

THURSDAY
September 26, 2002

The Central High School REGISTER

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124 N. 20th Street
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Best of Show Three in a Row

Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi

National Pacemaker Award Winner

Music Future

The popular music of today will one day be known as the classics of tomorrow.

Page 19



Construction

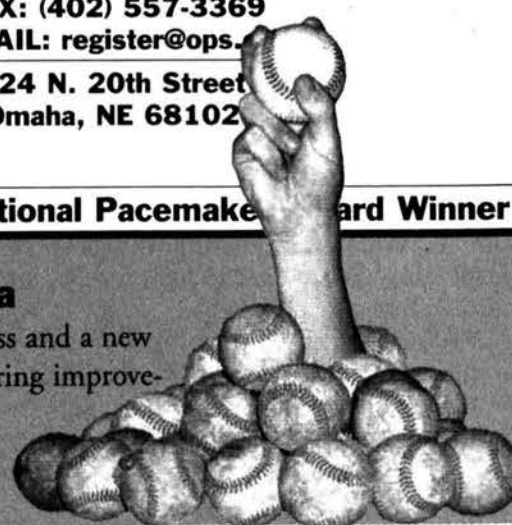
Work on the renovations of the school is well under way, but there is still much to come.

Page 35

Baseball Mania

Summer league success and a new attitude promise to bring improvements for the this year's season.

Page 32



OPS transcripts no longer permanent

By Paula Salhany

Johnny failed freshman world history last year. But Johnny needs the class to graduate.

Now under a new OPS practice, he won't have to worry about it.

Now, if a student earns a four or five in a class, retakes a similar class and receives a higher grade, that higher grade will replace the four or five, Kehrberg said.

Kehrberg, director of secondary

education for OPS, said.

In the past, grades on transcripts were permanent. When the student would retake the class, the failing grade would still be figured into his grade point average (GPA) along with the new grade.

"The failing grade will no longer be on their transcript or figure into their GPA," Kehrberg said.

The practice, which will take effect

beginning with the 2003-04 freshmen class, has been used across the country in several different school districts and at many major colleges and universities, she said.

Even though Kehrberg said she did not hear any opposition to the new practice from the seven high schools in the district, counselor Richard Servis said he does not like it.

"I certainly don't agree with letting

students retake a class if they got a four in a class," he said. "If they received a five they should be able to re-take that same exact class and the previous grade should not be erased."

He said there are enough teachers in each of the departments at Central, that if a student had a problem with the teacher he or she had, the counselors could make sure to place the student with a different teacher.

When students know that the four or five is going to be a permanent number on their transcripts, it gives them that much more of a reason to not fail, he said.

Servis said this aspect gives counselors something to hang over the student's head.

Servis said he doesn't understand why the new practice would allow stu-

see TRANSCRIPTS, page 7

RENOVATIONS 2002



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

A Hawkins Construction worker welds material in the new gym. Construction started in the first week after students got out of school for the summer. Now, it will continue until 2005.

A new chapter in Central's history has begun.

The plans that have been speculated about for years are finally starting to take shape. And unlike last year, students and faculty will be able to see it all take place.

The second phase is in motion now.

Everyday something new is happening. Footings are being placed and concrete walls are being set for the new gym and kitchen additions.

Soon the second phase of construction will turn into the 3rd and the 3rd into the 4th until 2005, when the new face of the school will be complete.

See pages 2A, 11B, 15B, 18B, 21C and 34D for continued coverage of the renovations.

For more about renovations see our six-page renovations pull out, pages 35E-40E



Death shocks friends, family

By Paula Salhany

Junior Jorge Degante always had a smile on his face. Along with that came a good attitude towards life and a desire to help anyone who had a problem, his friend Salvador Piña said.

Piña said no matter what, he was always willing to help his friends.

But according to a report from the Omaha Police Dept., on Sept. 2 Degante was found on a couch with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, and doctors were unable to save him.

Degante died on Sept. 7, said Sgt. Tom Shaffer from the Omaha Police Department.

His death was a shock to many of the people close to him. "I always used to call him a diamond in the rough," Degante's administrator Julie Johnson said.

She said he was the type of person who wore a "tough guy" mask so people would always think he was a happy yet serious person. She said he was a very intense boy.

He was the type of student who did what he had to do to get by in school, but was always very cordial and got along well with staff members and students, she said.

"He was confident and outgoing," Johnson said. "I never thought he would commit suicide."

Though he may have had problems outside of school, he kept much of his personal life to himself, Johnson said. But even with that, she never knew him to be depressed or show any warning signs of suicide.

Counselor Lynda Molyneaux said it is common for teens who are considering taking their life to say something about not wanting to live anymore. They may be depressed or have problems they think

See DEGANTE, page 10

Anniversary hard for Sept. 11 victim's sister

By Jillian Risavi

As the anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 came around, junior Autumn Golonka reflected on the life and death of her sister, Sheilna, and how she has dealt with it this past year.

Golonka said that when she first realized that her sister was killed in the World Trade Center, every emotion that a person can feel, she felt. She said at first she was in denial, but then became angry.

"I didn't know why it happened to me or how it could have happened. I hit a punching bag till my knuckles hurt," she said.

Golonka said that her sister could light up any room with her presence, but regrets not being very close with her.

"Words can't explain how she was," Golonka said, "I remember her being very headstrong. She was always concerned and truly an awesome person."

She said that the memories of her will always be there, but she is afraid that she may forget things about her.

"I thought about her everyday at first and now I'm used to it and it scares me," she said.

She said faith and prayer have comforted her this last year.

"Never having the chance to say 'goodbye' and 'I love you' killed me," she said. "I try to say it as often as I can in my prayers. I realize that she's gone and I accept that now. I know she's in a better place."

Golonka said that the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 and her sister's death was a difficult day.

She said she liked how the band played and the choir sang

See GOLONKA, page 4

INSIDE

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40 Pages



Fees

The lawsuit filed last year made OPS change the way it handled SA cards.

OUTLOOK, 18B



Central Rap

A group of Central rappers use food instead of profanity to get point across.

A & E, 19C



Dean

John Hammil is working as both an administrator and an assistant football coach.

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Latin club inducts two new presidents

Latin club started off the year by inducting officers, including co-presidents junior Jennifer Yin and senior Alex Jochim, who were elected at the end of last year.

The ceremony is part of a ritual passed down from 100 years of Latin club at Central. First, the presidents were required to light candles and wear traditional togas.

Following this, club members blew out their candles and paraded around the first floor.

Jochim and Yin then read a passage that each president before them had to say.

Latin club also has many activities planned during its centennial year.

The club plans to hold a formal Roman banquet to celebrate its centennial during the spring. Latin club also plans on having hayrack rides, dinner at a Greek restaurant before a visit to a haunted house and bowling.

Jochim said he was impressed with the popularity of Latin club over the past two years. Many club members also went on the school-sponsored Italy and Greece trip last summer where they were able to visit many historical sites from Latin and Roman based cultures.

French club starts year with fall picnic

French club held its first group activity of the year Aug. 31.

The annual picnic was a forum for new members to meet existing members. About 40 members turned out for the event, president junior Austin Baumann said.

Each person brought an item to contribute to the potluck, while the club supplied the hot dogs. The event lasted roughly two hours.

French club has plans for many other activities throughout the year. These include apple picking, painting pumpkins for Children's Hospital and a progressive dinner.

The club will also help with Central High Foundation auction in the spring.

Later in the year the club will hold its good-bye lunch at the French Café for seniors and an end of the year picnic for the entire club.

J. Doe art returns for second year

The J. Doe Project is returning for a second year. This year, 53 sculptures have been placed in many Omaha businesses and community sites.

Former project director Eddith Buis said that the goal of the project is to get art out of museums and into the public.

The original J. Doe project took more than one and a half years to complete. That project drew tremendous support from the community inspiring books and tours of the sites.

Central had it very own J. Doe last year. The marketing and art departments worked together to create the "No Smoking Doe."

A typical J. Doe statue can cost in the upwards of \$2,500. Many statues also require months of work by the artists to complete. The J. Doe Project came into being after Darlys Vande Voort presented the idea to the women's caucus. Art teacher Margaret Quinn created the "No Smoking Doe" that was displayed at Central for last year's project.

Similar projects in other cities such as Chicago or Des Moines used pigs or cows as media for the art. The Omaha committee decided to use the human form. The J. Doe II Project will feature more indoor exhibits. Most of the figures will be at the Westroads Mall, Oakview Mall and the Mall of the Bluffs.

The J. Doe's that were not purchased by their sponsors will be auctioned off along with the "WinDoe to the World" J. Doe that was on display in Chicago last year.

The J. Doe Project would not be using the human form again next year. Project organizers were very pleased with the response the original project raised. They hope for a similar reaction for this year's statues.

Student Democrats help with campaigns

Student Democrats have been busy planning and helping with various campaigns around Omaha.

One event sponsored by the club was a press conference for Jim Simon, a Democratic candidate for Congress Aug 28. Simon mainly talked about the rising cost of education.

They have also helped out on Sam Christiansen's campaign for Douglas County Sheriff. President senior Brian Fahey said the club has been making telephone calls and giving out leaflets to support its candidates. Members of the club have also placed campaign signs around Omaha.

The club has plans to host a coat drive in the winter and a domestic violence awareness campaign.



Fahey

Calendar

Compiled by Aaron Maurice



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER



A construction worker pounds down loose dirt along the west side of the school. This area used to be the delivery driveway and the walkway to the Joslyn side entrance. Construction and renovations blocked access to much of this area throughout the summer and into the school year.

September

28 Homecoming

Central's Homecoming will start at 7:30 p.m. and last until 11:30. This annual event is just one of the school extravaganzas throughout the year to be held in the new gym. On this night the homecoming king and queen will be announced.

October

1 Senior Yearbook Photo Deadline

Senior photos for the 2002-2003 Central High yearbook are due today in room 315 or in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office. A list of yearbook photos received will be posted outside of room 315 and the main office starting on Oct. 2.

3 Hall of Fame Banquet

Fourteen new members will be inducted into the Central Hall of Fame in the courtyard. The honor goes to people who have been influential to both the community and the school. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.

7 Curriculum Day

Students will have this Monday off for a teacher in-service day. Teachers will be in meetings for the majority of the day.

8 Underclass Yearbook Photos

Underclassmen will have their yearbook pictures taken on Oct. 8-11. Pictures will be taken during English classes on the stage.

9 Class Ring Orders

Students will have the opportunity to purchase class rings during the lunch periods on Oct. 9-11. For many students, a class ring is a way to remember four important years of their lives.

12 SAT Exam

Students who signed up for the SAT should arrive at Central before 8 a.m. to check in. The test takes about three hours.

14 PEP Meeting

Central's PEP will have a meeting at 7:30 p.m. It is the second monthly meeting of the school year. The meetings are a way to get parents involved in the school. It also informs them of important issues occurring in and around the school.

19 PSAT Exam

Sophomores and juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT. This test is also used to determine National Merit Scholarships for juniors as well as prepare them for the ever important SAT.

21 Yearbook Sales

Students will have the opportunity to buy their yearbooks from Oct. 21 through Nov. 7. The feature filled book will cost \$25. Nov. 7 is absolutely the last day. Yearbooks will not be sold when the books arrive in May.

23 First Quarter Ends

The first quarter of the semester ends on Oct. 23. The second quarter starts on Oct. 24.

26 ACT Exam

Students who signed up for the ACT will take their test at 8 a.m. at Central. The test will last about three hours.

November

2 SAT Exam

Students who signed up for the SAT should arrive at Central before 8:00 a.m. to check in. The test takes about three hours.

7 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents will have the opportunity to visit with teachers from 12:30- 7:30 p.m.

8 Fall Sports Banquet

All fall sports except football, which has its own separate event, will have their end-of-the season banquet on Nov. 8. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be catered by Outback Steakhouse.

9 Booster Club Meeting

The Athletic Booster Club will have a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 145. The Booster Club is responsible for generous contributions to many Central sports.

DECA walk raises money for disease

Central DECA members raced to make money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at Zorinsky Lake on Sept. 14.

Papillion Lavista High School in association with MDA teamed up inviting all the high school DECA chapters to participate in a two-mile walk for MDA.

The high schools involved were Central, Papillion Lavista, Westside and Millard South.

Junior Wes Brown said that he decided to participate in the walk because he wanted to help kids and help MDA.

He also said that he saw it as being a time where he could have a real DECA experience.

More than 700 families will benefit from the money raised at the walk.

The families use the money to pay for medical bills and other expenses that insurance does not cover.

Teacher Alice Bunz said that she thinks it's great how the school wants to get involved.

She also said that it shows that this generation wants to get involved and give back to the community.

Students who were involved had to make a pledge of \$25, which could be given by friends, family, places of employment or from their own pocket.

Area festival provides, fun food for all

A small parade of Boy and Girl Scouts, police and old-fashioned and new-age cars marked the beginning of the Dundee Festival on Saturday, Sept. 21, held on a blocked off street between 51 and 50 and Underwood Streets.

