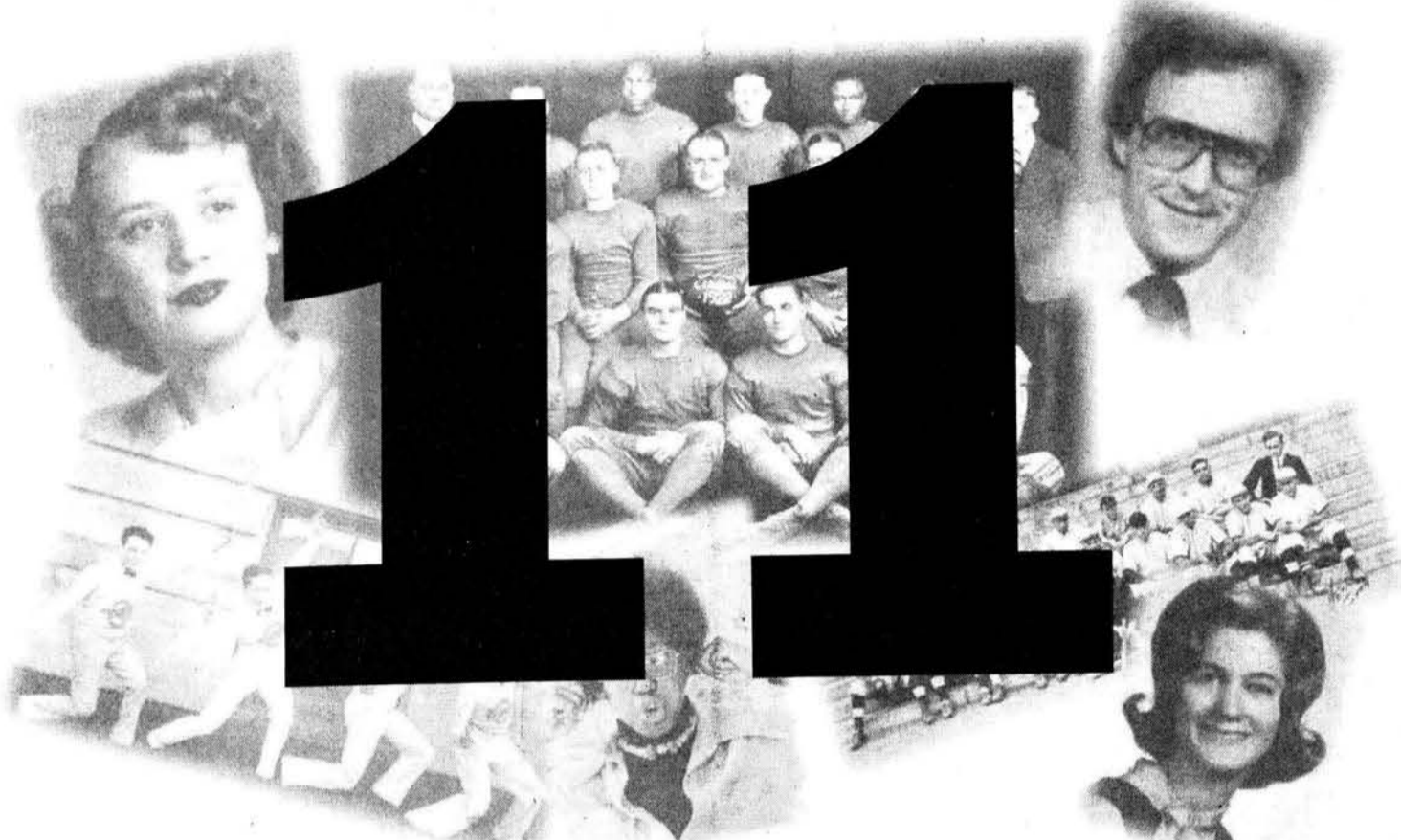


Gerald E. Thomas
Class of 1939
Thomas invented the TV Dinner for Swanson & Sons in 1952. Honored with a handprint ceremony at Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Founded a company producing sophisticated gifts for pets.

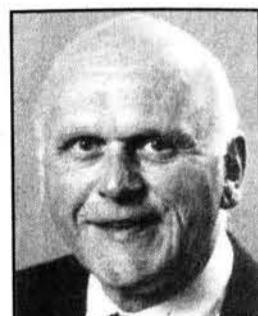


Alexandra Hunt
Class of 1950
Hunt is an internationally recognized lead operatic soprano who performed with the Metropolitan Opera and in Germany, England, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Ireland.

The Newest



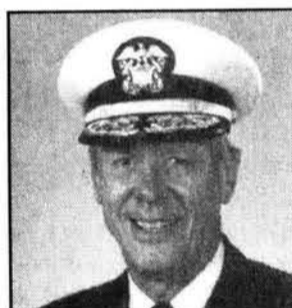
Jerlad R. Schenken
Class of 1951
Schenken is a nationally recognized pathologist who has been associated with University of Nebraska Medical Center for 35 years. Named National Pathologist of the Year.



Richard William Pfaff
Class of 1953
Pfaff is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina, a noted scholar of Medieval liturgy and an ordained Episcopal priest. Was elected a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America.



Virginia Lee Pratt
Class of 1937
Pratt was an immensely successful math teacher, counselor and math department chair at Central. She is revered by former students and has been superbly loyal to "her" school, even during her retirement.



Robert F. Schoultz
Class of 1942
Schoultz became Deputy Chief of Naval Operations in command of all aviation forces in U.S. Navy. As a three-star admiral, he is the highest ranking officer ever to graduate from Central.

Newest induction scheduled for Oct. 11

By Joe Meyer

The homecoming football game is on October 12 and the dance is on the 13th.

Bât French teacher Bev Fellman, who is also the president of the alumni association thinks the best part of the week will be on Thursday.

That's when 11 people will become the newest members of the Central Hall of Fame.

They will join the 31 others who have been inducted the last two years.

The inductees, who will be honored on Oct. 11 at a special dinner and program, include a former principal, teacher and many graduates.

A navy admiral and the inventor of the TV dinner are included in this year's group.

Gaylord Moller, who was Central's principal for 27 years, said he was surprised that he was nominated, but he said there are many others who deserved the honor before he did.

"Doc (Moller) did not want to be honored. He is real modest," Fellman said.

"He said others should be before him. We would not let him get away with it. Basically, he dedicated his life to Central," she said.

Moller said the thing he liked best about Central was the opportunity to work with some of the best teachers and students he has ever met.

When he came to Central, the school already had a great academic tradition that he wished to improve during his tenure.

Induction to the Hall of Fame is based on nominations. Anyone can submit a nomination and it is kept on file for three years.

Then, the committee, which is made up of 15 graduates, PEP sponsors and Central staff, look over the nominations and decide who should be inducted.

This year, the night to honor the inductees will start with a catered dinner in the courtyard at 7 p.m. Tickets to the diner are \$40 a person.

A program will proceed the dinner at 8 and there is no charge for admission.

At the program, the 11 inductees will be presented and they will receive commemorative plaques for their achievements.

Fellman said the Hall of Fame dinner is always a hot ticket.

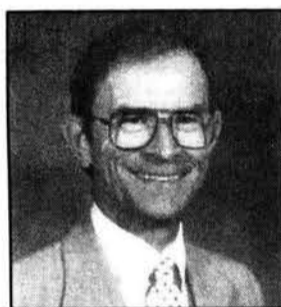
"It has been overwhelmingly successful," she said. "There have been times when we have had to turn away reservations. It's always a sell out."

The Hall of Fame also displays the greatness that comes through the school every day, Fellman said.

"We have only had three Hall of Fame inductions and we have inducted two Nobel Prize winners," she said. "Not bad."

But Max Kennedy, who was the chairperson of the selection committee for the first two year's of its existence, said a person does not need to be famous to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

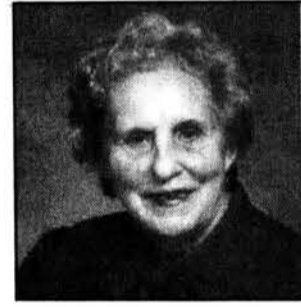
"You don't have to have a PhD or write some books," Kennedy said. "It's if you do something with your life that is an example."



G.E. (Doc) Moller
Distinguished Teacher
Moller served Central for 32 years, the last 27 as principal. Named one of the "Top 100 school Executives" by an education magazine in 1989. Founded CHS Endowment scholarship fund and CHS foundation.



Helen Wilkes Douthy
Class of 1935
Douthy used her education from Central for a lifetime career as an administrative assistant to the scientists at SAC headquarters. Served on Nebraska Arts Council and the Human Relations Board.



Margaret R. Fischer
Class of 1923
Fischer was one of the first female lawyers in the Omaha area. She chose law as a profession because it dealt with every phase of human relations. Fischer died in 1989.

Hall of Fame photos courtesy of Max Kennedy
Hall of Fame collage photos courtesy of the Central High O-Book

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ABBOUD Death Row sentences commuted

from **ABBOUD, page 1**

"We were all just shocked, totally shocked. We've seen these men. Never have they even pretended to show any remorse. Why are they getting let off now?" RJ said.

RJ also said one of the main problems with the judicial system is that it does not inform him or his family of updates in Hochstein or Anderson's cases. He said the fact that he had to hear it from the local media is a sign that the judicial system simply is buckling.

Even though the court has decided to commute the sentence, they are still sitting on Death Row, Assistant Warden at the Lincoln State Penitentiary Win Barber said.

"Basically, our policy is that they remain on Death Row until we receive a court order from the Douglas County Court," Barber said.

If and when they are moved into general population, the pair will have considerably more freedom.

On Death Row they are only allowed to go into the yard surrounding the prison under close scrutiny. In general population, they would be allowed yard privileges with a third of the hundreds of other inmates in the prison, as opposed to only the other men on Death Row, Barber said.

"They will have considerably more freedom, but still, they will be within the confines of our prison," Barber said.

Barber said the prison has not yet made a decision about how the pair will be housed. He did say, however, that the prison will take into the consideration the actions of the pair the last time they shared a general population cell.

"The previous escape will be taken into consideration, along with recent behavior and other factors," Barber said.

No housing decisions will be made until Douglas County sends a court order, Barber said.

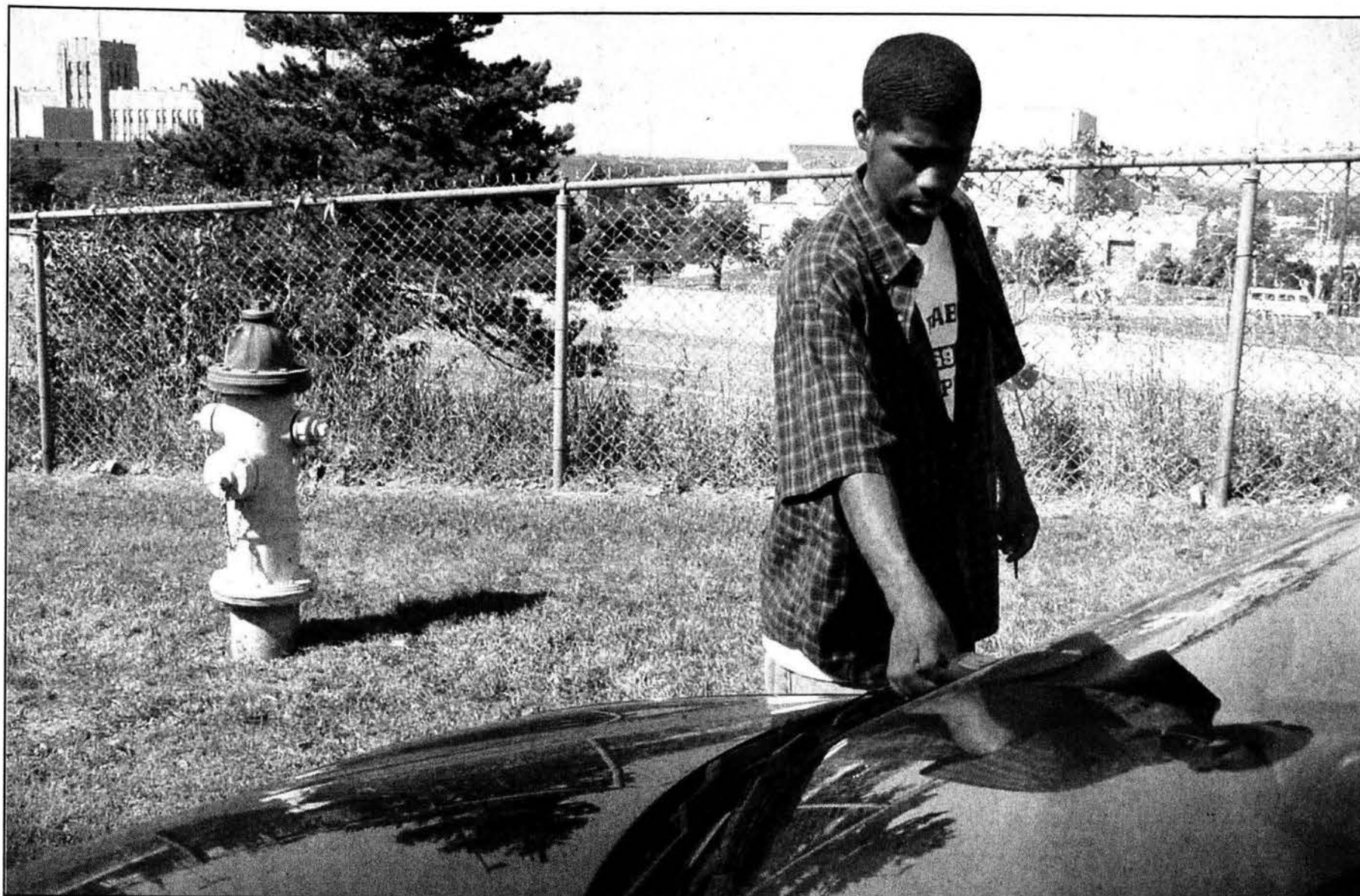


Photo by **JOE MEYER/ THE REGISTER**

Senior Zeke Hemphill said finding a legal parking spot around school is a daily battle. On this day, Hemphill got ticketed for parking too close to the fire hydrant. The city revenue department wrote 64 tickets during the first week of school.

Parking troubles plague campus areas

By **Joe Meyer**

Sometimes Zeke Hemphill gets caught.

Sometimes he gets lucky.

Hemphill has received two parking tickets around campus, but he said he has also gotten away with his fair share of free rides.

Senior Josh Conner also has received a pair of fines from the city.

Avoiding parking tickets around school is a daily battle for many Central students.

During the first week of school, the city revenue department wrote 64 parking tickets inside the school's boundaries.

Hemphill said finding a legal parking spot is a daily quest. When he arrives at school and all the spots on the closest streets are taken, he has his

own way of finding a space.

He circles the block, waits until a Creighton University student leaves from the student houses around school and he takes his old spot.

But other times, he has no choice but to risk a parking ticket.

"Sometimes we are late for class, so we park anywhere," he said.

Lack of parking has always been a part of the school, principal Gary Thompson said. The downtown location is the biggest reason for the problem.

Conner said parking is especially difficult this year because of the increased amount of students and staff at Central. Also, he said, more students are starting to drive to school at a younger age. He said last year, he could arrive 45 minutes before school and park on Davenport or Chicago

Streets. This year, if he wants one of those spots, he needs to arrive over an hour before school starts.

"If I get here around seven, I have to park on the other side of the interstate and that's an ugly walk up the hill," Conner said.

Thompson disagrees. He said this year's parking situation is like any other year. Unlike past years, he said he has not received any complaints from people around downtown.

"I haven't heard a thing," he said. "I think they just tow you and make a killing off it."

Building a new parking lot would help to fix the parking problem, Hemphill said. On the other hand, Conner knows the school's hands are tied when it comes to fixing the parking situation.

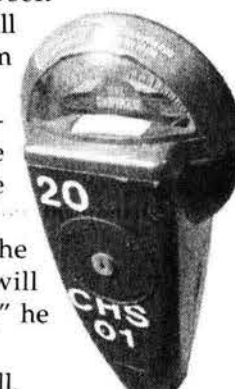
Thompson said the district did not consider building a parking lot when considering ideas for renovations because it wanted the money to be used to help improve instruction.

The parking situation's future is very unpredictable, Thompson said. When Metro Area Transit starts its new bus routes, Thompson said he hopes students will park further away from school and commute in.

But also, the renovations project may make the problem worse, he said.

"I fear that when the construction starts, it will tighten up a little more," he said.

But only time will tell.



MAT announces changes to transit system scheduled for next spring

By **Matt Wynn**

It's big and green and it still has the Wrigley's spearmint gum advertisement it was running in 1967. After all, that was the last time it was used.

It's an old Metro Area Transit (MAT) bus. Soon six to ten of them will be rolling around Omaha streets.

It's all part of an 18 month and \$1 million study conducted by MAT to see how well Omaha's current transit system is working.

The study showed several surprising, and some not-so-surprising results, Mike Kelly, a research assistant at MAT said.

Over the next three years a series of new developments will be made with the city transit system, Kelly said. The changes will be phased in starting at certain terminals, eventually into the rest of the city.

"The main purpose of the changes will be, basically, to get more people on the bus," Kelly said. "It's amazing how many more people will utilize a system

that is clean, efficient and takes them where they want to go."

One of the major changes that will be taking place is the change from the current route system to a more streamlined version, referred to as a "wheel" system.

The way the buses are currently run, they make stops whenever necessary along a specified route. For example, the Number 2 bus route runs up and down Dodge Street all day, coming by each stop roughly every half hour.

If there is someone waiting at that stop or someone wants to get off, the bus will stop to allow passengers to do so.

In order to use the current system, a passenger must have a working knowledge of bus routes and the transfer system, which will allow a passenger to switch from one bus to another for no extra charge.

"These are some of the problems we addressed under our new plan," Kelly said. "It won't take as much to ride the bus."

Under the new system, one "circulator" bus will travel around different neighborhoods, functioning much the way a MAT bus does today.

But because the buses will only be traveling around neighborhoods instead of the city, the travel time will be significantly shorter, Kelly said.

The circulator buses will ultimately connect to a hub station, where an express bus will pick up passengers and take them to a central location for all routes.

It is believed the Crossroads transfer station will serve as the central location for the routes.

From the central transfer station, a passenger can get directly on a new circulator bus to get to a more specific location within the neighborhood.

Though it sounds complicated, Kelly says MAT is confident the new system will take less time than the current one.

"At most, a person will have to make two transfers," Kelly said.



Photo by **FAITH LYNN/ THE REGISTER**

Students board the MAT busses on Dodge street after school. The new bussing system will make life for people who ride the bus easier

Besides a new system, MAT will also be implementing several new ways to make the transport system more convenient.

For instance, at every hub station, a computer screen will be set up.

On each computer it will be able to track the location of a

specific bus, and the expected time until it arrives at the station.

"This way, if a person is waiting for a bus and he wants to run and get something to eat, he can just look at the screen and then decide whether that's a good idea," Kelly said.

Some of these changes may

sound far-fetched, but MAT is planning to implement some of them as soon as next Spring, he said.

The changes will start at the north and south stations, and depending on how well they perform, will begin being put in place at other locations.

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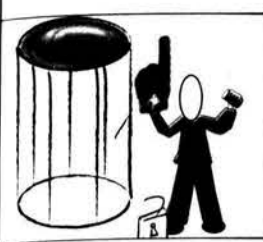
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Why?

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DRINKING AT FOOTBALL GAMES
School should enforce district's rules.
PAGE 16

INSIGHT



READ BETWEEN THE LINES
Matt Wynn

Generation lacks heros, good bands

Contrary to public-service announcements and public-school civics teachers, you can hardly ever make a difference by yourself.

A single vote has never swayed an election of any importance. Putting on a happy face has never stopped war. Sorting your trash for recycling hasn't done squat for cutting back pollution.

Each of us amounts to less than 0.0000004 percent of the population, which in a democracy means you're worth something less than jack and very little more than zero.

So to all of you who have yet to grasp that simple math concept: Shut up.

You know who you are. The guy in front of me during the assemblies who can't stop making smart-aleck remarks about Dr. Thompson's speech patterns. Shut up.

All of you who have tried to change your schedules because you don't like the teacher. Quit.

The kid with the shirt that says, "Girls make nice pets." exactly what were you thinking when you made that purchase?

The inherent shallowness and pettiness of my generation ticks me. Not to say that I am on a pedestal, or have a cause, or anything like that, but at least I know enough to admit it.

We are the generation that wasn't.

We were too late for Reagan, too early for O.J. Simpson to be anything more than a sixth-grade memory and too stupid to realize all that we have been offered.

The biggest war we had to deal with was the Gulf War. And my somewhat addled mind serves me correctly, that doesn't really count.

All of the interesting politicians are long gone. Churchill, Lenin, Kennedy... just wisps of conversation you can catch if you walk through a nursing home at exactly the right time.

The Internet is as big as it has ever been, which to me is a sign that my generation is as boring as any has ever been.

If we can't find anything more respectable to do than screw around on a computer all day talking to somebody named "Evil666" or maybe "Putz510" when we should probably be reported. All of us.

In a time where the most popular television show is based on people making small-talk with the ever-stupid-looking Regis Philbin (who, even if you contest isn't stupid looking, still has a ridiculous name) and answering silly questions, we are the Generation Lost.

My Dad had Jack Kerouac and Abby Hoffman to look up to in his youth. I have AC Slater and Bill Gates.

My older cousins had angry political punk bands and AC/DC. I've got wussy college-somewhat-indie-but-not-really rock and LFO.

We've gotten short changed. The short end of the stick. We've been gipped, ripped-off, nickle-and-dimed out of our last shred of respect for anyone.

So here's to us. Class of 2002: The class that could have been, would have been, but just didn't learn how.

For the first time in three decades, renovations cramped Central's campus. Students and teachers should be willing to make sacrifices.

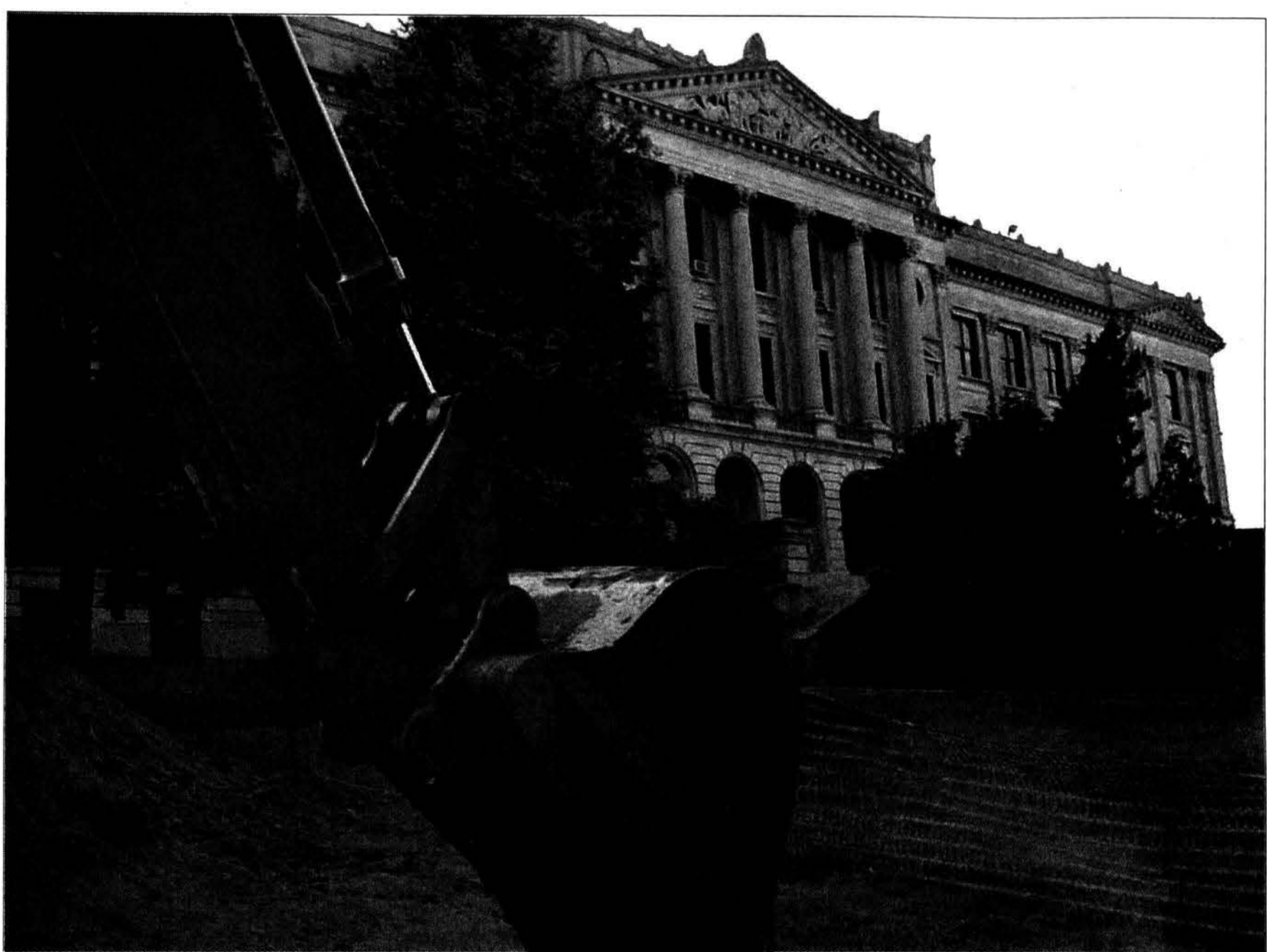


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

A small price to pay

The scenery around campus was a little different this year.

Backhoes and construction workers joined the school buses and football players as common fixtures around the building.

For the first time in three decades, Central is undergoing major renovations. Students and faculty should expect annoyances like these throughout the project.

A giant trench on the south lawn welcomed students returning from a long summer. Dirt piled onto the stairs of the school, eliminating an entrance to the building.

The original schedule called for all interior work for this phase to be completed before the beginning of school and the workers hit the deadline.

But that doesn't mean that the workers could eliminate all the hassles a project like this brought. When renovating a building like Central, delays are common.

Even nature helped delay the project. A late summer rain forced crews inside. The muddy conditions the next day did not help the workers either.

It easily could have been worse. All of the

remaining work, except for some minor electrical things, was located outside of the building.

This was not by mistake. The crews started inside the school and worked out. That way, classes and other school activities were not directly affected.

On every floor, walls were destroyed, pipes and air ducts were installed, drywall was hung, painted and finished. Crews completed this work well before the first school bell rang.

The only sign of the summer work was the missing false ceiling in some classrooms on the fourth floor. Because of asbestos removal, those ceilings could not be replaced before school started.

No classes were relocated and most of the school looked like nothing had happened. Even the wood floors in the hallways were waxed-ready to greet the new school year like it was any other.

Although the crews were able to minimize the impact this phase had on the school's operation, that will not be the case for the remainder of the project. This summer's work was only a drop in the bucket.

EDITORIAL

.....
The opinion of the Register staff

RENOVATION 2001



Unpaid parking ticket causes fugitive status in one state

Cross Illinois off the list. That's right. Unfortunately, I'm no longer allowed in the Prairie State.

I can no longer visit the tallest building in the United States. I will never be able to sit in the bleachers at Wrigley Field again.

I certainly won't be able to watch the Bears play at home, either.

I won't be able to visit Ronald Reagan's birthplace. Heck, I'm not even allowed to go see his boyhood home. Count Honest Abe out, too.

My trouble with the state that boasts it's "A million miles from Monday" started on a late Saturday afternoon in June. I was visiting Chicago for the weekend and looking forward to heading back to my own side



WELCOME TO THE BAHAMAS

Joe Meyer

of the Mississippi.

But first I had a couple of things to take care of on Wacker Drive.

When I came back to my car, a fashionable red envelope was waiting for me on my windshield. One of the last things I needed after this trip was a gift from Chicago's finest.

I looked inside the envelope to see how much I owed the city. I found it in bold type in the upper right-hand corner: \$50.

I threw it in the back of my

car and drove back to Genuine Nebraska.

Everything about Chicago is different from Omaha. Instead of ugly statues that supposedly have artistic merit, Chicago got its act together and made couches that are decorated in various ways. Not only do they brighten up the city, but they double as places for commoners to sit down and take a rest. Our statues sit in the same spot and become eyesores.

Even the parking tickets are different in Chicago, especially downtown. Meter maids and traffic cops cruise downtown looking for expired meters. It's all automatic, so they simply have to look for a flashing red light on the parking meter screen.

All the tickets are automat-

ed, too. To write a ticket, all they have to do is type in an address, license plate number and a some other essential things.

Ticket writing in Chicago is a profitable industry.

Once, I saw a row of five cars with tickets on the windshields, and the meter man was working on writing the sixth. That's a quick \$300 the city made in less than 30 minutes.

I don't feel comfortable paying a ridiculous amount of money to support a government where I do not live. However, now the Illinois police have something on me.

I'm also broke. I think the last time I spent \$50 was when I bought my Domino Rally set. I saved up for six months to witness how gravity works.

And in no way does a park-

Starting next spring, the new gym and cafeteria additions will be under construction, bringing more workers and more machinery. After that, plumbers will move inside to install cooling systems into every classroom in the school. It is not known how many classes will be disrupted during the 2002-03 school year, but it will not be pretty.

Throughout the planning of this project, architects and contractors have constantly stressed the importance of the school functioning normally. Work that would disrupt school will not be done during school hours. Instead, crews will do the majority of the work in the afternoons or on weekends.

During all stages of the school's renovations, it is imperative that students and teachers remain patient and remind themselves that the trouble is worth it. After the initial inconveniences, the school will have air-conditioning, more space for technology courses, a bigger cafeteria and a new gymnasium with a wood floor.

Whatever little hassles occur now will not compare to the benefits the school is gaining with this construction.

And hopefully seeing the bulldozer parked outside on the lawn will become as welcoming as jumping on a school bus at the end of the day.

ing ticket, even one from Chicago, compare with thousands of pieces of cheap plastic.

For now, that fashionable red envelope lives in my glove compartment, but I am doing good things with it. I show it to everyone who steps into my car. I warn them about the consequences for parking on a street named Wacker.

But I will miss the ability to visit Illinois whenever I want. It will be interesting if I want to go to school in that state or something.

I will also miss sitting on the two couches that look like Soldier Field.

I guess I could cough up \$50 and quit complaining. That, or else I could pawn my Domino Rally set if things get really bad.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Dress code draws debate

For
Dress restrictions maintain proper school environment

The new focus school officials are taking on enforcing the school's dress code is long overdue.

For years, the school has allowed students to wear clothing and other apparel that violated the school district's rules concerning student dress.

But that has all changed. This year, the principal has called for teachers to strictly enforce the code.

Although it is difficult for the school to change the way that students dress, the added emphasis is improving the learning environment in the building.

Students are complaining, but the school is doing the right thing.

The aspect of the dress code that is attracting the most attention is the requirements for girl's tops. Because of the summer heat, students are dressing lighter.

In some cases, students are dressing too light. The dress code helps to specify what is appropriate for school and what is not. Now, teachers know when they need to send a student to an administrator.

These requirements are fair. Students can still dress comfortably with the code.

Students complain that these requirements infringe on their rights to fully express themselves. They say the school does not have the right to prohibit them from dressing how they would like.

This is wrong. Although students have total rights outside of school, officials are simply trying to maintain a proper learning environment. Because of this, the school should continue to make sure the dress code is followed.

In a public high school, students are in the building

to learn. Students should not come to school to see the newest low-cut shirt on the girl who sits in front of them in algebra class.

The role of a high school is, and will always be, to educate students and give them valuable information.

The dress code helps to focus students' attention on completing their algebra assignments, not on the girl's shirt in the class, something that has been missing for the last couple years.

Other areas of the dress code have been attacked, too. Some students think the prohibition of kerchiefs, chains and certain body piercings is over the edge.

Although some of these regulations may seem too politically correct, they are only included for the safety of the people in the school.

Some people are threatened by these items.

An item of clothing that causes any distractions in school hurts the learning environment just as much as a girl's low-cut blouse

The crackdown on the dress code this year was inevitable.

The extra emphasis is working. After the first school weeks, the appropriateness of dress in the school improved.

Maybe with a little more work, students will take their own initiative and this enforcement will not be needed. But until then, the school should continue to make sure the rules are being followed. However long it takes, it needs to be done.

Students need to understand that there is a difference between what they can wear on the weekends and what they can wear during school.



Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Against
New focus wastes school's time, sends wrong message

The changes to the dress code may be a good idea, but it is a waste of the school's time and effort.

This year, Central implemented several new rules and regulations about student dress.

Hats aren't allowed. Kerchiefs of any color are not allowed. Sagging pants are not allowed and shorts must be long enough to cover the buttocks when bending over.

While it's very nice that the bigwigs of Central High School got together and decided all of this, one must wonder if there was something more constructive they could have been doing with their time.

Central has a heat problem. Everyone knows that. And while the school basked in the summer heat, administrators got together and planned out what kids should be wearing.

Misplaced priorities, anyone?

Yes, some students do wear clothes that are not appropriate for school. And yes, sometimes this distracts other students from learning.

But does that mean there isn't anything more important going on?

Central had over fifty students expelled last year. It received a resource officer from the Omaha Police Department.

A school organization received \$100,000 for use in an anti-tobacco campaign. The school band ranked as one of the highest in the state.

Yet even with all of these things going on, administrators still had time to worry about what kids would be wearing on the first days of school.

Now that the school has started, some would think this is not such a problem. The dress code established. The changes have been made. Students now know what they can and cannot wear.

But no. This year, the administration is enforcing these superfluous rules even more needless punishments.

A girl who wears shoes too short must change them. A student whose armholes are too wide must put on another shirt.

Harmed punishments, but they are a waste of time.

Teachers are being drilled on the dress code at almost every staff meeting. The school is offering teachers clever ways to turn a student in for a dress code infraction without confronting the student.

It's obvious that the school is interested in making these unnecessary rule changes. And in a way, that's probably a good idea.

All too often the school will write in a new rule and fail to enforce it. It leads to apathy on the part of both the students and the staff.

But by enforcing the rule, the school is showing that it does not have time to mess around. But it's all the wrong way.

Yeah, making the changes and enforcing them with such vigor has helped a little. Instances of dress code infractions have dropped significantly over the past few weeks, and clothing has become less of a distraction in classes.

But if the school's approach to the dress code has worked this well, why don't they focus their energy on something else?

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register

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the Omaha Central High School REGISTER

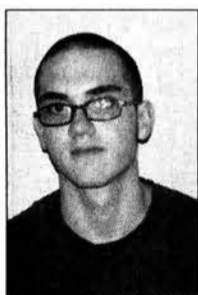
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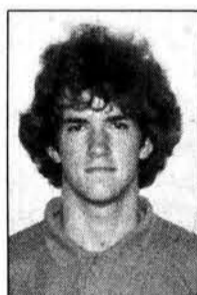
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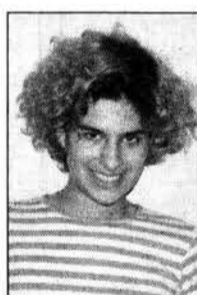
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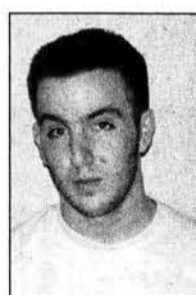
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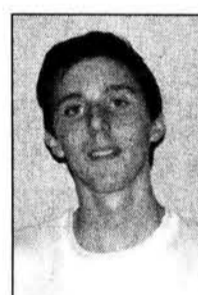
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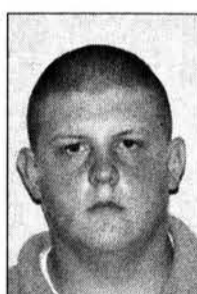
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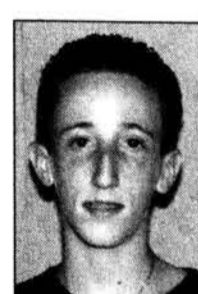
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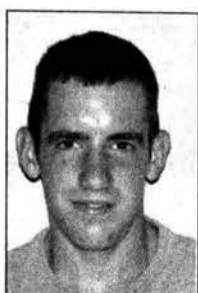
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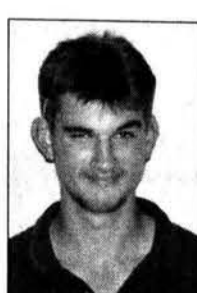
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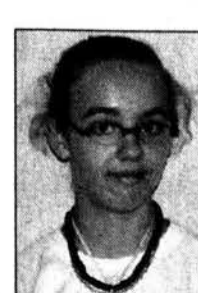
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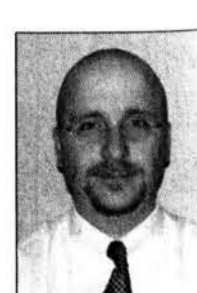
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Vouchers steal public funds

Perhaps vouchers could actually work.

Then again, maybe pigs will fly.

School vouchers are a terrible idea.

In a time when schools are overcrowded, understaffed and struggling to make ends meet, vouchers are not practical.

In a time when people complain about the Ten Commandments being painted on a courthouse wall, it seems more taxpayers would be up in arms to prevent their hard-earned dollars from going to parochial schools.

In a time when most taxpayers complain about property taxes, it seems they would try to prevent having to pay more to send kids to private schools, but many don't.

Taxpayers have spent a fair amount of money to put me through 13 years of public schooling. To everyone whose money bought my text books and paid my teachers - thank you.

Many argue students going to private schools, like Prep or Roncalli, deserve the same sort of treatment. Simply put - they don't.