It was accompanied by a large pancake breakfast, which many Central students chose to partake in.

"I'm mostly here for the food," junior Nicholas Monge said. "That's the best part."

All through the day, there were many different tents and booths set up by Dundee businesses for people to view the diversity of the small companies. There were many different booths ranging from a dunking-booth to the Dundee Bee, a honey-selling company.

Junior Kevin MacInerney said he was particularly intrigued by the odd vehicles on display, including the van covered in computer hardware.

"That thing was so awesome," he said.

Fall musical different from any other year

The fall musical production this year will be a Japanese love story, "The Mikado" will be a challenge for the cast because it is unlike anything they have attempted before.

Junior Nick Goding will play Mikado, while junior Johnny Raftery will be Nanki-Poo. Senior Katie Musick will play Yum-Yum.

The remaining parts will be performed by freshman Jennifer Castello, junior Kaley Eledge, senior Brian Fahey, senior Michael Kern, senior Icy Simpson and senior Mark Zoll.

Rob Meyers, a former student of director John Gibson and UNO student, will be helping the actors and stage crew out with set design during preparation for the play.

Rehearsals for the play started on Sept. 4.

The cast will continue practicing until the first matinee premier for the upperclassmen on Oct. 30 at 8:10 a.m.

Underclassmen will have an opportunity to attend a matinee on Oct. 31 at the same time.

Money fails to equal growth, official says

By Aaron Maurice

The Omaha Public School District is growing. The money is not.

This is the reality OPS faces as it enters a new year. Property taxes are controlled under state law while the current state aid formula gives western Nebraska schools more money at the expense of larger, urban districts like OPS.

This has created one of the poorest urban public school districts in the nation, School Board President Dr. John Langan said.

The problems that OPS must overcome with the current state aid formula centers on a few issues, Langan said.

The price tags of English as a Second Language and Special Education programs are currently much higher than the state predicted.

At Central alone, the cost of ESL has increased by more than 70 percent in the last three years, according to a *Register* analysis of Central's budgets.

OPS has the challenge of edu-

cating many people that have special needs with limited resources, Langan said.

By state law, public school is required to educate any person through high school or until the age of 21.

Many rural districts do not have as many students with these types of special needs, he said.

The district relies heavily on state aid because property taxes cannot be raised under state law.

Current legislation proposed by OPS has it

wanting more authority to raise and lower property taxes by as much as 15 cents per \$100 of taxable property.

OPS has tried to make cuts in recent years at the building level, Langan said.

The district asked each building's administration to reduce building maintenance costs to free up more money for current

programs. This has been moderately successful, but reducing costs can only go so far, he said.

The district is facing an influx of new students over the next few years with little money to accommodate them, Langan said.

The new idea to keep OPS operating in the black is to raise property taxes by as much as 15 cents, he said.

Currently the tax levy restricts property taxes to \$1.00 per \$100, down from \$1.10 five years ago.

The tax levy override will only take place if the money is needed to keep current programs, Langan said.

Ideally, OPS would not have to use the levy override, but it is there as a backup.

Other districts in the state, some of which spend as much as \$1000 more per student, are proposing a tax override to fund new programs, while OPS is using the

money to keep existing ones, he said.

According to the most recent figures available, OPS spent an average of \$6,064 per student in the 1999-2000 school year compared to the metro and state averages of \$6,125 and \$6,202 respectively. This gap between OPS and other districts has dramatically increased in the past two years, Langan said.

Another proposal on the table to save money is to add students to classes, he said.

This proposal looks promising on paper, but in a school like Central it is next to impossible because class size is usually dictated by student need and scheduling, Langan said.

This puts OPS in a situation with no real good solutions, he said.

If the district is unable to raise taxes or increase state aid, program cuts must come next, he said.

The school board will not approach this topic unless it becomes a necessity, Langan said.

Numbers at a Glance

\$326,483,610
Adopted budget for
2002-2003 school year
46,171
Number of students

Limited funding may cause cuts to departments

By Aaron Maurice

Students may begin to feel the effects of budget shortfalls if funding does not improve, Science department head Jean Whitten said.

School funding may face additional cuts in the coming years from the state level.

With the current school budget shortfalls, this could be disastrous for faculty and students alike.

Principal Jerry Bexten said that the hardest part about making a budget each year is to use the limited money to fund the most programs.

"District wide, 85 percent of the budget is salaries," Bexten said.

Teacher salaries are under contract each year. Funding cuts from the district level must then come from the 15 percent of the budget that goes to supplies, equipment and maintenance.

Cuts have been made from this part of the budget forcing

many teachers to make do with less, but this can only go so far.

"We try to minimize the impact (of budget shortfalls) to students," Bexten said.

One of the departments facing cuts this year is the Science department.

The department must find ways to purchase expensive equipment with little money, Whitten said.

Equipment that used to be shared by individual lab groups must now be used by entire classes, Whitten said.

She said that this wears out the equipment at a faster rate, forcing more to be bought sooner.

Whitten said that newer modern equipment is too expensive for the school to buy.

Many universities can afford to buy modern equipment that costs thousands of dollars, while Central is struggling to buy the older equipment that is not as precise, she said.

One way that the Science department is working to improve their equipment is through grants.

The problem with many grants is that they are subject specific and cannot be used to buy general items, such as glassware, Whitten said.

Central's student, parent and teacher organization, PEP (Parents Educators Pupils), has contributed to the Science department, but will not spend the thousands of dollars to buy large ticket items such as microscopes, which can run as much as \$800 apiece, Whitten said.

Many departments are less affected by the cuts because they have little equipment to buy each year.

The Math department was able to hire an additional teacher last year, although class sizes remain larger than what was preferred, department head Jennifer Gregor said.

She said that the department

has succeeded in recent years in lowering the class sizes.

Gregor said the department has also received support from PEP.

PEP bought hundreds of calculators last year for student use and provided additional monetary support to teachers for supplies and increased education.

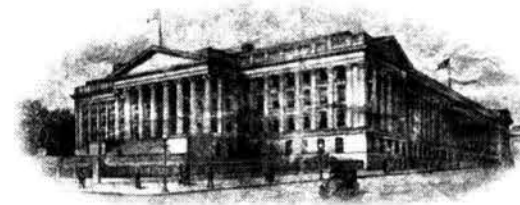
The Social Studies department is in a similar situation. An additional teacher was hired last year, and although class sizes are larger than preferred, the department is doing better overall, department head Carol Hipp said.

The department is still in need of certain items such as modern maps and new books, Hipp said.

New books are slated for purchase in the next few years because the core classes for incoming students are changing.

School funding may improve in the future, but for now departments must make do.

"It's a challenge," Bexten said.



College Corner

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Admission: 87 percent of applicants admitted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 10,404

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Education; 19-24 on ACT; recommended courses are two of History, four of English, three of Math and three of Science

Application Deadline: Aug. 1

University of Iowa

Location: Iowa City, Iowa

Admission: 83 percent of applicants admitted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 18,629

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and History; 22-27 on ACT; recommended courses are three of Social Studies, four of English, three of Math and three of Science

Application Deadline: May 15

Oregon State University

Location: Corvallis, Oregon

Admission: 87 percent of applicants admitted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 13,391

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Engineering; 20-26 on ACT; recommended courses are two of Science, four of English, three of Math and three of Social Studies

Application Deadline: March 1

University of New Mexico

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Admission: 92 percent of applicants admitted

Types: Four-year, public university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 15,971

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Health Sciences, Business and Marketing and Education; required courses four units of English, two of Foreign Language, three of Mathematics, two of Science and two of Social Studies

Application Deadline: June 15

Information courtesy of The College Board

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Best Wishes to all Central Students in 2002-2003

Have a great and successful year in everything you do!

From a Central Alumnus

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One year later...

Central remembers Sept. 11

On Sept. 11, 2001, America and the world were changed by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania. Though the actual attacks were many miles away, the effects could still be felt in many ways here at Central. Now, over a year later, everyone has taken a moment to remember the day that changed American history.

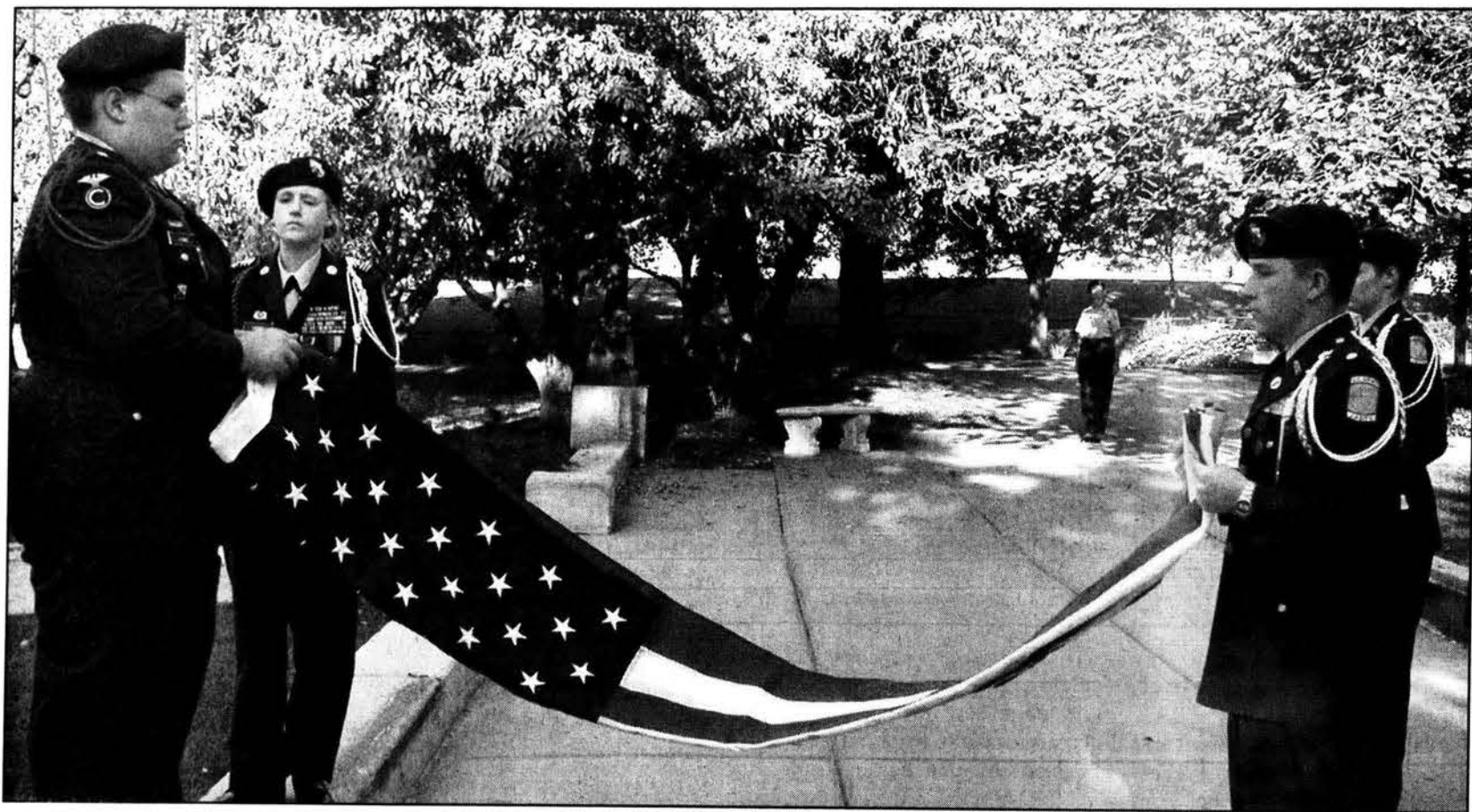


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Senior JROTC cadets Benjamin Lyons and Nathaniel Crook unroll the flag during a special ceremony during first period on Sept. 11. The marching band played "Amazing Grace" on each side of the school, while the cadets raised the flag to half mast.

School activities honor victims

By Devon O'Connell

Under a clear blue sky, a ROTC cadet raised the Stars and Stripes to the top of the flagpole, then lowered it to half-mast. On all four sides "Amazing Grace" filled the windows of the old facade.

Inside the courtyard, "God Bless America" echoed after the moment of silence and faintly fell on the ears of students and teachers. It was Sept. 11, 2002.

Before the moment of silence, Principal Jerry Bexten read a short speech commemorating the victims of Sept. 11th.

"As I was reading it, I just started thinking about all the people I was talking about and the last year, it started to get kind of emotional," he said. "I guess it was just hard to read."

Bexten said he first considered a moment of silence some time before the anniversary of the terrorist attacks, but later received word that a citywide moment would be observed at 9:30 a.m.

In time, Pete Wilger, the head band conductor, came to Bexten and suggested that some sort of music should be played during the day.