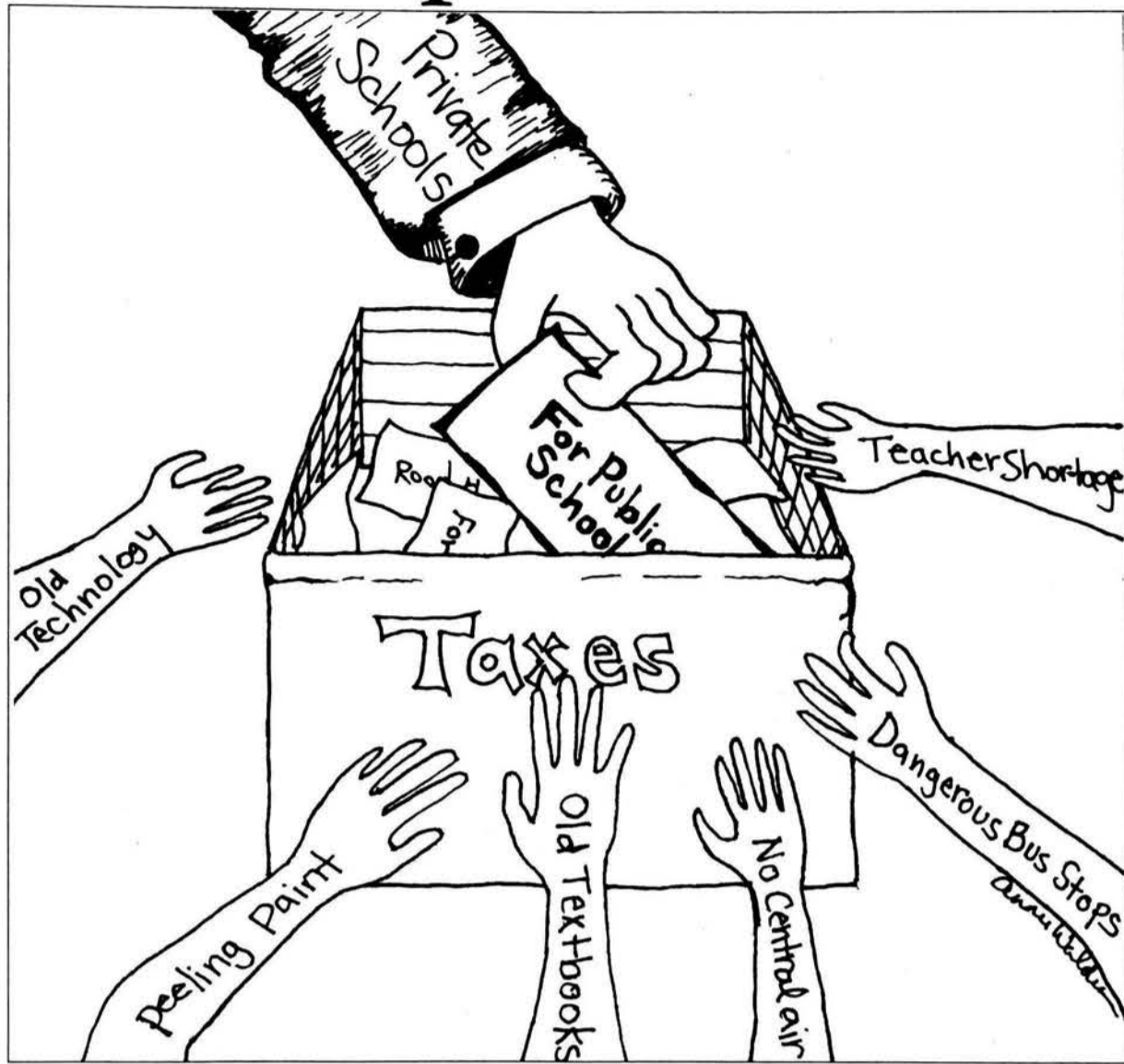
If they want to be helped by the government, there is a fairly simple process they can follow.

Step 1: Withdraw from the current private school they are attending.

Step 2: Enroll in the public school system in their area.

Public schools don't exist for the exclusive reason of helping families out financially. Not everyone in America is a hard-working, middle-class Protestant.

A lot of parents don't want teachers who are paid by the state to teach their children about



religion in public schools.

And they are right.

A lot of parents also don't think that sending their children to a single-sex school helps promote healthy social development.

And they are right.

People who feel that way have a justified argument when they say their tax dollars shouldn't pay the salaries of Jesuits.

Since the beginning of this country's history, a separation of

church and state has blanketed the government. The state senators should always abide by those rules.

These officials also have to worry about the huge problem of money and taxes.

Many taxpayers feel taxes are too high right now.

Raising them in order to send kids to private schools on government subsidies should be something they just shouldn't even consider.

They simply think this idea is wrong.

Recently, the controversial topic has been under fire, but

there are still a number of politicians lobbying for the system. Occasionally, as the popularity of the program is surging, school vouchers appear in the news more often and their popularity is constantly growing.

In the best interests of students in America's public schools, politicians should shoot down this horrible idea immediately. After that, it should never be allowed to resurface ever again.

America should improve the current public school system before branching out to new levels.



NEVER LOOK BACK
Quentin Lueninghoener

Dumpster diving yields treasures

Someone dives into a dumpster, finds a knife and thinks it's cool.

He pulls it out, takes it home to clean it and thinks nothing of it. Later that week, police show up at his house with a search warrant.

They find the knife and arrest him for murder.

The thing is, at his trial, the jury did not believe him when he said he found the knife dumpster diving.

Surprisingly, diving into a dumpster and emerging with various different things is a fairly popular hobby.

The only reason I know about this subject is I was surfing the internet one day and I stumbled upon a page called Dumpster Diving: Treasure and Trash.

I decided to be obnoxious and instant message random people with various tips on how to Dumpster Dive.

It was something to do on a full summer day, I didn't actually think I would get a response, but I did.

I carried on a long, drawn-out conversation with a kid named Mike about the different techniques and intricacies of the

activity.

I thought I was learning a lot until I realized he was making all of it up.

Once we straightened out the fact that neither of us were really dumpster divers, we became genuinely interested about it.

Mike and I did some research and found out that Dumpster Diving is the fine art of going through a dumpster and finding useful items that people have thrown away for some reason or

another.

One should be careful around dumpsters. The wind can slam lids shut from amazingly quick. It would be humiliating if someone got stuck inside a smelly dumpster.

Seriously, dumpster accidents can even be fatal.

One needs to make sure to avoid meat, eggs and dairy food at all costs when jumping into huge piles of trash. Any sane person would know this but just as a reminder, that kind of stuff gets rancid real quick.

A lot of people know that having a long stick with a sharp end can be nice. Especially when

you are trying to obtain bags or reach way in the corner of the dumpster.

I have always thought that dumpsters have always been large, revolting, smelly bins full of nothing but trash and large amounts of germs. But I realized that the human body came with a wonderful thing called an immune system.

As far as the revolting smell, clothes pins work nicely.

As I read, I came across accounts of what people had found such as videos, perfectly good CD's, air-conditioners in mint condition and flashlights with new batteries in them.

One Dumpster Diver found a computer complete with a monitor and an 840-MB hard drive.

He said it worked perfectly.

Another person said their greatest discovery was a turn of the century drop-down secretary desk, which they refinished and sold for \$600.

But dumpster diving is not all fun and games. Depending

on what state you decide to dumpster dive in, and what you are diving for, it can be illegal.

For instance, if "No Trespassing" signs are posted in the area, locks must be broken to get in or if climbing a fence is involved, then one should probably turn back.

Then, look for another, more accessible container to jump into and find all the valuable junk you want.

Even if you are discouraged, don't give up. Most of the times regulations apply to this hobby, people are only scared away by security guards or police.

Dumpster Diving is great. You can get great stuff.

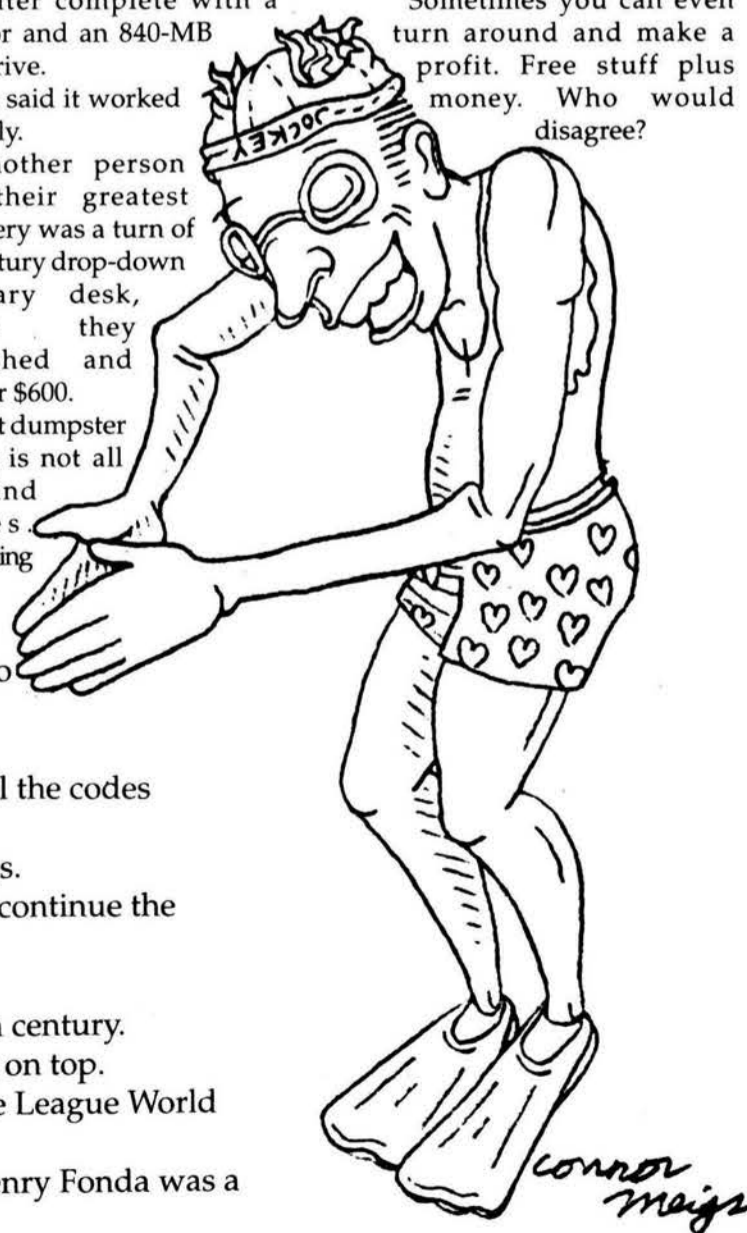
Sometimes you can even turn around and make a profit. Free stuff plus money. Who would disagree?



EVERYTHING BUT THE SINK
Paula Sahany

Top 10 worst things to find in a dumpster

1. The Lindberg baby's blanket that the FBI has been trying to find for over 80 years.
2. The Nixon tapes about the Watergate break-in.
3. The briefcase the president carries around that includes all the codes needed to launch a warhead at Russia.
4. A copy of CIA classified information about the Bay of Pigs.
5. A secret package of weapons that were headed to Iran to continue the United State's hostage-for-arms deal.
6. Radioactive waste taken straight from Three Mile Island.
7. Blackbeard's peg leg with a rifle that is from the sixteenth century.
8. A large vat of sour milk with a enormous booger floating on top.
9. A corked little league baseball bat that a 14-year-old Little League World Series player recently used.
10. Old Central High School gradebooks back from when Henry Fonda was a student.



State, parents kill driving enjoyment

When I was younger, my best friend and I would always make plans for when we were older and had our driving licenses.

We were going to go everywhere and do everything. We dreamed of road trips, taken in our own cars, without parents, of course.

This was quite exhilarating ten years ago. A driver's license was freedom to us. It was power.

Ha! There's one thing I never figured into the equation: the "parent factor."

First of all, my parents' theory that before I own my own car, I need a year of experience is ridiculous. When I bring up the point that I could get twice as much experience if I didn't have to share a car, I receive my favorite response.

"That is what we did for your sister."

That's a horrible argument. It's a cop out.

It's not like I expect them to buy me a car. I slaved away at an extraordinarily degrading job all summer. I can't name the job, because they are a fairly large organization and would sue me for libel in five seconds flat. But trust me, it was horrible. What do I have to show for it? Money in my savings account.

Another factor that never came up in our six-year-old dreams (where I think that we drove pink Mustangs identical to Barbie's) was the rules of every 16 year old's new best friend, the Provisional Operator's Per-

mit. It's a fancy name for a restricted license. The little piece of plastic means no driving past midnight or before six, unless the activity is school or work related.

Of course, if you are accompanied by an adult, then that is fine, too.

I don't think this actually cuts down on the number of 16 year olds out after midnight, it just makes them drive carefully.

Which is probably what the DMV was going for with this thing. I don't think anyone is naive enough to think they're going to get each and every 16 year old safe and sound at home before midnight, every night.

So, if you ever see me out late at night driving around, it's not what you think.

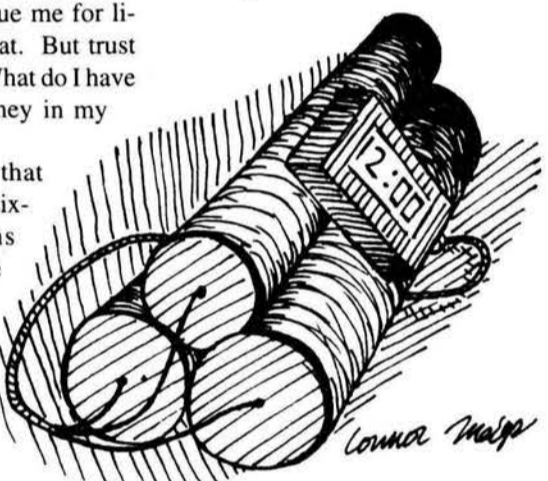
That's my dad's car. He probably sent me out to run errands for him. I'm most likely hurrying home. Heaven forbid, I'm out past midnight. Or maybe I'm going to my degrading job.

Any way you slice it, it's not what I envisioned.

But nothing ever is. Sigh. Sob.



LONG STORY SHORT
Kaitlin Butz



Teachers misuse power, students deserve rights

Students do not have any rights anymore.

Why is that? I mean this is America, right?

Students are treated like we are nothing and somehow people expect us to like school. Teachers walk into a room and demand respect from everyone there.

You can't just demand something from someone. Respect is a two-way street. It goes both ways.

That is something teachers have got to understand!

Why is it that teachers can write up a student and send them to the office without even justifying himself or herself to anyone? They can write whatever they want on that referral and no matter what they are saying. It's assumed to be true.

Even if the kid can produce a whole class of witnesses to say that the teacher is lying, it doesn't matter.

Why is it that the teacher can just write a referral and not be questioned at all about what happened? They just continue on with their day like nothing happened.

Meanwhile, a student is being punished for telling the truth.

Also, why is it that a teacher can talk about a student in front of the entire class and it's okay? A student is not expected to defend his or herself?

That is so unfair! When a teacher tells the entire class that a student is failing that class, students should be able to tell the teacher that he or she is wrong.

What? Students are not supposed to defend themselves?

As soon as they do, they are

sent to the administrator and punished once again.

What are we to do?

I think that if students were able to file a formal written complaint about any teacher, this problem would be fixed.

Both sides of the story should be heard.

Now, I know teachers and administrators think that students would file a lot of lies.

I can't say they won't, but teachers lie, too.

They are human. They lie.

Teachers lie on referrals. They won't admit it, but they do.

If students felt like they could do something about a teacher misusing their authority, there would be a lot less outbursts in the classroom.

That would improve the relationship between teachers and students.

If teachers did not hold the power of a referral over student's heads, relations would be a lot better.

When a student tells her administrator what this certain teacher did, she is basically told "Oh well." Sometimes, students are called liars to their faces.

Not always in those words, but the message is understood when an administrator says, "Well, why would they lie?"

We are treated like we are just stupid teens who don't deserve any kind of respect.

It's kind of like telling on a cop. It's a blue wall of silence that doesn't give students any rights.

I am not saying that all teachers are this way because most of them are respectable to students.

I have experienced the best and the worst teachers in this building.

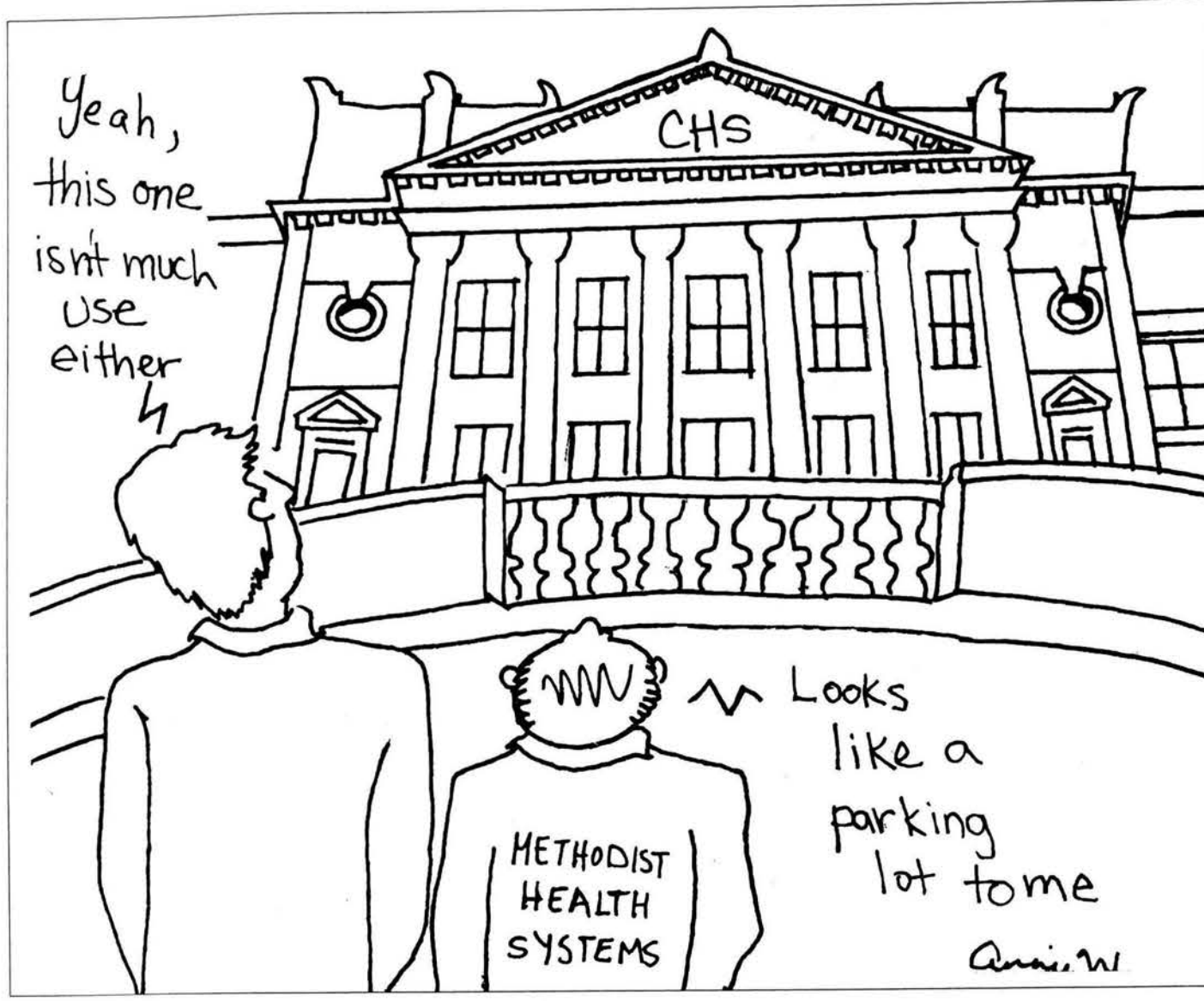
All I am saying is that students should have rights, just like everyone else.



THROUGH MY EYES
Dominique Brown

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 OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791



Tearing them down

Indian Hills joins a long list of Omaha hotspots that have been bought out of business. Although the theater had some great qualities, money was the underlying reason for its destruction.

Historical places in Omaha beware. You may be next. Despite efforts to save Indian Hills movie theater, Methodist Health Systems leveled the structure, even while the City Council was considering whether or not to name the theater an historical landmark.

Although it would have been great to save the valuable property, what happened to Indian Hills is commonplace in a capitalist society. Unfortunately, the only valuable thing left about the theater is memories.

The theater served visitors of all ages for over 40 years and had a great history.

Some may think that Omaha citizens are just left with one less theater to attend.

But this was no ordinary movie theater. Indian Hills had the biggest projection screen in town. The screen was so big that it was one of only three screens in the country that could show Cinerama films, which used three cameras to project a movie onto the screen.

Every time a filmmaker released a new high-tech, must see movie, Indian Hills was the place to see it. When "The Matrix" and "Star Wars: Episode One" were showing, Indian Hills was one of the places with the longest lines in town.

The theatre had its chance for survival, though. The company that last owned it tried to lease the property for almost a year. Maybe it was because of the old

look of the building, but no one wanted to buy the property and keep the theater operable.

Instead, Methodist Health Systems bought the property and made a new parking lot.

Although the theater should have been kept, places like it close all the time. Evolution has systematically eliminated horse racing at Aksarben, amusement rides at Peoney Park and even the Westroads movie theaters. All of these old Omaha landmarks experienced the same problems Indian Hills did.

And the theater is simply the latest addition to that very long list.

That doesn't mean the theater rolled over and died. The health company's actions upset many people. They were upset that this historic theater became just another parking lot in west Omaha.

Still, people need to realize that Indian Hills was a movie theater. The city is still left with at least half a dozen other facilities that can satisfy a person's fix to see the latest popular flick.

Although people might miss the theater and need to drive a couple more miles now that Indian Hills is gone, the loss is nothing to be bothered by.

The one thing that can be taken from Indian Hill's closing is a reminder that everything revolves around money.

Who knows? Maybe if the school district ever runs out of money, they will be able to sell the school. It does have a prime downtown location.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

Free movies steal artists' hard earned work, money

The regulation of the music-sharing server, Napster, did not bring the death of free entertainment on the Internet.

In fact, it was only a small step in the right direction.

In the past months, the Motion Picture Association of America mobilized lawyers to pursue litigation against sites that offer free copies of movies online.

The United States prides itself on its extensive amount of copyright law on the books. Video cassettes have flashed messages before every movie distributed to the public for decades. This precedent should be extended to all forms of media, even ones available on the Internet.

The most damaging aspect about online movies is that some can be downloaded even before they are released in theatres. This allows people to see a free movie before others have even seen the trailers.

This takes money away from writers, directors and actors. Although the price of one movie ticket is not a big part of Paramount's or

Disney's annual budgets, everyone deserves to be paid for their work, no matter what industry they work in.

There is no difference between stealing some bread from a family owned business that is struggling to pay the

electric bill or downloading a free movie made by Time-Warner from the Internet. No matter what the method,

the outcome is still the same. Someone does not get paid for services that they provide. And that is wrong.

It may be a monumental task, but media shared on the Internet needs to be regulated.

Otherwise, the problem will become worse and it will be impossible for any future restraints to be placed on the industry.

The Napster lawsuit sets a valuable precedent for what regulations should be placed on file-sharing networks online. Users should pay fees so companies profit from their products. Also, especially with online movies, products should not be available before they are officially released.

Adoption issue continues state's homophobic trend

Again, homosexual's rights are under attack in Nebraska.

Again, it is wrong.

In Lincoln this month, a lesbian couple will appear before the Nebraska Supreme Court. One of the women has a son that her partner, another woman, would like to legally adopt.

There is no reason why this should not be permitted.

All American citizens are guaranteed equal rights and protection.

No matter someone's race, religion or sexual preference, they still deserve the same rights as everyone else.

But for some reason, at least in Nebraska, rights are taken away as soon as you say that they are gay.

In the past, with Initiative 416, the state has expressed its view on homosexuality. To say

the least, Nebraska is not a friendly place for people who are seen as different.

A social worker gave a very positive report on the parenting of the child while being raised

by two women. It is the social worker's job to report how a child is living.

The state should simply be concerned with

the well-being of the child, not the sexual orientation of the people who raise it.

The social worker has already said the child is safe and happy, so the woman should be able to legally adopt the child.

The state should not take away homosexuals' rights. Instead, the state should only care about the well-being of its citizens.

In this case, if the child is happy, all efforts should be taken to keep it that way.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

HEROES & ZEROS

Council increases parking ticket fines; students continue illegal activity

- Douglas County's Drug Court

For four years now, the county has offered drug users other options about how to deal with their sentences. Instead of overcrowding the county's jail, the defendants enroll in a drug treatment program for 18 months. Because of the success of the Drug Court, three other counties in the state are starting their own.

- Omaha Police at Homecoming

This year, there will be an added police presence at the homecoming dance. Instead of having only two uniformed officers, the school has arranged for five officers to police the dance. If nothing else, these officers will make the event safer for everyone involved.

- Omaha City Council

The council deserves recognition for its decision to raise fine amount for the parking ticket fee. The fee, which was \$13, was raised to a more substantial \$16. Not only does the higher penalties help to discourage drivers from breaking the law, the school district will also receive more money from the revenue produced by the tickets.

- Ms. Riffel

After the late announcement that Mr. Riley would not return to teach at Central this year, Ms. Riffel stepped up to the challenge of teaching as a "permanent substitute". Her addition to the faculty was so late that her name was not on student's schedules the first day of school.

- Rosenblatt Stadium

Rosenblatt is getting another renovation and it is now becoming an annual tradition for the stadium. By doing this, the city is making sure it puts its best foot forward.

- State writing assessment

Because of poor grading, this already bureaucratic task became even less clear to read. Some school's tests were graded at the school, some at the district and the state even graded some of the results. This subjective grading made the results impossible to understand. If the state wants to continue with this ridiculous benchmark of the state's students, the least they should do is devise a way to grade it on the same scale.

- Illegal parking

Workers from the city's finance office wrote 64 tickets to cars that were parked illegally around campus the first week of school. This activity is immature and irresponsible. The city has no-parking zones for everyone's protection. Cars parked next to fire hydrants cause delays for fire fighters while cars parked next to crosswalks and on hills can cause accidents. Also, cars that chaotically parked on the streets around school cast a poor image on students and the school.

- Trash around school

For the first month of school, students left a lot of garbage in the courtyard and throughout the building. The problem became so bad that the circular announcements contained a remark about it from the principal. We all need to help keep this building clean. The garbage problem makes the school look bad and is also a health risk.

- Missing ceiling tiles on fourth floor

For some reason or another, ceiling tiles in classrooms on the fourth floor were removed, but no renovation work was completed. The ceiling's absence causes teacher's voices from one room to echo to another, distracting students. The district has not replaced the ceiling yet, because any new tiles would have to be removed next summer. OPS should take whatever steps it needs to fix this problem. It cannot wait an entire year.

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The big issue: Dress code

Stereotypes decided codes

This year they have a new rule added to the dress code.

We can't wear spikes, chains or studded jewelry because they can be used as weapons.

I agree that they can be used as weapons, but so can clippies us girls put in our hair or earrings. But why haven't they been banned?

A studded belt or a spike bracelet is jewelry just like earrings and they can be just as harmful.

But they allow you to wear one and not the other. Why?

They don't like us to wear the carves or things that are gang related. That rule makes sense. Some people get uncomfortable when they see someone who appears to be in a gang.

But if I walk in a room with a chain connected from my wallet in my pants, I bet you get scared.

When I'm dressed this way, I'm confident and know I look good. I'm not thinking, "Let me put this on to hurt someone."

Tracina Avant, 10

Dress code does not change student behaviors at all

I think that the school dress code should be abolished.

People are going to wear what they want anyways. To punish them is dumb. You will never get anywhere with the dress code unless uniforms are established.

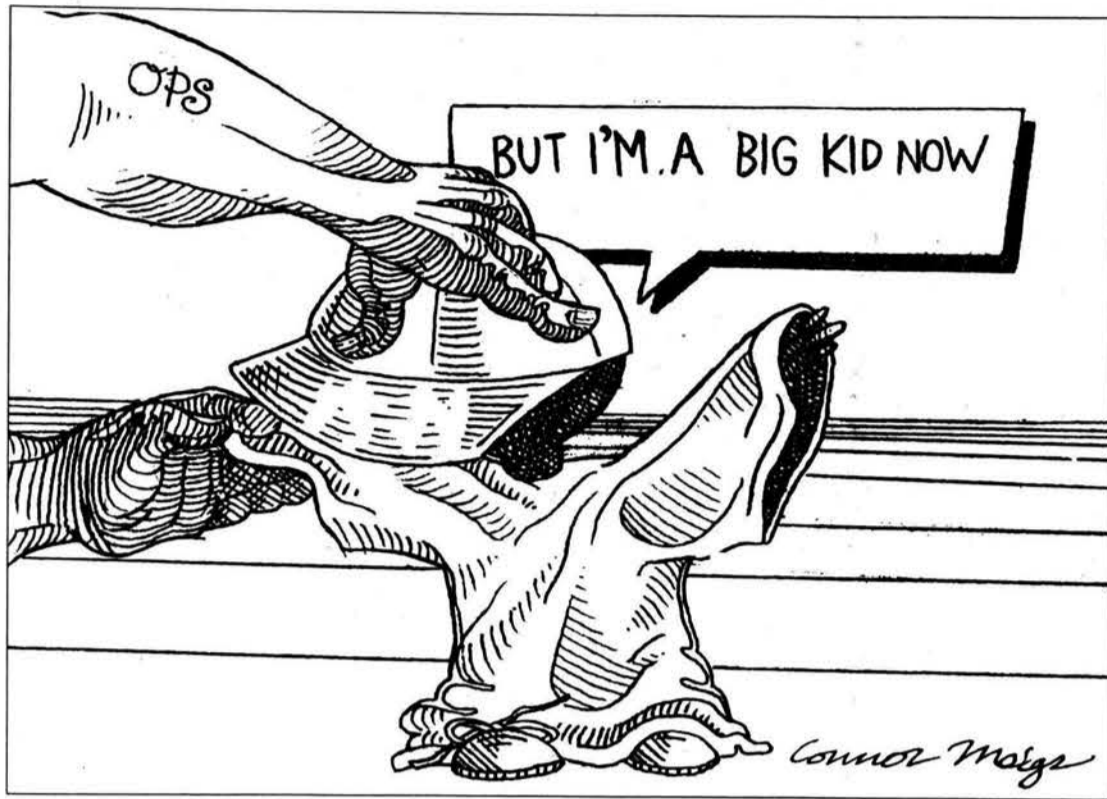
People are going to continue to express their individuality through clothing no matter what.

Emily Nepinsky, 10

When establishing codes, school forgot temperature

I think that the new dress code, in some ways, is ridiculous.

I understand how the staff would feel about some items that have been seen students wearing to school, such as extremely



revealing or see-through clothes.

But clothes such as a normal halter top or thin-strapped tank top shouldn't be made a big deal of.

Our school is so hot that wearing clothes like that isn't inappropriate at all as long as you don't overexpose yourself.

Fallon Leahy, 10

Strict rules urge violations

Up until this year, I was fine with the dress code.

It was relaxed and people were allowed to wear things to express themselves and stay cool in the summer.

This year's dress code is outrageous! Basically, we are told to wear turtlenecks, overalls and other clothes that went out in the 80s.

I mean, I understand no chest-baring tops or crotch-cutting shorts.

But the first day of school, I had to wear a shirt over my outfit because my pants hugged too tight. To me, that is just ridiculous.

No offense and all, but why are you looking at me in that way? It doesn't make sense to me.

Alyx Romano, 10

Dress code

Does it allow students to express themselves while maintaining a proper learning environment?

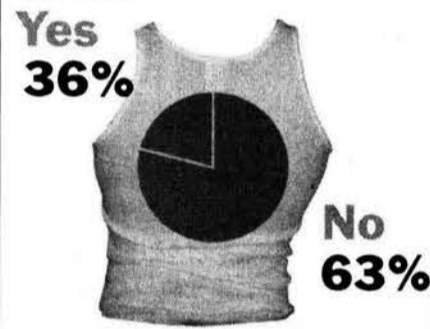


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
500 students polled

School needs to fairly enforce dress code standards

The main thing that I dislike about Central this year is the dress code.

People are told that their pants are too tight and are forced to wear long shirts to cover it up, but yet girls can wear backless tops and not get a comment said to them. If the administration is going to set forth rules, they need to be applied universally.

Jamie Morehouse, 10

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES AND POLLS

Students act rude when walking in halls

As a sophomore at Central High School, I find it very moronic the way many other people treat other individuals in the hallways. What ever happened to courtesy?

I found out that most of these people are freshmen who have pride issues. It almost appears that they are trying to act as if they are not freshmen by using this behavior. In reality, they appear as second graders. They use vulgar language and pushing and that doesn't get anyone anywhere in life.

Jen Coats, 10

is probably why the top layer has separated itself.

The football "field" is falling apart as well. The astroturf is coming loose and is torn in many places.

In regards to the "old" gym, the wood floors are cracked and peeling. The gym is either the coldest or hottest room in the entire building. The circulation is horrible. I took a year of aerobics in that gym and never had a comfortable moment.

Laura Diesing, 10

Useless P.E requirements crowd schedule

Why is it that we are required to take a P.E class for two years? Why do we even have to take one at all?

To me, it is wasting four perfectly good semesters of classes that we could use on other classes which we can actually excel from.

Instead, for two years, 42 minutes a day, we are trapped in a gym. It's not that I don't like the teachers, it's just the fact that I would rather spend my time somewhere else. ROTC and band require you to enroll for four years.

Gym is a waste of time that could be well spent in other courses.

Halley Taylor, 10

Spirit costs lessen high school experience

Spirit costs a lot at Central.

For example, before the first football game, people were selling beads for the game. One necklace cost \$3 and two cost \$5. What a rip-off! Something that probably cost 50 cents to make is being

sold for \$3.

I know they want to make a profit, but that's ridiculous. School spirit should not cost that much.

Tahreem Aziz, 10

Teachers assign work without consideration

One thing that many students, including me, do not like about Central is the amount of homework that the teachers assign.

Many of us have several honors classes, sports, jobs and other extracurricular activities.

It is hard for us to handle everything at once. Teachers don't seem to realize that we have other things going on.

We understand that homework is for us to learn, but too much is just too much. I think teachers should assign, but they should also be considerate of the other responsibilities that students have in their lives.

Farhana Husain, 10

Intoxicated students

Is drinking at school functions a problem school officials need to focus on?

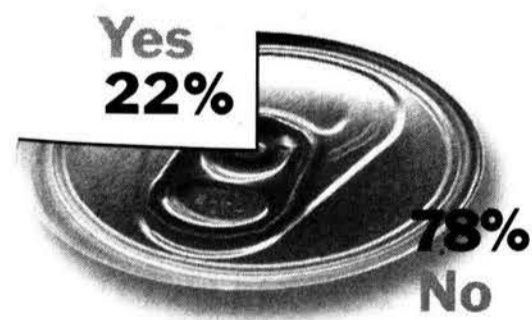


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
500 students polled

School prepares students for college, life

Central has many great qualities. The academic opportunities are unbelievable. You can take many honors class and even college courses. Central is more challenging than most high schools.

When taking challenging courses, it will look good on college applications. In fact, 70 percent of students from Central will attend college. Central also has a great teaching staff. Any time that a student needs help, the teachers will offer help to the student.

Dana Cleasby, 10

Condition of facilities cause many mishaps

I find problems with our "old" gym and our track. The track and football field, for starters, are an absolute mess.

The track is falling apart. The top layer has separated from the rest of the track and it is peeling off. I have witnessed many people trip and hurt themselves. The track is uneven and collects water, which

Teacher pay

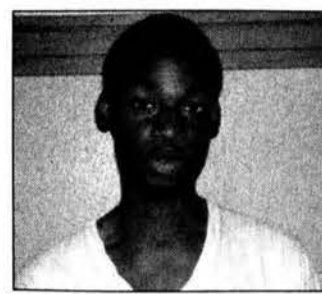
Do school teachers deserve higher pay?



Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
500 students polled

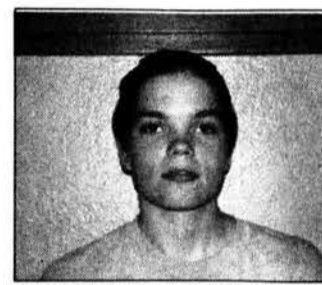
REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think the renovations that are being completed are a distraction to the school environment?



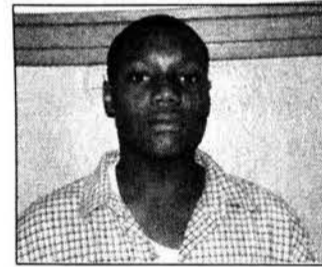
"I think it's causing problems because the career center buses can not be on the same street and it's a busy street. It's taking up too much space."

Marcus Brown, 12



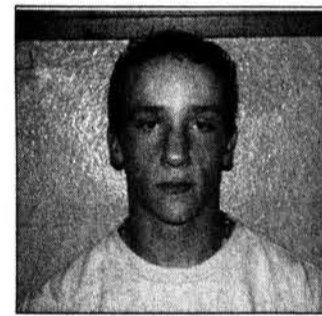
"It doesn't bother me because I don't see them. They are not there."

Tiffany Ludwig, 12



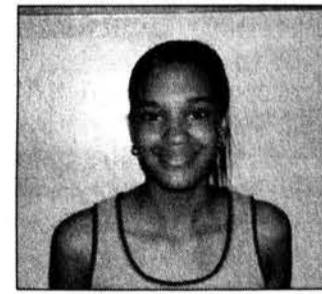
"It's not really in the way. It does not bother me. It's not as bad as some people think."

Larry Price, 9



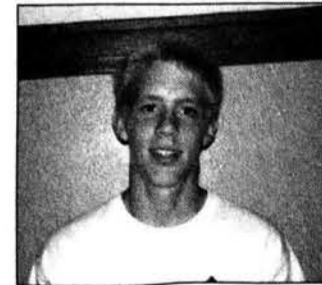
"The only thing that bothers me is the traffic. It takes too much time to get through. It's not going fast enough."

Adam Morris, 11



"I can still work with the noise. I can concentrate."

Dynasti Loving, 10



"I can get to my classes just as good as last year and I can hear all of the announcements."

Norman Welch, 10

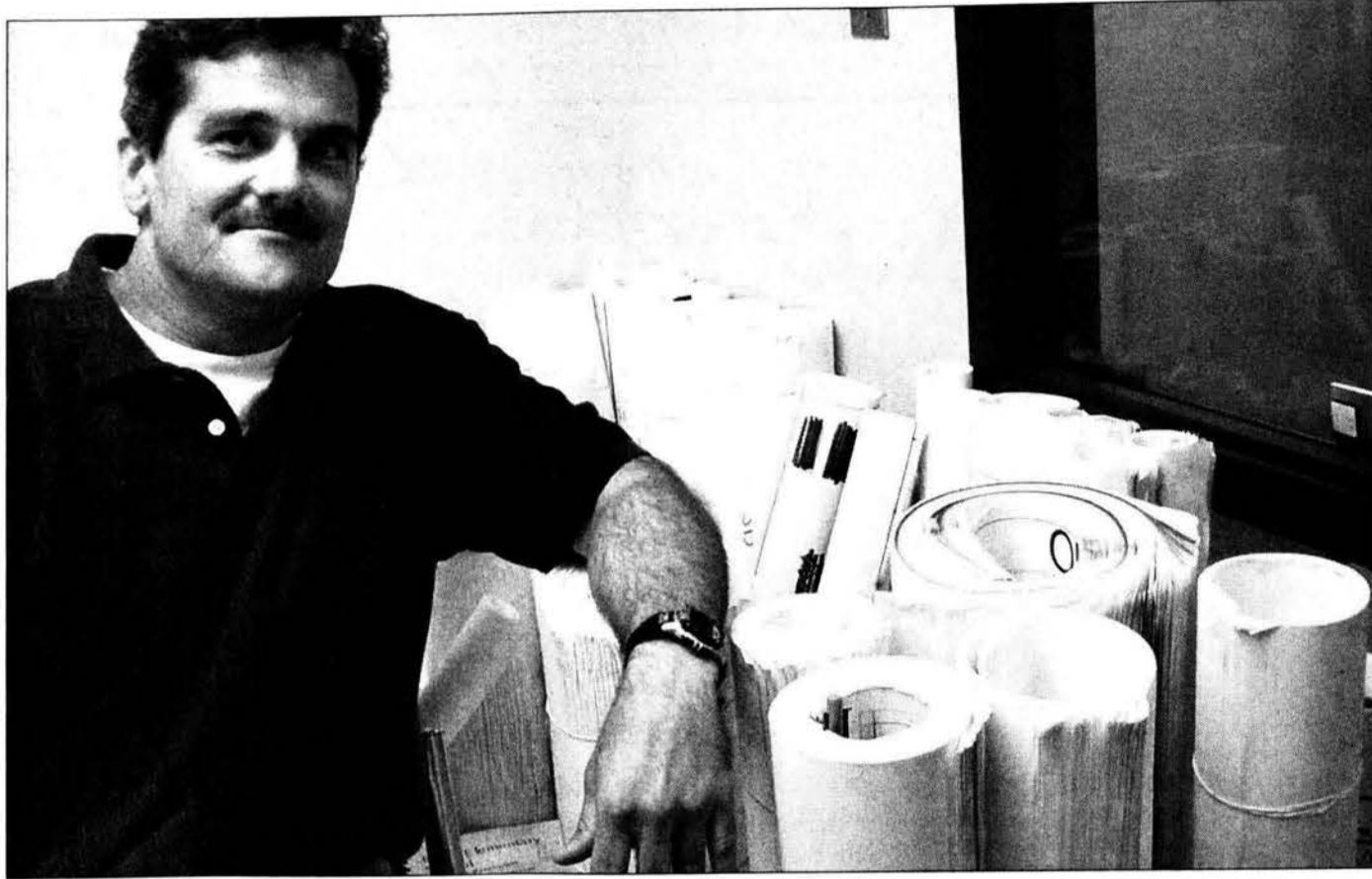


"I think it hasn't caused a problem yet, but it probably will."