Wilger said he first got the idea to play "Amazing Grace" at the Nebraska State Band Competition Ceremony, where the song was played in remembrance of the bus crash in which several Seward band members lost their lives.

"I first asked the student band officers if they thought it would be a good idea, and they all agreed that it would be great," he said. "Then I went to Mr. Bexten and he thought it would be wonderful."

Wilger said the band did a dry run the night of Sept. 10, playing the song on all four sides. Wilger said that it was incredibly moving each time.

"I felt fine the first two times we played it, but after a while the song just gets to you, and I started thinking about all the people that lost their lives," he said. "I mean it was just very moving."

At the same time the band was playing the next morning, the JROTC cadets raised the flag to half-mast.

Senior Ben Lyons was one of the cadets on flag detail.

"It was a good thing to do, it was pretty cool to be a part of it, but raising it just felt sort of weird," Lyons said. "It wasn't what I expected."

Lt. Col. Mike Melvin, the JROTC teacher present at the observance, said that Central's ceremony was very appropriate.

"It all came together very well," he said. "The band, the flag raising, the singing, the moment of silence, I found myself not only proud to be citizen of this country, but to be a soldier as well."

While the flag detail and band performance was held during homeroom, the citywide moment of silence and the singing

of "God Bless America" occurred at 9:30 a.m.

Principal Bexten read a passage before the moment of silence, in which he wished to remember those who died in the attacks, and those who lost their lives attempting to save some of the over 3,000 people who died that day.

"I got pretty emotional when I read it," he said. "There are just certain things that you don't ever forget, and they are hard to face."

Bexten thought of holding a special assembly, but he said that because of the school's size, and the magnitude of the attacks, he thought it wouldn't be appropriate.

"Some schools had assemblies or held other services, but with Central, I thought it would be better if there was a simple moment of silence," he said. "I think it was much more effective in the long run."

A unique part about the moment of silence was that it did not ever officially end.

Bexten said that he thought it would be more appropriate if each individual classroom decided when to end it.

About a minute into the moment of silence, the CHS Singers stood in the courtyard and sang "America the Beautiful."

When Singers teacher Lyn Bouma asked Bexten about singing in the Courtyard, he said that it would be a great closing to the moment of silence.

"It was a very moving, touching experience. Whenever there is sound in the courtyard, it echoes throughout the whole building, and it just added a really nice touch," she said.

Although Bouma and her husband Stephen Bouma usually direct the students, they all sang together on Sept. 11.

Senior Katie Musick was one of the students present.

"We were used to them directing us," she said, "but it was nice for them just to sing together with us."

Senior Kim Pitlor was another one of the students who sang in the courtyard.

"It was pretty neat singing with them, they didn't feel like teachers, just people singing together with us," she said. "It was really very moving."

She said some of the classes came down to watch them and the expression on their faces, and the flags some of the people were holding was emotional.

Senior Nicole Chen was in Calculus class when the band was playing outside of the school.

"It was kind of strange because we were right in the middle of a test," she said. "I had wanted to get up and look outside, but my teacher just said to stay put."

Bexten said that the feedback he received about the ceremony was only positive, and that most people found it very appropriate.

"You can't stop everything and dwell on it, but it's important to take a moment to remember the things that matter," he said.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER



Photo by HALLIE BIEBER/THE REGISTER



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

(ABOVE) Senior Katie Musick sings "God Bless America" right after the moment of silence.

(MIDDLE) Principal Jerry Bexten prepares to give the moment of silence announcement over the intercom at 9:30 a.m.

(TOP) Junior Kaley Eledge takes a minute to contemplate during the moment of silence in the courtyard at 9:30 on Sept. 11.

■ GOLONKA

Student deals with tragic loss of sister in attacks

From GOLONKA, Page 1

"Amazing Grace" during first period, but she said she was also annoyed with how some people acted.

Golonka said that she heard some people talking about how Sept. 11 should not have been such a big deal and how people should get over it.

"I was disappointed by the comments that people made," Golonka said. "They were so ignorant and it made me upset."

She said the speech Principal Jerry Bexten brought her to tears.

"It was one of the better speeches given by someone at school," she said, "it was heartfelt and sincere."

Golonka said that she believed it to be rude that her classmates were talking during the moment of silence, which she thought they would be sensitive towards.

"If I knew I was going to hear things like that I would rather of stayed home," she said.

She said she was frustrated and upset through out the day so she went to the guidance office where she briefly met and spoke with guidance counselors Ron Moore, Karen Cirulis and Doug Stansberry.

Golonka said they understood that she was upset and emotional that day.

She said her friends were supportive, but treaded lightly because they did not know what to say to her.

She said she wanted to come to school because she did not want to sit at home and sulk while watching all the Sept. 11 coverage on television all day.

In remembrance of her sister, whose body was never found, she said that friends and family came over at night.

However, she was upset from the day so she went into her room to lie down.

Golonka said that the coun-

selors, especially Cirulis, Stansberry and Moore have been very supportive towards her situation in the past year.

She said that the counselors can tell when she is having a bad day and upset.

She said she finds it helpful to have the counselors at school for support.

"I don't share a lot with my friends," she said. "I talk to those who I can trust and those who I have that relationship with."

Golonka said that she became a part of a grief and loss program that is offered at Central.

She said it was a way to receive support while grieving over the loss of her sister.

Cirulis said that grief and loss groups are set up to allow students to learn from each other and it can become a very powerful tool to help students through their grief.

"Kids soon learn, though the situation is different, they share strength and soon realize there's a resilience shared," Cirulis said.

Golonka said that she believes that the grief group has allowed her to open up to others who have had a loss as well, even though the situation is different.

Throughout the year the groups usually convene for six sessions.

These sessions occur mainly around holidays and near the end of the school year when it maybe more difficult on the students.

Cirulis said that the counseling does not stop there.

She and other support counselors meet with the students on a one-on-one basis to discuss how they are or whatever they feel like talking about.

"There's no right or wrong way to feel," Cirulis said, "Grief is personal and it's a process. It can come at different times and in different ways."

THE AFTERMATH Immediate events in the War on Terrorism after Sept. 11, 2001

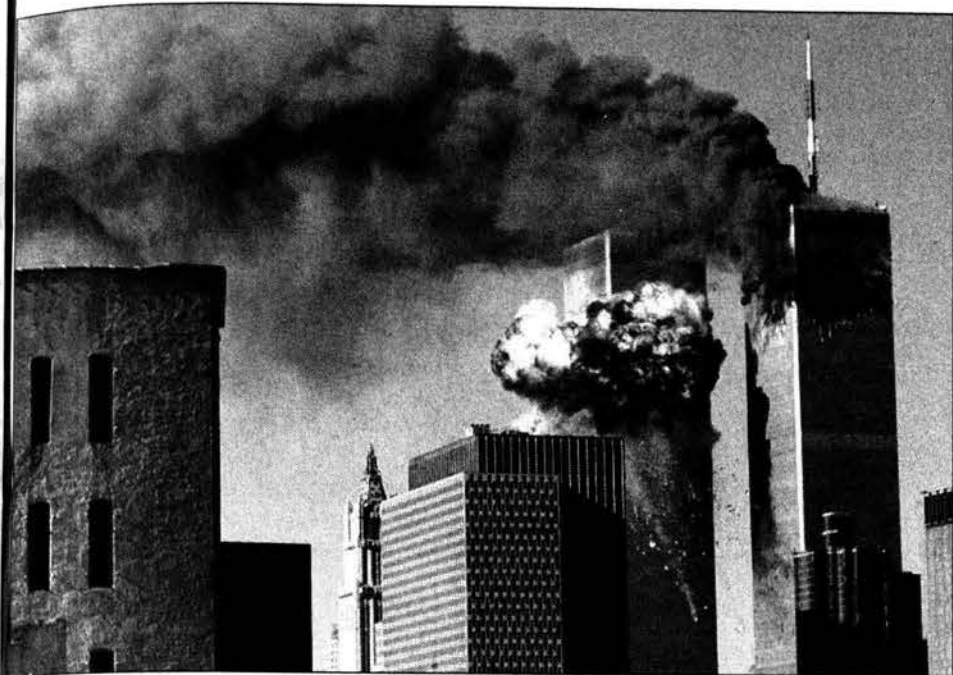
-Sept. 18-19 2001- President Bush leads nation in moment of silence at 8:48 a.m.

- Oct. 7, 2001- Missiles and warplanes bomb at least three cities as the United States and Britain launch military strikes in Afghanistan.

-Oct. 16, 2001- U.S. strikes set Red Cross warehouses afire near Afghanistan's capital, sending workers scrambling to salvage relief goods. Pentagon acknowledges U.S. bombs accidentally hit the warehouses.

- Oct. 23, 2001- U.S. jets struck Taliban front lines an Osama bin Laden stronghold north of Kabul. After sundown, American jets also returned to Kabul, repeatedly blasting targets on the outskirts of the city. War planes apparently renewed the attack shortly before sunrise.

-Nov. 13, 2001- Opposition forces enter and take capital city of Kabul. Pentagon says all of northern Afghanistan is under rebel control except for pockets of resistance.



Courtesy of Cary Conover



Minute-by-Minute

A breakdown of the tragic day of Sept. 11, 2001.

- 8:48 a.m.**
American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center.
- 9:05 a.m.**
United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center.
- 9:28 a.m.**
President Bush calls the crashes a terrorist attack on the United States.
- 9:49 a.m.**
Federal Aviation Administration stops all flights at U.S. airports. International flights are diverted to Canada.
- 9:50 a.m.**
The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.
- 10:29 a.m.**
The north tower of the World Trade Center begins to collapse.
- 10:37 a.m.**
Officials confirm that United Airlines 93, bound for San Diego from Newark, N.J., crashed 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.
- 10-11:30 a.m.**
Federal buildings are evacuated. Evacuations are ordered at the tallest skyscrapers in several cities, and major tourist attractions.
- 12:36 p.m.**
Bush speaks to the nation to express a resolution against terrorism.
- 2:51 p.m.**
Bush leaves Louisiana for Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.
- 5:25 p.m.**
The World Trade Center collapses.
- 8:30 p.m.**
Bush addresses the nation on television.

Changes can be seen every day after terrorist attacks, teacher says

By Paula Salhany

One year ago, two buildings that defined the economic strength of the United States crumbled like fragile chinaware.

The whole country was shocked and horrified when the World Trade Center fell in mere hours, killing thousands.

Now, a year has gone by and though the shock may have worn off, the country is still grieving over the nearly 3,000 lives that were lost.

"The defining moment for my generation was Kennedy's assassination," social studies teacher Carol Krejci said. "But for the generation in school now, it's Sept. 11. Every single person will remember exactly where they were when it happened."

She said she thinks the country handled the situation well considering what happened.

In a year, President Bush created Homeland Security, security at airports was upgraded and the United States embarked on the War on Terrorism. But most noticeably, the United States has become incredibly unified, she said.

"It is very fitting that this day should be called Patriots' Day," social studies department head Carol Hipp said about Bush's reference to Sept. 11.

Before Sept. 11, Hipp said people did not commonly say the Pledge of Allegiance or fly flags off their cars. Now that the president proclaimed the eleventh Patriot's Day, she said it made it all right to do these things,

"I was horrified (on Sept. 11)," she said. "I felt sorry for the younger generation who lost freedoms. It shook people's sense of safety. There are many more restrictions. If the government had even mentioned requiring everyone to have federal identification in the '60s, it would have been considered communism."

But junior Amanda Writh said she welcomes the changes. She said she thought the attacks woke up America.

Krejci said in the aftermath of the attacks, the day and events were branded in the mind of almost everyone. Day after day, Sept. 11 came up in the majority of conversations, she said.

"In a way I became numb to it," she said.

Sophomore Joe Kowalewski said while it was scary, the events did not really affect him. He remembers being at school and hearing about the planes flying into the buildings and not thinking much about it.

But for Krejci, the attacks were deeply disturbing.

"When I was told that the planes had hit the buildings I said 'You're joking,'" she said. "I really thought it was a joke until I turned on the television."

The reality was at 9:50 a.m. and then at 10:29 a.m., when the two towers of the World Trade Center collapsed.

As of Sept. 8, 2002, 2,811 people including 368 firefighters, police officers and paramedics died in New York, 189 people in Washington and 44 in Pennsylvania.

Student Impact

Senior finds peace at park vigil

By Doug Meigs

Senior Kim Elliot spent Sept. 11 commemorating last year's tragedy.

It could have been just an excuse to get out of school, but for Elliot, she said it was an opportunity to "do her part," and ended up feeling more fulfilled about her day.

She began the day by attending a memorial service held at Dundee Presbyterian Church.

Afterwards, Elliot said she and her sister were interested in taking photos of the giant flag that was hanging above the Memorial Park statue held in place by two fire trucks as part of the Omaha fire department's annual service.

They ended up staying for the entire program.

Fire Cpt. John Keyser, who organized the memorial service, said that the department holds a commemoration ceremony every year as a tribute to firefighters who died.

This year the tribute was combined with a commemoration of Sept. 11.

"I thought it was nice," Elliot said. "I felt like I had to honor those who died. It was a good reminder of not taking life for granted."

Elliot said that the program seemed to be organized well. She said that she enjoyed the drum procession and release of doves.

She said there seemed to be a lot of concerned people at the memorial.

In particular she noticed Brownell Talbot's entire student body in attendance.

They led the entire congregation in reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Keyser said that the school had called the fire department after the terrorist attacks asking if there was anything that they could do.

Since the program at Memorial Park was literally in its backyard, it seemed like the perfect opportunity.

He said that the students involved in the memorial, along with the attendance of young people such as Elliot,



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Senior Kim Elliot stands below a American flag suspended by two firetrucks. The display was part of a memorial service put on by the Omaha Fire Department on Sept. 11.

showed a sign of hope for America.

Furthermore, he said it might have helped the healing process of grieving individuals in attendance.

"It was interesting," Elliot said. "I think that by living in America, we are connected. It could happen anywhere, you don't have to live on the coast or in a big city."

As a firefighter, Keyser said that such a connection was made evident through

Sept. 11.

"Every firefighter feels like they were personally attacked, firefighting is a brotherhood," he said.

He said that after the ceremony, a lot of individuals came up to him and said it had touched their lives. Elliot said it was consoling to see so many concerned Americans united in the face of tragedy.

"All you can really do is hope and pray," she said.

Junior kept from Israel by threat of violence

By Aaron Maurice

Five years ago, junior Dan Gutman envisioned himself visiting Israel during the summer after his sophomore year.

Now he finds himself unable to visit his Holy Land, a land now subject to terrorism and fear.

Many Jewish students visit Israel during high school or college as a religious pilgrimage.

Within the past few years, an average of 15 students visited from Omaha annually.

Now only about five students make the 10,000 plus mile journey each year, Jewish Community Center executive director Jeff Aizenberg said.

Gutman wanted to visit Israel to understand what life was like in a predominantly Jewish country. His brother went several years ago and Gutman was excited to take his turn.

"I feel a connection with Israel,"

Gutman said.

His parents made the decision not to allow him to go because of the unrest in the Middle East.

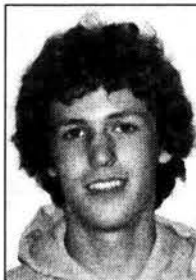
He also said he thinks it would be dangerous now and would not go until conditions improved.

The Jewish Community Center is one organization that sponsors Jewish youth to go to Israel.

During their trip, students visit historical sites, see different families living in Israel, travel to the beaches and mountains, speak the native language and experience how a typical Israeli teen lives.

Aizenberg said he thinks that the current situation could have an adverse affect on Jewish youth.

"It is not how it (going to Israel) will affect them, it is how it won't affect them," Aizenberg said.



Gutman



Farhat

Muslim teen believes Mideast conflict needs to end

By Charlie Wence

Everyday in the news, there are reports of violence and fighting in between Israelis and Palestinians, but through the eyes of an American Muslim, the perspective on conflicts in the Middle East is sometimes different than the media portrays it.

Junior Abe Farhat is Muslim and said doesn't he understand the violence between the Jews in Israel and Muslims in Palestine.

"I don't understand why Israel needs it (the Gaza Strip) all to themselves," Farhat said. "I think they should just split it right down the middle and stop all the nonsense."

The conflict between Israel and Palestine dates back to 1948, when Israel became an independent state.

Israel then gained control of the Gaza Strip as well as the West Bank areas of the Middle East.

Immediately after Israel's declaration of an independent state, the surrounding Middle Eastern countries began to invade Israel.

Farhat said he believes the public perceives them as violent and that they choose to fight.

"If you watch the news, they have

sticks and stones, Israelis have tanks, so who is more hostile?" Farhat said.

Marion Boulby, a professor of modern Middle East and Islamic movements at UNO, said she believes United States' support for Israel is mainly because of its strategic Middle Eastern location, which is vitally important to the economy of the United States.

"I don't support it (United States' support for Israel), but I'm not a rebel either," Farhat said. "I don't protest anything."

Boulby said she believes that domestic policy comes into play in the United States' support for Israel.

The large Jewish population in America may also play a role in America's backing of Israel, she said.

Some believe that the United States' strong support for Israel may have led to the terrorist attacks against it.

Farhat said he believes the support for Israel is a possible reason for the Sept. 11 attacks, but that brainwashing techniques and terrorists being insane was a more logical theory.

Farhat said the decision of which nation should get the contested land is not a cut and dry decision.

"Israel seems pretty dedicated, but

the Palestinians have a deeper love of their land," Farhat said. "I can't see either of them moving out. I believe it will end up with them coexisting and that may take awhile."

He said the American media can also come into play, sometimes shaping the opinion of Americans on the Middle East violence.

Boulby said she believes the American media is very sensationalistic and always provides extensive coverage of the Israeli side.

She said the media sometimes does not provide full coverage of violence against the Palestinians that was committed by the Israelis.

"I think they don't listen to the Palestinians side of the story," Farhat said. "The media always hears about the suicide bombings, these people are defending their homeland, not wreaking terror and you never hear about the horrible things the Israelis do."

At airports after Sept. 11, when security was extremely tight, the question of discrimination or racial profiling came into play.

Farhat's father, who is from the Middle East, has been a victim of racial profiling at American airports.

"They (airport security) searched my dad a little extra," Farhat said.

14

OF THE BEST

Alumni association commemorates a selection of Central's most prestigious graduates in the third year of the program

By Doug Meigs

The current Central Hall of Fame, consisting of 43 members, is a minute sampling of the distinguished alumni who have graduated in the school's hundred-plus year history, Hall of Fame committee member Kay Corell said.

The committee, which was formed four years ago along with the alumni association to honor such individuals, has just released its 14 most recent selections.

Honorees include everyone from the renowned economist (Emanuel Papadakis from the class of 1952) to acclaimed producers (Howard Weinberg from the class of 1958).

A banquet will be held on Oct. 3 in the courtyard followed by a program inducting the alumni into the hall of fame.

Judy Blazek, who is the chairman for the banquet this year, expects the induction to be a huge success.

In the past two years she has been involved in the alumni association, she said she has seen a large interest.

Attendance for the banquet runs at about 220 individuals costing \$40 per person, while the program brings in about 80 additional people.

"It's quite moving and people say some amazing things," Blazek said. "It's a really nice opportunity for those being honored to see the school, the new courtyard and classmates they haven't seen in years."

Anyone can be nominated for the hall of fame, Corell said.

The fifteen-member selection board, consisting of alumni from a variety of graduating classes (to provide a variety in selection), look at individuals from every walk of life.

She said that the nomination

process is unique in that every committee member brings something different to the table.

One particular inductee from this year's selection that stands out in Corell's mind is Dr. Gary Gitnick.

Gitnick, class of 1956, is a doctor in Los Angeles. Referred to as the doctor to the stars, he uses his connections in the movie industry to hold fundraisers for underprivileged children in the Los Angeles area.

"It's a fun committee to be a part of; you get a chance to learn a lot about impressive people and their careers that you didn't know graduated from Central or didn't know about all together," she said.

What Corell said makes the nominees particularly interesting is the variety they have to choose from.

From last year alone, there were over 70 alumni nominated. The individuals stay nominated over a three-year period.

After the three-year period is up, the proposals are reevaluated and the individual who nominated the person is allowed to nominate them for another three year period.

Corell said that the purpose of the hall of fame is to both honor the individuals and set examples for current students.

She said that the magnitude of many of the nominees' accomplishments is amazing.

In the past four years alone she said they have honored two Nobel Prize winners, star athletes, writers, actors and many more.

She said she doesn't see that outpour of distinguished graduates ceasing any time soon.

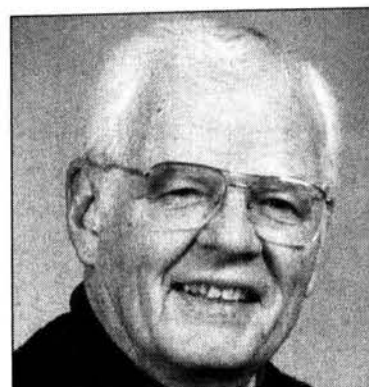
"There are a lot of illustrious alumni, so we are never looking for people," she said. "The selection is hard because of that."



Emmanuel P. Papadakis

Distinguished Graduate of 1952

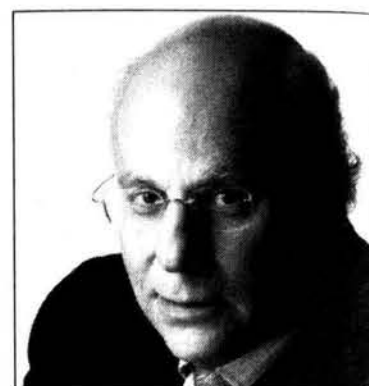
Papadakis developed a theory of economic productivity at Iowa State University and is now the president of Quality Systems Concepts.



Herbert E. Reese

Distinguished Graduate of 1947

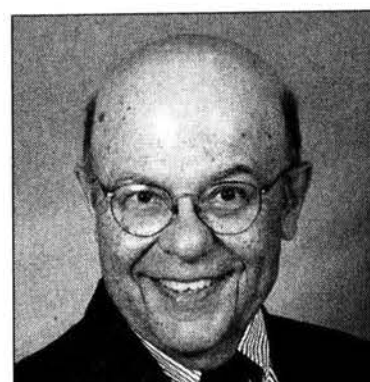
Reese is a cardiovascular surgeon who served on the first open-heart team for the U.S. Army Medical services. He has won other awards for his work.



Howard Weinberg

Distinguished Graduate of 1958

Weinberg is an award-winning documentary producer, writer and director. He serves as director of the New York Film/Video Council.



Frank P. Tirro

Distinguished Graduate of 1953

Tirro is an educator, composer and author who has composed a jazz Mass and ballet. He now is a dean and teacher at Yale's school of music.



Howard D. Vann

Distinguished Graduate of 1951

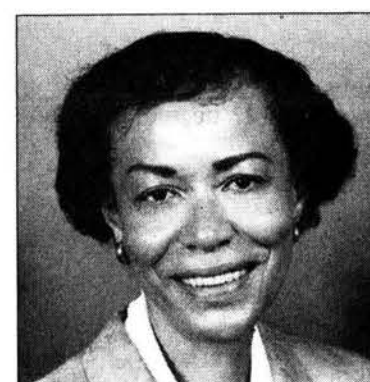
Vann was chairman of the Rotary International Foundation Fund and with the United Nations and World Bank to prevent polio. He died in July 2002.



James H. Costen

Distinguished Graduate of 1949

Costen is an ordained minister, and has served as the dean and president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.



Ruth Norman

Distinguished Graduate of 1944

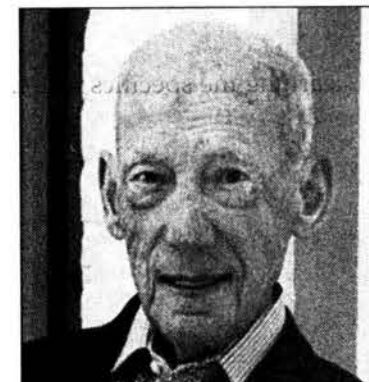
Norman is a composer and pianist who has dedicated her life to rediscovering African American, Renaissance era and contemporary black composers.



Merrilee Moshier Miller

Distinguished Graduate of 1966

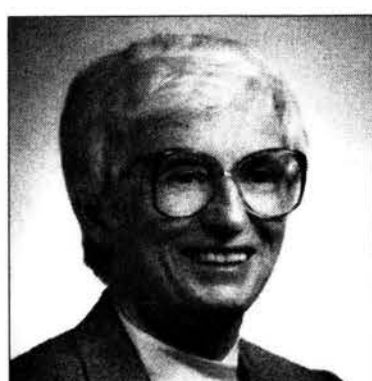
Miller oversaw the creation of the first Alumni Directory and works in public relations, marketing and communications.



Dr. Jerome Hirschmann

Distinguished Graduate of 1934

Hirschmann is one of the creators of the CHS Scholarship Endowment Fund. He was on the Board of Governors at an Illinois hospital for 30 years



Ann Dickinson Mactier

Distinguished Graduate of 1940

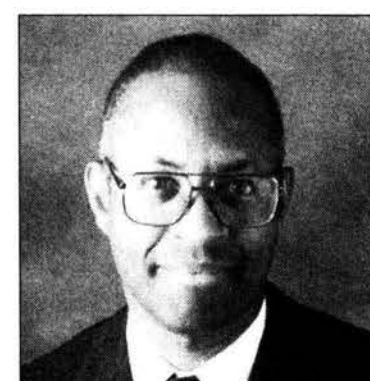
Mactier has been nicknamed the "Reading Lady." Mactier continues to work for the betterment of education. She is currently serving as the vice president of the Nebraska Board of Education.