Kathryn Bataillon, 12

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Terry Page
Construction manager for Jacobs facilities



'It's kind of like a war'

This issue, the *Register* interviewed Terry Page, construction manager with Jacobs Facilities, about the Central renovations.

Q: How is Jacobs Facilities working with the school district on the Central project? What is your company's role?

A: They give us the budget and we take care of it, through them, from there on. We get the architects on board, we get the design figured out all the way through the stages. The whole time, we consult with OPS. We make sure what we are doing is within their standards and its up to us to keep it in budget and then, after the design stage, we run the construction.

Q: You said your company handled the design and construction phases at the school. What are the differences between organizing the two different stages?

A: You run the design just like you run the construction. There is really no difference between running a design job and running a construction job. We're putting it on paper and the architects have to be managed also.

Q: How was the work in the school planned and how did the work performed this summer fit in with that plan?

A: The job was done in two phases. The first phase was to get your electrical upgrades and mechanical piping run through the chases in the corner of the building and the shafts running all the way from top to bottom of the building.

Q: What was the need for the electrical upgrades and what upgrades were completed?

A: Your power requirements are just like your house. Since you're getting a whole new air-conditioning system, you're going to need some power and some of the old houses that do not have air-conditioning, their panels are real small. If you want to compare it to a house, you just didn't have enough power in there and the building was not designed for that.

So, what we did was we put in a bunch of electrical systems to upgrade your building and we took advantage of, while we were in there, to upgrade your general power distribution. So, if it was in your house, we had to put in a new panel anyways, so why not get it set for the future, like the technology centers?

Q: While your company was planning the construction, how did you work with the school?

A: With Central having so many kids in there, you cannot work in the school year. So we broke the design up where we could jump in there this summer in classroom areas.

Q: What work was done in the classrooms this summer?

A: We tore out the walls and ran all the pipe out in those chases. We rebuilt your walls. You notice, going up and down the steps, where the electrical rooms are. We got all the panels in there and transformers, but none of them are operable.

Q: Was any other work completed this summer?

A: That chilled water line (that is being run on the southeast corner of campus) will be your air-conditioning. On the west side of the building, the Joslyn side, that contractor is running the main feeders for all the electrical systems. Again, its prep work for phase two. We'll have those pipes there and we'll energize the system and fire it up so we can air-condition each floor.

Q: Did this summer's work run behind schedule?

A: Phase one was scheduled to have outside the building before school started. Outside of the building, and inside with the electrical, they can continue until mid to late September. They're doing fine. They were out of your classrooms. The walls were done prior to you guys showing up.

Q: What other work needs to be done and when will it be completed?

A: It's going to be done for the next two years. Additional duct work and conduits. They will eventually come out of there and run it through every room throughout every level. Just about every room in that building will be air-conditioned. Each room's going to get new lights, new fusers, new duct work up there and new drop ceilings.

Q: When phase two starts next summer, how will the construction project work with the students?

A: We're trying to work out options on that phasing plan. You got all kinds of options. We haven't locked in on any of them yet. One is we build the addition and move you guys to the additions and work on rooms once they get empty. We can empty some rooms, we could put you in an addition. We could put you in portables, relocate you to the courtyard, but then you got no place to eat. That's what you go through. We haven't come up with any solutions yet. That's what we're working on right now. It's kind of like a war. It really is.

Society promotes sexism

Sexist. It is not one of the words that describe you, right? Wrong!

If you think you haven't ever been sexist or aren't sexist in everyday life, think again!

Everyone falls victim to sexism on a daily basis, we just don't realize it. In today's society, boys have to act one way and girls must act another.

We make up society, we have the control, so why are we playing by "society's rules"?

According to the media, women are supposed to be feminine, gentle, beautiful, and dependent on men.

That's crap! Women are just as smart and skilled as men are, but they are paid less than men, even when they have the same job.

When it comes to looks, girls have to be better than average, even if it means wearing fifty pounds of makeup. Women should also be slender, but developed to get ahead in today's "perfect" world.

When you see any type of media all you see is skinny girls (just check out the latest fashion magazine).

Girls are taught to nurture and put the men in their lives first, as if they are inferior. Why do we, the people, let ourselves be ruled with these silly reservations?

Don't get me wrong, the boys get cheated just as much as the girls. Guys can't cry or express themselves because then they're a bunch of sissies, not real men.

That's a crock.

Guys have to act macho 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are expected to be rough, tough and to "provide" for women in today's modern world. They are taught that women need to be protected and taken care of. This puts a lot of unnecessary pressure on the male



ALL A SETUP
Danny Whelan

population. Society and politics don't stop them, however. They also play off both sexes with terrible double standards. A clear example of this is society's take on what is appropriate for boys and girls, when it comes to sex and sexuality.

We all know what takes to be a "man" in the world today. You have to lose your virginity before you are truly considered to be a man.

Did anyone ever consider that the real man might just not be interested?

As far as girls are concerned, they should remain virgins until they get married. So then who are all the guys having sex with? If girls have sex before they are married then they are sluts. Is this really all that fair?

When it comes to sexual promiscuity, guys aren't really considered to be sleeping-around type unless they have had sex with about twenty women in one week. Girls can't have more than two partners in one year before being tagged with being sleazy and easy.

There is hope, however. Instead of sitting around, not liking the way things are, why don't we do something about it? Wow, there's a thought!

It's time people start thinking outside the box.

Real men aren't afraid to shed a tear. Guys who are truly beautiful don't need to worry about makeup or their weight. Guys don't need to go sleep around and girls should be able to take the sexual power away from the guys because they've had it for way too long!

Now I'm not telling people to stop being who they really are, I'm just asking for people who don't fit the this society's reotypes to act like themselves, without being afraid of what others may think.

We have the power. We have enough power to defeat sexism once and for all.

Spending limit leads to neglect in budget areas

Again, the school district's hands were tied.

When planning and approving a budget earlier this month, Omaha Public Schools was not able to address all of the district's needs because of a spending limit that has been imposed by the state for years.

The district has more money that it could dedicate to some of these concerns, but the spending cap makes it so these funds can not do anything but collect interest in an isolated bank account somewhere.

The district was able to buy more textbooks, improve the special education department and some other things, but the district left some holes along the way.

This spending cap should be lifted for many reasons.

First, the school district should never have to choose how to use its money. The state should never limit the district's ability to find solutions for every problem.

Instead of prioritizing the district's needs, the state should allow individual school district's to spend money however they deem it necessary.

If the state did this, it would give the individual districts more responsibility.

Right now, the state looks over every dollar the district spends its money. This creates another bureaucratic step in the process.

Complete control over the budget should be placed at the local level. Omaha Public Schools knows the needs of children in the Omaha school district just like Lincoln Public Schools knows what is best for students in Lincoln.

Therefore, the school districts would be the best placed to control the money.

Instead of setting a fixed amount of money that school districts can spend, the state should allow the district to regulate itself.

The spending limit causes nothing but problems. There is no logical reason for its existence.

Existing problems in the district should be ignored.

It is not because no one cares, it is because the limited amount of money needed to be spent somewhere else.

Teachers need to be paid, new textbooks need to be bought, bonds need to be repaid and transportation needs to be arranged.

Not all of these can be resolved through the school district the power to deal with it.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the *Register*

Bus changes make system more user-friendly, help riders locate buses

Metro Area Transit (MAT) did some thinking this summer.

After carefully reviewing the results of a year-long study on how the current bus system works, MAT has decided to make some changes.

And the changes can only make matters better for every rider, including Central students.

Simply put, MAT has decided to stop running buses in straight lines from one side of the city to the other.

Instead, "circulator" bus routes will run from bus stop to bus stop within a certain neighborhood. Those buses will then take customers back to a "hub," or a central location between several circulator buses.

Using this system, the city's transit system will function much more efficiently.

But that isn't all that MAT has in store for quaint little Omaha. Oh no. Its plans go deeper than that.

At some point in the course of MAT's complete restructuring, a global positioning system will be installed. Using this system, customers will be able to find the position of any bus that is running in the city.

Whether on the Internet or by phone, customers will have the location of any MAT bus at their fingertips.

Making the system more convenient, people will be more likely to use MAT to travel around the city.

The first problem that many see with this plan is that it doesn't necessarily help people waiting for the bus. People who are waiting at the bus stop will still have to guess what time the bus will arrive.

But that is not true.

MAT has also planned to install a computer at every bus stop in the city. From the computer, citizens will be able to locate the position of any bus at any time.

People would be able to get to a bus stop, look at a map, and realize they have over 15 minutes until the next bus arrives. Then they would be able to use those 15 minutes to accomplish something more important than simply waiting for a bus.

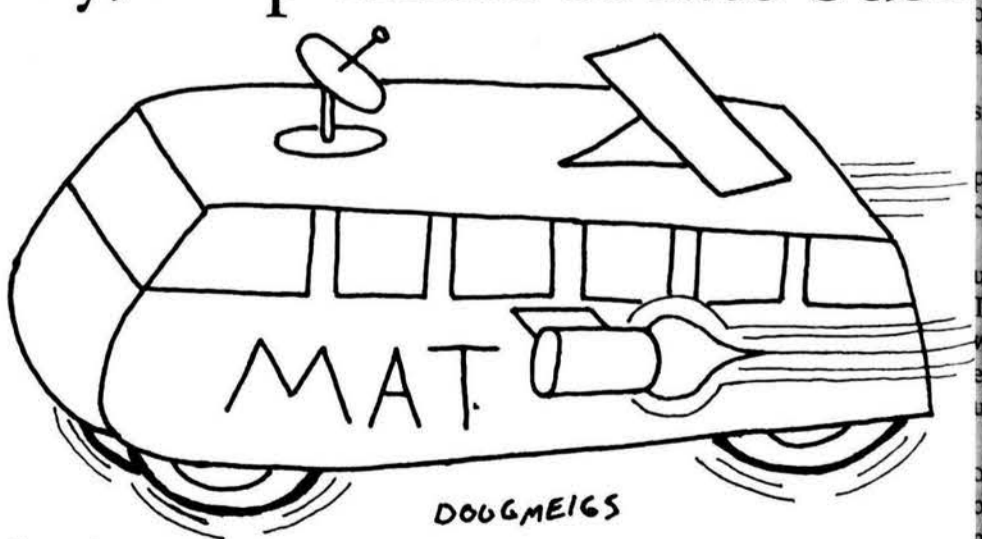
The new system also takes the guesswork out of using the system.

Currently, a person who wants to get from point A to point B needs to have a working knowledge of the bus routes. They need to know what bus to get onto, what stop to get off at, and whether or not they need a transfer.

With the new system, a person will simply get on a bus. Since all buses go to the same central location, they will without a doubt end up somewhere they need to be.

And if they don't know how to get from the hub to their connecting bus, there will be someone there who they can ask.

The new system will also severely lower the travel time necessary to get



from place to place.

Whereas a person riding the bus today might have to use up to two transfers that may or may not take them directly to where they are going, a person in the future will only have to use two, and they will definitely pass their final destination.

But the crowning achievement of the new changes is the revival of several old

buses, last used in the late 60s.

The buses are an almost avocet green, and definitely look as if they haven't been used in a while.

But in the future, they will be circulating the same way as other buses.

And the citizens of Omaha will reap the benefits. Hopefully, Central students will use the bus more often, too.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the *Register*

Fahey scores big with old Gang Unit

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Or at least that's the working motto of the Omaha Police Department's newly revived Gang Unit.

In keeping with one of his major campaign promises, Mayor Mike Fahey put the Gang Unit back into effect this summer.

Bravo, mayor. The Gang Unit is an important part of any police force's attempts to quell gang uprisings. And in Omaha, that's a service that has become quite necessary.

The Gang Unit consists of ten members of the Omaha police force: eight patrolmen and two sergeants.

Each Gang Unit squad is made up of five officers, four patrolmen and one lieutenant. One patrols areas north of Dodge Street, while the other handles the south side of the street.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register

The officers have a simple

drive around and make sure nothing happens. But the reason the unit is such an integral part of any police force is that if a call comes in about gang activity, it is the Unit's job to respond.

All too often, calls about gang activity fall through the cracks.

Currently, the police department does not perceive gang crimes as being of top importance, especially in comparison with other crimes that are being committed at any time.

It is up to the police to serve and protect - rarely does that involve breaking up gang activity. Especially that activity is nothing more than minor vandalism.

But a problem can quickly be identified.

Gang activity is mild, at best. But illegal activities, no matter what the name, inexorably lead people down a slippery slope. A graffiti artist has already broken the law, so why not steal? And a thief has already outsmarted the police, so why not

To alleviate the growing threat of gang violence, Mayor Hal Daubert implemented the Gang Unit in the early nineties.

Unfortunately, the Unit ate up funds and as a result, the program fell victim to budget cuts when Daubert canceled the Unit.

During the period when the Unit was inactive, concerned citizens called the police about gang activity. When they did this, the police rarely came to their aid.

Instead, more police officers handled bigger jobs and neglected the smaller problems of everyday life. It was the typical pitfall of any bureaucracy—too many people doing a task that does not require that much manpower.

It is no secret that the City of Omaha is facing serious budget problems, so when Fahey stepped into office, it looked as if the Gang Unit would join a long list of campaign promises that would never

But it worked.

Fahey used an almost deceptively simple plan—pull ten officers off of normal duty and assign them the task of answering all calls about gang activity.

The beauty of this plan lies in its simplicity.

Now, officers can constantly patrol while still answering the basic calls of gang activity.

And the reinstatement of the gang unit does not bring any extra costs. The officers are still paid normal wages, the gas for patrolling is equivalent to the gas another officer uses while on duty.

It's a fine plan and it's working out beautifully. Officers have been busting graffiti artists and running multiple background checks at the state and county levels for the past few months.

Although this may seem like a small accomplishment, it is a great help to the city's neighborhoods.

Omaha citizens may not appreciate the effects of the Gang Unit because residents can't see the results of the officer's hard work.

But then again, that's the point

Ignorance is bliss

Now that the Nebraska Board of Education abandoned its HIV prevention training, Human Growth and Development classes may be missing a key ingredient

The Nebraska Board of Education did the unexpected.

The board completely eliminated its HIV prevention training that it gives to teachers in the state.

This action is sure to cause many negative impacts across the state for many years.

The best thing the state could have done would have been to adopt a comprehensive-based curriculum that would have taught about condoms as an effective way to prevent people from contracting HIV.

At the very least, the state should have kept its abstinence-only stance when teaching about the deadly virus.

But instead, the state decided to cut the program, citing funding problems for its decision.

No matter what the cost, Nebraska students and teachers need to know about HIV.

Cutting this program was a step in the opposite direction.

Now, students and teachers will not be exposed to any information about the disease, which will spread ignorance instead of information.

HIV is something that can not be ignored. Hundreds of thousands of people nationwide have contracted the virus and some experts have even named it as a future epidemic.

The first step in stopping the spread of this disease is to give information to people. The best way to do that is in a school environment, when young people are maturing into adults.

If they learn about the disease at a younger age, they will be able to adopt safe practices. That way, they will establish practices that they will follow for the rest of their lives.

School is the primary place for young people to gain creditable information about controversial subjects. That is why this decision is so destructive.

If students can no longer receive valuable information from adults they respect, they will be left to fend for themselves and learn about the virus through other means.

Often times, students hear rumors and exaggerations about topics like sex and drugs. If a student does not learn the truth, then they believe these comments like they are facts, which leads to dangerous behavior.

Before this decision, the state had never shied away from teaching students about health issues. That is another reason why this act is so unbelievable.

For an example, sexual education has been taught in the state for decades, so it would only seem logical that the state would expand its program to teach about HIV, in one way or another.

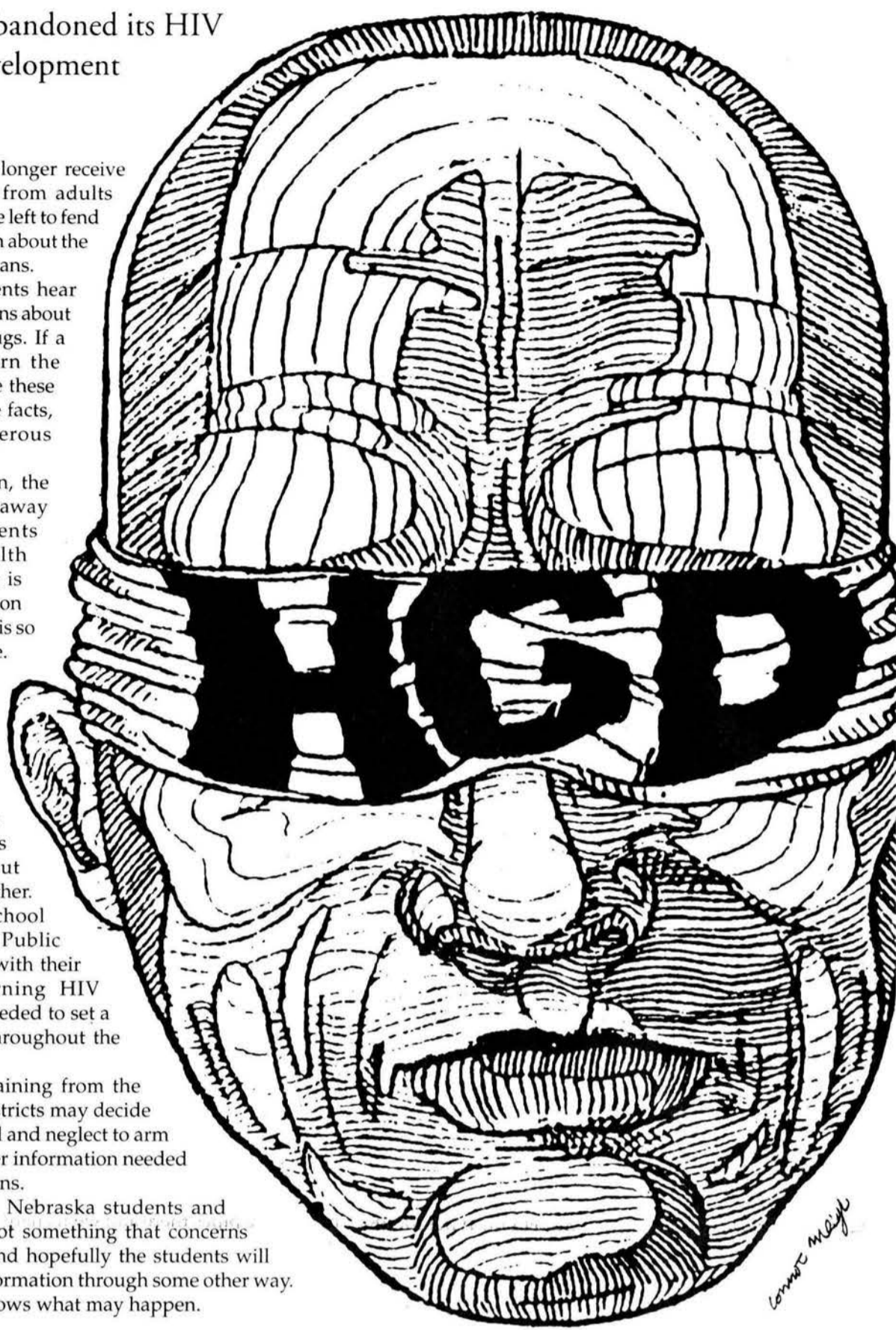
Although some school districts, like Omaha Public Schools, will continue with their own policies concerning HIV prevention, the state needed to set a policy as a standard throughout the state.

Without proper training from the state, smaller school districts may decide to follow the state's lead and neglect to arm students with the proper information needed to make healthy decisions.

The state has told Nebraska students and teachers that HIV is not something that concerns them. This is wrong, and hopefully the students will receive the essential information through some other way.

Otherwise, who knows what may happen.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register



Low teacher salaries take toll on state's educational system

The answer is simple. If the state increases teacher salaries, it would not have to focus on how to solve the current teacher shortage.

Last year, the state made it easier for a teacher from another state to receive a teaching certificate in Nebraska.

This was a viable effort to get more teachers in the classroom. Now, the state has proposed a change for Rule 10, which deals with school accreditation.

The change, if passed, would allow schools to assign one teacher to teach classes that are not in that teacher's specialty for one year without losing its accreditation. For example, if a school needed a Latin teacher and could not find one, it could assign an English teacher who does not have enough training in the area to teach the classes.

These changes may seem elementary, but the motive behind them is troubling. Instead of fixing a problem in the beginning, the state is looking to hand the schools an easy answer. It is neglecting the real issue.

The teacher shortage is not something that is happening in every state. Likewise, the teacher shortage is not a phenomenon that is impossible to explain.

For two years now, teachers have been asking for a salary increase. Throughout that period, the state has looked the other way. Legislators have voted against legislation and even denied that a problem exists.

Money has always been a problem throughout the time that teachers have been asking for a salary increase. Ideas

have been batted around, but it seems the only way to get the problem solved is by increasing taxes.

The state needs to bite the bullet and increase taxes. If it is done to increase teacher salaries and improve the quality of education in the state, it will be more than worth it.

Besides, there is no alternative.

Allowing schools to put teachers in classes that they are not qualified to teach, no matter what the magnitude, jeopardizes the value of public education. The real troubling thing is that this is being done just to save money.

The only way to solve the upcoming teacher shortage is for the state to increase teacher salaries. Legislation needs to be introduced, tax benefits need to be granted and other incentives need to be established to keep Nebraska teachers in

the state.

If the state continues to ignore the real reason why teachers are leaving, the educational system will continue to suffer.

For the last few years, Omaha Public Schools has had many teaching positions available up until the first few days of school. If the largest school district in the state is having problems finding teachers, it is surprising that the smaller ones can even survive.

The state needs to fix the problem now, before it becomes too late.

The new changes to the teaching requirements may not seem very threatening to most, but the warning signs have been here for years. Without quick action, gym teachers may soon be needed to teach French classes. And then it will have reached the point of no return.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register

Freshman day only prolongs first-day terrors, needs revisions

Freshman-only day didn't work. For the first time, freshmen were the only students that attended school on the first day of school.

The 700 new students learned their way around the building, from class to class, and met their classmates.

Then, one day after they figured out all of that, 1800 older classmates flooded the building.

Sure, it's a nice idea to try and give freshmen a chance to get their bearings before the other students arrive and clog the courtyard, but in a lot of ways, it didn't help.

Freshmen learned that the fourth floor is only accessible from that side. They learned that the basement doesn't go all the way around the school.

They learned all the ins and outs of the building. They learned who their teachers were and who their classmates are.

But what they didn't learn was how to deal with upperclassmen.

The poor freshmen, who were spending their first lunch hour of the year sitting leisurely in the courtyard, were

shuffled upstairs into the cramped cafeterias the second day to eat their meals.

The upperclassmen did not waste any time in filling their impressionable freshman minds with traditional tall tales about the school.

"Hey, let me sell you tickets to the pool on the fourth floor."

"Hey, you know you don't really have to go to Study Hall."

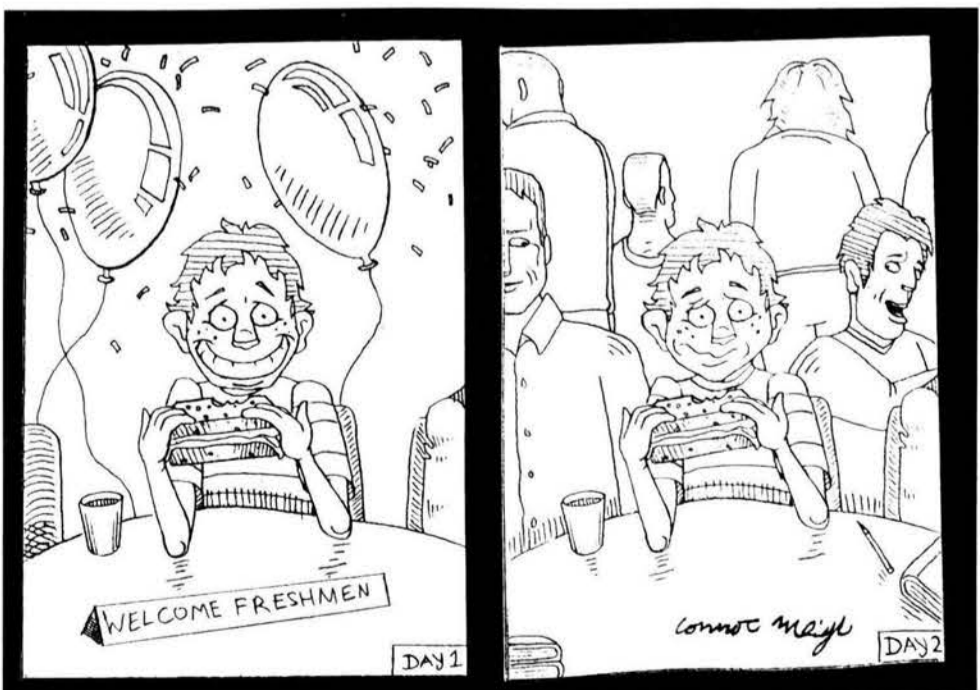
"Hey, let me sell you a pass for the elevator."

Upperclassman unleashed these phrases, along with others, with unprecedented fervor on the young freshmen.

The first day of school is harrowing enough.

New teachers, new classes, waking up early, new books, expenses, lunch—these things are bad enough once. To make incoming students deal with them twice. That's just cruel.

Central was one of the last high schools in the district to be allowed to do freshman-only days. Principal Gary Thompson has been fighting the school district to get it in the school for several years now.



But to what avail? The first day of school can be compared to pulling off a Band-Aid: It's best to get it over with quickly.

If the school is forcing freshmen to draw out the stress of the first day, that is wrong.

The freshman-only day policy should quickly be changed back to what it has been for more than the majority of Central's history. At least that way, freshmen are able to experience the real first day of school on the first day of school.



DIMESTORE HOOD
 Chris Aponick

Crazy people clog reforms

Everywhere I look in this state, there is a horrible lack of money.

The state, the city, the county, the school board, even the local plumber's union all seem to be considering some sort of budget cuts.

But when they decide on whatever they need to cut, some crazy person or group of crazy people complains about it.

These people do not care what is being cut, they simply think it's an atrocity that cuts are taking place, period. Most of the time, they complain when useless things are cut.

For example, when the Douglas County commissioners announced that they were considering cutting funds for the Douglas County Extension Office and shutting down the county law library, it seemed like an effective solution.

Yet there were dimestore lawyers and some guy who raises goats at the next meeting to voice their disgust.

Their claims were ridiculous. The law library is a dimly lit, manila-colored hole and the only thing the extension office does is send out a stupid newsletter that gets placed in the trash.

They also bring smelly animals to the county fair.

But when the Extension Office's funding is threatened, smelly animal lovers whine about it.

The City Council also needs to trim away a couple million from its budget and decided to cut down library hours and the police auditor.

The police auditor is one of the stupidest solutions to a problem, ever. The whole point of it is to have an organization outside of the police department without any jurisdiction over the police department so people can go there to complain to some lady about the police department.

But she has no authority, so nothing ever changes.

Instead, I envision a new program called "Deadly but Equal" where cops dole out excessive force irregardless of age, sex, race or crime. The department would issue blindfolds along with assault rifles.

The best part is this program is it costs very little.

But wait, here come the crazy people to complain about this effective solution.

There is also talk of cutting the Humane Society's funding causing the society to raise pet adoption and licensing fees.

We can't do that because then people wouldn't adopt pets.

But if the money given to the Humane Society is spent equipping rednecks with guns and telling them to shoot every furry thing in sight, there will be a smaller pet adoption pool. And that would be just fine.

Many of these things may seem radical, but they work. Truthfully, most of these budget shortfalls could be cured with a little bit of a property tax hike.

Old people and rich Republicans don't want to cough up an extra \$100 to help out the city.

So say goodbye to going to the library on the weekend and adopting a pet for cheap because without these cuts, the city would be unable to provide luxuries such as roads, a fire department and housing inspectors.

Out of control



Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

After years of being faced with a problem with intoxicated students at football games, the school needs to start enforcing the district's rules and to control the situation

If school officials want to stop students drinking at school functions, they should start enforcing the district's rules concerning underage drinking at school activities.

The school district's code of conduct clearly explains that officials can determine if a student is under the influence of alcohol if the student's clothes smell of alcohol or if the student's ability to think and act correctly is impaired.

The district also lays out the consequences for violations of the rules. On the first offense, a student faces a minimum of a 19-day suspension. Offenders are to be expelled after the second offense.

But come Friday nights, school officials seem to forget that these guidelines even exist.

At every football game, there are always a few students who are obviously intoxicated in the stands.

Then, come Monday morning, students hear an announcement about how noticeable it was that some of them were intoxicated at the game. The announcement also informs students about the damages drinking does to both the school and

themselves.

If school officials consistently notice the problem, why are the district rules not enforced?

Why are students being allowed to attend football games under the influence of alcohol and not face the consequences?

The school's concerns are right.

Drinking at football games and other school activities hurts the school's reputation, but students do not care about the school's image.

Students care about getting caught. They care about getting in trouble. They also care about suspensions and expulsions, not about the reputation of the school they attend.

Also, drinking at school sponsored events might become a liability issue for the school.

If students are not reprimanded for this activity and cause an accident, the school could be held responsible.

The school should not take that risk.

Teenage drinking is also extremely dangerous for students. Besides causing health problems, alcohol use at a young age may cause future

dependence. Also, teenage drinking leads to accidents every year, which hurts others in the community.

Announcing the same message every week is not the answer to this problem. School officials need to enforce the drinking rules.

Students should not be trusted to police themselves. Instead, the school needs to take a stand against this activity and suspend students who break the rules.

School activities are intended to be places where students are able to show off their hard work and dedication. These activities should not be spoiled because a few students believe that they are an excuse to get drunk.

The only way that student's minds will be changed is if school officials crack down on the illegal activity.

Granted, football games may never be alcohol free, but the school needs to take the initiative and enforce the district's rules that are designed to protect students, spectators and staff.

Once the school punishes a couple students, the other students will catch on to the idea, and hopefully, the problem will disappear.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff

Detassling corn raises hygiene questions on hot summer afternoons

If you're not a morning person, don't detassel corn!

I learned that the hard way this summer. The two weeks that I was in town this summer, I spent waking up at four in the morning and working long, hot days.

We were in fields where you sank past your ankles in mud, and all of the corn was a foot taller than me. I was getting poked in the eye and losing contacts lenses left and right. Then you would get on the bus after the end of the day, and all you would smell is must and mildew-ing clothing.

There was comedy throughout all of this, though. There were these two girls on the bus who were just wrong for what

they were doing. What you don't understand is that there was no sense in what was going on. I wanted to actually get up and slap them, but it's the whole black guy slapping white girl thing.

I hated that job anyway. But I would have had to go through the whole conflict of finding a criminal prosecutor who was stupid enough to take on my case.

But the thing was, everybody was all sticky and nasty and musty and these chicks would sit there everyday and spray Plumeria and

put on make-up. Ok, if you were planning on going home and getting in the shower, would

you put on make up and spray perfume?

I mean they had the whole bus smelling worse than it already did. I guess that they weren't too hygienic because the way that they were grooming, it seemed as if they weren't planning on bathing.

Then again, guys don't have the same problems with hygiene that girls do. I can't stand those girls that... are not good at bodily cleansing.

These girls were actually cute though. Sure, they were only 13 and 14, but that was minor. Then again, stachitory rape, and domestic violence would really bring two strikes against me.

So I tried to deal with them on a less violent level. I asked them nicely to stop doing that because it would make the entire bus smell like roses in a compost yard.

Do you know what thanks I got for doing

that? I got looked up and down like I'd done something to their dog or something. I have only been looked at like by my mother. I really didn't know what to do.

I ended up with my original dilemma. Smack them and get fired, or deal with two snotty nosed brats that shoppe at Bath and Body Works and didn't bathe.

I didn't have that problem. Although we went through hot and tiring work always came out smelling like a rose not really. Have you ever been in a fish house? That smell is no where close to what I smelled like.

They finally got the picture when supervisors started talking about it. They finally felt ashamed and ceased their incessant torture of the rest of the bus. The rest of my job really sucked, but it was one less problem I had to deal with.



ONE STRIKE AGAINST ME

Jon Lathan



PEOPLE
Central grad runs local
laser light show
PAGE 19

Napster comes to Omaha

By Kaitlin Butz

The battle over Napster may officially be over, but the task of changing the free-file swapping to a fee-based service will take some time.

Napster has employed people in Omaha that work at West for telemarketing to aid them in the transition process.

As part of the settlement between the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Napster, one and a half million copyrighted songs must be removed from Napster, said Andrew Hickman, a former Central student who now works at West for Napster.

Hickman said his main job for the mean time is to check files available on the site against a database of copyrighted songs to make sure they are not available on the site. After the transition to a fee-based service is complete, Hickman said his main duties would be taking double-shootings calls from users. Though Napster is based in Redwood, Calif., they chose to outsource West as a site for customer service.

While the site is in transition, Hickman said, Napster is developing technology to filter out copyrighted material. The site's old technology ensured this at 99.2 percent success rate, but the courts seemed that insufficient.

This technology is being designed at the request of the labels, Hickman said. He said artists like Dave Matthews, who don't produce their own material, support Napster.

Artists who produce their own albums, like Dr. Dre and Metallica, are usually opposed to Napster. Hickman said this is because artists make most of their money off of tours, while producers make most of their money from album sales.

Sophomore Sam Stanfield said he used to use Napster every other week. He said some of the songs he downloaded were from artists who were locally opposed to Napster. Stanfield said he does not mind the change to a fee-based service.

"It doesn't really bother me, because I feel bands have the right to their own music," he said.

Sophomore Kristen Clowers opposed to the new Napster.

"I don't like it, it's messed up. There's plenty of other services out there like Napster," she said.

VINYL makes a comeback

Central students are snapping up vinyl quicker than in past years, and the trend shows no signs of slowing down



Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Vinyl records come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Most vinyl albums are by indie-rock artists who are on labels that specifically release music on vinyl. Popular bands can usually release vinyl albums by request to the record company.

By Kaitlin Butz

The record player may seem like a symbol of the 60s and 70s, but to many people it is quickly becoming the best way to enjoy music.

Junior Tim Shew says he buys vinyl because the sound is clearer since it's ingrained in the record. Shew has about 35-40 records in his collection, which he started last February.

"It's my way of defying corporate rock labels," Shew said of buying vinyl.

Records have been increasing in popularity in the Midwest over the past year, said Matthew Nyberg, Vinyl Buyer for Homer's Music. Nyberg said vinyl has always been popular on the coasts and in larger markets like Minneapolis and Chicago.

Many stores in the Omaha area sell vinyl. Kevin Jones of the Antiquarium said that vinyl accounts for 30 to 40 percent of their sales. Jeff Cyr of Cymusic.com said he has seen a steady rise in sales of vinyl since his company began in 1997.

Independent labels release more of their albums on vinyl than larger, mainstream ones said Melissa Severin of Drastic Plastic. Jones said major labels

only release albums on vinyl if the band requests it.

Some record labels do release their albums strictly or mostly on vinyl. The sound quality of vinyl can be just as good as a CD, depending on the kind of system you own, Nyberg said. He said a basic set-up could easily be found at a pawn shop. These may need minor repairs, such as replacing old belts. New systems can be purchased for around \$100 at an electronics store.

"People who are audiophiles may argue that the quality of sound on a record is superior to any other genre- cassette, eight track or CD," Severin said.

While most records are twelve inches, they can come in other sizes, which Severin said, are more of a novelty. Stores in Omaha occasionally carry three, five, six or eight inch records. Seven and ten inch records are fairly common sizes as well.

Records can also have specialty printings, with different colors or pictures imprinted on the vinyl. These are not as common as the standard, black record. Some also have limited releases, with each record numbered, which makes them more valuable.

There is a large market for used vinyl as well.

Jones said there are always customers in looking for used records. Cyr's site deals entirely with used records. He said many of his customers for obscure music that would never be released on CD or reissued on vinyl.

"A lot of people are looking for vinyl records that they had from their childhood. It brings back memories," Cyr said.

There is no one reason for the rise in vinyl's popularity. Nyberg said it's because records are a large, tangible project.

"There's a care you have to put into it," he said.

Jones said there is an aesthetic records have that other forms do not.

"It's definitely much nicer to own a piece of vinyl than a piece of plastic," he said.

Records tend to be cheaper than CDs, said Severin said. They are a collector's item and can be worth more later on. Jones said collectors sometimes come in looking for original pressings. Overall, Severin said, the majority of customers are looking for what they like, not what is collectable or what is rare.

Stretching trend punctures its way into Central

By Layne Gabriel

Although piercing has been a trend for years, many people have been stretching their piercings for a new look.

Senior Zach Kowalewski has been stretching his ear piercings since his freshman year.

He said he saw a show about piercings and made his decision.

Kowalewski purchased papers from Hot Topic to stretch his ears. He decided that having the holes in his ears that big was a little much, so he decided to shrink them down four sizes and now they are at a double-ought, 00 gauge).

Big Brain's piercer, who goes

by "Smitty", said that stretching piercings is pretty popular. To get instant gratification with stretching, Smitty said he recommends starting out big.

To pierce with a large gauge initially, a piercer uses a dermal punch, which doctors use in biopsies of tumors. The piercer uses the punch to go through the ear and it does not hurt much more than a regular piercing.

He said that piercing using a dermal punch allows the person getting pierced to save money on jewelry and be impatient by getting it all done right away.

Piercings go by gauge and after a double-ought, then it goes

by one eighth of an inch.

Stretching the holes without the help of a piercer could lead to major problems, such as causing a weak spot in the ear and infections.

"A lot of times people use stuff that they find like caps of pens to do it. I don't recommend that," Smitty said.

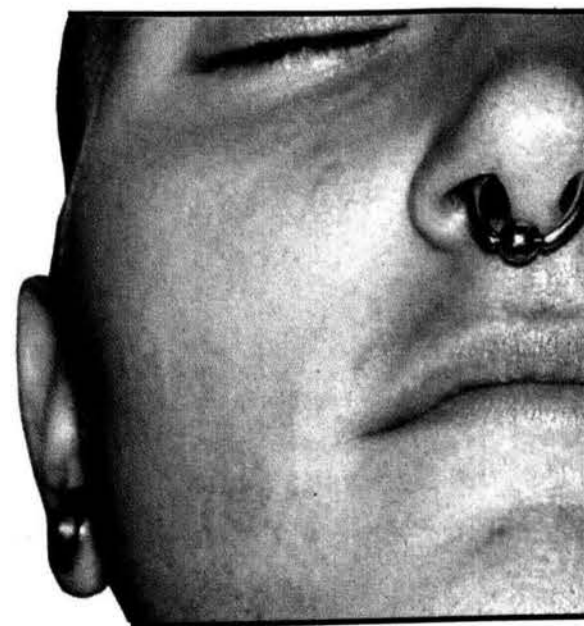
All stretched piercings can heal quickly. With one half an inch gauge in the ear, it takes only three weeks to close and it will be virtually invisible.

Since the stretching heals quickly, losing jewelry could result in the hole shrinking a little, but it can be redone in six to

eight weeks.

Ears and tongues are the most popular to stretch, Smitty said. Tongues are not as forgiving when it comes to pain and larger sizes can cause problems because there are smaller spaces between veins.

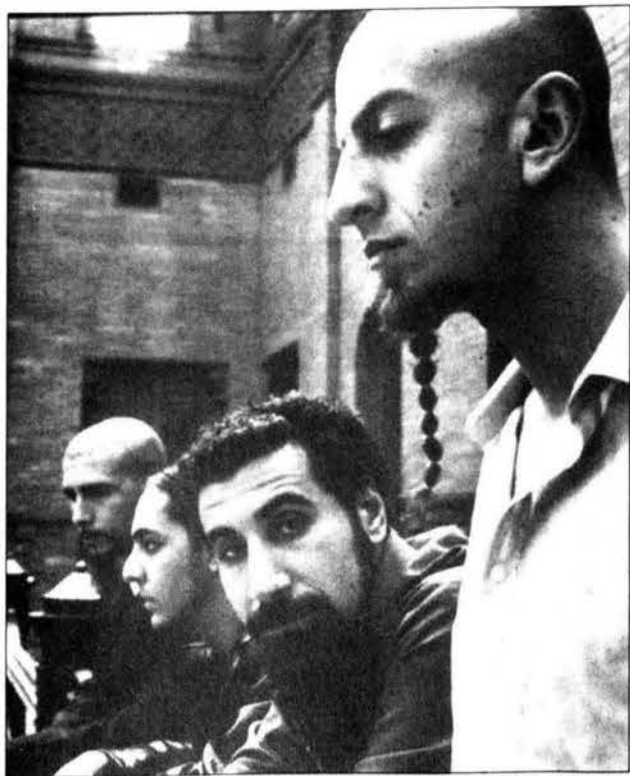
The riskiest piercings to stretch are the septum (inside of the nose) and the nipples.



Senior Zach Kowalewski has stretched his ear piercings to a double-ought gauge. The normal gauge for a beginning ear piercing is 16 or 18.

Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

System of a Down



Courtesy of AMERICAN RECORDS

John Dolmayan, Daron Malakian, Serj Tankian and Shavo Odadjian are the members of System of a Down. The band's show in Omaha scheduled for Sept. 16 at the Civic Auditorium was cancelled.

Drowning Pool



Courtesy of WIND-UP RECORDS

Drowning Pool's most recent single "Bodies" has been in heavy radio rotation.

Trickside



Courtesy of WIND-UP RECORDS

Jeff and Dave Mendelsohn are the members of Trickside. Their pop album is available on Wind-Up Records

It's Engelbert Time!



Courtesy of <http://www.engelbert.com>

Singer Engelbert Humperdinck performed Aug. 26 at the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln.

Calendar



Courtesy of MIRAMAX

Shannon Elizabeth plays Justice and Jason Mewes plays the loudmouth stoner Jay in "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back." Justice and Jay hit it off, and Jay's dream finally becomes a reality. (Below) Chirs Rock adds to the humor in this fifth installment from Kevin Smith.

Movie 'strikes back' with vengeance, humor

By Layne Gabriel

Screen mastermind Kevin Smith has returned again with one of his funniest movies yet, "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back."

Jay and Silent Bob return for the fifth installment of Kevin Smith's series which began with "Clerks" in 1994.

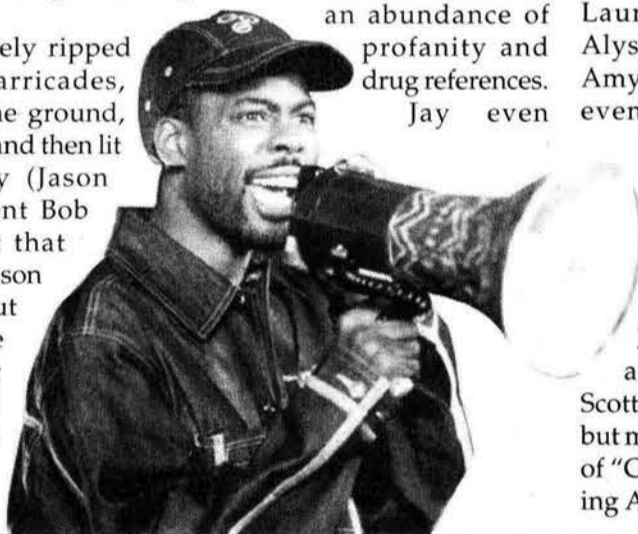
Smith definitely ripped out all of the barricades, threw them on the ground, stomped on them and then lit them on fire. Jay (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob (Smith) find out that Banky Edwards (Jason Lee) sold them out when he sold the rights to his comic "Bluntman and Chronic" to Miramax to make a film.

Jay and Silent Bob find out they are being bad-mouthed on a website for selling out to the man, so they decide to take the initiative and sabotage the production.

The movie is filled with hilarious jokes based on Smith's previous films, not to mention an abundance of profanity and drug references. Jay even

gets his first onscreen makeout session. Many of Smith's popular characters from his older movie make an outstanding return.

Brian O'Halloran and Jeff Anderson make a triumphant and anticipated return as Dante and Randal from "Clerks." Joey Lauren Adams returns as Alyssa Jones from "Chasing Amy" and Alanis Morissette even returns as God from "Dogma." Smith also has an all-star cast including Ben Affleck, Chris Rock, Will Ferrell, George Carlin, Carrie Fisher, Matt Damon, Mark Hamill, Shannon Doherty and Seann William Scott. This movie is a must-see, but make sure to see a marathon of "Clerks," "Mallrats," "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma" first.



Upcoming Events

September

20 Trial By Error at the Cog Factory

Lincoln rockers Trial By Error bring their unique heavy sound to the Cog for one night of amazing music. The members of Trial By Error are all young, right around 15 and 16, but their ages don't hold them back from rocking hard. Cog Factory: 2224 Leavenworth St.

21 Noizewave and Project: Wet at the Ranch Bowl.

Area hip-hop group Noizewave joins Omaha/Lincoln hardcore-punk-metal band Project: Wet for what promises to be an amazing show at the Ranch Bowl. If you're lucky enough to get your hands on a coupon, the show is only \$6, otherwise plan to shell out \$8 for six bands, starting at 8 p.m. Ranch Bowl: 1600 S. 72 St.

24 Strike Anywhere and American Nightmare at the Cog Factory.

Enter the Cog Factory in downtown Omaha and listen to a few hardcore bands for only a few bucks. The Cog has a nice underground rock appearance and the shows are a great way to spend an evening. Cog Factory: 2224 Leavenworth St.

October

4 The Rocky Horror Show opens at the Millennium Theatre.

A cult classic returns to the Omaha stage for the first time in almost a decade. Stages of Omaha presents the story of Dr. Frankenfurter, his engineered pet Rocky and the meeting of an innocent couple, Brad and Janet. The show runs through Nov. 4. Millennium Theatre: 16th and Jackson St.

5 Ben Folds Five at the Ranch Bowl.

Ben Folds Five will rock the Ranch Bowl at one of the most affordable national concerts of the season. Listen to the band rock with songs from "The Unauthorized Biography of Reinhold Messner" and "Whatever and Ever Amen." To catch the band shell out \$18 before the show or a mere \$22 on the day of show. Ranch Bowl: 1600 S. 72 St.

27 Stephen Malkmus and The Jicks at Sokol Hall.

Former lead singer of indie rock band Pavement, Stephen Malkmus gets his kicks at the Sokol Hall on Saturday night. For \$12, have a nice peaceful night of rock and roll and good clean fun. Sokol Auditorium: 2234 S. 13th St.

Movie Releases

September

21 "Big Trouble"
"Glitter"
"Training Day"

28 "Don't Say a Word"
"Hearts in Atlantis"
"Zoolander"

October

5 "Collateral Damage"
"Joy Ride"
"Max Keeble's Big Move"
"Serendipity"

12 "Bandits"
"Corky Romano"
"The Last Castle"

19 "From Hell"
"Heist"
"On the Line"
"Riding in Cars with Boys"

26 "K-PAX"
"Novocaine"
"13 Ghosts"

Album Releases

September

25 "Live Evolution" - Queensryche
"Feeding the Gods" - Tim Finn
"Underneath" - The Verve Pipe
"Coming of Age" - Breakin' Point
"Torment In Hell" - Deicide

October

2 Untitled - Korn
"Pass Out of Existence" - Chimaira

9 "Dragontown" - Alice Cooper
"Dark Days" - Coal Chamber
"Live In '75" - Black Sabbath

16 "Atomic" - Lit
"Animosity" - Sevendust
"Down To Earth" - Ozzy Osbourne

23 "Golden State" - Bush
"Morning View" - Incubus
"Hymns" - Godflesh

30 "Oracle" - Kittie

31 "The Sinister Urge" - Zombie

Concerts

September

24 Mike Watt at Sokol Underground

26 Moe at Sokol Auditorium

October

1 Bargain Music at Ranch Bowl

9 The Damned at Ranch Bowl
They Might Be Giants at Royal Grove, Lincoln

10 Disturbed, Drowning Pool, Stereomud and Systematic at Pershing Auditorium, Lincoln

11 U.K. Subs at Cog Factory

16 Death Cab For Cutie at Sokol Underground

Sokol: 2234 S. 13th St.
Ranch Bowl: 1600 S. 72 St.
Cog: 2224 Leavenworth St.

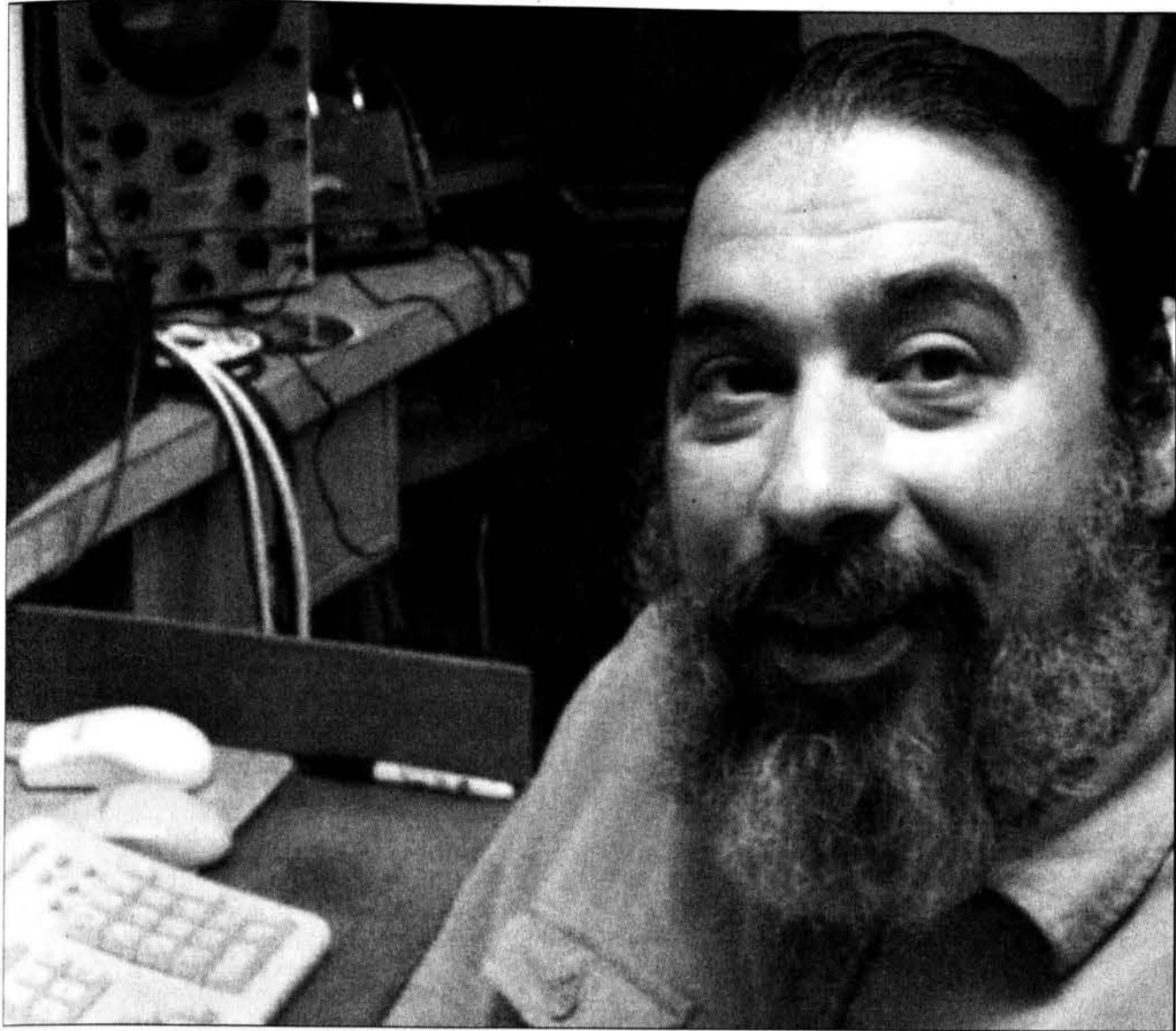


Photo by LAYNE GABRIEL/ THE REGISTER

Charles St. Lucas has designed hundreds of laser light shows in his eleven years at UNO's Kountz Planetarium. The most popular show done was the Garth Brooks show.

Alumnus designs laser shows

By Layne Gabriel

Central graduate Charles St. Lucas, has spent the last eleven years working on creating the laser light shows at UNO's planetarium.

St. Lucas has been working at the Kountz Planetarium for 14 years and began programming laser light shows in 1990.

He learned about the technology that goes along with building programs and began to put productions together locally.

"Everybody [on my staff] does a little bit of it. Some of my staff will pick out the music and do graphics," he said.

Building a show takes about a month.

"Every single frame has to be figured out," he said.

The staff of the planetarium, which consists of about eight people, decides what music they are interested in using for the program. The songs are selected and the staff goes through each song adding and subtracting art for the program.

"Adding graphics to the shows can take weeks," St. Lucas said.

More difficult graphics are added, such as lightning, anything that may be talked about in the song or graphics to match the mood of the song.

"If they talk about explosions, we have an explosion," St. Lucas said.

The last thing he does is automate the special lighting effects and makes sure the show is perfect.

Generally, the reactions to the laser light productions are good. If the viewer enjoys the music they are seeing, then the program is usually interesting.

The shows are fun to go to with friends, groups of people add energy to the show. The planetarium does not mind if people are a little rowdy, St. Lucas said.

He said there are very few problems with motion sickness by viewers. If they have problems with the motion, they can just look at the floor and it will calm them. Originally the programs used an alcohol-based fog to enhance the show, but the fog was getting in to people's skin and making them a little tipsy, so the planetarium discontinued that effect, St. Lucas said.

The most popular program shown at the planetarium was the Garth Brooks show in 1994. It broke all records for program ticket sales.

A close second was Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon," he said.

The Kountz Planetarium is considering doing midnight showings of the Pink Floyd show on Saturdays beginning in September.

Lincoln band refreshes sound

By Layne Gabriel

Singer Travis Ritter's stage presence does not show the fact that his band, Anti-Depressant, just lost its drummer.

After a summer of shows at Lincoln venues, the band lost drummer Erika Mickle and was forced to stepped back and reevaluate its sound.

In August, the band found its new drummer, Mike Young. Ritter said he is truly pleased with Young's abilities.

Anti-Depressant has been working on creating a heavier sound, which will give them the opportunity to gain new fans and clean up some of the old songs.

"What's happening is a lot of experimenting... If you make changes here and there, you're just adjusting and improving, ready to jump back in where you left off and blow everyone away," he said.

Ritter said he hopes that the band's fans will enjoy the new sound of Anti-Depressant. It is hard to tell how an audience will react to the band, though.

The band has played many shows and some have been more successful than others. Some shows only provided the band with pity applause.

Aside from practicing once or twice a week, all of the members go to school at Lincoln Northeast High School.

"It's not like we're all in college where we can work around the flexible school schedule and have a set work schedule. You have to take them as you can get them and hope like hell you can

make everything fit," Ritter said.

A smoother schedule won't be a reality for at least two years, as Ritter is a junior while the other members are seniors.

Anti-Depressant currently has about seven songs in its set, with a majority of lyrics written by Ritter and guitarist Kyle Thorfinnson. Ritter's songs are about what people go through on a day to day basis.

"It's kind of one-sided, since I write most of the songs about my experiences," he said.

Bands have their problems and Ritter said the band's biggest downfall is that the members cannot agree.

"We've built up extremely good convincing skills because otherwise we'd still be at a measly riff and just arguing about whether we like it enough to use it in a song or not," he said.

The members have had arguments from drums to vocal quality to background vocals and back, but arguments get resolved and they play on.

Although the band has been through a lot, Ritter is happy with the closeness the members of the band share.

"We couldn't do without any of the members, though originally I wanted to be a no-drummer band just because it would get us noticed... if we weren't all such good friends, this band would have dissolved the instant I got it together," Ritter said. "Now we've got a decent collection of songs."

New drama teacher Gibson updates theater curriculum

By Layne Gabriel

New drama teacher John Gibson's passion for the theater brought him to Central.

"Every play that I do becomes my favorite play," Gibson said.

Along with this fall's musical, "Brigadoon," the spring play and Roadshow, the drama department will be participating in a one-act play competition with Kris Jonyka, forensics coach, that Gibson will be working on.

Gibson has altered the audition process for the drama productions this year.

Instead of the multiple days of auditions including workshops, Gibson is giving each auditioner a five-minute time slot to perform material that they prepared on their own time.

"If you can sell yourself in five minutes, you can sell yourself onstage," he said.

He said that he is considering some more non-traditional shows for upcoming productions, such as "Moliere's Imaginary Invalid" for this year's spring production and "Evita" for an upcoming musical.

Gibson is also in charge of the theater tech program at Central. This year, the tech program is being reorganized and Gibson is giving underclassmen training for tech positions in their later years. Hiring people to come in and work on productions may not be as easy as it was for former drama teacher Pegi Georgeson, Gibson said.

"Money wise, we don't have that capability any longer," he said.

Giving more students the ability to

have responsibility in the theater is important to Gibson.

"I'm not here to babysit, I want to expose you to as much theater and how it is done, whether it is onstage or offstage," he said.

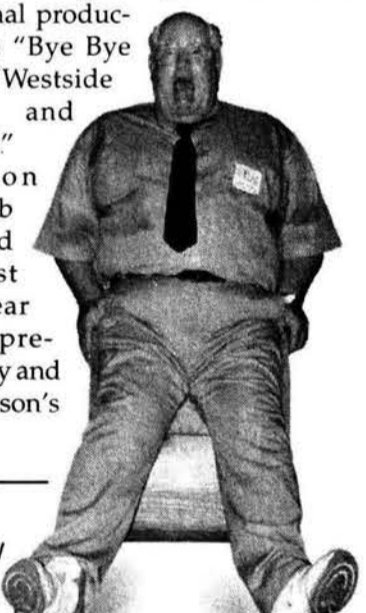
His interest in drama took flight in fifth grade in Chicago when students from Northwestern University were sent to direct children in plays. He was cast in one of those productions and he continued with drama throughout high school and college.

"My high school did phenomenal productions," Gibson said.

Gibson has been teaching for over 30 years at Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln high schools in Council Bluffs and Mishawaka High School in Indiana. In addition to teaching locally, he has been in professional productions like "Bye Bye Birdie," "Westside Story" and "Camelot."

Gibson took the job at the end of last school year and is prepared to try and fill Georgeson's shoes.

Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/ THE REGISTER



Designer tears through job, has fun in process

By Katlin Butz

Cut a pattern. Research history. Meet with the director. All of it is in a day's work for Sheri Geerdes, costume designer for the Rose Theater.

Geerdes has spent her entire career working at the Rose. She is starting her 10th season in her position.

Currently, she is working on costumes for this year's plays, including "Harry, the Dirty Dog," "Where the Red Fern Grows" and "Go, Dog, Go."

Geerdes' duties include researching, designing and making the costumes for the theater's productions.

She has one assistant and they do all the work between them.

Costuming can take as little as two weeks or as long as six weeks, depend-

ing on the size of the production. Researching a certain style, time period or animal for authenticity may be necessary before she can design anything.

Once Geerdes has rough sketches of the costumes, she meets with the director to compare and adjust, depending on what the director wants to do.

She said keeping communication with the director open is an important part of her job.

From that point on, Geerdes starts on the process of constructing the costumes.

"The creating different costumes, researching different periods and styles, that's the best part," Geerdes said.

She draws and cuts out the patterns. Then moves on to sewing and building them, with the help of her assistant.

Geerdes said that some pieces for costumes might be bought instead of handmade, especially for plays set in modern times.

To get the necessary education, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Design from the Minnesota College of Art and Design.

She has done work for other theaters, but has no other exclusive jobs.

Geerdes said her favorite production has been "The King and I" from last year's season.

She said people think her job is easy, but they don't realize all extra work involved. She said there are long hours and overtime that most people do not know about.

"It's not all fun and games," she said.

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THE ONLY TIME

Layne Gabriel

Praise for dress code deserved

You're standing around when suddenly you hear "Bootylicious" by Destiny's Child booming in the background, and around the corner comes a female with a backless shirt, cleavage and a mini skirt that barely covers her derriere.

You're not in a strip club, you're at school.

The new dress code is definitely a good idea.

Finally Dr. Gary Thompson has stood up to the idiocy of what most teenagers call "fashion," and I am 100 percent supportive of him.

I support the ability for teenagers to express themselves with their clothing, but there is a fine line between being fashionable and inappropriate.

The rule in OPS has always been that if it is a distraction, then it is inappropriate.

They can handle blue hair and funky jewelry because that's not too provocative, but clothing is something that needs to have restrictions.

Honestly, trying to look nice and sexy for all the hot guys at school (I don't even know if those exist) is going to cause a distraction.

If you can honestly tell me that raging hormones are not a distraction and give me some kind of proof, I may be able to believe you.

Before last year, I do not even remember seeing those tops that can easily be removed by pulling one string or those pants that when moved the wrong way could give everyone a nice glance at something we do not want to see.

Personally, I think that most of these new clothing trends look trashy, considering everyone is worried about their image. It may even make you look like a slut!

Other schools have dress codes that force shorts and skirts to reach the tips of a girl's fingers.

I think this is an even better idea than the whole "short shorts and miniskirts will be long enough to not expose the buttocks when bending over" rule.

A one-inch inseam is a bit too extensive.

The guys have it a little easier. Guys are not provided with the pressures of looking sexy and making sure that they can attract some quality females.

I personally do not understand why guys cannot wear their "wife beaters" but hey, it's the rules, deal with it.

Pants that sag off your butt have always, currently do and most likely will always look tacky.

Does everyone really need to know your underwear is blue with orange polka dots?

I know the heat is a bit extensive, but it is possible to remain comfortable without baring all.

Sure this means that everyone's going to have to make a few minor changes in their wardrobes.

Even I will. I need to fix a hole in the back of my favorite torn up jeans and button up my shirt maybe one more button.

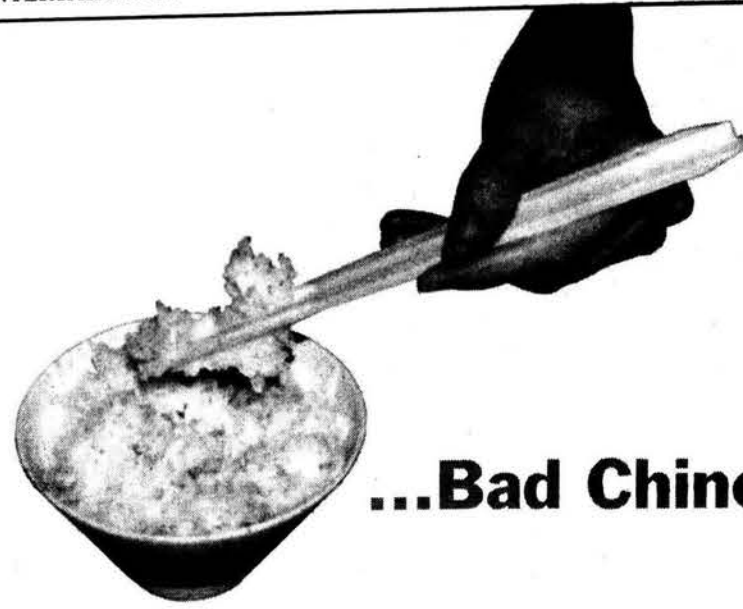
My advice to the boys is to invest in a belt, make sure you like your hair and get used to wearing good old T-shirts in the summer (and please don't forget your deodorant).

For the ladies, stick to normal tank tops, pull out those old jeans that actually have a waistband.

Make sure you have a bra and save the miniskirts and tube tops for the dance clubs on Friday night.

This is just a dress code, not a calculus assignment.

Good Chinese...



...Bad Chinese

Yum-Yum Chicken yummy in tummy

By Layne Gabriel

There are numerous Chinese restaurants in the Omaha area, and everyone seems to have their favorite.

Four different restaurants were pitted together in search for the best Chinese food

China Taste - 2420 Cuming St.

China Taste was the most disappointing restaurant of the four. The service took longer than expected and the food was mediocre.

The main course was awful. The chicken was not bad, but the white sauce was so salty I could feel my arteries hardening as I was eating. It left a bad aftertaste and the spices were a little excessive.

The rice was adequate, but different from any fried rice I have ever had.

It was so unpleasant that I could not bring myself to finish my meal. My large order of chicken barely filled the box and there was far too much sauce to be logical.

About fifteen minutes after I finished my meal, it began to wreak havoc on my stomach. It was not just the "I-ate-too-much" feeling, it was the "I'm-going-to-be-sick-real-soon" feeling.

China Taste was so wretched that I would not personally recommend eating there.

DINING REVIEW

Chinese Restaurants

China Taste ★ of 5

Imperial Palace ★★★ of 5

Three Happiness Express ★★★★★ of 5

China Palace ★★★★★ of 5

Three Happiness Express - 5103 Leavenworth St.

Three Happiness Express was a pleasant break in my week of sub-standard Chinese fare.

The food was great—not too bland and not too spicy—and the service was quick and dependable.

I ordered the Yum-Yum Chicken. With my order I got a wonton soup and an egg roll for only fifty cents more.

For a fair price and good food, Three Happiness Express was one of the best restaurants I went to.

However, there were some drawbacks. The chairs were uncomfortable and the decor was less than pleasing.

A television set was going in a corner which made it hard to concentrate on dinner conversation.

All in all, Three Happiness Express is your typical hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant.

You can

get good food cheap and fast, but you probably shouldn't bring a date there.

Imperial Palace Express - 510 S. 12 St.

The Imperial Palace was a bit better than my experience at China Taste, but it was still unsatisfactory.

The food was the exact opposite of China Taste, as the sauce was incredibly bland.

The portions were incredibly small, made for a single serving without leftovers.

Cooks prepared the food quickly and it went immediately from the wok to the plate, steaming hot and ready to eat.

The other meals I had a taste of were not as good as expected either.

The General's Chicken was not adequately spiced and the rice was not very fresh.

Imperial Palace is nice for its quick service and friendly staff, and for Chinese on the go, it is not a bad choice.

China Palace - 661 N. 46 St.

China Palace is by far the best Chinese food I have had anywhere.

The service is quick and the atmosphere of the restaurant makes it a nice escape from everyday life.

The food tastes good and the portions are just right.

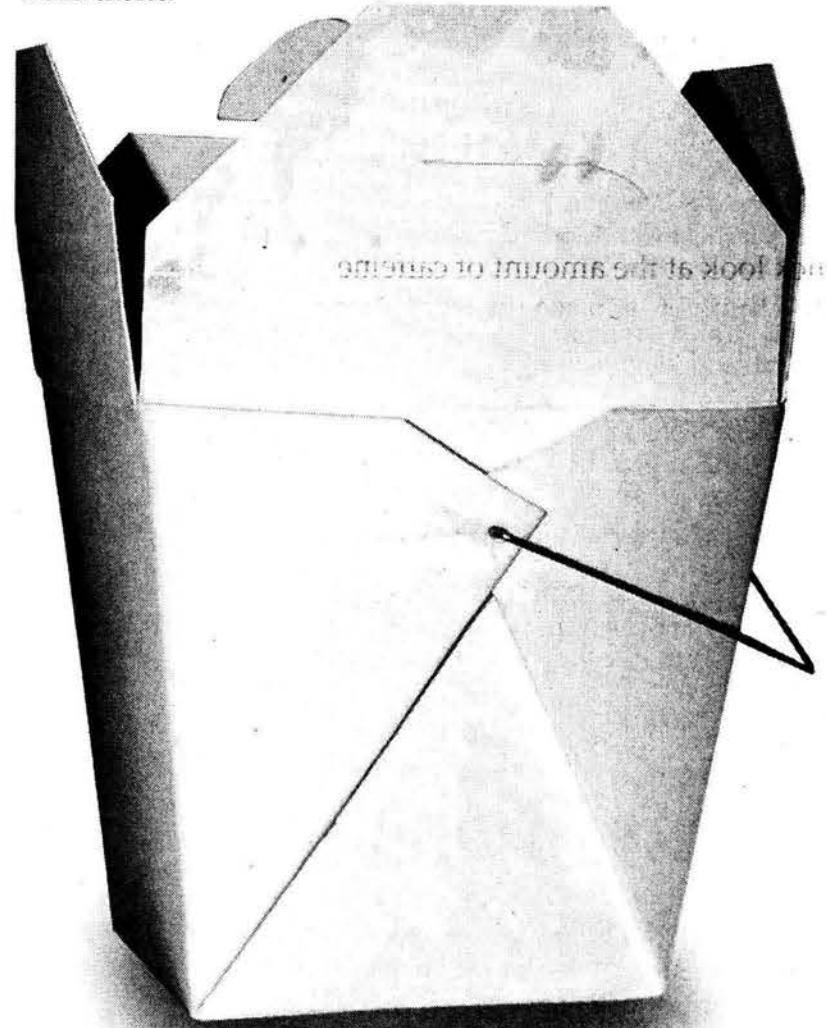
Everything is perfect about the restaurant and the food keeps well for lunch the next day.

The vegetables are crisp and still hold the flavor, instead of getting soaked in sauce and unappealing like other restaurants.

The soup provides a nice precursor to the meal and is not too filling.

None of the food was too salty nor gave the feeling of an impending heart attack.

China Palace provides a nice atmosphere and great food for a reasonable price, which makes it the best.



All Photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Drama Dept. will get catwalk repairs, new ceiling tiles in renovation

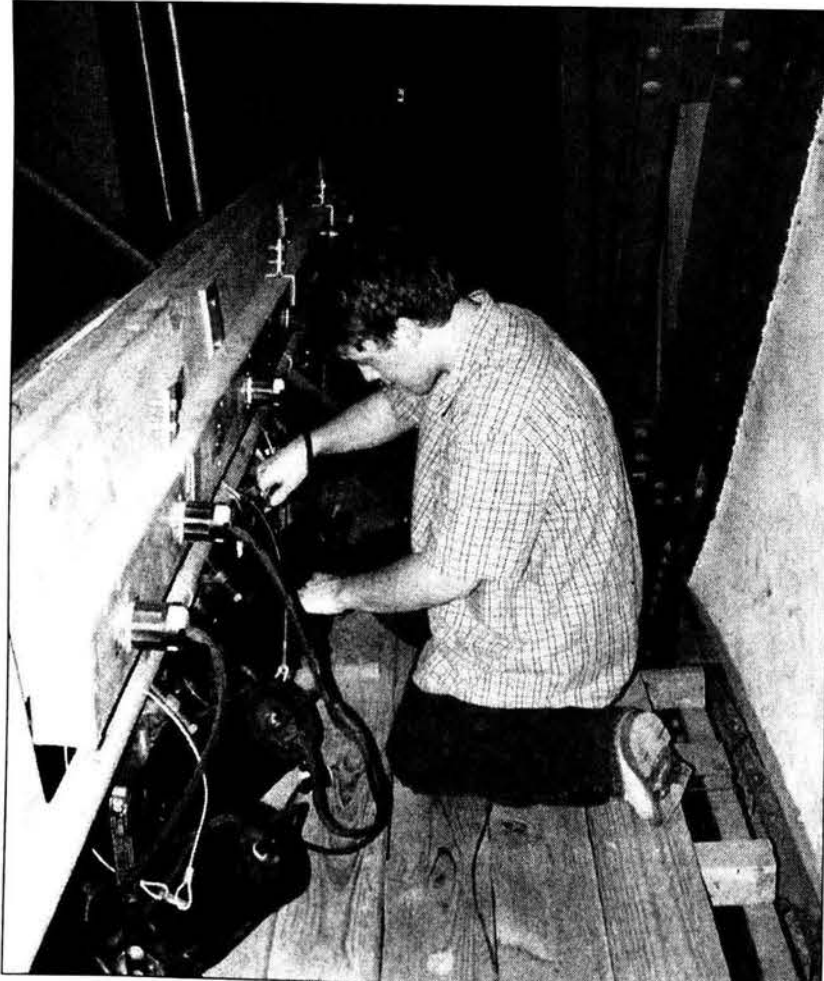


Photo by LAYNE GABRIEL/THE REGISTER

Techie Conrad Goetzinger (11) repairs lights on the catwalk of our theater. The walkways will be replaced by 2003.

By Danny Whelan

By the summer of 2003, Central High School's auditorium will get a face lift.

"The auditorium will be getting new ceiling tiles and a new air conditioning and heating system," Dr. Gary Thompson, principal, said. "We're also planning on repairing the walkways."

The catwalk, which runs above the auditorium is made of wood and very old.

Since it is where the lights are located, it has become very necessary to have these renovations done, junior Jennifer Hodges said.

"We've needed this for a long time," Hodges said. "I'm glad we're finally getting it."

Hodges said with a new system, the heat would not distract the audience seated in the auditorium in the spring and summer seasons.

"Air conditioning would be nice during productions due to the lights putting out heat," tech student, junior Conrad

Goetzinger, said.

The noise the heater makes during the winter season would no longer be a problem during music productions.

Assistant Alumnus and production assistant Greg Berger said the theater could use a lot of renovations that are not planned for the 2003 summer.

"Storage and shop space is number one because they keep taking storage space," Berger said.

With better shop and storage space, chances are that accidents and injuries could be minimized.

Currently the theater has a prop room, two closets and a wood

room for storage, he said. Of course, the theater tech crew would appreciate equipment upgrades, Berger said.

"We're actually very well off as it is," he said.

As for the catwalk, Berger said there are some general repairs that need to be done.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with it. It's safe as long as

you stay on the walkway," he said.

Goetzinger said he thinks catwalk should have more electrical outlets for lights, and ease accessibility is important.

If theater personnel deviate from the walkway, there is a chance they could fall through the roof, he said.

Most of the theater has adequate facilities.

There are only four or five damaged seats, and the orchestra pit cover could be in better condition, Berger said.

"That's all what people have to deal with in everyday life [at the theater]," he said.

There are also minor problems with the shell that is used during vocal concerts, but could quickly become unsafe use.

The flyrail, which controls backdrops, also causes splinters but these are minor problems, Berger said.

John Gibson, the new drama teacher, agreed the renovations are necessary.

"I can't wait," Gibson said. "I'm absolutely thrilled with the school's future plans for our beautiful auditorium."



— Your Health —

Caffeine has many downfalls for teens

By Dominique Brown

A cup of coffee here, a can of soda there, all the caffeine adds up.

Many teens see caffeine as a beneficial way to get their day, but most don't know there are more downsides than benefits.

Lori, a nurse from Health Touch One, said caffeine is a stimulant that can raise a person's heart rate to irregular beats if taken in large enough doses.

"Caffeine can interact with asthma medication and in turn make it more likely for a person with asthma to have a more severe attack," she said.

Too much caffeine can over-stimulate a person, causing restlessness, anxiety, sleepiness and pain in the stomach, she said.

Some people can actually become caffeine dependent, a condition that makes a person unable to start their day without caffeine.

People who have a caffeine dependency crave the jolt that the caffeine gives the body.

Some teens become caffeine tolerant, where they must have larger amounts of caffeine to get the stimulatory affect that the body needs.

Teen girls who are on birth control may not realize that too much caffeine can decrease the effect of birth control, Lori said.

Large amounts of caffeine, found in medications such as the No-Doz, can defeat the purpose of birth control all together, she said.

Caffeine in large amounts for young women can cause a loss of bone mass, actually causing a woman's body to shrink.

Dr. Joann Berggren, a dietician, said caffeine will slowly eat away at bones causing them to lose mass. Losing bone mass can cause a person to lose height and strength of their bones.

"If you are caffeine dependent you may experience caffeine withdrawal symptoms, when

you are not served your daily dose," Berggren said. "Symptoms include panic attacks, irritability, insomnia and headaches."

Central junior Andrea Wilson said she suffers from a caffeine dependency.

She said she has to have two cups of coffee each morning in order to get going.

She feels sick and tired without her daily dose of coffee.

Wilson also has severe asthma and caffeine sometimes causes her to have a detrimental attack.

Although Wilson's caffeine dependency can cause her severe asthma attacks, she said dependency gets the better of her.

"I can't face the day without it," Wilson said.