Inga Swenson Harris

Distinguished Graduate of 1950

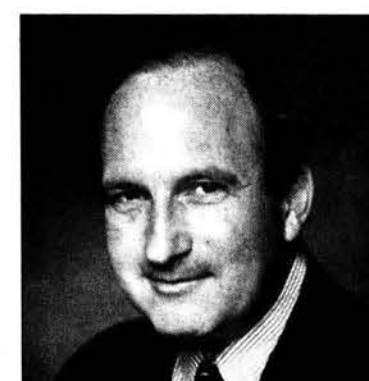
Harris is an actress and has performed on Broadway, London's West end and the American Shakespeare Festival. She received Tony and Golden Globe nominations for her work.



Julius S. Conner

Distinguished Graduate of 1950

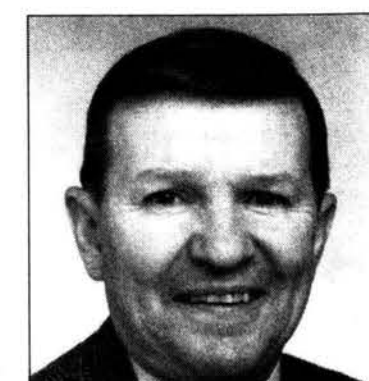
Conner is the recipient of the 2000 Martin Luther King Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. His research has been published in numerous medical journals. He is currently practicing as a pediatric physician in Iowa.



Dr. Gary L. Gitnick

Distinguished Graduate of 1956

Gitnick is the founder of the Fulfillment Fund, a mentoring and scholarship program for disadvantaged and disabled students. He specializes in digestive diseases and has authored 63 books.



John Keenan

Distinguished Teacher 1956-1995

Keenan was a Central English teacher for 39 years. He received the Christa McAuliffe Prize for teaching in 1989 and the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher award in 1990. He retired in 1995 and died in June of 2000.

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Mock trial attempts to top last year

By Aaron Maurice

Six students took Central's mock trial team further than ever before.

They defied all odds by winning not only against metro schools, but western Nebraska ones as well.

The team finished in the top five of Nebraska schools last year, missing a bid to nationals by a hair, sponsor Carol Hipp said.

And now it's back.

This year's team will have two returning members, seniors John DeMott and Lauren Prest.

The other four members were on Central's second team last year, losing to the winning Central team.

The team has started to prepare for this year's competition since school started.

The competition is fierce, Hipp said. The team must place first out of over ten metro schools in the first round.

Also posing a threat are schools from western Nebraska, where Hipp said mock trial is a popular alternative at schools with no debate or Academic Decathlon programs.

She said the team should make a good showing at state again this year with an expected bid to nationals.

During the trial, the six members form a team of three lawyers and three witnesses.

To be successful, the lawyers must be able to get information out of the other team's witnesses while keeping their witnesses from saying too much.

This part requires solid public speaking and good acting to sell their point, Hipp said.

The team also must know courtroom procedures so they can call errors on the other side and follow the rules for their case. This can easily sway a case to one side or another, she said.

The hardest part about preparing for this case is finding the catch that will give the team an advantage, Prest said.

Senior Norma Reynolds said that the team is more prepared than last year.

She said they know the case better and are learning the specifics faster. She said she thinks the team has a good chance to make it to nationals.

If the mock trial team is successful and makes it to nationals in New Orleans, it must prepare a new case in a limited amount of time.

This would be a challenge for the team, but since every other team that makes it would have the same new case, it evens out the competition, Hipp said.

A second Central team will also be competing. She said the goal of this team will be to prepare a new group of students to perform well next year.



Central's student resource officer Jess Randall stands outside school next to his police cruiser. A proposed city budget may take officers like Randall out of schools.

Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Budget cuts may eliminate officers

By Doug Meigs

Police officers may leave OPS high schools as part of police chief Don Carey's budget cut plan supported by Mayor Mike Fahey and proposed to the city council.

However, TAC school safety and climate project administrator Roddie Miller said that there is a good chance that the Omaha Police Department and OPS will be able to work out an agreement that will keep school resource officers (SROs) in the school system relatively soon.

The current SRO program is part of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Community Offices Policing grant (COP).

Miller said that the grant pays the salary of officers in OPS high schools and middle school over a three-year period.

Meanwhile the police department pays the benefits such as retirement and health insurance. After the three-year period expires, OPS and the department would split the cost of salaries.

"The grant is designed to put officers in schools," Miller said. "It's a back-fill grant, since the grant pays for the officer's salaries, then the department is able to pay the salaries of additional officers."

When Fahey expressed his approval of the cut, Miller said that she

was unaware of the program's success. She said that Carey notified the school district only 20 minutes before issuing a press release, so public perception of the issue might be somewhat misconstrued.

Regardless, sophomore Curtis Greere said he would hate to see Central's SRO, Jess Randall leave the school, especially in light of the rise in fights at Central over the past two years.

Both former officer Jerry Paul and Randall had visited his Pathways class during his freshman year.

Without an officer at school, he said he would expect the security guards to have problems with student violence.

"If they (students) see a walkie-talkie, they'll continue to fight, but if they see the heat, they'll get up out of there," he said.

Freshman Davy Coleman said he thinks Central has a violence problem and if police left, the fighting situation would only become worse. Whether or not the officers will be taken out of schools is up to Carey, but Miller said that he has indicated that he is open to exploring options to work out a continued partnership.

"I don't know how they'd compensate," Randall said.

Randall said that his relationship with the school is similar to a police chief and the mayor. He is the police chief and Principal Jerry Bexten is the mayor.

Miller said that Randall serves the

three-fold purpose as teacher, administrator, and officer.

She said the primary goals of the SRO program are to ensure a safe learning environment and break down the barrier between students and law enforcement.

She said that additional results include a long term saving of money because the program is preventative. So far she said that she has seen tremendous results.

"We have a very high percent of parents and students dropping in and utilizing the officer," she said. "He provides information regarding law, information can range from harassment to bullying to driving safety."

Miller said that three times as many students are talking to officers now, asking general questions, receiving help and increasing confidence in the police force.

Likewise, she said that police officers have the opportunity to view students in a different light through a positive educational perspective. Members of the high school community understand.

"Having a police officer in school helps everyone," she said. "It's a win, win situation."

Since Randall came to Central in the second semester of last year, he said that he has been active in law and justice, debate, Pathways and weight training classes and has enjoyed doing it.

Despite any funding issues that have recently arisen, both he and Miller said they feel that officers are a positive part of the school environment.

TRANSCRIPTS

Failing grades can be erased

from TRANSCRIPTS, page 1
dents be able to erase a failing grade, they will be able to take a similar class to erase that grade.

"Take math for example," Kehrberg said. "If a student fails geometry but then takes Algebra 1-2 and gets a higher grade, he can use that grade to replace the failing one."

For people like Servis who wonder how the school will determine what constitutes a similar class, Kehrberg said a committee of OPS administrators, curriculum experts, teachers and principals will get together sometime this year to assemble a list.

Junior Chris Funkhouser said he thinks the policy is a good idea for the simple reason that if a student had a bad teacher or an outside conflict causing them to fail, that it is only fair to let them re-take the class.

"Maybe I had a personal problem, or I just didn't like the teacher," junior April Gerlec said. "Students don't always fail classes just because they don't like school."

Social Studies teacher Carol Krejci said this new practice gives students a second chance.

This is one of the reasons why Kehrberg is so happy with the new practice. It gives students more opportunities to excel in school, she said.

Because of the relatively new program called SASI, that was installed to manage students' schedules and transcripts, counselors and administrators are able to delete the previous 4 or 5 from the transcript.

"This is very positive," she said. "It's a move in the right direction for students' sake."

Though Servis said he doesn't necessarily agree with it, he said the new practice will not adversely affect the students at the top of their classes.

This is because, on the whole, students in the top half do not get low enough grades to re-take classes.

"It will only really affect the ranks of students at the bottom of their class," he said.

Kehrberg said the policy won't affect the higher ranked students.

She said they generally get ones, twos, or threes, and would not even qualify to re-take a class.

She said she is thrilled to be able to offer this new policy to students in OPS.

First year of restricted access to summer school went well, official says

By Laura Diesing

Summer school students received a much-welcomed bonus. Along with already getting the opportunity to earn the credits they needed to graduate or pass a class, students were not charged any fees for courses.

A court ruling stated OPS could not charge any extra fees. Therefore, summer school was offered for free.

This was a major help to those

who would not normally be able to afford the classes, Catherine Kennedy, who is a Central ESL teacher and taught summer school at Benson High School, said.

Senior Adam Jackson took English Five and American History classes in summer school.

"I thought it was kind of cool that it was free because I don't have a job," Jackson said.

Dr. ReNae Kehrberg, director

of Secondary Education for OPS, said that managing registration was harder since the staff had to make careful determinations as to who was accepted to take the classes.

In the past almost every student who registered was accepted to take summer school.

Now, since people who would not normally be able to afford the classes could register, few of these students who applied

were accepted.

"Seniors got first priority so they could graduate," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said that seniors are always the top priority.

People who need the credit to pass a class are the second group considered.

If there are any spaces left in the classes, the students who want to take enrichment classes to graduate early or to get college

credit are accepted into summer school.

Kehrberg said that she wishes every student who applied could get into summer school.

But she also said she is pleased that students who would not normally be able to take the classes are now having the opportunity to take them.

History teacher Scott Wilson taught American government and world history in summer school.

He said some teachers were worried that since summer school was free, there might have been a lack of motivation.

Wilson said that he did not have any problems with any students and that his classes went smoothly.

Kehrberg said hopefully in the future, there will be a way to make summer school accessible to all students who register to take classes.

State writing assessment tests students' English skills in similar format to department themes

By Jillian Risavi

Theme writing is a part of Central's English curriculum, which department head Jodie Martinez said is similar to the statewide writing assessment tests given every year.

Martinez said themes and writing assessments attempt to prove the same thing. She said they are set up to see how well students grasp the material and if they are able to write about it using the six traits of writing.

"The topics they try to make current with student life through experiences, but they can't use lit-

erary-based topics," Martinez said.

She said that the writing could potentially make the students feel more comfortable about their writing if they understand the terms of the theme topic.

For the last two years, Nebraska's Board of Education has demanded a statewide writing assessment test for all schools in order to evaluate the writing proficiency of the students.

Senior Jennifer Hodges has taken the writing assessment tests for the past two years at Central. She said that they try to focus on

what students deal with, but she believes they could be more entertaining.

"I don't see a point to writing them," Hodges said. "It's extra work I don't get anything out of writing them. It's a break from work and it's busy work that is harmless."

Junior Adam Ramirez said that he gets more out of reading a story and answering multiple choice questions and then writing a theme than he does writing about a topic that has no significance to what he is learning.

"They are close to the same

thing," he said. "I don't think I benefit from the writing tests."

A panel of 20 teachers representing grades 4, 8, and 11 from different school districts ranging in size and location across the state creates and evaluates each of the prompts. The panel then reviews and scores the writings.

The panel reviews and tries to eliminate any gender or cultural bias within the prompts before they are sent out to the schools.

"The prompts are field-tested a year before they are used so when we get them back, we can adjust and reconstruct what is

needed," Pat Roschewski, the Nebraska Board of Education Student Performance director, said.

Each panelist receives 50 papers, which she reads over and scores. After she has gone through all of the papers, the scores are entered into a database where the cut score (statewide average) is created.

"The papers are sent to regional scoring sites in Omaha, Kearney and Scotts Bluff," Roschewski said. "They spend three days at each site in the first part of March."

After all three sites review the

papers, the Board of Education receives the papers and scores and then sends them out to each of the schools.

"I'm a little skeptical of how effective it is and how valid it is," Martinez said. "We don't know enough about it and it could take years, but it could create some standard."

The Board of Education is receiving feedback from schools on the writing assessment tests so that they can continue to work out the kinks and form satisfactory prompts for this school year and the future.

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Photo by AARON MAURICE/THE REGISTER

Senior Melissa Hepburn sits alongside the new Amber Alert board near the Martha Street exit on Interstate 480. Hepburn said the boards are a good safety measure. They can also be used to send warnings about accidents, weather or anything else drivers need to know.

Message boards to alert drivers of incidents

By Aaron Maurice

Nine message boards will span the interstate highways around Omaha in the next month providing the backbone for traffic messages to commuters as well as becoming an integral part of the Amber Alert System, Department of Roads project manager Karl Burns said.

Senior Melissa Hepburn said she thought adopting the system was a good way to deter kidnappings.

"It's great that we adopted a system that could potentially save lives," she said.

The \$3.7 million project's primary goal is to improve safety and traffic flow on the interstate. The message boards will display text messages to commuters alerting them of traffic problems, road construction and accidents.

The initial project is expected to put up nine message boards that can be centrally controlled at the Nebraska Department of Roads in Omaha through the telephone. The Department of Roads can also change messages on site.

Eight of the nine message boards will be put up by the end of September or early October. The ninth board will be up in November.