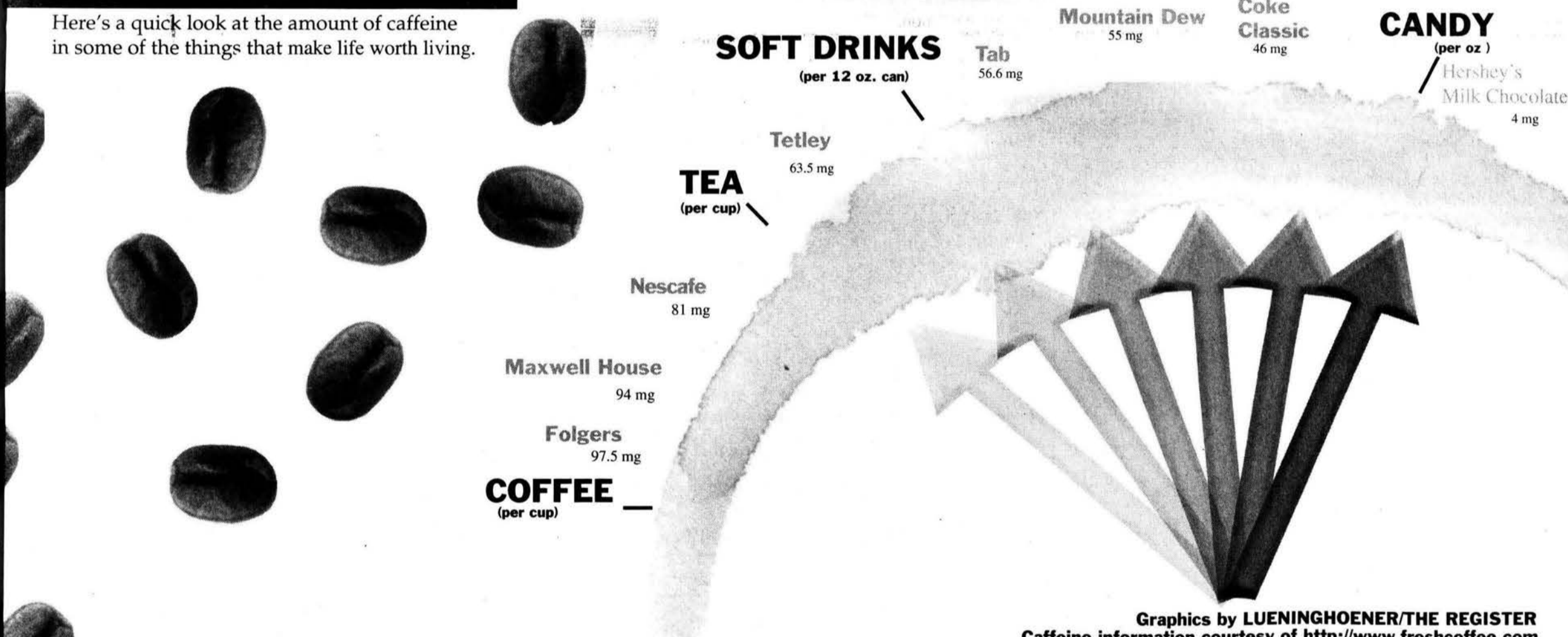
She blatantly admits that she is caffeine dependent.

Berggren said although some teens drink many caffeinated beverages per day or pop pills, too much caffeine can be destructive.

"A recommended amount of caffeine is three beverages containing caffeine a day," Berggren said.

How much is too much?

Here's a quick look at the amount of caffeine in some of the things that make life worth living.



Graphics by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
Caffeine information courtesy of <http://www.freshcoffee.com>

FASHION

Heels put unneeded stress on ligaments, doctor says

By Kaitlin Butz

Arthritis, joint pain and ligament damage, all from a pair of shoes. High heels may be popular, especially for Homecoming, but those are just a few of the injuries that they could cause.

Sophomore Elizabeth Atwater said she wears her three-inch heels seven days a week.

She knows about the possible danger, but said she plans to keep wearing them.

"I want to be taller," she said.

Sophomore Tahreem Aziz said she thinks her two-inch heels are a part of the reason she has back

pain. She said she has never had a serious injury from her heels, but has tripped in them before.

Dr. John Belitz said that high heels are bio-mechanically incorrect and throw the body out of alignment.

Dr. Dustin Kollar said that a serious problem with heels is that they provide no arch support. Lack of support can cause the tendons in the foot to stretch. He said the foot might even start to lose its arch, if the damage is severe enough.

Heels can cause pain in the lower back and knees, as well as inflammation in the tissue at the bottom of the foot, Belitz said.

He said by the time pain is felt, 30 to 40 percent of the tissue has already been destroyed and that wearing heels can lead to arthritis.

Dr. John Geringer said that Achilles tendonitis, an inflammation of the Achilles tendon, could also be a result of wearing heels.

Wearing heels on a regular basis can change the angle of the feet, said Kollar. The feet no longer lie flat on the ground, which causes pain in the lower back and joints.

Kollar said that heels affect posture, disrupting the line of the body. This causes the body to lean

forward making the shoulders round instead of straight, which, he said, can lead to neck and back pain.

Spike-heeled stilettos can cause more damage than regular heels. Stilettos put extra stress on knee ligaments. Geringer said that they require the wearer to have better balance than usual. Belitz said they also cause problems with the ankles, because they are so unstable. Kollar said that stilettos shift the body's weight onto the toes.

"It changes the entire mechanics of the way you walk," he said.

Belitz said damage usually is not permanent, if heels are not worn for an extended period of time. The amount of time it takes to heal differs from person to person. Most people should be able to recover from Homecoming in one or two days, he said.

Kollar said that no permanent damage could be caused in the six or seven hours most girls will wear them to Homecoming.

For those who want to safeguard themselves against injury, he suggested stretching out the calf muscles or rolling a golf ball under the foot, before and after wearing. Atwater said that she stretches at least times a week, plus takes weight training to prevent injuries from her shoes.

Please see pg. 24 for Homecoming fashion preview



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER



Courtesy of RCA RECORDS

Alex Band, Billy Mohler, Sean Woolstenhulme, Nate Wood and Aaron Kamin are the members of The Calling.

The Calling releases debut album 'Camino Palmero'

By Layne Gabriel

The lyrics look like they were written by a little kid.

Once they're put with music they become alive.

The Calling's debut album, "Camino Palmero," is definitely not one to judge by its cover.

The band played live in the movie "Coyote Ugly," so the band's single "Wherever You Will Go" may not be too unfamiliar.

The album begins with the track "Unstoppable." The simplicity of the lyrics makes the mes-

nificant others' arms, swaying back and forth.

Possibly one of the most impressive tracks on the album is "Adrienne." It begins with a clean acoustic guitar part but takes a turn.

The mood behind the angst-ridden song about an ex-girlfriend is strong, but is truly conveyed in the lyrics and not the music.

It is a nice variety of rock and more calm lyric-based songs.

The album flows well and is easy to listen to from beginning

to end without skipping tracks.

The lyrics of the album are far from sappy and immature, but they prove to give the album the perfect sound.

It is hard to classify exactly what The Calling sounds like.

If mellow Goo Goo Dolls songs were mixed with Counting Crows with some of Vertical Horizon's pop sound and maybe a little Matchbox 20 thrown in, this would be pretty close to what you would hear on "Camino Palmero."

The only downfall of the album is sometimes Band's voice takes a turn for the more annoying sound, but it is easy to overlook it and enjoy the music.

"Camino Palmero" is an impressive debut album by a pop-rock band, and it sounds just as good as much of what is on the radio.

This album is definitely not for everyone, but is worth a listen for those who like pop-rock.

ALBUM REVIEW

The Calling
"Camino Palmero"

★ ★ ★ of 5

First Single: "Wherever You Will Go"

www.thecallingband.com

Now in Theaters



Courtesy of WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Jennifer Aniston stars as Emily, the girlfriend of a rock star in a tribute band, Chris (Mark Wahlberg). Emily is torn between Chris' lifestyle and her personal dreams of opening a coffeehouse.

Disappointing 'Rock Star' reminiscent of 80s

By Kaitlin Butz

One of last year's best movies, "Almost Famous" was a love letter in film form to rock music.

This year's "Rock Star" attempts to tap in on that type of musical nostalgia, but, for the most part, fails.

Though "Rock Star" had a few good moments, it misses its mark. It would have been much better off if it had gone in the comedic vein, since no one has particularly warm or fuzzy memories about 1985 hair metal.

"Rock Star" is the story of Chris Cole (Mark Wahlberg), the lead singer of Blood Pollution, a tribute band to aging hair metal group Steel Dragon.

Chris is a loser, still living in his parent's house, working a mundane office job and singing in the church choir with his girlfriend, Emily (Jennifer Aniston).

Chris takes the term "tribute band" to a whole new level, not

only singing like, but also emulating Bobby, the lead singer of Steel Dragon.

He even goes as far as to have Emily pierce his nipple with a needle, because he heard Bobby had the same thing done.

After a particularly disastrous show with Blood Pollution, Chris finds himself replaced by the lead singer of a rival Steel Dragon cover band, Black Babylon.

Just when Chris is at his lowest, he gets a call from Steel Dragon guitarist Gary, who has received a tape of Blood Pollution, from Chris' groupie friends. After coming out to the man-

son, Chris meets the band. A surprising encounter with Bobby reveals that he is not the typical rock star he appears to be.

Chris auditions for the band and is accepted as a result of his dead-on Bobby impression.

From that moment on, Chris is no longer Chris; he is "Izzy."

He dons a fake British accent and begins to learn the ins and outs of rock star life.

After a rocky beginning, Izzy is a hit with fans and his fame skyrockets.

He soon gets lost in his rock and roll lifestyle, barely noticing when Emily leaves the tour to go

start a business in Seattle.

When it comes time for the band to record their next album, the other members make it clear that he is meant only as a singer and is allowed no artistic input.

This devastates Chris and he simply walks off in the middle of the next show, leaving an overzealous fan, reminiscent of his former self, to finish the show.

Chris walks away from his glamorous lifestyle, moves to Seattle and starts a coffeehouse band with Rob, a member of his former Steel Dragon cover band.

Emily stumbles upon one of their shows and the two get back together.

The movie does get in a few good gags, but for the emotional moments, everything seems very cliché.

Stick around for the credits for some great outtakes and Mark Wahlberg's return to his Marky Mark persona.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Rock Star" - R

★ ★ ★ of 5

Director: Stephen Herek
Starring: Mark Wahlberg,
Jennifer Aniston

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From Chaplin to 'Requiem'

Dundee theater projects little dose of past with oddity of present

By Matt Wynn

In the mid-1920s, when flappers were popular and silent films were all the rage, a theater was built.

Located at 50th and Dodge Streets, the theater's first shows were a live performance by Harry Houdini and an early Charlie Chaplin film.

After going through several new managers and setting some records (Longest film run ever, "the Sound of Music" 1,316 performances) the Dundee Theater has landed in the capable hands of Dennis Moran.

The stage that Houdini performed on is still there, right behind the movie screen.

Ownership of the oldest theater in Omaha fell into Moran's hands through a stroke of fate. In 1980, he was running the restaurant next door and owned the parking lot that serves both buildings.

So when the previous owner of the theater decided to sell it, Moran said it was simply the natural thing to do.

The theater was not in the best of condition when Moran bought it. The lobby was in desperate need of repair and the seating in the theater was falling apart.

So he refinished it. The seats got reupholstered and the lobby got a fresh coat of paint. It's still something that needs to be done every seven or eight years, he said.

But even after the theater looked good, Moran still didn't have a clue how to run it.

"I didn't know anything about running movies, but you learn quick," he said.

Realizing he would need someone with experience to help get the place started, he turned to an old movie buff.

He hired an old man who worked at the theater before the previous owner retired.

"Really, he taught me the ropes, and helped me get an idea of how to get things started," Moran said.

A couple of years ago, Moran retired after 31 years in the Omaha Police Department. Since then, the theater has grown by leaps and bounds. The theater now shows films, mostly foreign and art, three or four times a day.

"But I wouldn't want people to get the wrong idea. It kind of varies, sometimes we go off and show a mainstream thing," Moran said.

Moran also bought the Omni 4 theater in Council Bluffs. He said he bought that theater as a favor to a friend.

"My friend owned a bunch of land out there, and then this theater went on sale. He knew about the Dundee, so he came to me," Moran said.

Beginning last summer, Dundee Theater also

began showing midnight movies.

The movies are usually older art films or horror movies that have been out of the mainstream theaters for a while.

Last summer the theater showed such classics as the Shining, Requiem for a Dream and Blue Velvet.

In the future, employees would like to show From Dusk Till Dawn, Halloween and a Christmas Story.

The movies run every Friday and Saturday night from 12:10 until the movie ends. For the most part, the theater tries to keep them under three hours, Moran said.

Some movies the theater would be interested in showing are simply no longer available, Moran said. Certain production companies destroy the reels of their films as soon as the movie's mainstream run is over.

But even though the theater is constantly looking for quality movies to show, the theater still gets plenty of customers.

Central students had conflicting views on the theater.

Some students, like freshman Mariah Bianchini, think the theater has a sense of nostalgic beauty.

She said she started going to the theater just recently because he grandfather started taking her. She has seen a few films there, including "Moulin Rouge," and "Chocolat."

"I just like it a whole lot. It's old and pretty, and the seats are really cushy. It just feels like stepping back in time," Bianchini said.

Other students had differing opinions.

"It's a raggedy theater," sophomore Robbie Millatmal said. "The other theaters are better."

Millatmal said she thinks the outside of the theater does not fit into what she thinks a theater should be at all. She said more lights, more movies and more concessions could make it better, too.

The only reason she has ever gone to the theater is because a friend of hers wanted to. She said after that one experience, however, she has had no reason to go back.

Despite both positive and negative reviews of his theater, though, Moran's main goal for the theater has already been reached, at least in his eyes.

"I just want it to be someplace to go that a customer can be entertained at before they even get through the door. Then they can enjoy the film, and as they leave, start thinking about coming back. I want it to be an enjoyable experience," Moran said. "It's all about the experience."



Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Theater employee Analiese Mullen switches the marquee between showings. The marquee was added in a theater renovation in the mid 60s.

How to build a movie

Dundee theater is one of the few theaters in the metro area to still piece together movies.

About a week or two before a movie is expected to make its run, an employee from the theater calls up a representative from the studio that made the movie.

The movie is delivered in pieces, which the employees are responsible for piecing together in order to run the film.

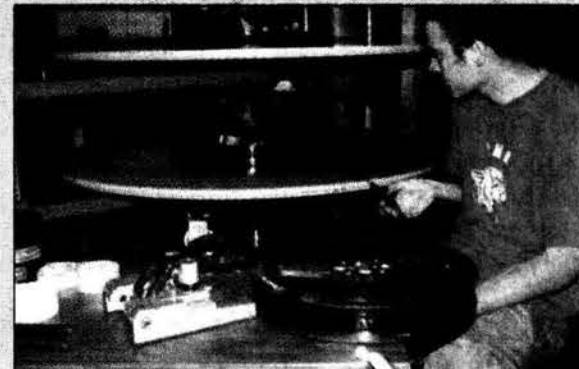
Sometimes the film is old and brittle, and it can occasionally break in the middle of a performance. If that happens, someone has to do it all over again.



STEP ONE: The film is delivered to the theater two or three days before the movie runs. An employee then takes it upstairs and makes the initial line-up for the film.



STEP TWO: The film must then be welded together at the breaks set up earlier. If this step is off, the entire roll of film may break during a performance.



STEP THREE: Once the film is in one strip, it is rolled onto a tray. Dundee has three trays, so it can have three movies built simultaneously, one running and two on hold.

Homecoming dresses cover both ends of financial spectrum

Finding a dress to match your financial state can be difficult. The Register staff took it upon themselves to find you the best styles for different price brackets.

Under \$50



Finding dresses under \$50 can sometimes be a bit of a chore, but catching a good sale or shopping online can often offer a great deal.

Look for clearance dresses from last season, the styles are usually just as popular.

You can usually find something in a style that suits you for a bit less than the formalwear section of a department store.

Sometimes the most memorable and interesting dresses are a little unconventional.

If you missed a sale, grab a dress right after homecoming season for a great steal. Sometimes the price can be as low as \$15 for that elegant dress for your prom in April.

Under \$100



A majority of formal dresses are priced at or around \$100. If you are not interested in waiting around for a dress to be shipped to you and you want to be sure that you get the right size, spending around \$100 for a dress at a department store is probably the best for you.

If you find yourself more inclined with the sewing machine and you want to be sure you have something a little different, making a dress will cost right around \$100 for all of the materials, since formalwear dresses require more than regular patterns.

If you plan to make your dress get started early so you are sure you get what you want.

Over \$200



An extravagant dress will cost you somewhere around \$200. If you are planning to go to prom this may be a dress you want to save for that.

Finding plus-sized dresses at lower prices is difficult, so larger sizes are often priced near \$200.

Special ordering a dress from a department store could cost you closer to this amount, or purchasing a dress at a bridal boutique from a well-known designer will cost you a bit more.

If you think you would be interested in wearing your dress again, purchasing something around \$200 will make your investment worth it. If you wear your dress two or three times at various events, you might even get your money's worth.

By Layne Gabriel

MEASURING UP
 Quarterbacks find it
 difficult to fill Davis'
 shoes
PAGE 26

**Slugger
 switches
 sports**

By Troy Schulte

Last season's leading hitter on the softball team and fifth best in the state, has become the newest addition to Central's volleyball team while they begin their road back to the state tournament.

Sophomore Ashley Wilds was a pleasant surprise to Central's softball team last year. Just prior to her freshman year, Wilds didn't know she was going to play softball, but after she made her decision she compiled a batting average over .400, which ranked in the top five in Class A.

But, for her sophomore year, Wilds has decided to quit playing softball at Central and make a jump over to the volleyball team. A decision that she said was very tough to make.

"I had a real hard time deciding," she said. "I still have some friends on the softball team and I didn't want anyone to be upset with me."

Wilds made the decision to quit playing softball during two seasons, so she could play softball in one and volleyball in the other. Before Wilds ever came to Central she played both sports. Softball in the summer for the Omaha Softball Association, Omaha Finesse, and she played volleyball in the winter.

When she enrolled at Central last fall she wanted to play a fall sport for the school, which means she wouldn't be able to play club volleyball in the winter. She had to make a decision. Either have softball overload, play for Finesse in the summer and Central in the fall or continue playing softball in the summer, but play volleyball in the fall.

Heading into last season when she first had to make the decision, Wilds said she was a little confused. She knew she wanted to play both sports, but after talking to some of her summer coaches and Central coach she decided to play softball. A decision she was not totally committed to.

"I think the pressure kind of came to me," Wilds said. "I was only a freshman and I think I let other people think for me and put me into it."

Even though she wasn't totally committed to her decision to play softball, she entered the season wanting to make the most of it and had a pretty productive year. She finished the season in the top ten in batting average, but by the end of the year, she had had too much softball.

"I got a little worn out play-

See **WILDS**, page 27

Holding court

Even though the season is not starting out as hoped, the volleyball team still has its sights set on a state championship

By Chris Aponick

Central's volleyball team is expecting to get beyond where they ended last season in Lincoln by winning its district and advancing in the state tournament.

"We will make it back to state because our district is pretty much the same. Hopefully, we will be ranked higher and won't have to play the number one seed," captain Lauren Pauba said. "But if we still had to we know we wouldn't get whipped."

Co-captain Holly Greenamyre said the team will have to concentrate on gaining momentum in its early games to lead it through the season.

"We need to beat them [our early opponents] for confidence and we have to stay focused through the season," she said. "Hopefully we will be in the top of our district."

Head coach Jodi Dierks said the team learned it could compete at state last season and was building from there this year.

"These girls know what state is about," she said. "Getting used to the atmosphere at state is a big step."

Greenamyre can also see how winning in districts last year has helped the team.

"Earlier in the season, the team had problems finishing games, but in districts we finished games," Greenamyre said. "We were able to make teams earn their points."

Dierks said the team is running drills more efficiently and has more focus this year.

"This is the beginning of the work to get back to Lincoln," she said. "They definitely want to be back and compete."

The team is well-equipped to handle the challenge of making a run at the state title. Along with six returning starters, sophomores Holly Lehmer and Ashley Wilds are expected to make big contributions, Dierks said.

"The only real problem might be keeping 10 good players happy," athletics director Paul Pennington said. "They have to stay team-oriented."

With so many gifted players, Dierks said there might be teammates competing for spots.

Specifically, Lehmer will probably push senior Angela Capellupo and Wilds will push Pauba for playing time.

However, if people cannot handle other players taking their spots it might cause problems, Greenamyre said.

"The good thing is it will push people to get better," she said. "There will be no leveling off."

Despite the possible negative reactions to losing a starting position, Pauba said the competition will generate positive pressure on the players to improve their game.

"The players will work hard all the time because they will know that someone can take their spot," she said.

The amount of talent will also add to the team's intensity level, Greenamyre said.

"It gives us depth and makes us have hard practices [to keep our spots]," she said.

Central will have to rely upon its depth and experience, especially with Papillion ranked 12th and Lincoln Northeast at 17th in the national high school rankings, Pennington said.

"In general, Class A is up in volleyball," Dierks said. "All the teams are good. So, having returning starters doesn't mean we will be back."

The success of local college programs such as Nebraska, University of Nebraska at Omaha and the College of St. Mary's have also helped high schools teams improve their games, Pennington said.

"There's a pretty good image of volleyball in Nebraska," Pennington said.

This image can present a daunting task for the team though, Dierks said.

"We can compete with anybody on our schedule," Dierks said. "We have to step it up. We can't glide or take breaks but we still have to take it one match at a time."

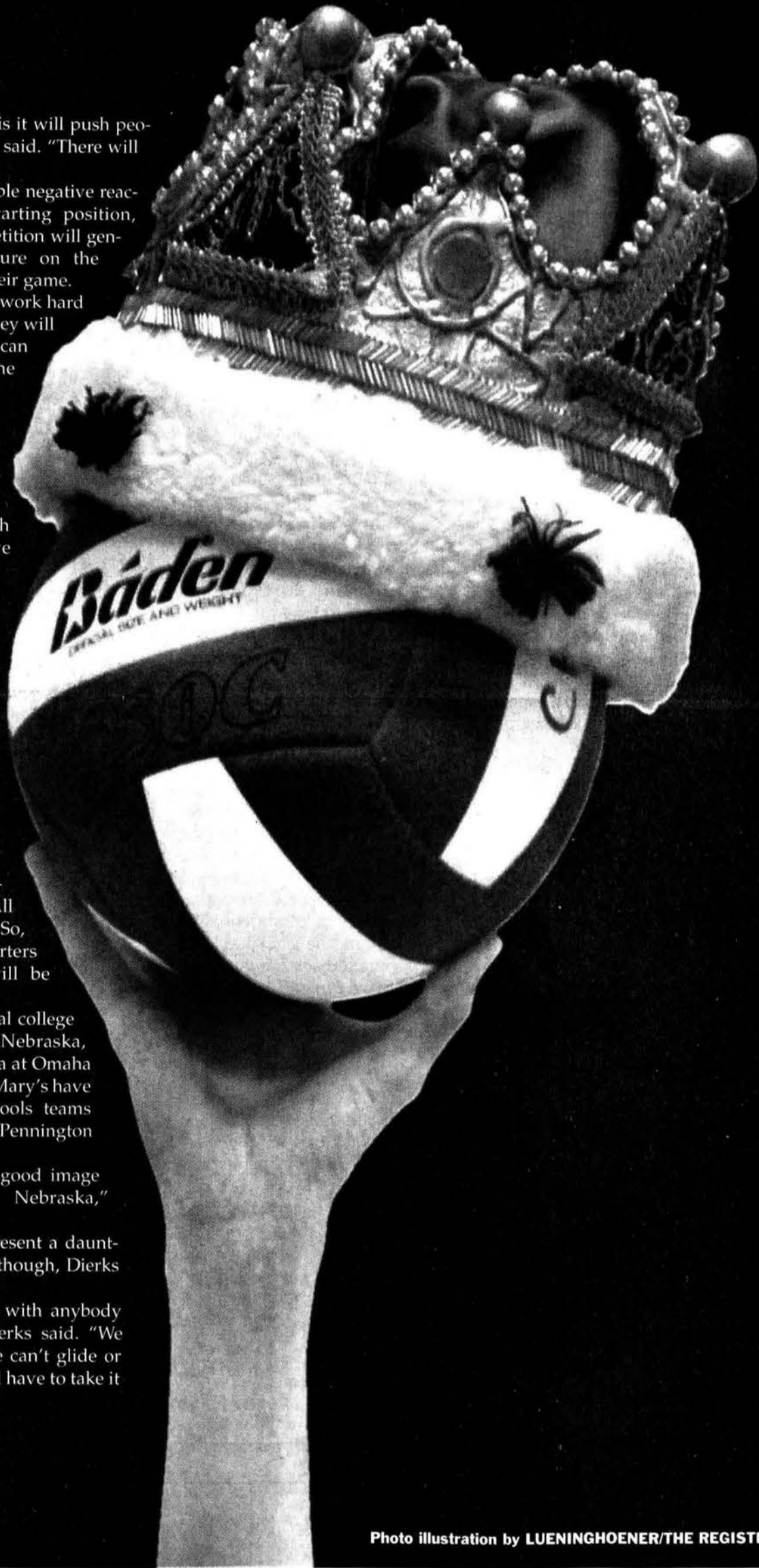


Photo illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Gym space gained in renovations still up for grabs, principal says

By Matt Wynn

Department heads, teachers, principals and district officials have clashed on how the extra gym space will be used ever since the decision was made to move the cafeterias into the old gym (room 144) and add on an extra gym addition.

When the cafeterias move into the old gym, it becomes necessary to replace the gym space being lost, head physical education chair Joe McMenamain said.

To replace that space, the east wall of the new gym (room 100) will be moved 56 feet closer to 20th Street. The gym will gain three floors of usable space as a result.



devoted to Team Sports and

Those three stories of space are still unclaimed.

Paul Pennington, Central athletics director, said the space will be split into three sections, each floor being dedicated to one area of athletic training.

The top floor, which will be extended by about half its width, will

Individual Sports, Pennington said.

The floor directly below, which would be adjacent to the boys' locker room, will be dedicated to weight training.

The floor on the bottom level of the addition will be used for Aerobics classes and wrestling team practice, Pennington said.

The three floors together will be added to the East Side of the New Gym and come out almost to the sidewalk on 20th Street.

McMenamin said the Weight Training room would probably be the most useful of the new classrooms.

The Van Metres, who donated nearly \$55,000 to update the

weight room last year, have already agreed to give any necessary money to buy more equipment to fill the new space, McMenamain said.

And there will be quite a bit more space. McMenamain said the new weight room will be about three times the size of the current weight room, and will therefore require more equipment.

"We'll probably just get some more machines," McMenamain said. "Probably some more of what we got. We've got state-of-the-art equipment right now, so where can we go from there? We'll just need about three times more."

McMenamin said Central currently has one of the best weight rooms in the country, and more space can only help.

One major dispute is what will be done with the current weight room (room 040).

Principal Gary Thompson said the current weight room would most likely be used as a trainer's room.

But he still has not completely ruled out moving the film room, where the football team watches movies of their games, into the current weight room as well.

"The football players have to watch their movies in the hallway by the New Gym,"

Thompson said. "That's something that might be up for a change."

With all of the renovations going on in the athletic wing, some teachers believe that classes typically thought of as "female sports" are being neglected.

Aerobics teacher Kris Chavez said that the aerobics classes are being illogically placed in the bottom level of the new addition. She said she thinks the current weight room would be a more reasonable place to hold aerobics classes.

One reason for her belief is that the space currently used as a

See **GYMS**, page 27

Measuring UP to #15

Three players trying to become the next great Eagle quarterback

By Chris Aponick

Throughout the summer, head football coach Joe McMenamin had a choice to make.

Senior Nate Butler, junior Chris Leflore and sophomore Courtney Grixby all started the year wanting to man the opening left when George Davis graduated last year.

The decision was so tough that McMenamin waited until the final preseason scrimmage, to make the decision. The coaches reviewed the game tape and then they held a team meeting where they decided who would start.

In the end, senior Nate Butler became the starter.

"It's kind of scary, especially since last year, I didn't get to play quarterback," Butler said. "Still, I hope to take over where George left off."

Butler shared playing time with the other two players. The coaches played all of them during the first football game against Creighton Prep.

"The good thing is the mix the quarterbacks provide," the coach said. "They can cover different aspects of the game."

However, McMenamin said the quarterback substitutions are not something that can be done haphazardly.

"The key is to not disrupt continuity," he said. "I have to see how the game is going and time it [the quarterback substitutions] just right."

If the quarterbacks are utilized right, the team would gain an added advantage over their opponents, McMenamin said.

"It will make the (opposing) teams more honest than if it was just me passing to the receivers," Butler said.

Even though he will not be playing wire to wire like Davis, Butler received the starting job because of his poise, McMenamin said. The fact that he was the most experienced player on the team vying for the position influenced the decision.

The decision of who plays appears to be a game-by-game decision, Grixby said. With so many quarterbacks vying for time, he said it might be hard to get them all in.

However, he said he is ready to step up and do any things needed to help the team win.

He said he did not get many repetitions in the first game and instead spent most of his time playing defense.

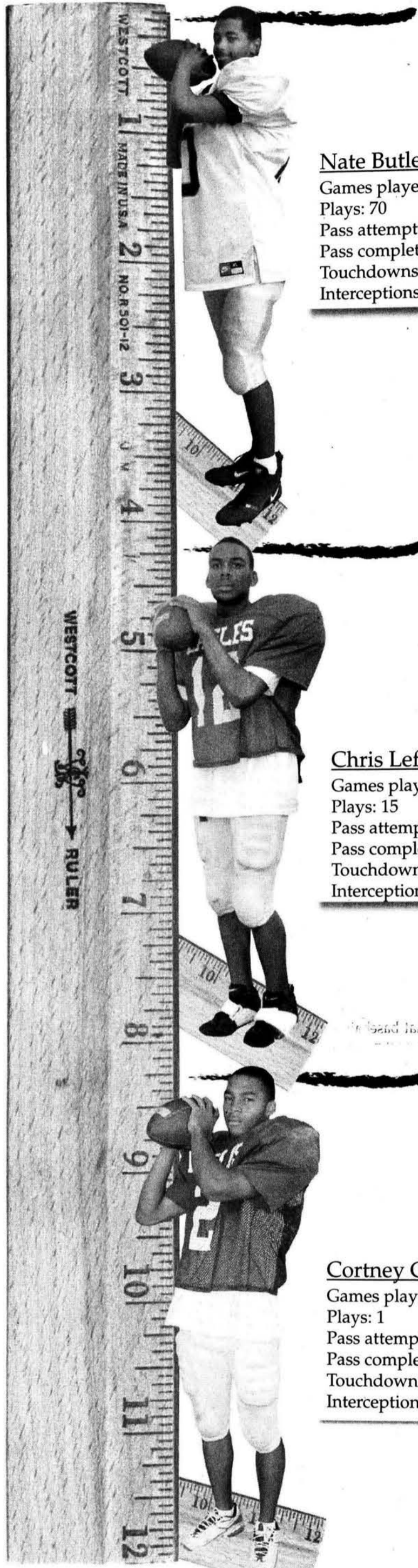
Butler said he is more than ready to lead Central and isn't going to worry about what happened last year. He wants to play the best he can and not be measured by what Davis accomplished.

"During the first games, I want to make sure I keep calm, cool and the lead the offense like I know I can," he said. "I feel like if one quarterback can do something than I can, too."

However, the other quarterbacks are also anxious to step on the field. They have all been trying harder at practices to get the chance to take snaps, sophomore John Friend said. Having several capable back-ups will be especially valuable if someone gets hurt.

Several of the younger players are hoping they get playing time now before their junior and senior years, as well.

"Hopefully the game experience will help me not be nervous when playing on varsity," Friend said.



Nate Butler
 Games played: 2
 Plays: 70
 Pass attempts: 39
 Pass completions: 16
 Touchdowns: 3
 Interceptions: 3

Chris Leflore
 Games played: 2
 Plays: 15
 Pass attempts: 2
 Pass completions: 0
 Touchdowns: 0
 Interceptions: 1

Courtney Grixby
 Games played: 1
 Plays: 1
 Pass attempts: 0
 Pass completions: 0
 Touchdowns: 0
 Interceptions: 0

■ Grixbys Brothers share desire for sports

From GRIBBYS, page 32
 To this day, I can even remember some of them," he said.

Two that stick out are the 1997 Creighton Prep game, when Central ended its 12-year losing streak against Creighton Prep, and the 1997 state playoff game against Millard West. In that second round, 17-0 loss, DeAntae left early with a separated shoulder. Cortney can still call that night. He remembers feeling sorry for his brother because he knew DeAntae would never suit up for the Eagles again.

"I remember going to the hospital that night. You could see tears in his eyes," Cortney said. "He knew he was done playing at Central."

Even before his senior year, DeAntae had to go through the grueling recruiting process and decide what school he would play college football for. In the summer before his senior year, he chose Nebraska. Cortney remembers watching his brother go through the recruiting and said if the time comes for him, he hopes to handle it just like his older brother did.

"I think he handled it good. He was nonchalant about it and never got a headache. I really respect him for that. And he taught me to just keep a mellow head and know what you can do, you'll be fine," Cortney said.

DeAntae thinks in a couple of years Cortney will have to handle it.

"I think that Cortney is way more talented than I was at that age," he said. "I just has way more natural ability on the football field."

DeAntae has been in Lincoln for three years now and with both of the juggling football and school he still finds time to call him every now and then to ask him for some advice.

"We call each other all the time," Cortney said. "He keep telling me not to be afraid to make a mistake, because if you are, you will make that mistake."

Now that he is gone, Cortney is taking on the role of the older brother, trying to teach the next Grixby in the family, Ronelle, the valuable lessons he learned from DeAntae. He remembers all the time his older brother spent with him in the front yard throwing footballs, trying to make him better.

At age 12, Ronelle plays middle linebacker and fullback for the Boy's and Girl's Club Jaguars. Cortney and DeAntae both said he has the ability to be something special.

"People better watch out for him," Cortney said. "Out of all three of us, I think he's the one with the most natural ability. He's gonna be awesome."

DeAntae said "Chunk" as he calls him, is coming up just like Cortney. He has a lot of natural ability and gets a lot of playing time with older guys, which can only make him better.

"Chunk is built like a fullback, but he moves like a guard on the basketball court," he said.

Ronelle is the big, rugged Grixby who loves to get dirty. DeAntae said he's a very physical football and basketball player who can never keep his shoes clean.

Cortney is the pretty boy.

"I like to look good," DeAntae said. "But Cortney is a pretty boy. He never leaves the house without his shoes perfectly clean and his shirt ironed."

Ronelle is the tough kid, Cortney said. The pretty boy and DeAntae said he's a combination of both. But, what they have in common is they are building on the Grixby tradition.

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The world's game



CHARGIN' THE MOUND
Troy Schulte

Not many people can dispute the fact that baseball is America's game.

It's been around for close to 200 years and is synonymous with the American dream, but in the last half-century or so, it has become more than that. It's the world's game.

There is no other time when that has been more recognizable.

If anyone disagrees with me, just take a look back at the Little League World Series that was played last month.

Now, the Little League World Series is nothing new, it's been around since the late 40s.

But this year it introduced a new format in its annual tournament, which allowed more teams from all over the world to participate in the series, including a team from Moscow.

This expanded format truly shows the growth and popularity of baseball.

It has two brackets, one for the little league teams from the United States and one for teams from the rest of the world.

Just the thought of having a tournament involving kids, who are around 12-13 years old from countries all over the world, shows the awesome influence that America's favorite game has developed.

Do you think thousands of people would tune into watch little kids play soccer on national television?

I sure wouldn't. You remember all the hoopla over Danny Almonte, the ace pitcher for the team from the Bronx in the series?

Yeah, sure he dominated kids

who were two years younger than him, but so what?

This kid had all the talent in the world and he played baseball.

For two weeks this 14-year-old Dominican immigrant took the country by storm while he threw a no-hitter and a perfect game.

You can see that baseball is the "world's game" at the professional ranks as well. Players from countries all over the world regularly leave their homes to play the game in the United States.

That's unlike any other sport started in this country. Americans dominate the NFL and the NBA, unlike Major League Baseball.

Sure in recent years a few Europeans have come to shoot three-pointers and kick field goals, but that doesn't compare to baseball.

And if you still aren't convinced, what is the most common last name in Major League Baseball? Rodriguez.

Which goes to show you that baseball is indeed, the "world's game."

What other thing besides baseball can bring two conflicting governments together?

Baseball did that very thing a couple of years ago, when the Baltimore Orioles visited Cuba for an exhibition game.

Then a couple months later, the Cubans visited our country, for another exhibition (each team won the games on the other's soil). How cool is that?

Baseball will always be the best and most diverse sport in the world.

Bottom line is nobody can argue the fact that baseball is the superior and most popular game.

No sport that is still around today is more popular or played by more people.

The Little League World Series and the diverse players at the professional level show that baseball is not only America's game, but the entire planet's as well



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

WILDS Softball star switches to volleyball

From WILDS, page 25

ing softball," she said. "I had played all summer for Finesse and it just wore me out."

So even before this season started she decided to switch sports and play volleyball. To her, volleyball is a more challenging sport.

"In volleyball I think I get more of a competition. I don't think softball is really that good around here," she said.

But, even though Wilds left the team after just one season and left them with a huge hole to fill in center field, she said there are no hard feelings between her, the coaches, or the rest of the team.

"Oh no, I had no problems with anyone," she said. "I still have some great friends on the team."

Right now, Wilds is concentrating on adapting to a sport she hasn't played in two years.

She doesn't think the transition will be too difficult, but will take some work.

She said she is just going to concentrate on playing the best volleyball she can and try and help them get back to the state tournament.

GYMS Aerobics

classes want weight room

From GYMS, page 25

weight room is right down the hall from the girls' locker room.

"We have one boy in Aerobics, and the girls' locker room is right down the hall from the weight room," Chavez said. "It would make way more sense to have aerobics classes in this room than down in that basement."

Chavez pointed out to get from the girls' locker room to the lower level of the newest gym addition, a student would have to go through two classrooms and down at least three sets of stairs.

"Everything about the weight room is perfect," Chavez said. "Think about it. The padded floors are already there; perfect for jumping and stepping. The sound system is already there. The mirrors are already there. It's like it was made to be an aerobics room."

Last year Chavez, and the rest of the physical education staff submitted a formal request to Thompson to have the weight room be turned into an aerobics room, Chavez said.

Thompson received the request, along with several other proposals for the space.

"There are so many options to choose from, but it will most likely end up being a trainer's room," Thompson said.

New athletic trainer pleased with ability of athletes, coaches

By Steve Packard

The day came and Jeanee Weiss has no longer the athletic trainer here at Central.

Weiss turned in her letter of resignation in April, athletics director Paul Pennington said. Weiss decided she needed more time to herself.

Principal Gary Thompson and Paul Pennington headed the search for a replacement.

Among the callbacks was Oklahoma State graduate student, Mike Demilia.

Demilia attended high school at Millard South, where his interest in training began. During his high school years, he played numerous sports, where he met athletic

trainer Craig Holz.

"I was always the smallest guy on the field, so I always seemed to get hurt a lot," Demilia said. "He [Holz] did a great job, he's still there."

During his undergraduate years he attended UNO, and in 1995 began instruction as an athletic trainer. In May 1999, he graduated from UNO and began graduate studies.

That March, Demilia was searching for a training job and found one posted for Central.

He kept it in the back of his mind until finally, in May 2001, Demilia graduated with a master's degree in health and human performance.

In the middle of June, Demilia was interviewed by Thompson and Pennington. That same day he got a call back offering him the job. He accepted immediately.

"When I first got it, I wasn't sure how long I'd be here," Demilia said. "It looked like a pretty good place to start and it is. I see myself here for a while."

Central's students and faculty definitely amazed the new trainer. "There's a lot of kids!" Demilia said. "I see some good athletes, good kids, good coaches and they seem to work hard."

Weiss is still teaching human growth and development and is thankful for her experiences at Central.



Photo by ANNIE WALDEN/THE REGISTER
Trainer Mike Demilia helps senior Kenny Newman get his breath back after having the wind knocked out of him during the Creighton Prep game on Aug. 31.



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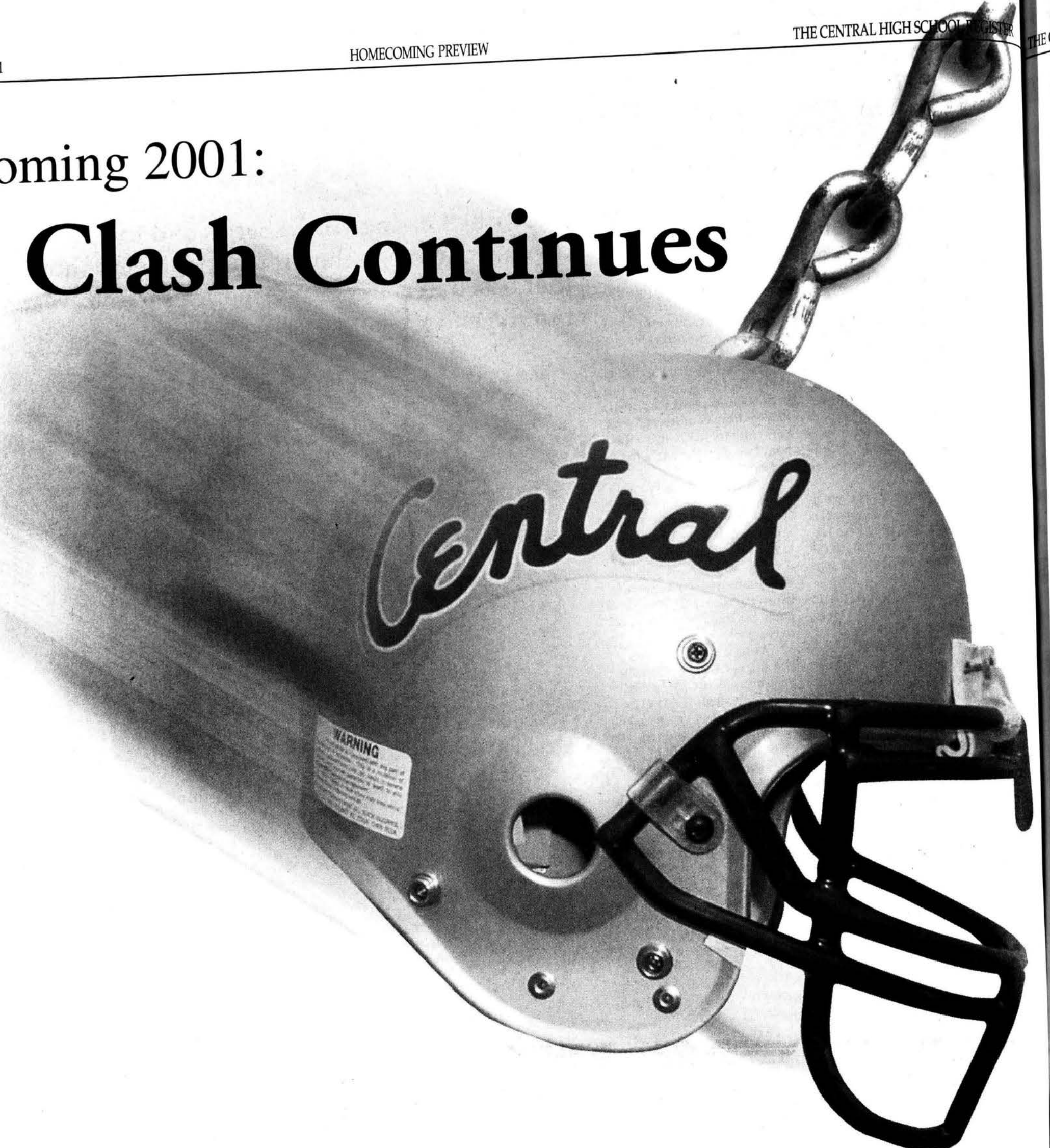
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Homecoming 2001: The Clash Continues



Rivals ready to expect unexpected

By Chris Aponick

Every year during homecoming week, the football players have to perform a balancing act between preparing for a football game and enduring a week of hyped-up school spirit.

Central head coach Joe McMenamin said he is going to try to keep his team ready to play this year's game against North, despite all of the other busy events during the week.

He wants to make sure they play well, despite having the next night's dance on their minds.

"It can be a big distraction," he said. "They have to stay focused on the game itself and be careful that the festivities don't consume them."

He said there is nothing special planned for the actual game so he is trying to not overlook any games coming into homecoming.

The team is just going to try to play

solid leading up to that game. He said the team will also have to work hard to stop any turnovers.

"We will plan for them like every other team," McMenamin said. "We will try to scout them well and figure out our strengths against them."

North coach, Larry Martin, is not looking ahead to the game, due to the difficult schedule they have leading up to it.

Included on their schedule are Creighton Prep, Millard West and Papillion/La Vista, all perennial powerhouse teams.

However, once North does get to the game, it will be more than just regular homecoming because of the history between the two schools.

Both schools have long-standing football programs and have played each other for decades.

After Prep, North has always been

Central's biggest rival. Many of the players from the two teams know each other, so that makes the players more excited to play.

All of the past games against North have been fairly close, however the Eagles have won the last six meetings, McMenamin said.

"It's a backyard dog fight. They are always real hard-hitting games," McMenamin said. "You can throw out the records because both teams are always geared up."

After getting to see a couple of their games North is very impressed by Central's skills.

They have a well-balanced offense, Martin said.

Central's offensive weapons, such as running back David Horne and wide receiver Mark LeFlore, especially impressed Martin.

"They are not one dimensional, so

you can't shut down one part of their offense," he said.

Shutting the offense down as a total will be a key for North.

Martin said he will try to stop Central from slowly marching down the field and instead will try to put them in uncomfortable situations, like getting them into second and long position.

McMenamin said he is confident that he can get a good game out of his players and beat a revamped North defense.

"We just have to see what will work best against their defense," he said.

However, shutting down a powerful Eagle offense may not prevent North from losing the game, especially considering the special team has racked up a couple punt blocks and several kickoff returns so far this season.

"We might just have to kick the ball out of bounds," Martin said.

Central vs North:

A homecoming battle

Where: Bergquist Stadium, Norris Middle School

Key player:

Central-David Horne RB

North-Antwain Woods

RB/LB

Coaches thoughts:

Joe McMenamin- "You can throw out the records because both teams are always geared up."

Larry Martin- "They are not one-dimensional, so you can't shut down one part of their offense."

Big plays, ball control key to homecoming victory over Vikings

If Central plans on winning its homecoming game come Oct. 12 against North, it will all depend on which Eagles shows up.

If the team that turned the ball over three times in a 24-15 first-game loss to Creighton Prep shows up, head coach Joe McMenamin and the rest of the Eagles are in for a very long night.

However, if the team that jumped out to a quick, 27-0 first quarter lead against Northwest in an eventual 48-7 blowout makes the trip, it should be easy as pie.

Excess number of turnovers, not capitalizing on big plays and steady quarterback play are three aspects that, if not executed properly, could cause North to upset the Eagles.

Not one of those three aspects were

executed in that opening game, which caused the game to slip through their fingers.

Central held a slim 6-0 lead over the No. 2 rated Blue Jays heading into halftime, but when they came out of the locker room to start the second half, they gave away three turnovers which eventually led to 17 Prep points.

Turnovers also haunted North in its opening game, a 33-14 loss at the hands of Kearney. The Vikings also gave up three turnovers including a blocked punt in their disappointing 2001 debut.

Both of the team's excess of turnovers could have just been due to first game jitters. But, if the Eagle's can somehow minimize their turnovers while at the same time force a few themselves, they should jump out to a big lead early on in the game.

Along with containing and causing

turnovers, the Eagles will also have to do a better job of taking advantage of big plays when they come their way.

In that game against the Blue Jays, running back David Horne gained over half of his game-high 189 yards on just two plays.

One was a 40-yard run on the first play from scrimmage, which eventually led to no points. And the other was a 76-yard scamper in the second quarter in which they could only get a field goal out of.

One way to make sure these things happen is to have one consistent quarterback. That didn't happen against Prep. Three different players saw action in that game (senior Nate Butler, junior Chris LeFlore and sophomore Cortney Grixby).

The quarterback position is the most vital on the field, and if you don't have a consistent player behind center, the team will not be allowed to get in a rhythm.

McMenamin needs to pick one of the three players that saw action against Prep and stick with that player.

The most likely candidate would be Butler, who has taken the most snaps and has the most success at that position, so far this season.

So far this season, Central's defense has played very well. Giving up just 24 points to Prep (17 coming off of turnovers) and only seven to Northwest.

They will once again be tested. The most talented player on North's team, running back Antwain Woods, is second in the state in rushing, behind only Horne.

If the Eagle defense focuses most of their attention on Woods, they should be fine. Considering North doesn't have any other players that pose a threat.

Woods will also be one of the only

the Register's pick
North 13
Central 45

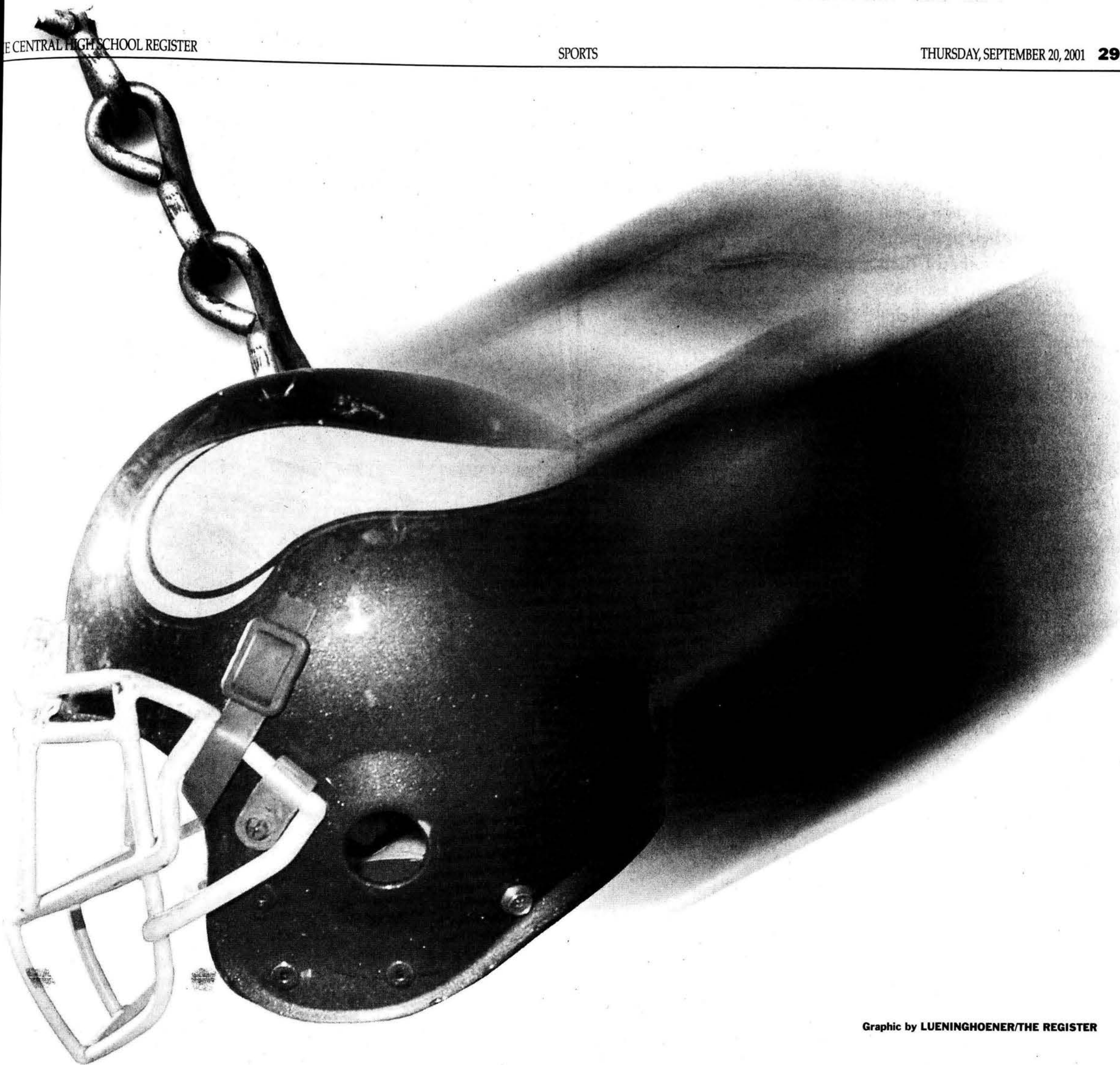
players on North's defense the Eagle offense line will have to worry about.

He was an All-State defensive end last season and has spent the off-season getting bigger, stronger and learning the Viking's new odd man front defense.

He was moved from his defensive end position to middle linebacker, where he can use his speed to move all over the field.

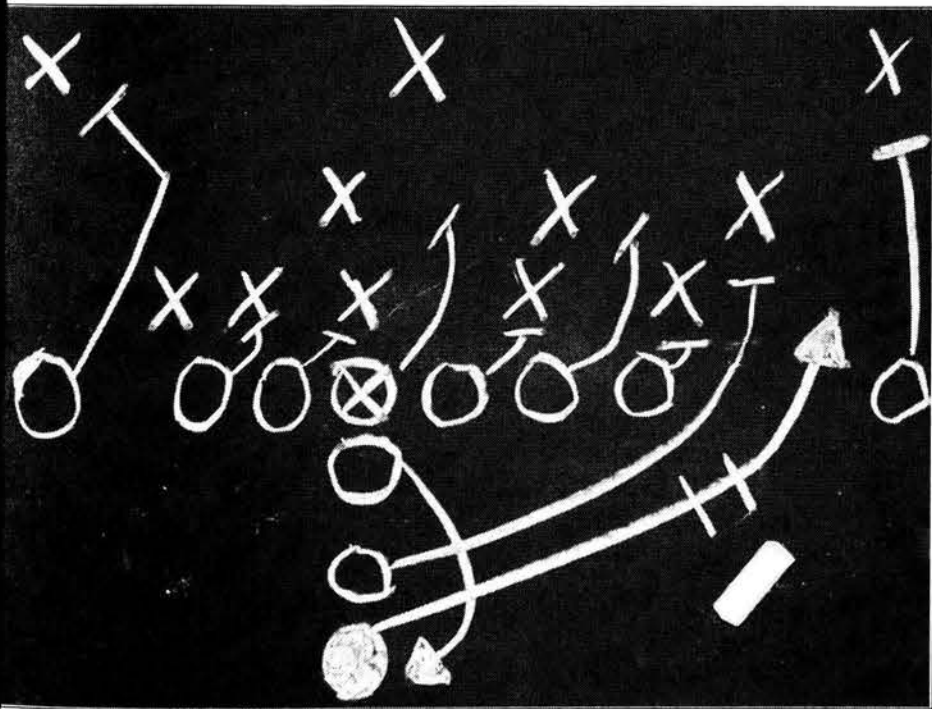
Bottom line is nobody in the state can compare to the talent on Central's team. And there are some teams on its schedule that could beat easily, on just talent alone.

The Vikings are one of those teams. If they concentrate on the those three aspects of the game: ball control, capitalizing on big plays and consistency at quarterback, the Eagles should walk off the Bergquist Stadium field after a lopsided victory.



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Chalk it Up



Sweep proves to be explosive play

From the playbook of head coach Joe McMenamin

The Play: Pro right 58 The Mechanics:

This is a sweep or stretch play. We use outside zone blocking in the line and the fullback blocks the strong safety. Then, the I-Back reads the blocks to pick a hole to run through.

David Horne had a 60-yard run against Creighton Prep with this play.

Why We Like It:

We like this play because it gives the I-Back freedom to pick a hole and

and use his speed to get to the outside.

Why The Players Like It: The linemen like the outside zone technique because it allows them to take-off hard from the line without fear of missing a slanted defensive lineman.

The Model:

This play is as old as football itself. The outside zone technique is something that many teams have used.

The Key Players: All 11 of them.

PLAY
of the
MONTH

Transfers lead Central's powerful offensive attack

By Troy Schulte

Three of the most vital players on the Eagles' offense this season all have one thing in common: they didn't start their careers here.

Wide receivers Marlon Carter and Mark LeFlore both transferred from North after their freshman years and All-State running back David Horne came over from Creighton Prep prior to last season.

Although they came at different times, their reasons were similar. They all wanted to be apart of Central High football.

"I just think Central has a great tradition. They have more of a winning team than North does," LeFlore said.

LeFlore first attended North in 1998 at the start of his freshman season. He started playing quarterback on the JV team and also played JV basketball, but soon found out North was not the right place for him. One of the reasons he first chose the school was because of his sister, Sydney, who was a junior on the basketball team at the time. She was the first one to decide to transfer, so Mark decided to follow her to Central where he would get a better opportunity to play football as well as basketball.

"A lot of my decision was based on more of an academics and basketball standpoint," he said.

LeFlore was also talking to fellow JV standout, Marlon Carter. Together they both decided playing for the Vikings was not for them.

When he first informed head coach Joe McMenamin of his plans to transfer to Central, LeFlore said he had no objections.

"Oh he was for it. I don't think he would ever be against adding some speed to the team," he said.

Like LeFlore, senior running back David Horne originally wanted to attend Central, but went to Creighton Prep be-

cause of family pressure. After just two years where he saw limited action, Horne headed to Central. Considering the Eagles' had lost two All-State running backs from the year before (Ja'Maine Billups and Brandon Williams), he was assured at least some playing time.

McMenamin said Horne never had any desire to play for the Blue Jays. And during the winter break of 1999, he received a call telling him Horne was transferring to Central.

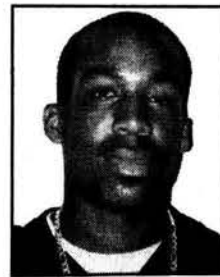
"I never really wanted to go to Prep and I thought Central was the best fit for me," Horne said.

And it turned out to be. Horne first enrolled at Central last fall and immediately won the starting job at I-back. While being a new guy on the team, Horne led all Class A rushers with 1,461 yards, and was named to the All-State team.

Carter was second on the team in receptions (26), receiving yards (390) and touchdown catches (three), while LeFlore enjoyed a record-breaking season.

He set school records for touchdown receptions and receiving yards against Papillion/La Vista. He also led the team in every major receiving category, receptions (42), receiving yards (736) and touchdowns (10). And he has already

The Transfers



Mark LeFlore WR/DB
Former school: Omaha North
Transfer date: January 1999
Reason for transfer: He really like the tradition of Central football.



Marlon Carter WR/DB
Former school: Omaha North
Transfer date: January 1999
Reason for transfer: Neither him or fellow transfer Mark LeFlore thought they could win at North



David Horne RB
Former school: Creighton Prep
Transfer date: August 2000
Reason for transfer: He didn't think Prep was the right fit for him.

committed to play football at Nebraska in 2002.

LeFlore also thinks that because of McMenamin all three of them have bright future in the game.

"Honestly I believe that I wouldn't have [received attention if not for Central]," LeFlore said. "I know some schools won't send out films. But, coach Mac will send you films out all over."


No matter what this season, or the coming years, bring to them, none of them regret the decision they made.

"I most definitely believe that it was one of the best moves I've ever made," LeFlore said.


The Register's sports star cards

At the start of each sports season, *the Register* asks each coach to take a look at their upcoming season and select some of their best players. Many of these players could end the season by helping Central bring home a state title. All of them have the skills to go on and excel at the next level. For some of them, this will not be the only time on a sports card.

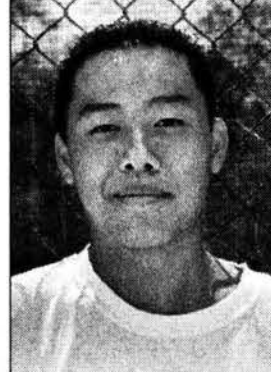
	FALL 2001
	Holly Greenamyre
	Senior captain and middle attacker; made 2nd team All-Metro last year.
	Volleyball
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Jodi Dierks	
2000 record: 18-13	
Returning starters: Angela Capellupo(12), Natalie Lubbert(12), Robyn Sorensen(12), Michelle Lubbert(12), Lauren Pauba(12)	
Season outlook: The Eagles should be tough, especially with six core returning players. However, most class A teams will be improved over last season.	

	FALL 2001
	David Horne
	Senior running back; made All-State last season; led state in rushing.
	Football
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Joe McMenamin	
2000 record: 4-6	
Returning starters: David Horne(12), Jamar Dorsey(12), Nick Lemek(12), Calvin Sherrod(12), David Kass(12), Matt Foreman(12), Mark LeFlore(12), Marlon Carter(12), Keenan Ford(12)	
Season outlook: They will be strong in both the offensive and defensive lines and the backs.	

	FALL 2001
	Chris Gorga
	As a junior he has made two trips to the state meet
	Cross-Country
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Trent Lodge	
Returning starters: Adam Deacon(12), James Boatright(11), Chris Gorga(11), Ryan Shaw(11), Marie Engdahl(12), Meredith Grunke(11), Allison Legino(11)	
Season outlook: The team has a lot of new players and members hope to be competitive. But they will have to overcome some inexperience.	

	FALL 2001
	Ashley Krijian
	Junior; medalist in the Omaha Classic golf
	Girl's Golf
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Wendy Brownson	
2000 record: 3-5	
Other returning starters: Libby Dyer(12), Kenzie McCall(12)	
Key matches: Marian. They have a tradition of having a good team.	
Season outlook: The team looks to improve this year as the girls show a lot of potential. The team will be much better than last. Brandi Smith(9) will be a good addition.	

	FALL 2001
	Katie Lydiatt
	Sophomore; finished third in the beam and fifth all-around
	Gymnastics
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Linda Herrington	
Sport: Gymnastics	
2000 record: 5-2	
Returning starters: Katherine Lydiatt(11), Annetter Wilder(10)	
Season outlook: With more natural gymnasts on the team, the record should improve next year.	

	FALL 2001
	Ed Yin
	Senior; four year letterman. He played in the state tournament in 2000.
	Boys Tennis
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Sport: Boys' tennis	
2000 record: 3-6 in duels	
Returning starters: Ed Yin(12), Don Rees(12), Dennis Yin(12), Eric Rafferty(12), Robbie Garvin(10)	
Season outlook: The combination of experienced seniors and the addition of Cameron Knowles(9), should produce a season above .500.	

	FALL 2001
	Jenny Miller
	Junior; ace pitcher; she made All-Division last year
	Softball
	CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Kerri Murtaugh	
2000 Record: 8-20	
Returning starters: Jenna Sullivan(12), Emily Muskin(10), Ashley Clark(12), Julia Darrow(10), Liz Davis(10)	
Outlook season: The team will build on a strong finish from last year including an upset over Burke in districts and a close loss to Millard South.	

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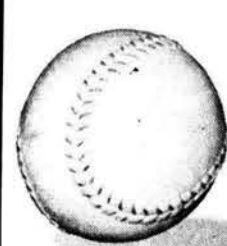
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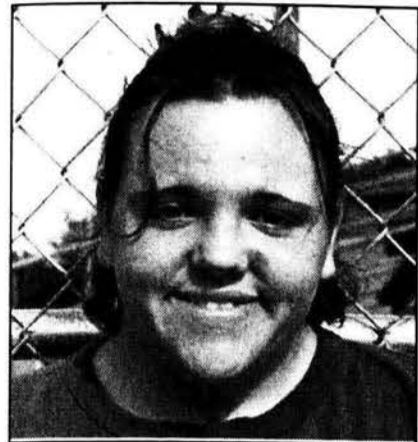
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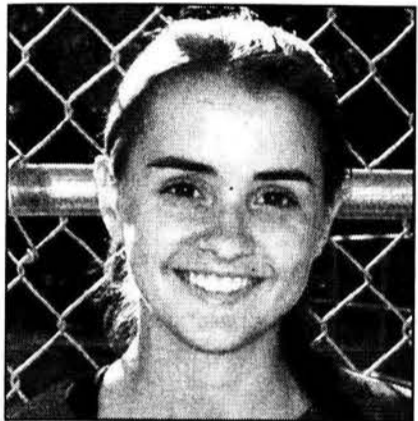


One Swing at a Time

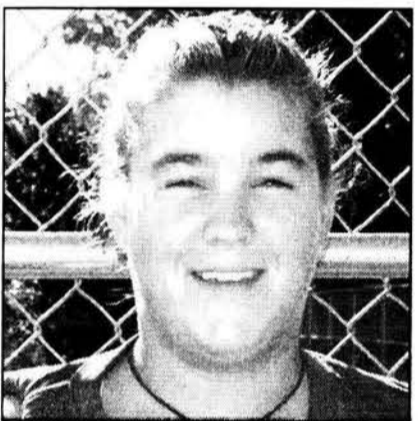
Softball team improves record with young talent, desire



junior Jenny Miller (#15)
pitcher



senior Emily Felix (#16)
pitcher



freshman Allison Hess (#11)
catcher



freshman Allison Rutherford (#1)
center field



sophomore Julia Darrow (#3)
shortstop



sophomore Emily Muskin (#4)
left field



senior Jenna Sullivan (#12)
team captain, right field



By Troy Schulte

The key to the girl's softball team starting off the year with a significantly better record than last season has been the over all team's desire to win.

Junior third and first basemen Katie Muldoon said that this year, unlike in years past, the team really thinks it has what it takes to win.

"Central has always had good athletes, just this year we think we can win more," she said. "We have more of a desire to win."

So far this season, the team has started off with a 6-6 record, assistant coach Scott Wilson said. One of the team's biggest accomplishments was its second place finish at the North Invite.

Central won its first two games in the tournament rather easily, both by scores of 10-0. Then, in the finals it lost a 1-0 heartbreaker to Elkhorn in extra innings.

"That one we lost in extra innings due to the international overtime rule," Wilson said.

Wilson said that loss was exceptionally disappointing because it came at the hands of an unusual rule.

The international tie-breaker rule, which states that at the beginning of every extra-inning, the team at bat starts with a runner on second. And when Elkhorn was at bat that was the runner that scored.

Wilson agrees with Muldoon, saying that the players expect to win more games than past years, but they have more than that. Wilson said this team is a lot more talented then other teams he has coached. Overall hitting and team speed are two areas that Wilson said he feels they can compete with anyone in the state in.

We have two freshman, the Rutherford twins [Allison and Darcy] who are real good," Wilson said. "They're really quick."

Those two freshmen have surprised a lot of people this season. Darcy plays second base and Allison has taken the place of last year's star freshman, Ashley Wilds, who switched over to play volleyball before this season.

Despite losing last seasons best hitter, neither Wilson nor Muldoon said it would affect this team. "I don't think it will be that big of deal," Muldoon said. "We have enough other players on the team that can do just as well."

Other than Muldoon pulling her weight as one of the team's best hitters, last year all-division pitcher junior Jenny Miller has been one of the team's best pitchers.

"Jenny's pitching is probably one of the best part of our team," Muldoon said.

Most of the girls on the team are either juniors or seniors, which Muldoon said, has helped them improve immensely.

"I think we are more used to playing with each other now, so we are a better team," she said.

(LEFT) Junior Jenny Miller gets ready to practice her hitting during a practice.

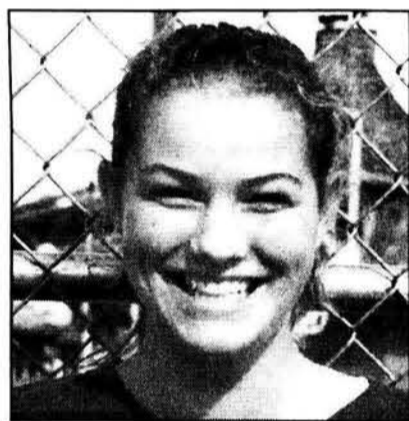
All Photos by Emily Neumann



senior Sarah Barnhards(#5)
outfield



junior Mesha Reynolds (#6)
outfield



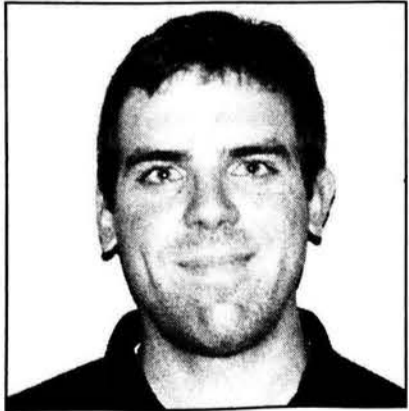
junior Kate Muldoon (#10)
third base



junior Liz Davis (#17)
catcher



senior Ashley Clark (#8)
first base



Scott Wilson, assistant coach



Kerri Murtaugh, head coach



Mindy Suing, pitching coach

Not Pictured: Cindi Semrad, assistant coach

Fall Softball Record (as of 9-15-01)

8/23-8/24 South Invite	-North 10-0W
-Bryan 3-2W	-Elkhorn 0-1L
-Bellevue East 2-5L	9/4 Bellevue East (A) 0-1L
-Bellevue West 13-0W	9/6-9/8 METRO
8/27 Mercy (H) 6-7L	-Millard South 3-7L
8/30 Westside (H) 0-2L	-Northwest 7-1W
9/1 North Invite	9-13 Benson 22-0 W
-Bellevue West 10-0W	

Jones winds down career in football

By Troy Schulte

From the Federal Express Orange Bowl to the Super Bowl to Turf War 4, former Central running back Calvin Jones has seen it all in the 10 years since he left.

Last month Jones ended his second season with his third professional football team, the Omaha Beef, with a 47-38 loss to the Tennessee Thundercats in Turf War 4, the Indoor Professional Football League's (IPFL) championship game. That loss topped off a nearly perfect 15-2 record for the Beef. When the clock hit 0:00 on that night, more than a season ended for the Beef. It might have meant a career for Jones.

As of right now, Jones has not decided if he will return to the Beef next year. In fact, he almost didn't play this season. Because of tendonitis and arthritis in his knees, he didn't sign with the team until mid-February.

Jones said he was glad he had the experience of playing two years with the team.

"I've enjoyed it," he said. "When it [the IPFL] first came to the city, I thought it was a great idea to bring professional football to Omaha."

Jones grew up without a professional football team, but the Huskers have always been there. So it was only natural that after he graduated from Central he played for the team. Jones played three seasons at I-back and helped lead them to three consecutive Orange Bowls. After his junior year, Jones decided to forego his senior season and head to the NFL.

Making the decision to jump to the NFL was an easy one for Jones. He always felt ahead of all the other players in his class because he was held back in the third grade and he redshirted his first year at Nebraska.

"When you are put in a position where you have to make an important decision like that, you can't look back. You have to just go with what you think is best," he said.

Jones was drafted in the third round by the Los Angeles Raiders in 1994 and was soon frustrated by the lack of chances he was getting to compete.

"I was never one to boast my ability, but all I wanted was an opportunity to compete. And I don't feel I was given that," Jones said.

Jones played two unfulfilling seasons with the Raiders before being traded to the Green Bay Packers prior to the 1996-97 season.

While with the Packers, Jones was glad to play for a winning team. In his first season there, the Packers made it to the mecca of all sporting events: the Super Bowl.

The Packers beat the New England Patriots in that game 35-21, giving Jones his first championship in football. And for him, it was a dream come true.

"When you're in the locker room before the game, you start thinking about what got you there and everything you've gone through," Jones said. "And I wouldn't change any of that."

But Jones' passion for the game was quickly dying down. After the 1997-98 season, he decided to retire from the game.

"I just stopped loving football," he said.

Jones then returned home, not really knowing what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. He did some radio work for a while and returned to Central to help coach running backs.

Then, in the summer of 2000 Jones' grandmother became ill. He remembered that one thing his grandmother wanted to see him do was get a college degree. So last September Jones returned to school.

Not even two months later, his grandma passed away.

"Unfortunately she won't see me finish it. But now I'm just doing it for myself, to prove that I can do it," he said.

While Jones is finishing up his degree in business he is also heading Calvin's Husker Legends, a sports memorabilia company he started along with other former football players. Eventually Jones wants to get involved in marketing and consulting with football players.

Jones said going back to school and starting his life without football is more fulfilling to him than anything he did on the field.

"One thing athletes have to deal with, especially from Nebraska, is to learn to live without it. Out of the spotlight," Jones said. "Once you do that, you'll enjoy it more now than you did when you were playing."



Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Cortney Grixby, the second Grixby to play varsity football for the Eagles, is one of the only sophomores to make it onto the team. His older brother, DeAntae, was a star I-back for the team in the mid 90s. DeAntae is now playing for NU, another tradition that Cortney hopes to continue.

Family Matters

By Troy Schulte

Sophomore defensive back Cortney Grixby has spent his entire life idolizing his older brother DeAntae. Now, he hopes to continue the legacy his older brother started by playing for the Eagles himself and teaching the next Grixby in line, Ronelle, the game.

Cortney Grixby is one of the few sophomores vying for time on the varsity football team this season. He owes it all to one person: his older brother DeAntae.

Last season Cortney played most of his games as quarterback on JV, but was one of the few freshmen to see playing time on the varsity level. While growing up, the most valuable lesson Cortney learned from his older brother was to be fearless and to not be afraid of a guy who was bigger, stronger or older than he was.

"I would go out and play with his friends and guys who were older than me," Cortney said. "It taught me to have a fighting mentality. To not fear anyone and just go out and play my game like I know I can play."

DeAntae used to go play basketball and football with some of his friends at the Boy's and Girl's club and at first Cortney wasn't allowed to join them.

"We wouldn't let him play at first. But, then we saw him play and he was trying to dunk all over us," DeAntae said.

He remembers when they were both younger and Cortney was just beginning to play football. Cortney was always the whiner, so he was always trying to

toughen him up.

"I remember the first day he tried to put on football helmet he started whining. He kept saying his helmet was too tight and said he was going to suffocate," DeAntae said.

When neither of them had games to play weren't at the Boy's and Girl's Club, they were in the front yard throwing a football or dribbling a basketball, or DeAntae was teaching him some sort of technique.

"He always took me outside, since I was about five years old. He always had me throwing a football or dribbling the basketball," Cortney said.

Growing up, DeAntae would practice with and teach Cortney to play sports, but he never had to push him into it.

Sports are a part of the Grixby family. Cortney following his older brother just like DeAntae followed his uncle, who was just six years older than he was and played football for Central.

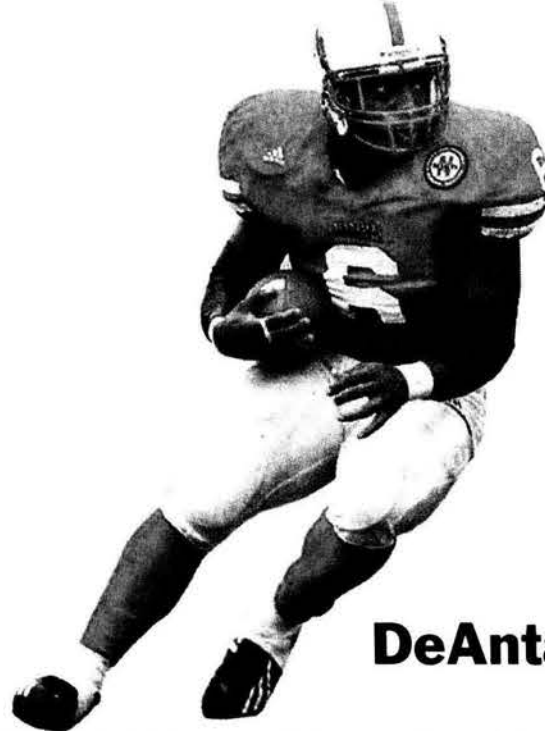
Just like DeAntae watched his uncle play during his days at Central, Cortney watched his older brother star as I-back.

"I went to every game he played [in high school]

See GRIXBYS page 2



Ronelle



DeAntae



Cortney

SCORECARD

REGISTER PICKS

The sports staff calls 'em like they see 'em

	 Horne's college choice	 World Series	 Best Fall Sport	 NASCAR
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 Quentin Lueninghoener <i>Executive Editor</i>	Colorado	Mariners	Volleyball	Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Construction underway

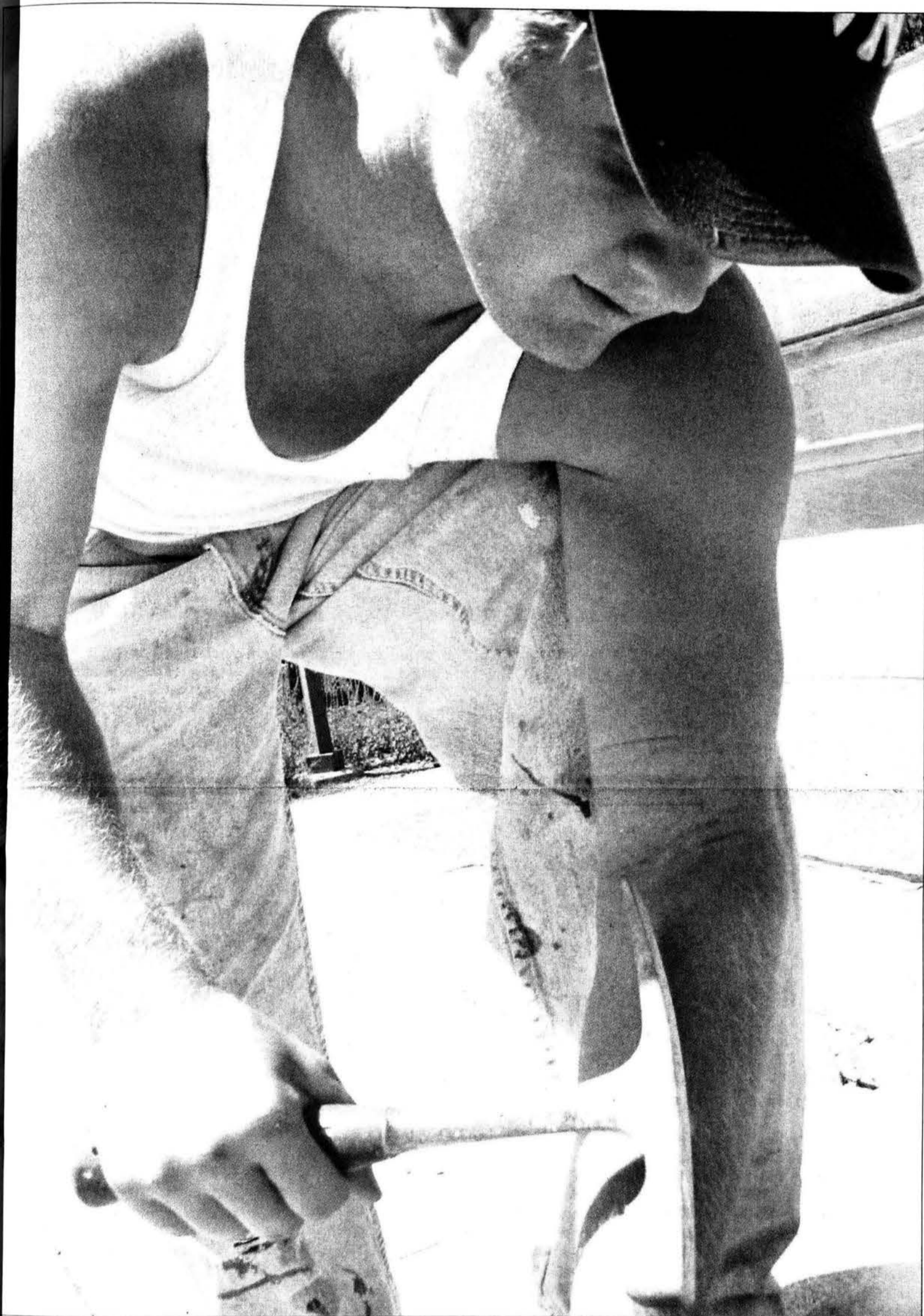


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Dominic Vincentini with Dakota Construction repairs the stairs on the west side of the school. Workers said that water had been leaking into the boiler room beneath the stairs, so workers removed the old caulk and replaced it. This was only a minor aspect of what happened this summer.