Many Central students are supportive of the effort being made by Nebraska.

Freshman Lindsey Anderson said the Amber Alert program was a good tool for raising people's awareness.

The Nebraska State Patrol will be responsible for any Amber Alerts in Nebraska.

If a need comes up, the state patrol would send a message to the Department of Roads who would then relay the message. The alert would also be sent to radio and newspaper stations.

The system should be in full operation by spring of 2003. The Department of Roads intends to add 14 additional boards next year to increase the coverage.

A control center will be added to each of the eight districts in Nebraska, which are interconnected.

Funding for the initial project comes mainly from a grant from the Federal Government. This pays for 80 percent of the costs, leaving the state of Nebraska to pick up about \$740,000.

A plan for adding the fourteen new signs to the network could be started as early as next year if the first nine proved successful.

The boards can display messages alerting traffic of construction delays, accidents, or weather related hazards.

The system is also designed to handle the Amber Alert system that helped locate and rescue kidnapping victims in other states.

California has used the Amber Alert system since Aug. 1. Since then, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has initiated ten Amber Alerts resulting in the rescue of every victim, CHP spokeswoman Anne DeVigo said.

The California Amber Alert system starts when a local law enforcement agency requests the state's help in the location of a kidnapping victim.

Alerts are then be sent to televisions and radio stations across the state. Message boards on the interstate system display alerts.

"The system has been relatively inexpensive to maintain, while providing much needed help in the location of kidnapping victims," DeVigo said.

The system is still in its infancy with minor bugs that need to be worked out. This can be expected with a system of this complexity, DeVigo said.

Students find solace at event

By Steve Packard

Central students gathered around the flagpole for the annual See You at the Pole prayer ceremony Sept. 18.

Despite the student traffic, Dodge Street traffic and a dreary, overcast September morning, students were still early for the 7:10 a.m. commencement.

The attendance for this year's gathering was much higher than that of last year's ceremony said the event's primary organizer, senior Larry Coleman.

Although several students had already begun to pray before the ceremony began, it officially began with a humble raising of the American and Nebraska state flags, followed by prayers from students and faculty alike.

Most students prayed for the schools, administration and faculty at Central and at points, emotions were running so high that some cried.

Sophomore Emily O'Donnell said the event affected her profoundly.

"To be able to go to school and to see all the other people there that were like me really spurred a lot of different emotions in me," she said.

For Coleman, it was being part of a whole.

"When you look at it, at first, you feel small, really timid because you're just one high school out of thousands, but once you take a step back and look again, you realize you're part of something bigger," he said.

See You at the Pole is celebrated by students in schools around the world.

It is always celebrated on the third Wednesday of every month. It has been going on at Central for about the past four years, Coleman said.

Rev. Jeff Chapman, a minister at Dundee Presbyterian Church, said an observance such as See You at the Pole offers many opportunities.

"I think it offers them (students) a chance to see other Christians at your school,"

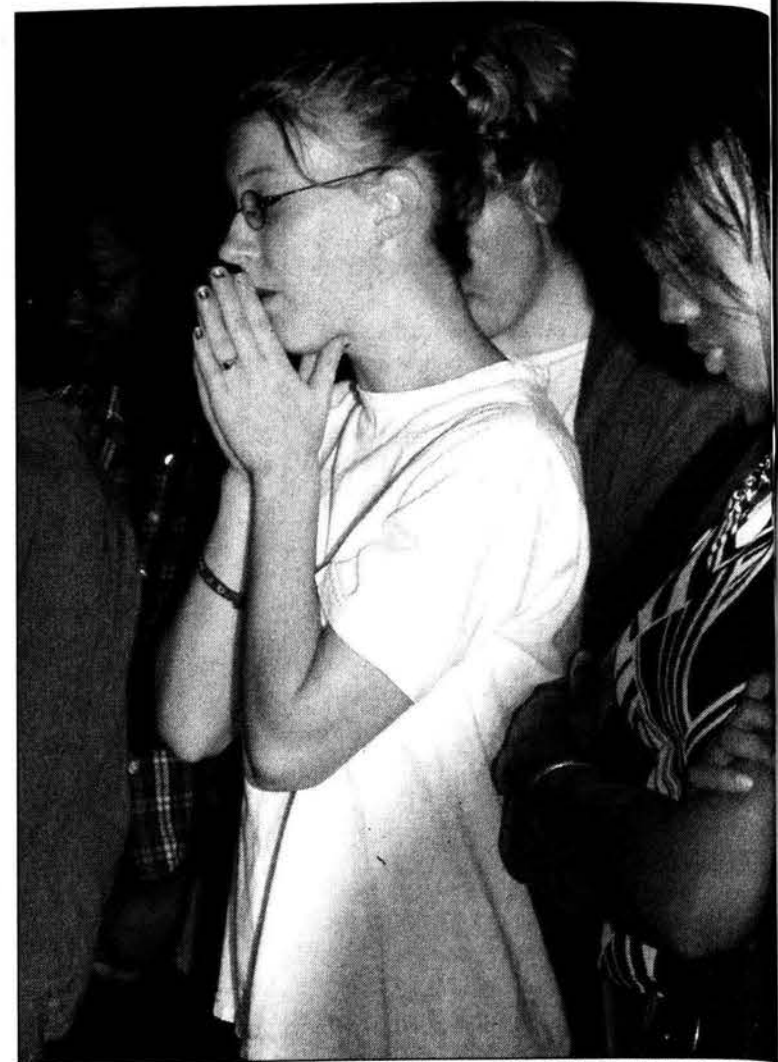


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Sophomore Emily O'Donnell prays at the See You at the Pole group prayer on Sept. 18. O'Donnell was joined by other students and faculty members as they worshipped.

Chapman said. "It also gives the opportunity to pray as a group for the school."

Senior Jamie Hills got to meet other Central students of her faith.

"I just feel like other kids need to know what I believe," Hills said. "I think it's important because I shouldn't have to hide it."

Coleman said he not only identified with the students as fellow Christians, but said he even felt of sense of unity with them as well.

"We are really just united, that's the way we pray," Coleman said. "Even if we weren't physically together, we were united in prayer."

However, with the prayer at school comes the national controversy over the separation of church and state.

Despite the argument, the

students who participated still felt comfortable praying.

Hills said a prayer and had no problem doing it.

"I know that however people take it (church and state) is however people are going to take it, but I don't think it was wrong by any means," she said.

Coleman said that in some ways, prayer was originally meant to be in school.

"In the beginning, it wasn't an issue of state and church," Coleman said. "Some of the Founding Fathers held moral and beliefs that to be an American, you believed in God."

But wrong or not, See You at the Pole 2002 was a resounding success, Coleman said.

"I believe anytime Christians can get together and pray it's a good thing," he said, "but it's good to know that we can find support at school, too."

DVDs stand posed to take over electronic market, video cassettes ready to be obsolete, experts say

By Katie Backman

Fast forward to a time when the VHS tape is obsolete and DVDs take over the shelves at electronics stores. Experts say it may be sooner than some think.

Darrin Roitstein, a manager at a local Blockbuster and Central graduate, said VHS tapes will be on the market for three to five more years.

"Sales for VHS hasn't decreased, but more people are leaning towards DVD," Roitstein said.

He said Blockbuster has 5,000 locations across the United States, and if it eliminated VHS, its sales would drop.

Roitstein said VHS tapes would always make up a part of the store. Blockbuster currently receives new shipments of VHS tapes daily.

"The customers complain about the

limited amount of tapes," Roitstein said.

"They either can't find what they want or they just don't have a DVD player."

Best Buy media supervisor Rob Rosen said VHS sales and stock only account for 5 percent of total sales units.

He said VHS tape sales couldn't directly affect the sales in the store as a wide spread merchandiser.

"We receive complaints a couple times a week. It tends to be older people," Rosen said.

Rosen said he believes VHS tapes are good for recording TV. However the tape productions will stop in five years, he said.

Diana Zeck, lead merchant of Nebraska Furniture Mart, said she thinks many parents don't want to buy DVDs

for their children because of price.

"I don't think the VHS rate has decreased because people still want to buy VHS tapes for their children," Zeck said.

"I wouldn't want to buy DVDs for my kids, tapes are less expensive. People are still hesitant to switch over to DVD. I think children's videos will be on tapes for while."

Circuit City is an electronic retailer that doesn't provide VHS tapes in the store.

Senior Hank Karpf said Circuit City made a good business move taking tapes out of the store because of technology advancements.

Roitstein said he thinks three to five years will pass and VHS tapes will be out-of-date.

He said it would be a while before

people can record their home videos to DVD format.

"Personally I think DVDs are far better than VHS," Karpf said. "VHS takes up too much room and lose quality if you watch them too much. DVDs have better sound quality and will last longer than 20 years. I think 30 to 40 years."

Roitstein said he could not think of many flaws with DVDs. He said the only problem with DVDs is when they switch film layers and skip.

Former Central student Ian Simmons said the only problem that could arise was if the DVDs did not have the case, which distinguishes them from CDs.

If the cases were the same Simmons said, customers would not easily see the difference.

"I can think of a lot of qualities with

DVDs, being the movie junkie that I am," Simmons said. "I love the deleted scenes and directors clips, and VHS just doesn't have it."

Simmons said DVDs have been around at least three to four years, but they became more affordable and popular in the past year or so.

"VHS' life span will put DVD's to 20 years or longer, maybe even shorter because the technology is becoming more advanced," Rosen said. "We're going to see movies on memory chips in the next five years."

For the time being, many see a bright future for DVDs and accept that fact that eventually they will be replaced as well.

"I figure it is something no one has thought of yet (to replace the DVDs)," Simmons said.

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2002 ELECTION COVERAGE



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Democratic Congressional candidate Jim Simon speaks to students, reporters and faculty at a press conference on the east porch on Aug. 28. The Student Democrats, pictured behind Simon, sponsored the event.

Candidate speaks to students

By Paula Salhany

Jim Simon's petition to communicate is based on the appeal of education.

He said in a press conference Aug. 28 that if he were elected to congress, he would be most concerned with the improving Nebraska's education.

He made it clear to the public that he disagreed with taking money out of the schools. He said Rep. Lee Terry's proposal to take money out was irrational.

"It makes no sense to try to improve the quality of education if money is being pulled out of the school," he said.

He said he believed education was a building block for the future, and that is why the Nebraska Education Association endorses him, Social Studies teacher Carol Krejci said.

"He has our vote," she said. She said many of the other candidates in the running did not meet the standards the association was looking for.

Simon's main focus at the conference was to tell the public what his plan for education was, should he be elected.

"He wants to put education first," Krejci said.

He chose to hold the conference

at Central so he could reiterate his focus on education.

Central's Student Democrats came to support Simon. Senior Brian Fahey, who is also president of Student Democrats, introduced Simon. He told the public Student Democrats fully supported the candidate.

Fahey said he has seen Simon in action and is impressed with his determination.

Though Simon said the running may be tough, he is confident his petition to students, teachers and the community to improve the overall education of all children will help the cause.

Army recruiter attempts to heighten senior enrollment

By Charlie Wence

Sgt. Chalawanda Kelley has set up an army display in the courtyard on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month in hopes that it will persuade some students to join the United States Army. That's her job now.

Kelley has been in the army for nearly seven years, working for most of them as a lab technician.

She has been stationed at military bases in places such as Fort Bragg, NC and Fort Drum NY, where troops were deployed to Afghanistan.

Kelley is new to recruiting. This is her fourth month on the job.

Along with putting recruiters in schools, the US Army has taken a more proactive approach towards the recruiting process.

Kelley said that in the past, the army somewhat lied to draw kids into the enlistment process, but now they are aiming for a more user-friendly type of recruitment.

Enlistment options of two, four and six years are now available.

"You don't have to be in the army for 27 years to receive the benefits," Kelley said.

Benefits of enlisting include \$28,000 for college, 100 percent tuition assistance, 30 days paid vacation, training, dental and health insurance.

Over the summer, high school students were mailed welcome letters, encouraging them to call the army for more information.

Kelley said that while calling the seniors, she encountered polite declines

form parents and students, as well as responses such as, "there's no way kid is going into the army."

So far, she has already gotten someone to commit to enlisting.

On Sept. 14, senior Anthony Bruno decided to join.

The US Army is something I've always wanted to be a part of," Bruno said.

Kelley convinced Bruno to join the army at the end of his high school career.

Bruno said he received all of the enlistment benefits along with a \$16,000 cash for bonus for enlisting.

He must abide by a six year contract of enlistment to attain that bonus.

"Anthony received an invitation to try out for a special forces spot, something some people who have been in the army don't get invited to for six or seven years," Kelley said.

Kelley said Bruno received such special treatment because he scored high on the ABSVAB test.

Bruno also has the chance to be eligible for promotion.

While he cannot start training before he graduates, there are some things he can do to advance to a higher rank, or receive higher pay.

Bruno rank is an E1, which currently pays 1,000 a month.