We've been hot. We've been crowded. We've been attending a school that, due to open enrollment, is about to burst at the seams.

Our cafeteria staff has been cooking our meals in too small of a space. And have you ever stopped to think about how silly it is to have two separate gyms?

Well all of that is about to change.

Central underwent some major changes this summer. But everything that happened was only in preparation for the real deal: installing air conditioning and two additions next year.

In this special section, the Register takes an in-depth look at several aspects of the renovation, ranging from what happened this summer to future plans to how the school has dealt with renovations in the past.

Central will never be the same. That much is certain.

But how much will it change?

INSIDE



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

PAGE 34- THE FIRST STEP

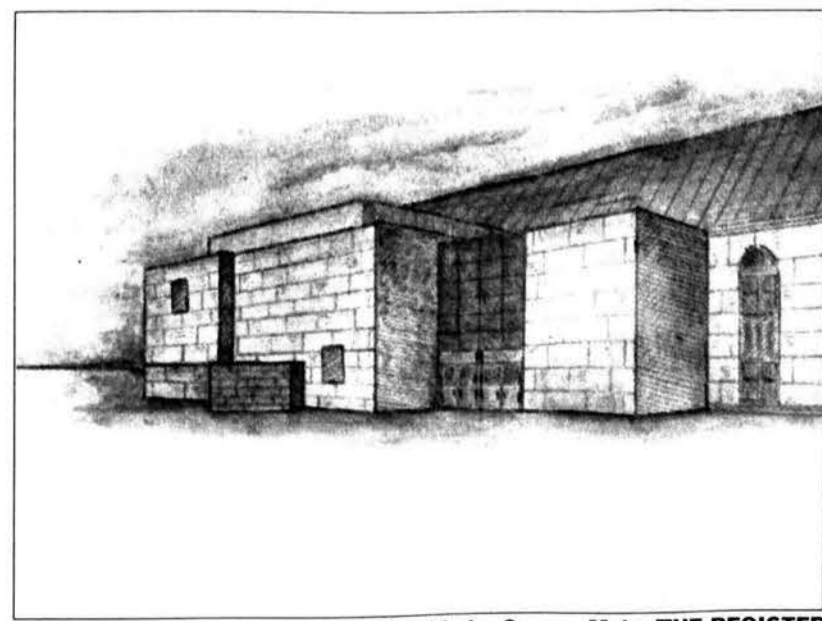
Many constructions and electrical crews worked long hours during this first phase of the renovation. This phase should be done very shortly. The goals were to install mechanical piping and upgrade the school's electrical system. Most of this work had to be done during the summer due to students being in the building after school started.



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

PAGE 38- WHAT STUDENTS THINK

The brunt of the renovations were scheduled to take place while school was out of session. But now students are back, and the presence of construction machinery and workers is ever-present. Students talk about the everyday distractions the renovations cause, as well as the luxuries the construction will bring.



Graphic by Connor Meigs/THE REGISTER

PAGE 40- WHAT WILL HAPPEN

Of course, everything that has been done so far is only in preparation for what will come. Air conditioning, additions, extra space, increased technology facilities, it's all explained here. To get a better idea of what may happen next year, the Register talked to administrators and designers involved in the last Central renovation.

The first step

The renovation project is split up into two halves: Phase One, the preliminary work that was started last summer, and Phase Two, when air conditioning and two additions will be added.

Phase One is in its final stages this week. By Friday, the workers should be gone, and Central will be a normal school again until March, when Phase Two is slated to begin with the breaking of ground for the gymnasium addition.



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Dick Bell of Ray Martin Company works in the South end of the basement connecting the school's supply lines to pipes from Energy Systems downtown. The pipes will eventually supply the school with chilled water for air conditioning.

Phase One starts long air-conditioning process

By Joe Meyer

The goal of this summer's work was to install mechanical piping and upgrade the school's electrical system, construction manager at Jacobs Facilities Terry Page said.

All the work completed this year was in preparation for phase two, which will start in March.

Although crews worked throughout the summer, most of the students will not be able to notice the changes, Page said.

Most of the work was completed behind the school's walls, Page said.

"With Central having so many kids in there, you cannot work in the school year," he said. "So we broke the design up where we could jump in there this summer in classroom areas."

The school district hired two contractors for the job. Ray Martin Companies installed the mechanical piping and Omaha Electric Services Inc. upgraded the building's electrical systems.

The school's electrical system was not capable of handling a new air-conditioning unit, Page said. Because of that, the system had to be updated to handle the new demand the air-conditioning will bring.

"If you want to compare it to a house, you just didn't have enough power in there and the building was not designed for that," Page said.

While electricians were working on the electrical systems, the district decided to have the company improve the general power distribution in the building.

While electricians were wiring the

building, the mechanical contractor started the first step to install an air-conditioning system in the school.

Pipe fitters installed chill water lines that will supply the water needed to air condition the school.

These lines, which run vertically from the basement to the fourth floor were capped at the end of the project. Next summer, crews will branch off from these lines and run smaller pipes through classroom ceilings that will air-condition each room.

"We were all over in the building," Ray Mullen, supervisor for Ray Martin Companies, said. "We put a set of hot water risers in the teacher's lounge."

The last pipes that the contractors laid were the supply lines that run from 20th Street to the basement maintenance area, where the lines will connect to the risers that shoot up into the building.

This summer's work did experience some common setbacks, though.

When pipe fitters installed the main supply lines from the basement to the fourth floor, the task was a little trying, Mullen said.

"Every time we opened up a shaft, there was always something in there that we did not expect," he said. "We (the electricians and the pipe fitters) had to work together to get the job done."

When this happened, Mullen explained, the crews had to determine if the materials could be removed. Workers had to reroute operable wires, pipes and ducts in order to make way for the main risers.

Also, the age of the building caused

some difficulties, he said.

"Everything's brick in that building. There's no steel," he said. "It makes it challenging to do your job," he said.

While digging on the south lawn to the feeder lines from 20th Street, Mullen and the workers broke four or five sprinkler sewer lines that they did not know existed.

"If you break them (the lines), you get them up," he said. "When you hit them with the backhoe, you just dig right through them."

Tom Penney, project manager for the District Group, said the project ran like any other renovation project of an older building at Central.

The only part of the project that ran a little behind schedule was the trench that was dug on the west side of the school to lay electrical lines for new transformers.

But besides that, Penney said the project has worked fine.

"It ran pretty much on schedule," he said.

Mullen said pipe fitters worked 58 hours a week during the summer to complete the work. The district gave the company a deadline and there was a \$500 fine for every day it was late.

But the work done this year does not compare to what will happen during the next phase, he said.

"It'll be five times what we did this summer," Mullen said. "Where we had five guys (this summer), there might be 10 or 15 more. It just depends on how much work they need done and how fast."



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Dick Bell works on installing chilled water supply pipe up the southeast corner of the school. Sections of wall were torn out from the basement to the fourth floor.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Terry Banks and Jason Darnold of Omaha Electric install conduit in the basement.

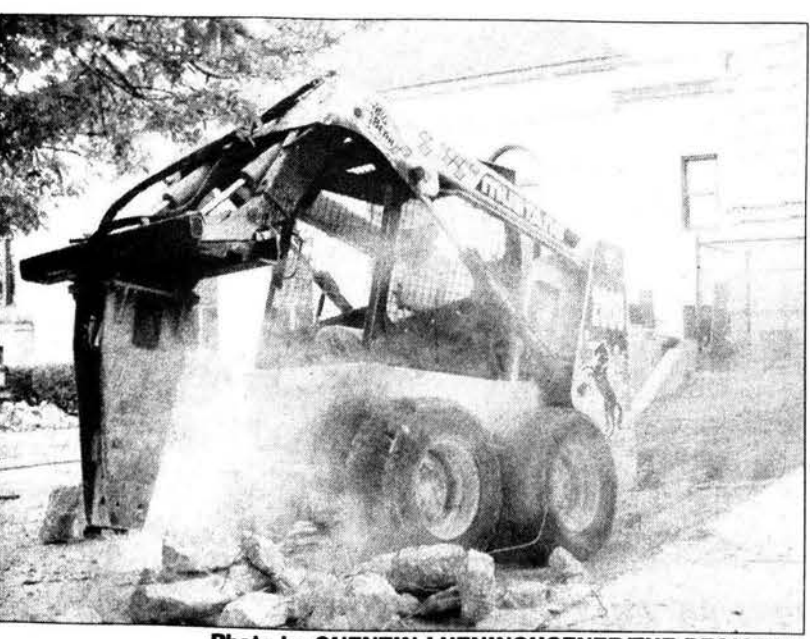


Photo by QUENTIN LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Dennis Gentry, vice-president of Dakota Construction, removes the sidewalk from the west side of the school so employees with Omaha Electric can run piping from the school to existing utility lines. The new transformer was needed to supply power to the future air-conditioning system that is scheduled to be operable for the start of the 2003-2004 school year.

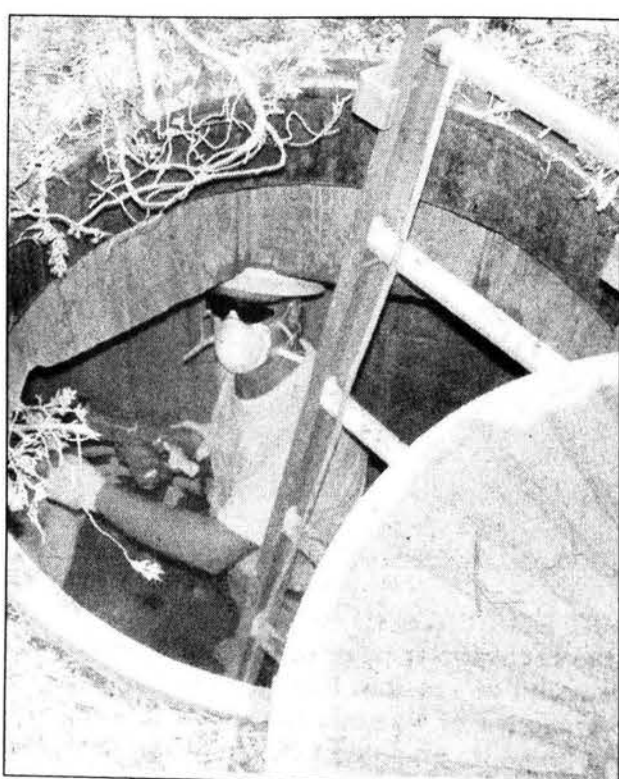


Photo by QUENTIN LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

An Omaha Electric employee connects conduit in a manhole on the west side.



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Ray Mullen of Ray Martin Companies welds pieces of steel pipe in the west cafeteria to support the supply lines.

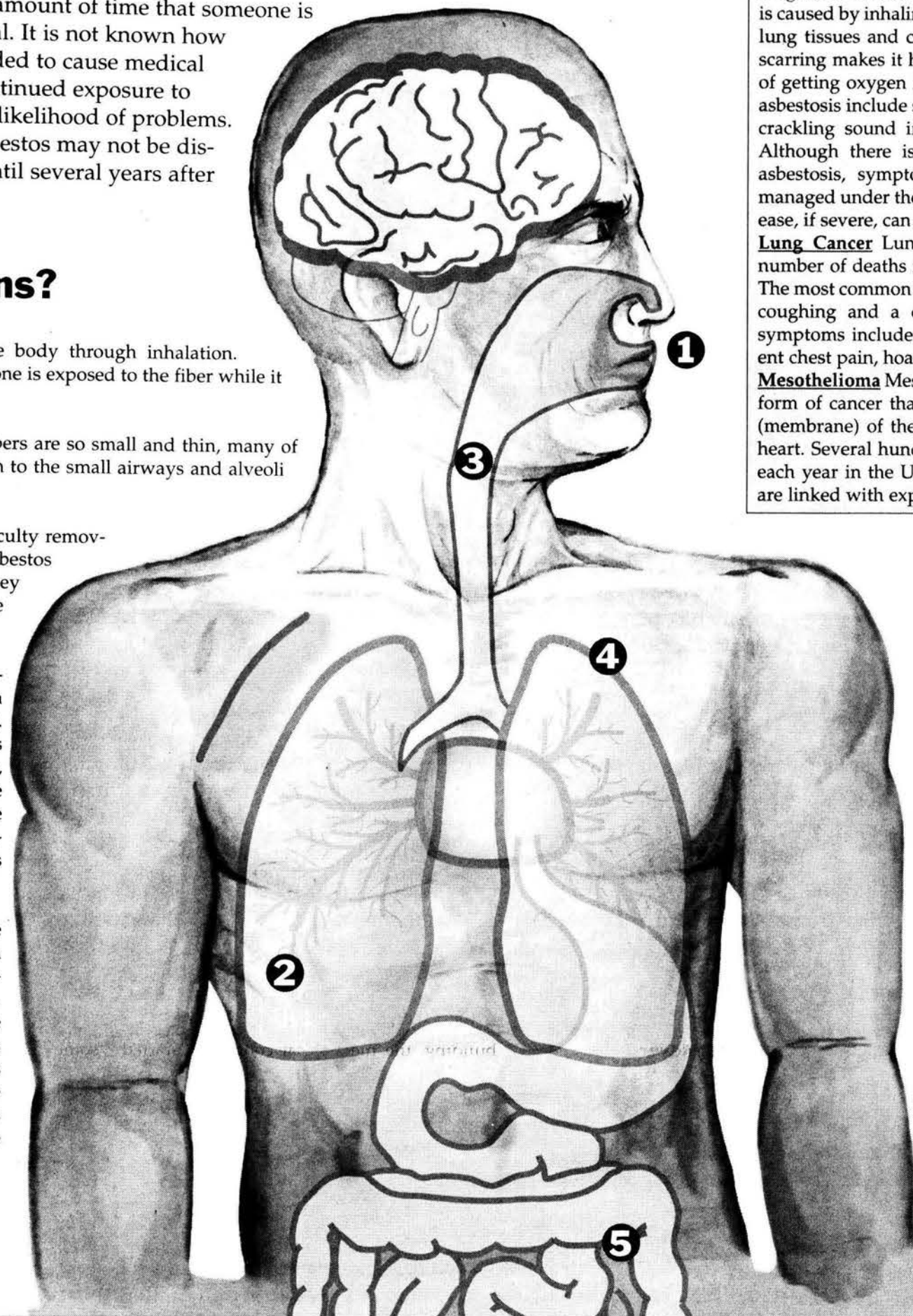
ASBESTOS

What exposure can do

Exposure to asbestos can cause health problems in the lungs, heart, chest and abdomen. These problems are usually related to the amount of time that someone is exposed to the material. It is not known how much exposure is needed to cause medical complications, but continued exposure to asbestos increases the likelihood of problems. Diseases related to asbestos may not be discovered in a person until several years after exposure.

What happens?

- 1** Asbestos enters the body through inhalation. Asbestos is inhaled if someone is exposed to the fiber while it is airborne.
- 2** Because asbestos fibers are so small and thin, many of them pass all the way down to the small airways and alveoli (or air sacs.)
- 3** The body has difficulty removing the fibers. After the asbestos fibers are breathed in, they may become trapped in the airways and lung tissues.
- 4** Each fiber is a foreign body, like a splinter in a finger. Inflammations develop as the body tries to neutralize, break down or move the sharp, irritating fibers. These processes lead to the development of the various kinds of asbestos-caused diseases.
- 5** Once fibers are inside the body, they can move around. How this happens is not fully understood. It might be because they are thin and sharp. The fibers can move from the lungs into the pleura and into the lymph nodes, and this means that they can move into other parts of the body.



Diseases caused by the fiber

Asbestosis Asbestosis is a serious, progressive, long-term disease of the lungs. It is not cancer. It is caused by inhaling asbestos fibers that irritate lung tissues and cause the tissues to scar. The scarring makes it hard for lungs to do their job of getting oxygen into the blood. Symptoms of asbestosis include shortness of breath and a dry crackling sound in the lungs while inhaling. Although there is no effective treatment for asbestosis, symptoms of the disease can be managed under the care of a physician. The disease, if severe, can cause disability and death.

Lung Cancer Lung cancer causes the largest number of deaths related to asbestos exposure. The most common symptoms of lung cancer are coughing and a change in breathing. Other symptoms include shortness of breath, persistent chest pain, hoarseness and anemia.

Mesothelioma Mesothelioma is a relatively rare form of cancer that is found in the thin lining (membrane) of the lungs, chest, abdomen and heart. Several hundreds of cases are diagnosed each year in the United States, and most cases are linked with exposure to asbestos.

Close-up of an asbestos fiber



Because of its flame-retardant ability, asbestos has been put in:
 Ceiling tiles
 Pipe installation
 Floor tiles
 Fire doors

Information courtesy of AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Graphic by CONNOR MEIGS, LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Who's involved?

Here is a quick look at the companies involved in last summer's work at Central:

DLR Group

Work done: DLR Group made the architectural drawings of the school. The firm also handled the engineering specifications for the mechanical, air-conditioning and electrical systems.

Other projects: Omaha convention center-arena, Lewis Central Middle School (new), Ralston High School (renovation), Elkhorn Ridge Middle School (new)

Experience: DLR was established in 1964

Dakota Construction Company

Work done: Dakota Construction demolished and replaced walls inside the school. The company was also responsible for tearing up the west pavement so new conduit could be run underground from a new transformer

Other projects: Dakota does work at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The company recently remodeled the Eppelly Administration building.

Experience: Dakota Construction started in 1992

Ray Martin Company

Work done: Ray Martin was the mechanical contractor for the Central renovations. The company installed all plumbing for the future air-conditioning system.

Other projects: The company installs air-conditioning systems in commercial buildings.

Experience: The company has been incorporated for over 40 years.

Omaha Electric Inc.

Work done: Omaha Electric was contracted to complete the electrical work this summer. They ran new conduit in the building and installed new transformers to handle the flow.

Other projects: Omaha Electric completes works on residential, commercial and industrial projects.

Experience: N/A

District will complete asbestos removal, specialist says

By Joe Meyer

One of the first steps to this year's renovations was to remove asbestos from several areas of the school. EnviroSafe Air, a company contracted by the school district, removed asbestos from areas in the art room, the physics room, basement storage rooms, below the stage and in maintenance areas, Shelley Bengtson, environmental specialist for Omaha Public Schools, said.

According to state and federal regulations, whenever a public building is undergoing a major renovation, all areas containing asbestos that will be exposed

during the project must have the material completely removed.

"We do not want them (workers) to get in there and disrupt it," Bengtson said. "We try to get in there first."

Asbestos, which is known to cause certain types of cancers, is a natural fiber that is fire resistant.

Because of that, the substance was used in various building materials like ceiling tiles, insulation and caulking material.

Bengtson said most of the asbestos removed from the school was located in ceiling tiles and insulation.

District-wide, OPS spent \$250,000 on asbestos removal this year. The Central removal cost totaled \$65,000.

After these latest removals, the only areas in the school that contain asbestos are in areas where students are normally not present, Bengtson said.

"For a building the size of Central, it's very much asbestos-free," she said. "All the friables (asbestos that can be crushed with a person's hands) are down in the maintenance areas where students should not be and do not have much action."

Starting in 1976, the Environmental Protection

Agency has required inspections of school district's records concerning asbestos in the building. Since that time, Omaha Public Schools has never had any violations.

The EPA also has strict regulations regarding asbestos removal, Basil Lazure, program specialist at the state of Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's air division, said.

Lazure said the area needs to be airtight and a 25-foot perimeter needs to be established to keep the area secure.

Monitoring is performed inside and outside the area, to make sure asbestos fibers do not

become airborne.

The area is also kept under negative-air conditions. This means that no air from the contained area leaves until it is run through a filter and monitored. All of this is also witnessed by a safety official, he said.

Bengtson said the district will probably arrange for more removal during the rest of the project. Depending on where the future work is planned, more removal may be required.

"When we get done with the renovations, we want the school to be asbestos-free," Bengtson said. "We do not like to leave anything there."

STUDENTS - DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS?

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U.S. supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas, Tinker v. Des Moines School District (1969)

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Central renovations: Phase One

Most of the work that took place this summer is well hidden -- taking place behind walls, in closed rooms, under floors or over ceiling tiles. In fact, some students don't even know the first step of the renovations took place this summer. But they did. Here's a look at exactly what took place inside the school during Phase One of the 2001 Central Renovations.

1 In these areas, window and wire mesh guard for equipment access was removed. It was the duty of the companies involved in the renovation process to provide secure temporary closure during construction. By the end of the summer, however, the crews were required to reinstall the windows and mesh covering.

2 In these areas crews were required to remove walls in their entirety. Walls were removed for several reasons. In some areas, crews need to be able to get to electrical wiring or piping that would have to be redone or removed. Entire walls from classrooms were taken out in order to install ductwork that will eventually be used to house electrical wiring. The walls were replaced with temporary drywall at the end of the summer, and will be removed again next year.

3 In these areas, crews were instructed to remove walls and the metal windows they contained in their entirety. Again, this was done to pave the way for future projects, during which companies will have to install either pipe or electrical wiring in the walls. Removing the extra metal windowframe proved to be quite a task, some workmen said.

4 In these areas, crews were instructed to remove casework for access to chase. They were then told to salvage what casework they could so that they could reinstall it after their work was accomplished. They were told to reinstall the casework after the entire project was completed.

5 In these areas, crews were told to remove entire wooden doors in their entirety. Since this took place on the fourth floor only, it is logical to assume that the door removal is linked to the relocation of the cafeteria and kitchen space, though no representative from either DLR or Jacobs Facilities has divulged that information.

6 In this one area on the fourth floor, a specially hired mechanical crew was instructed to remove a sink in its entirety. Since this, too, is on the fourth floor, it can be assumed that this demolition has to do with the relocation of the kitchen and cafeteria space. Also, the school could have been removing unnecessary facilities in order to accommodate more students.

How the air conditioning system will work

1 The air comes from the outside of the school and is sucked into the system.

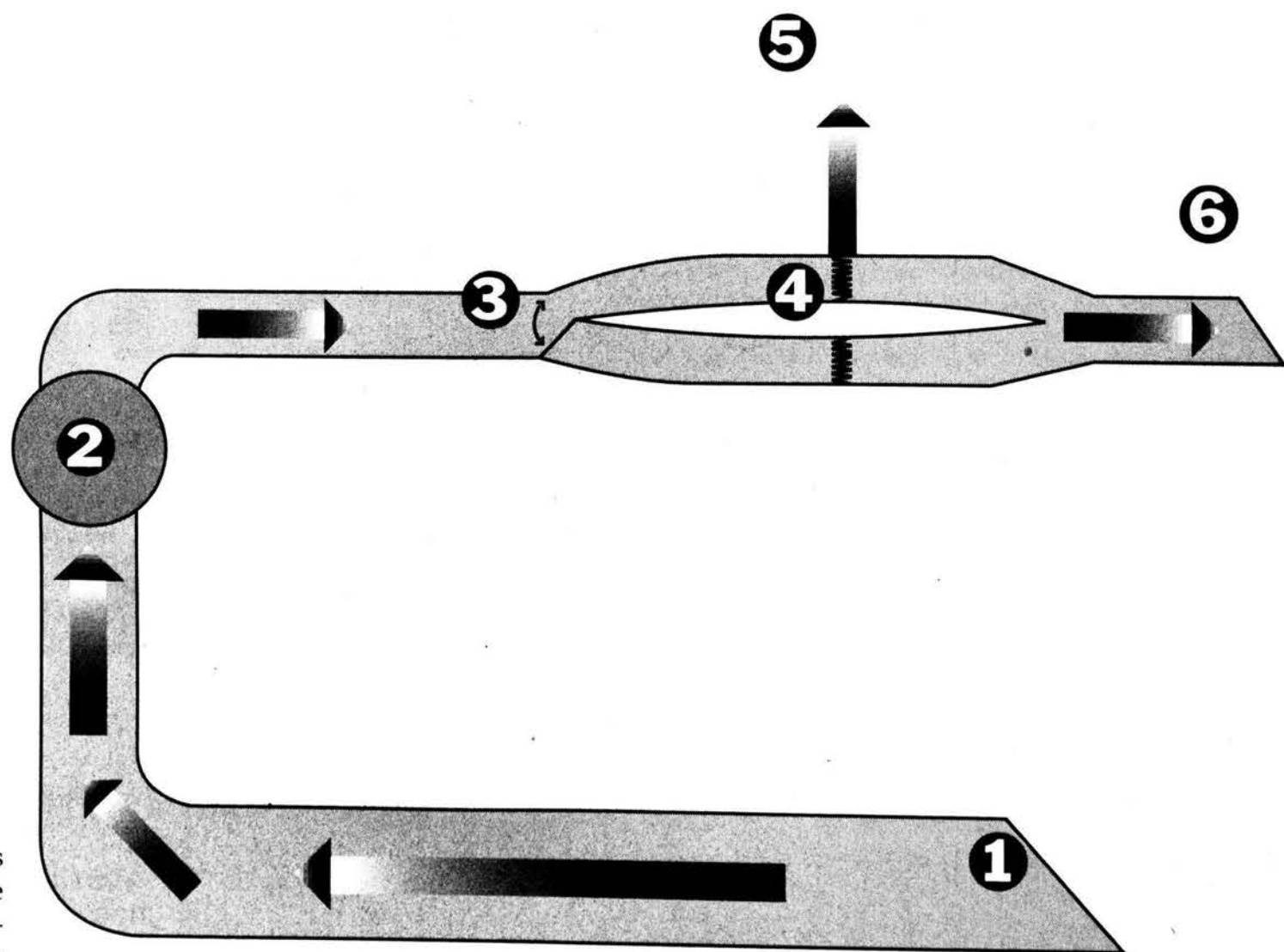
2 It is the job of the Air Handling Unit (AHU) to make sure the air can get from number one to number 5. The AHU in Central may be located in the basement, or a different AHU in every classroom.

3 The "flapper" controls whether or not the school's air will be heated or chilled. If it is cold outside, the flap will flip to the left, and the air will go to a steam coil, which will produce warm air. If the flap goes to the right, the air will go to a chilled water coil and the school will receive air-conditioning.

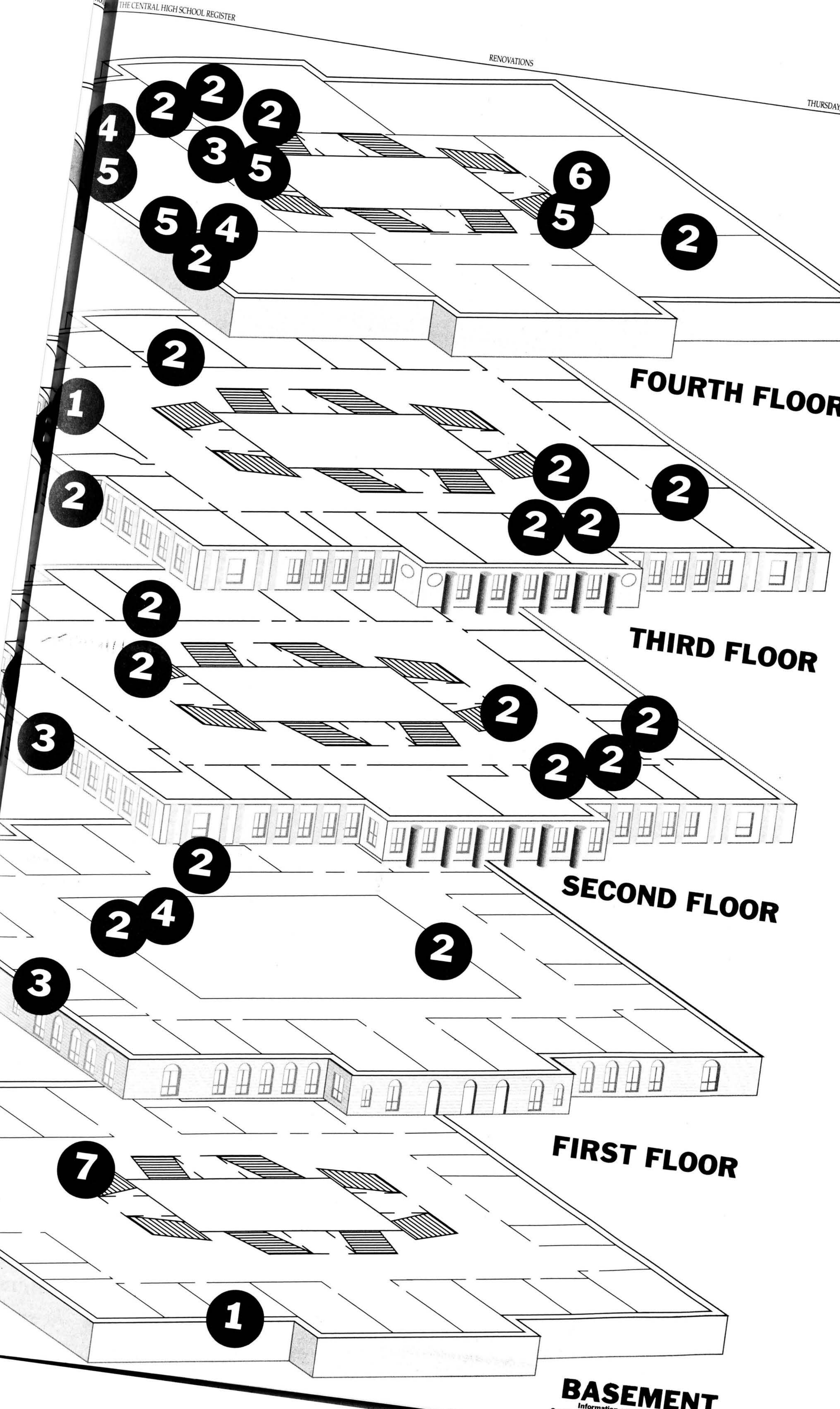
4 There are two pipelines shaped like coils in the ductwork. One is connected to a chilled water supply underneath 20th Street. Another is connected to a steam supply pipe underneath 24th and Davenport. When air passes through the rounds of the coils, it is heated or chilled, depending on which coil it passes through.

5 The water in the coils comes from one supplier: Energy Systems downtown. Energy Systems is a small district utility plant that services Woodmen Tower and other downtown businesses. Central is now the newest addition to Energy System's underground link to hot and chilled water.

6 After the air has been blown through the air handler and passed through a coil, it is pushed through to a classroom in the building. Some questions are still circulating about whether or not teachers will be allowed to open their windows, as some schools no longer allow teachers the right to do so.



RENOVATIONS



FOURTH FLOOR

THIRD FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

BASEMENT

Bonds fund district's projects

By Matt Wynn

Central's renovations are funded by a \$254 million bond program, Assistant Superintendent Dennis Poole said.

A bond is basically an investment instrument, much like a mortgage or stock, he said.

"With the stock market, the amount of money you have can go up or down. With a bond, you are guaranteed your money back, plus interest," Poole said.

When the idea for the renovation project was first approved, the district began to go through the necessary motions to raise money for the project.

The first step was to see how much money the district would be allowed to raise.

To find this out, OPS had to contact its credit company and find out how good its credit rating was.

"OPS has a very good credit rating. Very good. And it is because of our credit rating that people are confident we will pay them back. They are sure they can make money by investing in the district," Poole said.

In April of 1999, OPS requested permission from the public to issue a bond worth \$254 million. The public approved the bond by a vote.

But to raise

money, the district had to find people willing to buy the bonds.

By purchasing a bond, a person is basically making an investment that will, without a doubt, turn a profit.

Not only do they make their original investment money back, but they receive a return for a certain period of time, Poole said.

That period of time can be as much as 25 to 26 years, Poole said.

"Basically, by the end of this project, we will have acquired a lot of newer, nicer buildings with all sorts of modern changes. We will also have acquired \$254 million in debt," Poole said.

The project is raising its funds piece by piece, Poole said.

At the beginning of the first phase for many of the current projects, the district raised only the money necessary to complete that phase.

Whenever the district runs out of low on money for the project, they can simply issue more bonds.

"What we can do then is, as we receive bills, they charge us, and we pay them from the proceeds that we got from the bonds," Poole said.

So far, the district has raised over \$154 million for all of the projects.

This summer alone, the district sold \$100 million worth of bonds.

"What this mean is that we have had people buy these bonds. They have, in essence, given us money with the promise that we will pay them back plus interest," Poole said.

If the scope of the entire project should escalate and the total cost of the project should rise above \$254 million, Poole said the district would be in some financial trouble.

"It can't. It simply can't. The public only approved us so far, anything above that is against the law," Poole said.

The Omaha Public School district is "dipping" into public interest to raise the necessary money for the Central renovations. The public bond approval was in April 1999. The district is allowed to raise the \$254 million for all the OPS renovations.



Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Students file past the construction on the west side of the building after school on Aug 20. Most of the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of this week.

Renovations cause problems, students say

By Joe Meyer

The Central High renovations: annoying, slow and dirty.

But worth it.

Or that is at least what some students think.

Junior Lindsey Lorence said the addition of an air-conditioning unit to the school is long overdue. Since she is a junior, she will graduate before the project is completed.

Junior Amy Good said the renovation project has already caused problems. She said the digging around campus has increased the amount of dirt in the school. One day, students started throwing dirt after school, she said.

Sophomore Kevin Williams said the work that is currently being completed sometimes interferes with his classes.

"They're making too much noise," Williams said. "I sit in the back of the class and it is hard to hear."

Sometimes, the work outside the school is just the dirt and the noise, freshman Karlton Lloyd said.

"It was shaking the overhead projector and the things fell off," he said.

Junior Erick Aguirre said he understands why the work needs to be completed during school days.

"Well, if they need to get the job done, they need to do what they need to do," he said. "If they are doing it for air conditioning, then it is fine."

Although there are many

different complaints that students have right now, they agree that the project will be worth it in the end.

Students agreed that air-conditioning will make the school more comfortable and eliminate the need for discarding heat. But there are other things that they are excited about.

Sophomore Jose Hinojosa said moving the cafeteria to the rest of the cafeteria will be an advantage to the students. After the project, the students will not have to walk a lot of stairs to eat lunch.

Parking was the most common answer when students were asked what is still a problem at school. The swimming pool were the addition of the school forgot about some students said.

Senior Dana Maher said she does not agree with the decision the school made when it decided how to use the school's bond money.

He said the placement of the gym addition will throw the look of the entire school building.

"I think that's going to look ugly," Maher said. "It's going to distort the shape of Central."

Maher also thought the school should have thought about it before it decided to add the school.

"Before we start building, better teaching equipment should be added."

This Nebraska Math graduate is a proven problem solver.

Lt. Shane Osborn faced a lot of challenging problems as a mathematics student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but his ultimate test came last April when he successfully landed a badly damaged EP-3E surveillance plane on China's Hainan Island after colliding with a Chinese F-8 fighter.

For saving his 24 Navy crewmembers under extreme circumstances, this Norfolk native has been hailed as a hero across the country. Commissioned in the U.S. Navy after completing the NROTC program and receiving a degree in math at Nebraska, Shane will continue to serve the Armed Forces as an EP-3E instructor pilot.

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Kitchen plans took time, yield results, principal says

By Joe Meyer

Besides installing an air-conditioning system in the school, adding a new kitchen area was the biggest priority while the school was planning the renovation project, principal Gary Thompson said.

And after visiting kitchen manager Judi Smith and her staff any school day, it is easy to see why the addition is of top importance.

Cramped in a corner on the fourth floor, Smith said the current kitchen is not adequate for the school's needs.

"We have ancient equipment," Smith said. "It would be nice to have new equipment."

The need for a new kitchen was so great that the addition was included in the bond specifications as something that needed to be completed with the renovation money that the school received.

The bond specifications were written by the school district to ensure the bond money was spent in a way that would be most beneficial to the school.

During the planning stage, the school was not sure how it would accomplish this daunting task, Thompson said.

So instead the school came up with a new and different approach. Since the current cafeterias are on the fourth floor, a kitchen addition could not be built anywhere close to the eating areas.

Therefore, the school decided to make the old gym a cafeteria and build the new kitchen addition to it on the northwest corner of the building.

The old gym will be able to accommodate as many students as the cafeterias currently can, principal said.

The kitchen space will be added on top of a new loading dock that will be built on the west side of the school.

In the future, the cafeteria, courtyard and kitchen will all be added on the same floor, which will eliminate the need to use the elevator to serve students in the courtyard.

"That will be nice to be all on the same floor," Smith said.

But the kitchen addition will have other benefits, too.

The addition will be two stories tall and have an exterior made to match the older gym addition.

Tom Penney, project manager at DLR Group, the company that designed the plans for the work, said another beauty of the addition will be how quickly morning deliveries can be taken to the kitchen.

With nearby elevators and the loading dock directly underneath, the time it takes for the deliveries to reach the kitchen will be drastically cut, Penney said.

He also said the new kitchen will enable the kitchen staff to work in a more productive manner.

"It's going to provide a lot more space for food service that is definitely needed," Penney said.

Thompson also said that money has been budgeted to furnish the new addition with new equipment.

Whereas the recently installed freezer will be moved, the rest of the equipment, including new serving lines and other machinery used for preparing the school's meals, will all be brand new.

Although the phasing plan and the final details are all but finalized, Smith said she has not seen any plans or heard about the design of the addition.

Instead, she said she will remain a skeptic about any improvements until something definite is done.

"We'll be excited when they break ground," she said.

Because construction will take place in a high traffic area on campus, Penney said the addition cannot be started until school is dismissed for the summer.

According to all current plans, construction will begin shortly after students leave and will correspond with construction of the gym addition.