However, by working through tasks he can perform before official enlistment, he can work his way up to an E3 rank, which pays 1,300 a month.

"Anthony is currently at E1 (army rank), but by July he has the chance to advance to E3 by getting referrals from people, learning how to march and learning military time," Kelley said.

Club formed to honor student

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

A drunk driver may have cut Roseann Incontro's life tragically short, but a new student organization started in her memory will ensure that she is not forgotten.

Incontro, a freshman last year, was killed in a traffic accident last March.

Her death inspired several of her friends to go to then Principal Dr. Gary Thompson and ask to start a chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) at Central, director of after school activities Patti Gatzke said.

SADD is devoted to combating suicide, drug and alcohol use and depression. Central's group is only one of a national chain of SADD clubs, Gatzke said.

Sophomore Melanie Black was one of the first members of SADD.

Black said she was close friends with Incontro and being a member of SADD was a way for her to keep her friend's memory alive.

The group has only been around for a short amount of time, so Gatzke said they have not had a whole lot of opportunities to do activities.

"We really just got started in April," she said.

SADD was able to hold a car wash in June to raise money for the Incontro family.

Gatzke was the group's sponsor when it was initially started last spring, drawing about 30 students to the first meeting.

This year, Gatzke said, English teacher Marcy Williams took over the job of sponsor.

Black said there were only about five returning members from last year's SADD at the first meeting of this year, but there were still around 15 people total in attendance.

Black said the group is planning to begin going into Pathways 21 classes to talk to students.

"We want to get more people in the SADD group," she said.

Going into Pathways classes will also help SADD members discourage other students from making detrimental decisions like drinking and drug use, Black said.

The group would also like to do a PowerPoint presentation dealing with the issues that SADD addresses to show to the classes.

Black said talking about Incontro's death will be difficult for her and others who knew Incontro very well.

"(For) people that were close to her, it will be hard," she said.

Paterson takes stance against potential war

By Doug Meigs

Doug Paterson, Green Party Candidate for Nebraska's second district, held a discussion concerning the possibility of war against Iraq at the Unity Church of Omaha on Sept. 8.

The event began with a screening of the "Conference Opposing War in Iraq," which had aired on C-Span on Aug. 20 and was followed by an open discussion with Paterson.

Senior John DeMott said the Green Party's emphasis on citizen involvement appeals to him, as well as some of its other political stances.

Steve Thyberg, volunteer coordinator for Paterson's campaign, said that the event wasn't even aimed at promoting Paterson's campaign.

However, he said it was an extension of the "Dialogues with Doug,"

Paterson's public dialogues.

The video included opinions from former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, who said that the United States would be breaking international law by attacking Iraq without knowledge of involvement with any assault on America.

It also highlighted statements made by the Freedom Forum president David Cortright and Policy Studies Fellow Phyllis Bennis, who favored a return to weapons inspection.

Paterson said the conference held in Washington had a major connection to his belief in discussion. He said dialogues are vital to his campaign, as well as the backbone of Democracy.

That's why Paterson said he hopes to see more young people becoming involved in the voting process and attending his discussions. He said he wants this

so they can become more aware of America's political environment.

DeMott said that he tries to keep himself politically aware and he believes assault on Iraq would kill more innocent lives than military personnel. If America was to go to war with Iraq, there might be the possibility of a draft, which Paterson said he would oppose.

"If they do (install a draft), I will actively encourage young people to resist it and find alternatives," he said.

As highlighted in the program, Paterson said the United States' conflict with Iraq is not a new problem.

"We armed Saddam," he said. "He was our made dog. Then he slipped the leash. I want young people to realize this didn't just happen last week."

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■ DEGANTE

Friends say,
smile will be
missed most

from DEGANTE, page 1
are too much to overcome.

She said sometimes they only express these signs to people they are very close to.

"In all my interactions with Jorge, I never saw anything of that sort," she said. "His death was a shock. It broke my heart."

Degante suffered a gunshot wound to the head on Sept. 2 and was taken to the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Many of his friends, relatives and teachers came to see him in the hopes he would recover and be taken off life support.

"He looked so fragile," Johnson said about Degante. "He was on a ventilator and hooked up to a bunch of tubes. I was used to him being so confident. It was the worst."

She said seeing him like that was one of the hardest things she'd ever had to do.

His parents decided to take him off the ventilator on Sept. 7, his girlfriend Starr Walker said.

They had been dating since last November and she said though he was concerned about things every teenager would be, she never once considered suicide to be an issue.

They would talk about how he liked being in school and how he wanted to graduate and make a life for himself, Walker said.

"He wanted to go to college and be successful," she said.

Piña who met Degante in the fifth grade said they would talk about the problems they had and try to help each other out.

But even then, many of the problems Degante expressed, they never struck Piña as life threatening, he said.

He said it was rare for Degante to bring any of his dealings outside of school back to the school.

"He was associated with a gang called the SGD disciples but it never seemed to interfere with school," Piña said. "He was always respectful."

Many of Degante's friends said they would miss his generous personality the most.

"Not many people want to make others happy," Piña said.

Surgery corrects failing eyesight



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Security guard Joe Venditte watches the south side of Central at dismissal. After having cataract surgery he is able to see more clearly whereas before he could hardly read the newspaper.

By Doug Meigs

Sitting from the security table, security guard Joe Venditte said he couldn't distinguish people standing inside the courtyard. Now he said he can see them perfectly.

Although Venditte had worn glasses since 1977, his vision has always technically been fine. His eyesight had always been 20/20, but as time wore on, he said that he developed cataracts.

Since then, the cataracts progressed to a point where he decided to have surgery.

"I couldn't read the paper anymore even with my glasses," Venditte said. "I got tired of it and just decided to get it (cataract surgery) done."

Cataracts are a clouding of the lens. Individuals can either be born with cataracts or develop them over time because of stress, medication, or the natural aging process, said Angie Bothwell, the assistant to the doctor who performed Venditte's surgery.

Venditte said that his cataracts developed due to aging. The surgery Venditte underwent is called phacoemulsification with intra ocular lens implants.

First, Bothwell said, an incision was made on the surface of his eye. Then, the phacoe unit, a metal probe device, was used to break up the cataract like a jackhammer.

Afterwards an individually suited lens was inserted into his eye, Bothwell said.

Venditte said that the procedure lasted over a two-day period. He said the doctors separated the surgery dates as a safety precaution, but as it turned out none was needed. However the actual surgeries only lasted a few minutes each.

"Everything was fine," he said. "There was no pain or any-

thing, you are awake during the whole thing."

Venditte had to arrive at the clinic 45 minutes early for the doctors to numb his eye. He said the doctors talked to him throughout the entire process.

He said the entire surgery lasted twelve minutes and Dr. Bares let him know how much longer the surgery was going to last at different points during the procedure.

"You don't feel a thing, you have a real bright light in your eye and it looked like the sun," Venditte said. "The next day they took the wrapping off and I could see the perfectly."

Bothwell said that the procedure has very little risk involved. It is possible for patients' eyes not to improve or for infection to result, but it is extremely rare.

"As a precaution, we put them on antibiotic drops and they wear a shield for a week so they don't bump anything," she said.

After the surgery, Venditte had to wear the clear shield over his eye for a full day, then for a week during the night.

Bothwell said recovery is very rapid and within four weeks, patients are able to receive new glasses prescriptions, if it's necessary at all.

Such recoveries as well as the lens implant portion of the surgery were not possible in the last decade, she said.

Before, she said that patients would have to stay in bed for days with their head sandbagged for a week to prevent mobility and injury. Not only was there a far greater risk of infection, but the patient's vision improvement was less.

After the surgery, Venditte said his recovery was immediate. He was ready for work the next day just as usual.

However, this time he could see perfectly.

District
adjusts to
fee policy

By Doug Meigs

As far as Roger Roll is concerned, OPS has finally straightened out its fees.

"All in all it seems like they've finally got it right and they're following the Constitution and that's all I wanted to do with the law suit," he said. "It seems more fair than in the past"

Although the suit filed by Roll last year was dismissed, he said it could be refiled if OPS begins charging unnecessary fees again.

According to the student handbook, the district is only allowed to charge a single fee for extracurricular activities. OPS has made student activity cards the fee. Funding from the district-wide \$30 price of the cards goes toward each school's Student Fee Fund.

Athletic Director Paul Pennington said although there are district guidelines regarding fees, each OPS school handles certain aspects a little differently.

The handbook explains that it is permissible for schools to require students to purchase activity cards in order to obtain parking spaces. Pennington said that schools such as Burke and North have already put such a requirement into place.

Next year, he said Central might enact a similar requirement. But, he said it would have to be added to Central's student handbook first.

"Technically we should be charging the most," he said. "We have the most limited space."

Roll said it was never his intention to affect the way OPS handled extracurricular activities. His complaint was with fees connected to moving between grades and graduation.

"The fee seems high, but you can't have your cake and eat it too," he said.

Along with all the new policy, some club sponsors are confused regarding the fee changes. Although the handbook states that only one fee is permitted (the purchase of a student activity card), French club co-sponsor and sponsor of French National Honors Society Bev Fellman said she is still requiring members to pay a fee to join.

She said it was her interpretation of the policy that any voluntary activity such as French club could still charge dues.

In turn she said she hasn't noticed any effects on the club due to the policy. But she said she has noticed changes in regards to French class. She said the field trips that she once took her students on such as trips to Joslyn Art Museum are now out of the question.

Junior Nick Delman said he hasn't noticed much negative resulting from the changed policy.

"If it helps the after school activities more than it has in the past then I think it's a good thing," he said. "I don't like it, but it happened and you have to deal with it."

However, one complaint he had with the current fee system is that distribution should be more on an individual basis. That way the funding derived from activity cards would go specifically toward whatever extracurricular activity that the person is involved in.

On the other hand, sophomore Shane Hampton said he disagrees with fees as well as student activity cards.

"It's supposed to be free education," he said.

Hampton said he sees the activity card price hike as unreasonable. Although he looks forward to trying out for basketball this year, he said he doesn't want to buy the activity card.

Exchange student adjusts to culture changes

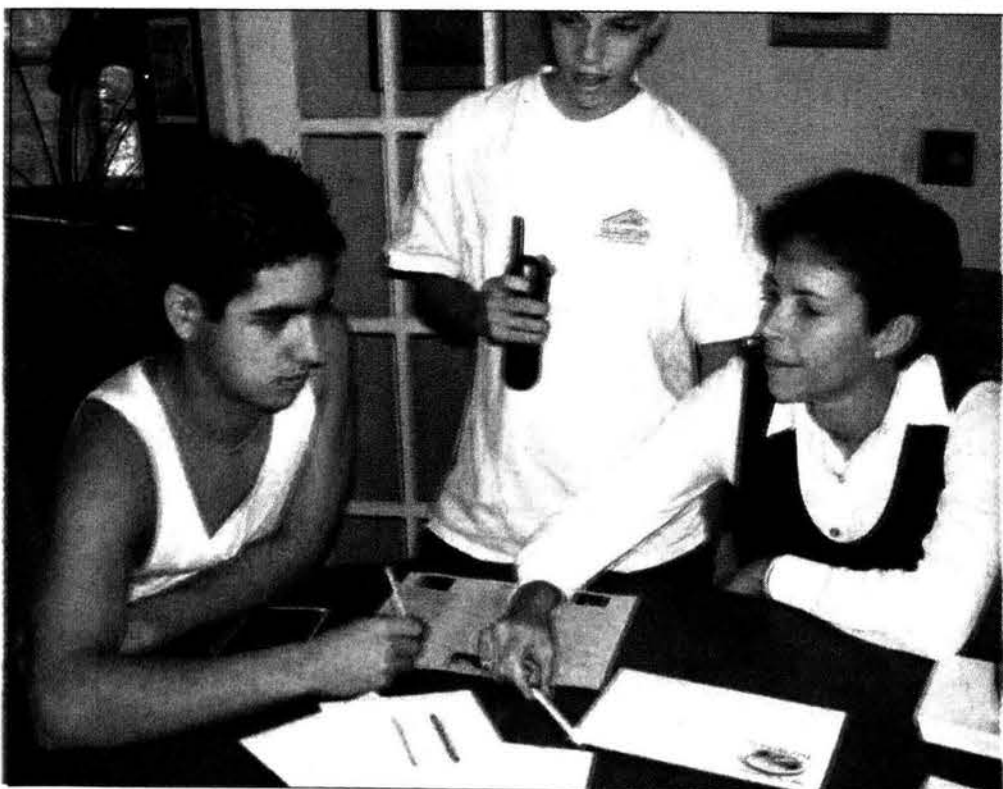


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Joaquin López works with his host mother, María Teresa Gastón as his host brother, Martin Witchger, looks on. López will be at Central for the whole year.

By Jillian Risavi

Pablo Joaquin López Abad came to Omaha, Aug. 20, from Cuenca, Ecuador as a part of the Rotary exchange program to improve his English and find his calling in life while attending Central.