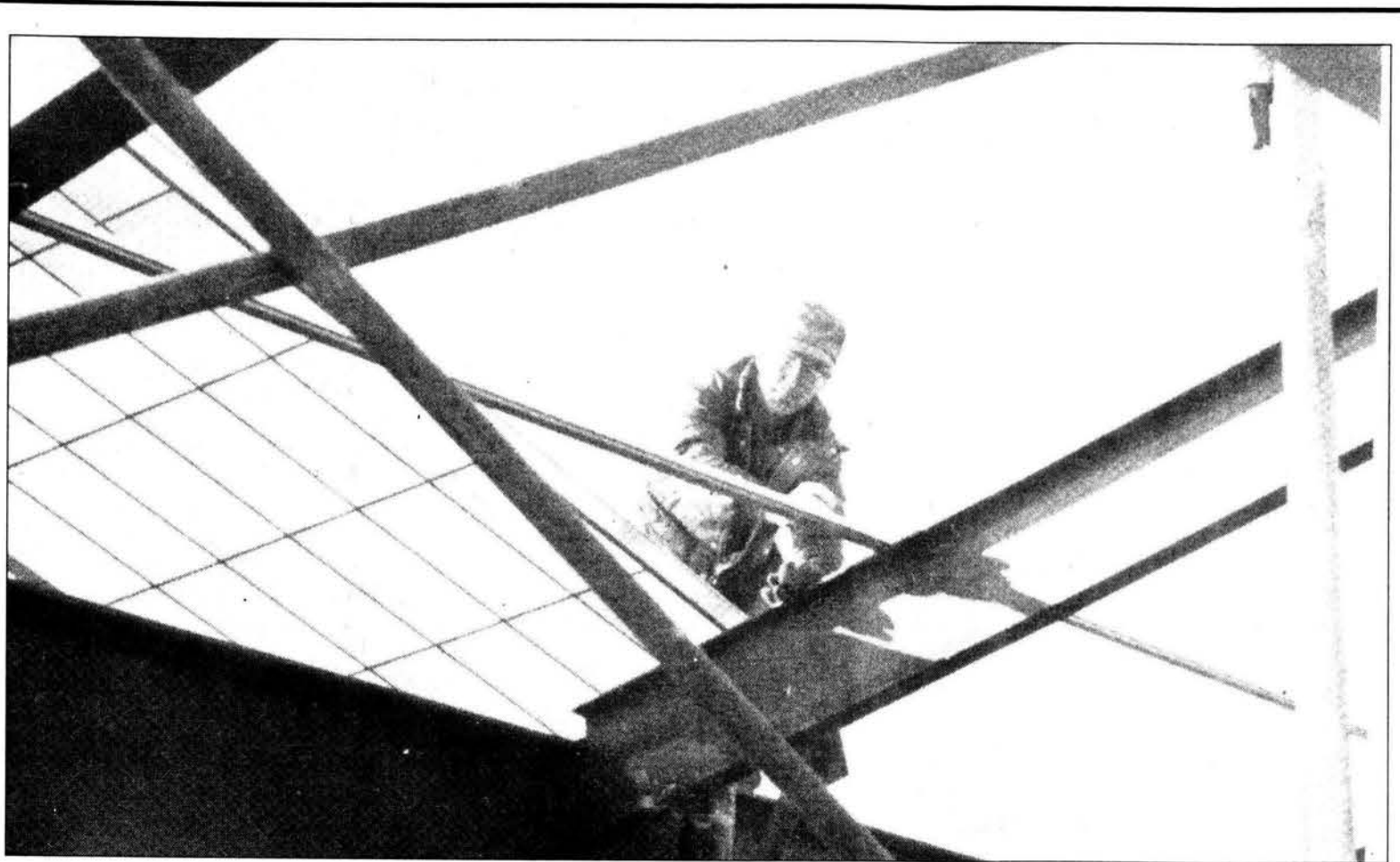


Photo courtesy of the Central High O-Book
A worker installs the roof of the Courtyard during the lasy renovations at Central, in 1978. The principal from those renovations said it was an uncomfortable experience. "It was tough, but we gritted our teeth," he said.

'I don't envy them'

Former administrators talk about the challenges earlier renovations caused

By Joe Meyer

If this renovation project is anything like the last one Central experienced, students and teachers should get ready for some inconveniences.

"It was a test of the nerves," Gaylord Moller, principal during the last renovations that placed a roof on top of the courtyard and built the new gym, said.

Moller does not remember the renovations as well as he would like, but he still remembers the hassles the projects produced.

While crews remodeled the courtyard in the late 1970s, Moller said they constructed a tunnel from the west door of the courtyard to the west entrance to the school. If the students wanted to walk along the west side of school, they had to use the second floor or the basement.

"Everyone who wanted to go anywhere had to go around," Moller said.

Al LaGreta, who was the vice principal at the time, remembers a time when the renovations caused a more serious problem.

"If the fire alarm went off, we had to make a mad dash," LaGreta said.

The renovations remodeled classrooms, too. The crews worked on sections

of two or three classrooms at a time, LaGreta said. Because of that, some rooms had to be moved to other parts of the building.

Hallways in the basement, the auditorium lobby, corners of the gym and a trailer on the west side of campus were all used as makeshift classrooms during the project, Moller said.

"There were all kinds of places that had to be used temporarily," the former principal said. "We had to move classes all around the building."

The dust, noise and dirt all added to the hassles, too.

"It was a real trying time for teachers and students," LaGreta said. "It was quite a project."

At the end of the project, the school lost of few of its more valuable features, LaGreta said. The ivy growing up the walls in the courtyard and some seating in the auditorium fell victim to the improvements.

But everyone in the school understood why the work was being completed, Moller said.

"It was tough, but we gritted our teeth and did it," he said. "I think everyone thought, 'Wow, this a wonderful project."

ect."

"They all realized it was all overdue." Merle Rambo, a Central graduate who designed the roof for the courtyard, said this renovation project sounds like they will be comparable to the ones completed more than 20 years ago.

"It will have a similar level of challenge," Rambo said.

The project will also be the same in the way the workings of the school will always be more important than completing the work, which is unique for a school.

"It's clearly a challenge to any technical industry to coexist with a teaching environment and allow that to trump all construction work," he said.

Rambo also remembers the project running very smoothly. Because of four years of planning and construction, no school days were ever missed because of the project.

But LaGreta knows that this project will be very different in one important way. When he was at Central, there were only 2,000 students attending the school.

Now, the number is much bigger than that.

"I don't envy them," LaGreta said.

New gym space just luck, department chair says

By Matt Wynn

The gym addition is probably one of the most important parts of the renovation project, Central Athletic Director Paul Pennington said.

The addition, which will probably end up using about \$2 million of the money allocated

Central's renovations, will extend the New Gym (room 050) about 56 feet closer to 20th Street.

Several aspects of the addition are still up in the air, Pennington said.

For one, the idea of a gym addition has still not been completely approved by the Board of Education. It is in the final stages of approval, and will probably go through, but there is still a chance that it never will get past the planning stage, Pennington said.

If the gym addition is built, however, there are still numerous questions that will need to be answered before the project is completed.

There is still a question about exactly what the surface of the main gym floor will be.

Right now, the floor has a rubber-like surface that is not conducive to playing basketball games in the Central gym.

But one proposed part of the gym addition would include completely refurbishing the New Gym, including a brand new wooden floor, Pennington said.

The change would not only include the addition to the athletic wing, but the existing gym floor as well. According to a source at DLR, the architect of the project, the cost of re-flooring the gym would be around \$300,000.

However, even if the gym did receive a new floor more propitious to playing home games, the school could still not host games, Pennington said.

The New Gym is built in such a way that the school would not be able to host home games at any time in the near future, Pennington said.

The lobby for the New Gym is too small to hold all of the visitors who would attend. Also, there is no functional location to place a ticket booth.

"The lobby we have is way too small," Pennington said. "We would need a whole new lobby along the north side of the building to make it big enough."

With the proposed new addition, the architects have left room for development. But to complete a new lobby along the north side, almost \$750,000 would be required, Pennington said.

Even if that money could be raised, however, there would still be problems.

"Parking is always a concern with home games," Pennington said. "There is simply not enough parking to accommodate

the crowd that attends home games, and it doesn't seem likely that there will be."

The gym addition will be three stories tall. The top story is presumably going to be used much as both the New and Old Gyms are used now.

The top story will be nothing more than a 56-foot extension of the existing new gym, Pennington said.

The second story, however, will be flush with the existing boys' locker room. The exit along the east wall of the boys' locker room will enter into what is proposed to be a new weight room—three times the size of the existing one.

Due to the slope of the lot one extra story will be built underneath the proposed weight room.

That floor will most likely be devoted to Aerobics and wrestling, Pennington said.

The fact that the athletic wing is gaining three extra stories of space is causing some difficulties in the planning stage.

"The original bond issue was only supposed to include the air conditioning and cafeteria additions," Joe McMenamin, athletic chairman said. "So some of this is a little sketchy."

McMenamin said it is no secret that Central's athletic department is not well-equipped. While he realizes that the bond is specifically for other

areas of the building, he said the athletic department's chance to gain space is pure luck.

In preliminary meetings, the original renovation committee batted around several different concepts for the renovation. Towards the middle of the project, only two real options remained.

One option involved leaving the existing cafeterias on the fourth floor and simply adding to the equipment. But it was deemed impractical.

Already, food and equipment is shuffled back and forth between the first and top floors.

The school decided that, to alleviate this problem, they can

add a kitchen to the West side of the Old Gym and renovate the Old Gym into a cafeteria.

This eliminates the need for two kitchen and makes for a more efficient dining area.

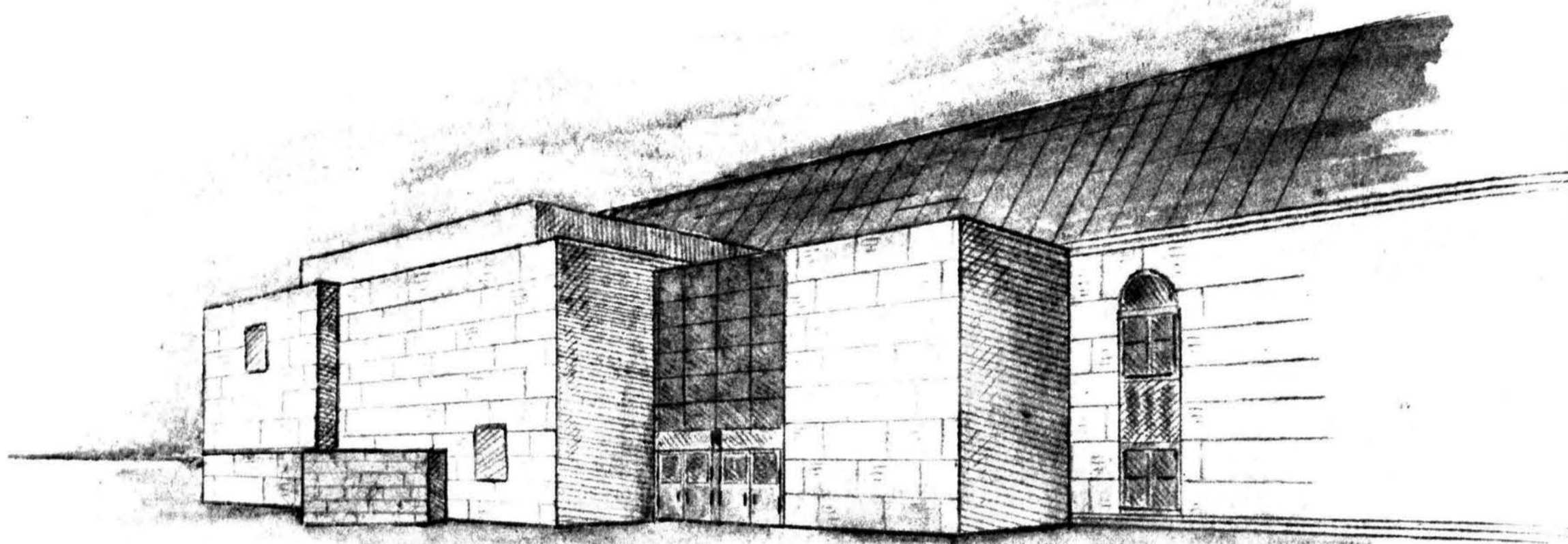
"Really, we just got lucky," McMenamin said. "We're getting some new space, and the school is getting a better cafeteria."



Plans courtesy of DLR GROUP
The top floor of the proposed gym addition. The top floor may even have wooden floors installed. The middle floor, directly beneath the gym, is currently cast as a weight room, and the bottom level will probably be used for wrestling and aerobics.

The next step

Besides air conditioning, there are several things in store for Central's future. A gym addition and a cafeteria addition will be built to better accommodate the growing student body. A new loading dock will be constructed to help speed up deliveries. The gym may even allow the school to host home basketball games someday. Central's future is definitely bright.



Drawing by CONNOR MEIGS/THE REGISTER

A Central artist's rendition of the future northwest corner of the building, showing what the kitchen/loading dock addition may look like according to architectural drawings.

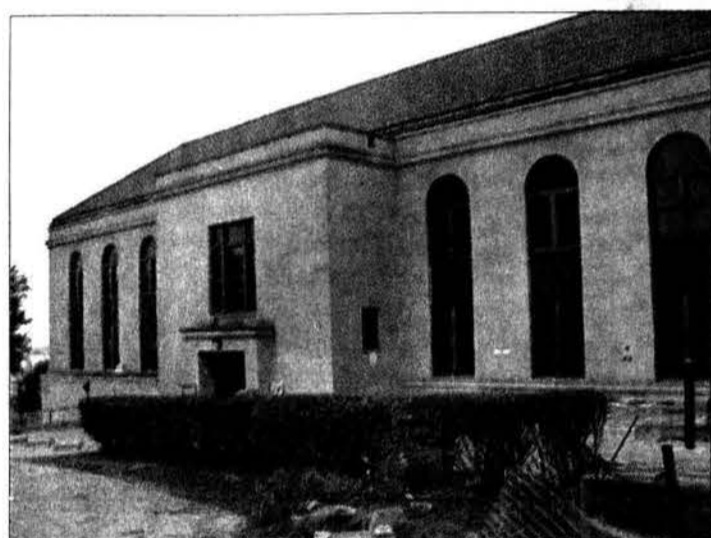


Photo by QUENTIN LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
A photo of the existing northwest corner. A glass shell will be built to house the current doorway into the school, and a loading dock addition will be installed on the bottom level.

Construction may start as soon as March

By Matt Wynn

The final step of Central's renovations will tentatively begin next March, principal Gary Thompson said.

Phase Two will include the cafeteria addition to the west side of the building, the gym addition to the east side of the building, the air conditioning installment and various classroom changes around the building, Thompson said.

This step of the renovation is still very much in its planning phase, and nothing about it is set in stone. Yet Terry Page, construction manager at Jacobs Facilities, said he is more than confident that the proposed changes will be approved by the school board.

If the changes are approved, there are several aspects of the project that will need to be addressed, Thompson said.

For one, during the second stage of the project the school will be undergoing major interior renovations. Since ductwork for air conditioning is being done in the ceilings of classrooms, classrooms will have to be evacuated to accommodate the construction, Page said.

"Students can't be in with contractors. Period. You can't be around them; you can't be with them. They can't do the physical overhead work while you guys are there," Page said.

To make sure that students are nowhere near the construction, entire sides of the building may have to be shut down to students, Page said.

"Ideally, we could shut down an entire floor, but that's simply not feasible," he said.

Thompson said he is still considering different ways to alleviate the problem of having students and major construction in the same building. So far no final decisions have been made, but it is clear that there will

have to be some major guideline changes.

"You guys have to be funneled around there. The only way you can get in [to a construction zone] is if you want to," Page said.

Neither the district nor the school has made any final decisions about phasing the project, either, Thompson said; though they are currently holding meetings to finalize a plan.

It is generally assumed the additions to the exterior of the building will begin this spring so that construction crews can have the longest period of warm months in which to work in, Page said.

But as far as classroom vacations, major room renovations and other large projects, no decisions have been made.

Another issue that has not been finalized is the surface of the additions to the school.

One option the district has is to build the additions with a pre-cast cement mold, very much like the exterior of the existing gym wing. Or they could use a stone exterior that is not a direct match to any of the existing building.

The cafeteria addition and gym addition will be made of different materials, Thompson said.

But no matter what the exterior looks like, it will have to be compliant with rules governing the school's status on the National Historic Register. That means the exterior of the building cannot look too out of place with the existing walls and historical parts of the building, such as the hallways, cannot be altered.

One area of the school that will look slightly more modern is where the dock doors are currently located on the west side of the school, right next to the football field.

That area will be extended several feet closer to the field and enclosed in a glass casing, Thompson said.

If the current plan is adopted, the fourth floor will be undergoing major changes.

The west cafeteria will hopefully be altered to house three computer aided drafting rooms, and the north cafeteria will be changed to hold two technology rooms, Thompson said.

Thompson said he was hoping to use the evacuated kitchen space for more classrooms, but the ceilings are too low for that plan to work.

"Instead, it could be offices, it could be storage. If we get seven more spaces, we've have gotten more than we expected," Thompson said.

When Technology and CAD rooms move up to the fourth floor, most of the classrooms on the third side of the third story will be emptied.

Thompson said there are no plans for future uses of these rooms.

"We desperately need at least one science room, but...everyone's trying to get their hands on some extra space," he said.

Extra space provided by the renovation is not going to be assigned until after the project is completed, Thompson said.

Part of the reason for this is there will be no extra money to make specialty classrooms.

"There truly is not going to be any frills in this thing at all," Thompson said. "It truly when this thing is over, is going to be a bunch of shells. It will be nothing but walls, floors and ceilings. But they will be air-conditioned. That's the only major difference."

Currently the project is under review by the school board, Thompson said. After the project will be put up for bid to various construction companies. From there, Thompson and a handful of others will make the final decision about what companies are right for the job.

Benefits

The proposed renovations will have a major impact on the school. The school will receive several new facilities. Here's a quick look at just some of the new facilities Central will receive.

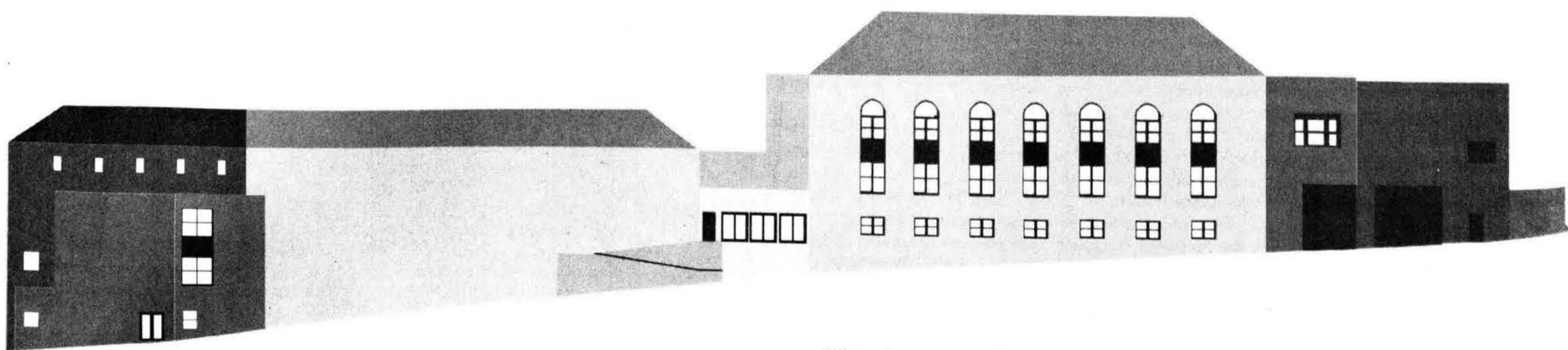
KITCHEN: The current kitchen simply does not have enough space to accommodate cooking food for the 2,700 students at Central.

GYM SPACE: To make use of the new kitchen, the cafeteria has to be moved to the Old Gym. This means a gym space to be added on to the New Gym. Since there is a slope, the school will gain two floors of new gym space.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER: When the cafeterias are moved, the fourth floor will be vacated. A technology center will be built in its place.

ELEVATORS: For the gym addition and the kitchen addition, two new elevators must be added.

CLASSROOMS: With the addition of a technology center to the fourth floor, much of the third side on the third floor will be vacated, producing extra classroom space.



*These plans are not definite, as many plans are still in committee or being decided upon at the district level.

An architect's rendition of the future view of Central looking from Davenport Street to the right. The gym will gain an extra floor underneath the current bottom level due to the slope of the ground going to the left. The bottom level may be used as an all-purpose gym space.

September 20, 2001

THE EDGE

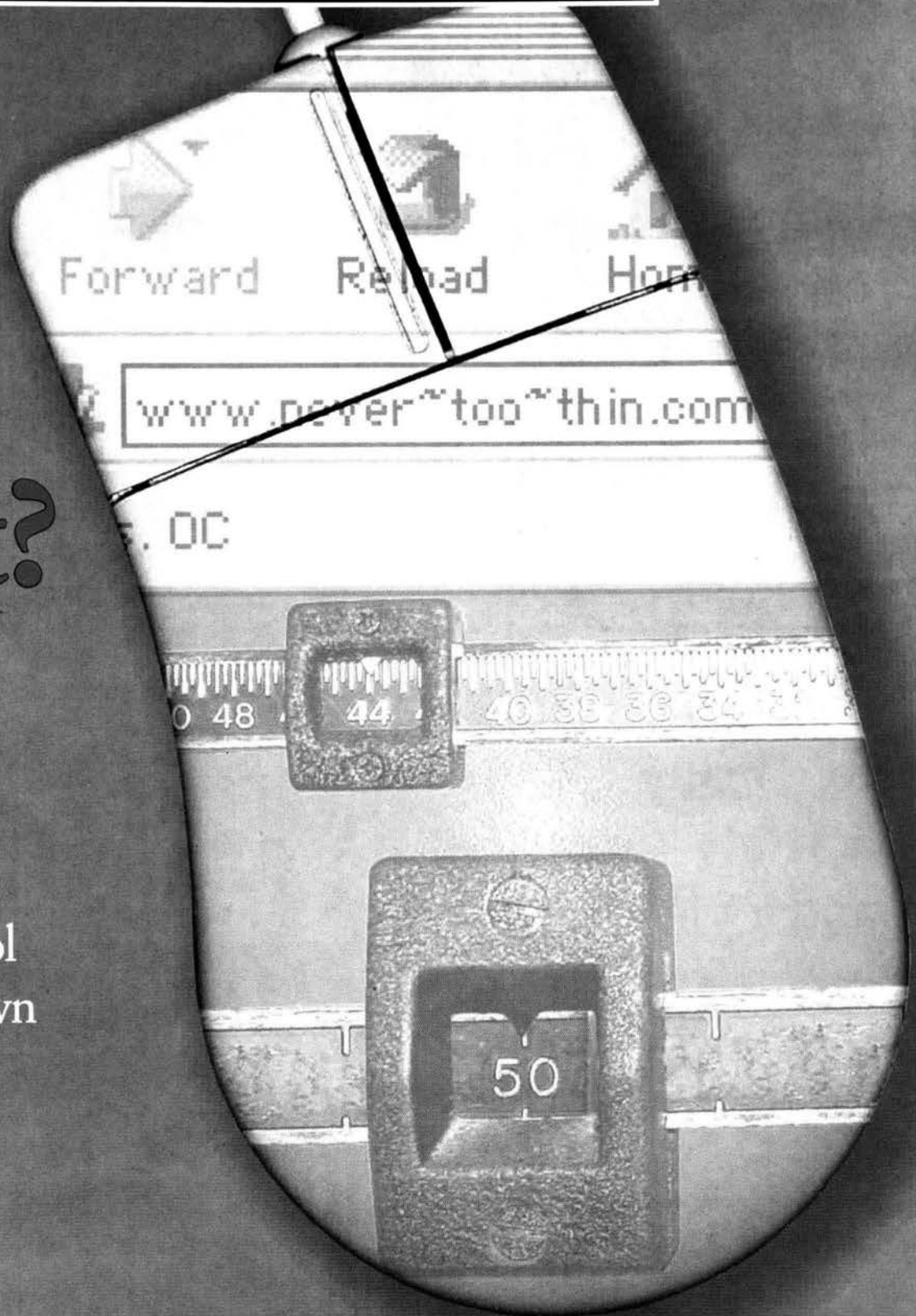
The Omaha Central High School Register's Feature Magazine

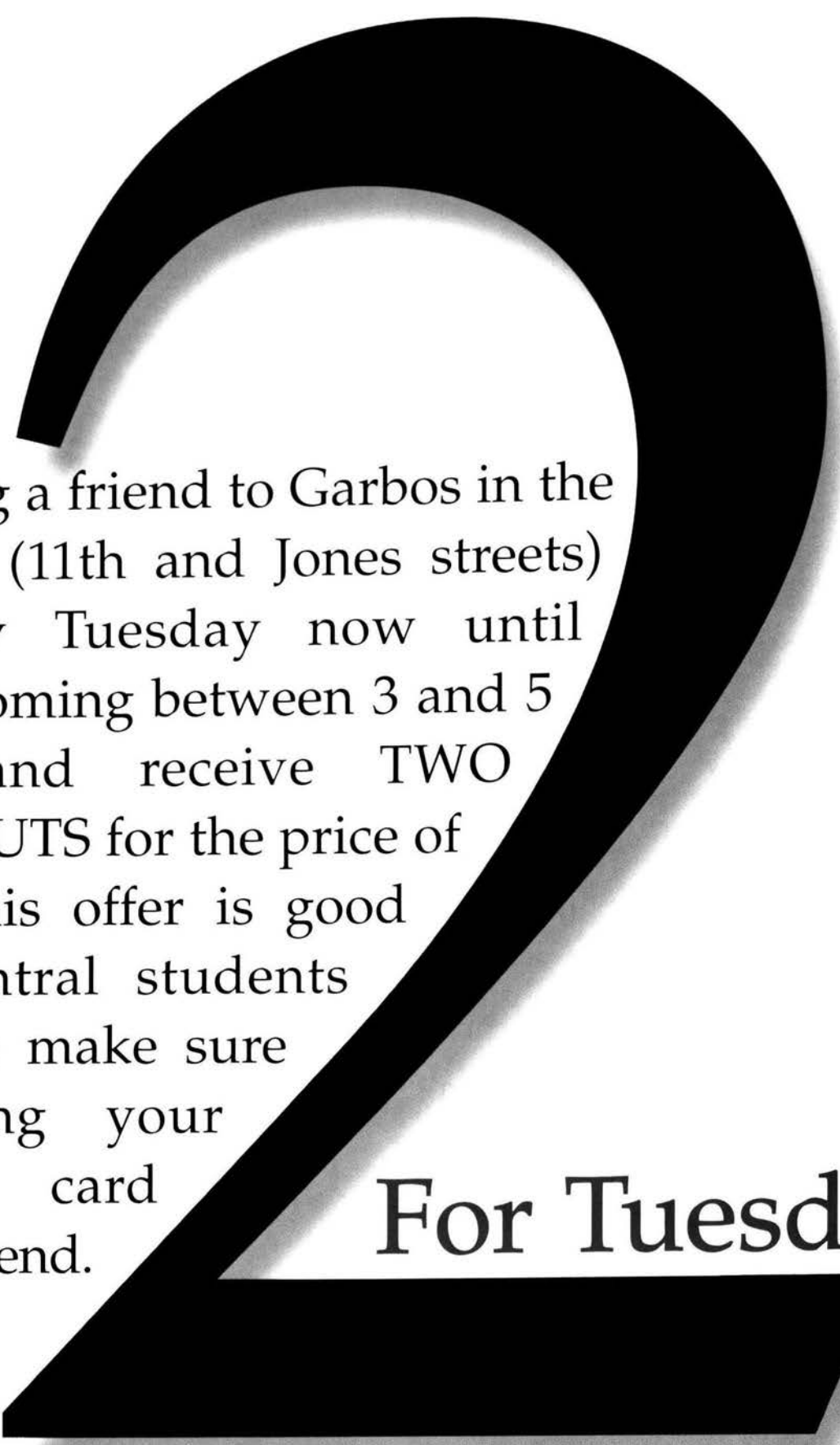
Too Fat?

...sites Promote Eating
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Lifestyle Choice

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American High School
Life Living On His Own

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Condition Shapes
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Bring a friend to Garbos in the Market (11th and Jones streets) on any Tuesday now until Homecoming between 3 and 5 p.m. and receive TWO HAIRCUTS for the price of one. This offer is good for Central students only, so make sure to bring your activity card and a friend.

For Tuesdays

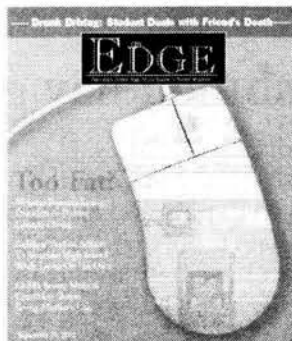
Garbosⁱⁿ the Market

"Every day I walk into Michael's room and am so happy to see that he's smiling at me," his mother Michelle Blazier said. "At one point I was scared to death that I would walk into his room and he would be still. Just laying there, and I would have lost him." PAGE 6



PAGE 6

PHOTO BY PAULA SALHANY



COVER ILLUSTRATION BY LUENINGHOENER

Cover Story

More pro-anorexia websites are popping up everyday, and more teenagers are signing on. Eating disorders have embraced the 21st century, and some teens are not prepared to put up a fight. PAGE 16

FEATURES

Complications

BY PAULA SALHANY

6 Seventeen-year-old Michelle Blazier (left) gave birth to a child in desperate need of organ transplants. Today, she still deals with the trials of raising a child with severe physical ailments.

Drinking: A Crash Course

BY DOUG MEIGS

10 Kim Elliott lost a close friend to drunk driving. This year, she transferred to Central to get away from a social atmosphere dominated by alcohol.

Far From Home

BY DOUG MEIGS

20 Sudanese immigrant Chang Ruach came to America to escape civil war. But adapting to American culture is proving more difficult than this Central senior thought.

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Government steals from America's young people

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Sleep deprivation causes drug-like behavior

BY DANIELLE ROLLINS

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letter from the editor

Dear Reader,

Hello. My name is Danielle Rollins and I am the editor of a brand new publication at Central High School.

This is volume one, issue one of The Edge, an in-depth feature magazine of the Omaha Central High School Register. Both publications will be distributed at the same time.

The name "The Edge" came from our staff's desire to present the most cutting-edge coverage possible in high school journalism.

As with the Register, we promise to go for the gold and

shoot for the top in every issue and with every story.

The Edge is not another newspaper; it is a publication that takes an in-depth look at the people and events that take place in and around Central High.

Like the Register, The Edge staff will cover hard-hitting and emotional events and topics teens deal with every day.

This issue deals with a wide variety of topics, covering everything from eating disorders to civil war.

Our goal is to inform, entertain, enlighten and educate

our readers. The staff will take topics that other high schools are afraid to touch. That is why Central High Journalism is about.

We present our information clearly and accurately and take pride in covering every possible angle.

If you have any questions, suggestions, bring them by room 315 or email them to us at register@ops.org

We want to hear from you.

Thank you,
Danielle Rollins
Editor

letters

Lunch lines too stressful

Dear Editor,

Central lunches in the courtyard are ridiculous. Half the time there are not enough seats to sit on, or not enough room at your table to fit everyone in.

Eating in the courtyard might be more pleasant if there were more chairs and larger tables.

Lunch lines might go a lot faster if there was another line.

Even when you get to lunch right after the bell rings you have a slim to none chance of finding somewhere to sit.

That is pathetic, not to mention chaotic and stressful.

Katie Mapes, 10

Dress code goes too far

Dear Editor,

I think that students express themselves freely by wearing clothes that either fit their personality or are just a favorite color.

Dr. Thompson, principal, reminds us on a daily basis about the school dress code. And why is that?

Does it affect the learning of the students? Does it draw attention to students who wear what they like? There are people who are called weirdos or freaks because of the dark clothing or different color hair, but is that a problem? No!

I think that students should be able to wear whatever they like, as long as it's clothing. I also think that if the way that we, the students, express ourselves in clothing or whatever is affecting the learning of others, then high schools should just make students wear uniforms.

Everybody would be dressing alike, which would allow the teacher not to be "distracted" by what students wear.

Uniforms would be simple and less complicat-

ing for the teachers and staff. The teachers and staff would not have to constantly remind young people about sleeveless shirts or short shorts or just any kind of provocative clothing.

Administrators would also not have to remind young men about sagging pants or shorts, or anything with absurd writing or pictures, gang-related colors and anything that the staff has to tell people about.

Ashley Pinkerton, 10

Congrats to journalism

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to all Register and staff members for their extremely successful year last year.

Winning a national championship is very impressive and Central should be proud of its journalism department. The only question is: Can you top last year?

What else is there to win?

Hopefully the standards of this year will be even higher than last year's. Good luck!

Claire McGuire, 10

Freshmen day good idea

Dear Editor,

I am a freshman at Central now and I have enjoyed Central and have already learned a lot.

The main thing that I have found that is new is to have only freshman start the first day. This really helped us get ready for the new experience of a new school and even more important, we've moved on to a bigger and better high school. I think that is a good idea to have freshman start their first day all by themselves because this gave

one full day to find our way around school and to find our classes before 1,600 other students were there.

This also gave us an extra day to get to know our teachers and their expectations. I really have no complaints about our school other than it is hot, but we can all get through that.

Lynnsey Danker, 9

PE classes waste time

Dear Editor,

I don't believe that students at Central should be required to take two years of gym. There is really no point to it.

I could understand if it was reduced to one year, but still that is more than necessary.

Most students do not have gym or physical education requirements for their career paths.

I thought high school courses were designed to help students achieve future career goals.

If gym is not a part of that, then it is a big waste of time for those of us who could be taking more important classes.

Also, many students participate in school, so it's not like they never get exercise.

I understand taking four years of band is also an option, but that could also be four years of someone's life wasted on something she doesn't necessarily need to be doing.

Something needs to be done about this needless, useless and meaningless problem.

Kate Johnson, 10

More parking needed

Dear Editor,

Everyone knows that finding a parking spot at Central is very difficult to do. Seniors, especially, have been fighting and paying exorbitant amounts of money for several years just to park their cars.

If this school and the system to which it belongs is such a bastion of fairness and liberalism, perhaps it should switch the current policy to granting permits on a semestral basis.

Another lottery second semester with the first semester occupants withdrawn from the pool would definitely be the more equalitarian solution, as it would spread out the cost and allow more seniors to enjoy the elusive luxury of a free parking space.

Sloan Dawson, 12

Leave pop machines on

Dear Editor,

There is one small, but relevant thing that makes me somewhat angry about school.

Everyday, they turn the vending machines off during the lunch hours.

That way, if you want a soda or something during lunch, you must buy it much earlier, and it cannot be cold.

I realize that you can buy juice, water, or chips in the lunch lines, but they are so crowded at times that people don't desire to stand in them for the majority of the lunch period.

I wish that they would turn the vending machines on to reduce this problem.

Ally Gumbiner, 10

ROTC questioned

Dear Editor,

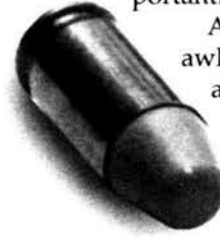
Thirty years ago, when bringing pocket knives to school was legal, America's military was preparing for a long, bloody war in Vietnam.

Supplying the demand for soldiers, ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp.) popped up on the campuses of high schools across the nation.

However, today in a post-Columbine society, when one of my friends bragged to me about

his assassination skills, well, I started wondering about the merits of ROTC.

I asked a Sergeant I saw standing in the hallway why Central needs ROTC, and more importantly, what it teaches.



After a long, not to mention awkward pause, she replied in a lecturing tone,

"Respect, It teaches respect."

ROTC may teach "respect," but students do not seem to want to learn

it. The majority of people in pickle suits on Wednesdays tell me their in ROTC to get out of gym.

John Owens-Reams, 10

Students clog hallways

Dear Editor,

The one thing I hate about Central is all the people who stand in front of the hall doors and talk. Get out of the way!

I do however like all of the clubs and sports offered at Central.

Thomas Byrne, 10

Concept of gym unclear

Dear Editor,

The purpose of this letter is to express my frustration. I do not understand why we must complete two years of gym for graduation. Quite frankly, the concept escapes me.

What does the school board expect to get out of forcing high school students to take gym. I can see maybe one year, but two?

It takes away from another elective students could take that would help them later in life.

Honestly, how will gym for two years in high school help my later in life?

Abby Franklin, 10

Hair by Jane

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Bane Raziel, who considers himself a missionary, is trekking the country trying to change perceptions. His next stop is Denver.

Bane RAZIEL

STORY BY DANIELLE ROLLINS
PHOTOS BY EMILY NEUMANN

“I was the kid who was always shaking, the typical freak kid.”

He was dressed in black and he carried an umbrella, though it was not raining. His hair was long and covered his eyes and he complained because he didn't want to have his picture taken before he had a chance to wash it.

He was tall, but he walked with his head bowed, as though not to look anyone in the face. He dressed differently but he didn't seem aware of the stares. Maybe he was just used to them by now.

He wouldn't give his real name, he wouldn't even say it. Currently he is in the process of getting it changed to Bane Raziel.

Raziel calls himself a drifter, a traveler, a missionary. He said that he has been traveling since he was 18, never staying anywhere for

more than a few months, sometimes not more than a few days.

Raziel was born in Texas and at the age of thirteen he moved to a farm in Indiana. He said that his life in Indiana was not a good experience for him. People did not accept the way that he dressed and the things that he said to them.

“I have this weird thing where I tell the truth and they get pissed off,” he said.

Raziel said both of his parents were hippies and his father was “metal head.” Growing up, he said he always wore black, but the spikes and studs didn't wrap his wrists and neck until he was about twelve.

He said it was at about that time he started to listen to his dad's old

records and heavy metal music.

"I broke most of my dad's vinyls I played them so much," he said.

His father died when he was still young. Bane lived with his mother and stepfather for most of his life.

He said his stepfather was a redneck, but because he defended him in front of the other rednecks of the community he was all right.

Through most of his childhood he had no friends. He would go for weeks without talking to anyone, including parents, teachers and classmates. He said he was the common target for ridicule from the children at school.

The other kids constantly tormented him because he was different and quiet.

"I was the kid who was always shaking," Raziell said. "The typical freak kid."

He attributes becoming involved in the druid religion to the hard time he was given by his peers. At age seven, Raziell became a witch.

He said he became interested in it at such an early age because he wanted to curse people and have telepathy so he could cause fights and hurt the people who hurt him.

He believes he accomplished many of the goals that he set when he originally started.

Raziell was a druid witch for seven and a half years. He said he eventually got out of it because he felt that the life no longer made sense.

He said he didn't like knowing he could kill his god (in the druid religion, followers worship trees) with an ax. He didn't like the feeling of belonging to something and not having a choice about it.

"I got tired of getting up every day and hearing 'you're mine and there's nothing you can do about it,'" he said.

After he gave up the druid lifestyle, Raziell became involved in several different churches and read many translations of the Bible along with other books about religion and faith.

"I wasn't a follower of God, I just had a lot of questions," he said.

He was very curious about religion and God in general, but couldn't get a straight answer from anyone.

Raziell said in his lifetime he has been excommunicated from 12 churches.

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food and clothing.

He said Nebraska is a great place to be homeless. People always give him food, and since he arrived he has been well fed.

Raziell said he would leave Omaha on Friday, Sept. 7.

He didn't believe this was the place for him and he doesn't plan on coming back.

Omaha is one of the least least accepting places he has ever visited. He said the people here are incredibly narrowminded and that they do not accept him.

His next planned stop is Denver, though he doesn't plan on staying there long.

Raziell shook his head at the idea of ever settling down.

He said he wanted a family someday though it is not a priority for him and, because he is asexual, a wife and children are out of the question. He said he mainly wants a close group of friends.

Because of his traveling, having a lot of friends is almost an impossibility for him right now. Raziell said he tries to keep in touch by using the computers at libraries and emailing them.

"The Internet is a wonderful thing," Raziell said.

Raziell said he really wants to see Europe and he won't stop traveling until he gets there.

He said he thinks God has a special plan for him, though Raziell would not say what it was.

Bane Raziell picked up his umbrella and walked silently from the room, his gestures, expressions and appearance exactly like they were when he first came in.

He knew he would be leaving Omaha in a few days, though he didn't know where he would stay or what he would do when he reached his destination.

All he really knew was he couldn't stay here.

"I hate this town," Raziell said. "If my car blows up I'll walk [out]."

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