He said he decided to go on exchange since his sister had gone to California three or four years ago. He

said his mother got all of the paper work and contact information for the program and all he had to do was fill out the forms and go over the details.

He said that when he was in Miami, en route to Omaha, he was held for nearly two hours because he was unaware of the fact that he needed to have his immigration documents.

He had a month he said to get the documents and return it to the immigration office in Omaha, otherwise he would be deported.

"It's a different country, powerful country," he said.

When he first came to Omaha he said that he thought it was very boring and that there wasn't anything to do. He said he missed going to a house to make a pie and dancing.

Here he said he wants to make friends and have fun.

He said hopes to form relationships with people who will want to come see him in Ecuador or invite him back here to visit once he leaves.

From his experiences in Omaha he said he wants to learn how to speak English better, form strong relationships with people and be able to walk in life by himself.

"I want to know about the culture, copy the good things, but leave the bad out," López said.

While in Omaha, he said his expectations are to find what his vocation in life is and what to study in college.

López said he is still unsure about what he wants to do after he graduates, but is thinking about going to college and studying biology, computer sounds or theater lighting.

He said he finds the classes to be interesting and he wants to learn.

Of his classes in America, he said his chemistry class is hard because he only

has lunch every other day.

"Lunch every other day, that's going to change," López said.

López said that he doesn't like how at lunch you have to wait in line or just sit down at a table.

He said he wishes that it would be more relaxed where people could get up and move about and play if they wanted too.

"Can't just go out and meet someone else," he said, "I don't understand it."

In Ecuador he said they kiss when they greet someone.

He said that here people seem "cold" and like they are always rushing around and worried, which he does not like nor understand.

López said that there are about 1,100 students at his high school in Ecuador.

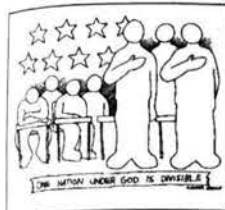
The way they act compared to American students he said is that if someone transferred there they would be welcomed by everyone and would be asked questions or asked to go hang out by everyone.

He said that he misses his friends whom he graduated with and his family.

"I wish I had my computer, do what I like and have what I like on it," López said, "I miss my music."

He said that his host family is very nice, but that he would like to have an older brother to show him around the town.

López will be in the United States for the entire school year.

**Patriotism**

The phrase 'under God' should be considered for removal from the Pledge.

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OUTLOOK

Thursday, September 26, 2002

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EVERYTHING BUT THE SINK

Paula Salhani

Classic movies destroyed by shoddy sequels

The next time consumers are in the mood for a Disney movie they are going to find "Bambi 2: Search for Mommy," "Sleeping Beauty 2: Waking Ugly," or worse "Lion King 4: More Fornication in the Jungle" lining the shelves.

Disney, with its time-honored traditions and ballyhooed characters, must be dying.

That's the only feasible explanation for the slew of ridiculous sequels being released.

Everything from "The Little Mermaid 2: Return to the Sea" to "Cinderella 2: Dreams Come True," not to mention "Lion King 2: Simba's Pride" among others that are being released on limited edition DVD.

Some Disney executive, with plastic Mickey ears permanently plastered to his head, knew none of these so-called movies would make it on the big screen, so he opted to empty the pockets of every parent with young children by putting the sequels right on the shelf.

Of course a 3-year-old kid is going to want get the movie. If I were three and saw the pretty colors and cool characters in a shiny package on a shelf, I would be all over it too.

But Disney forgot to take into consideration the feelings of die-hard fans like myself.

I loved the original movies so much I would dream about my prince coming to save me out of my playpen. I would even ride my bike up and down my block singing the theme to "The Little Mermaid" after watching it four times in a row.

But then Disney had to go and ruin it all. I thought Cinderella's dreams came true in the first movie, what more is there to fantasize about?

Not only are the sequels down right bad, they taint the younger generation. Kids no longer get to experience originality like I did. They will never get to dream about what happened after the movie ended because a greedy company had to go and make up their own endings.

Did Disney's talent pool dry out completely? Is there no more talent in the company? Maybe it's time to fire some of the old timers and bring in people with some fresh ideas.

Then maybe the company wouldn't have to get on its hands and knees and beg for money from fans.

The sequels have terrible animation, totally forgettable songs and one gets the impression that they were thrown together in about a day.

The scripts are cheesy and predictable. They are so bad, in fact, that the originals scripts end up ruined.

Sure Disney has done things the right way for many years. It wouldn't be the dynasty it is today if this wasn't true. But if it keeps going in the direction with second-rate sequels, the company is going to fade into the night.

Meanwhile, fans like myself will be wishing on a star that Disney had not insisted on slapping a Roman numeral II on everything it ever made.

IN FOR A RIDE

The second phase of the renovations is finally underway. The changes are obvious all around. Even though this may cause confusion and discomfort for some time, it will all be worth it in the long run.

Students who returned Aug. 20 probably noticed a few changes.

A huge mud pit replaced the far north entrance or the portables that have taken over half the football field.

The hill outside the new gym had been completely dug out and was filled with construction equipment.

Students probably realized that this year is going to be the start of something really big.

The renovations that began this summer are going to change Central forever.

It may get crazy, it may get uncomfortable, but it's about time.

Students, faculty and alumni have been waiting for years for these renovations.

Increased classroom space, more parking, air conditioning, better technology, and a stadium are just some of the changes. This year is the actual beginning of a whole new Central.

The administration and the contractors figured out a way to improve the school while keeping its historic appearance and integrity.

It has taken a long time for all of the pieces to come together. This is something that's about the future of the school and its students of tomorrow, not the temporary inconveniences of today.

The freshmen that began school in the midst of this mess may not realize how different things will be when it is finished.

The classes of tomorrow may not appreciate all of the changes that are going into the school. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't.

Instead of complaining about the walk to the portables, students should just appreciate the air conditioning in them.

Instead of griping about having to go the long way around to get into school, just think of how easy it will be when this is all over.

For all the seniors, instead of complaining about how there will not be any air conditioning until after you graduate, just appreciate the fact that your class reunions will be cool and comfortable.

When students returned last year, some assumed that just because there were huge trenches on the east lawn that all of the renovations would be imminent.

One year later, some may still be annoyed with the fact that the renovations are still going on. There's nothing that can be done about it.

The construction workers have been out there all summer working as hard as they can. Through the sweltering heat, the crew worked hard and long days to get this project done.

The crew is totally on schedule and should be finished on time. That's the best they can do and the bet anyone could ever ask for.

So in the meantime, it's up to the students to ride this out with patience and a little bit of understanding.

Now is not the time to complain because of the heat. Compared to previous years, this year has been downright mild so far.

The students and staff of Central are in for a real trip this year. Everyone knows what the destination is and that the journey is worth it.

Now, it's just up to those currently in the school to realize that and have a little bit of patience.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

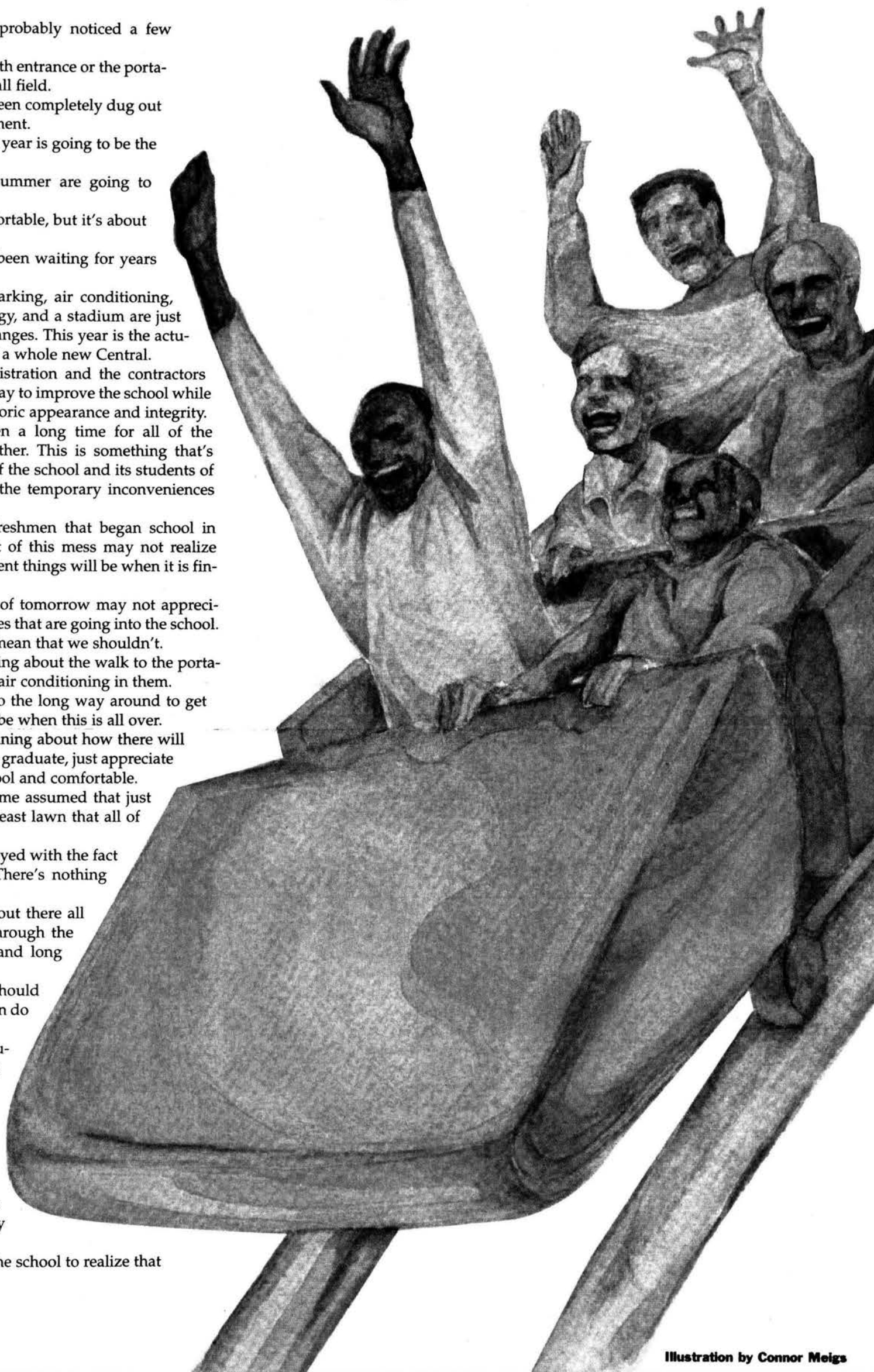


Illustration by Connor Meigs

Governor's priorities cause schools, students to suffer

Memo to Gov. Mike Johanns:

Recently there has been a lot of hoopla about how to keep students in the state when it comes to colleges.

I've got a little hint for you and all the other concerned lawmakers out there: Stop cutting school funds and more people might want to stick around.

Blame President Bush, the economy, Saddam Hussein, the Ronco guy, George Lucas, Enron (a former Central Adopt-A-School partner by the way), solo albums by members of the Backstreet Boys, WorldCom, the Internet, evil leprechauns who control Wall Street or whoever else you may please, but the state is in trouble financially. Which you, as the governor, must realize.

The mysterious sounding session of the Legislature that you called was

intended to help alleviate the poor ailing Cornhusker state. But we haven't seen anything positive from that yet now have we?



LONG STORY SHORT

Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

I guess the state government still adheres to the old medicine show way of fixing something-attach leeches that are supposed to suck out all the bad stuff, but instead take out the good stuff, like blood.

In the state's case, they slash funds all over the place, hoping to bail Nebraska out, but end up taking away the good stuff, like school funds.

I am glad that Central's renovations are secured by bond money. Otherwise it wouldn't surprise me if the backing got pulled out, leaving us with a permanent pit in front of the school.

The only upside to that would be that once the pit filled with water (which would take awhile because of that darn

drought), the swim team would finally be able to practice on campus.

In the end, it's the colleges that are going to pay. UNL, UNK, UNO, and UNMC have faced or may face major cuts. One of the reasons for this is that not enough Nebraska students stay here for college.

And you know what, cutting all of their funding and hiking tuition rates is exactly the way to get students to stay in state and pump money back into the ailing economy.

All of this cutting reflects poorly on the schools, many of which are trying to give themselves an image makeover. UNL is probably still trying to recover from media allegations of mediocre programs and an over-emphasis on athletics and UNK is trying to lose its "country" stigma.

I don't see any easy answers to this problem. This may surprise you, but I am

no good with multi-million dollar government finance. The only obvious answer is an elaborate scheme a la "I Love Lucy." Gov. Johanns, you can be Lucy and Attorney General Don Stenberg can be Ethel. Together you will throw a benefit show down at the Cabana Club and use the money to bail the state out.

But you better hope that Ricky (in our scenario played by State Treasurer Loralee Byrd) doesn't find out. You know he does not like Lucy trying to be in the show!

Once the money comes through and things start running more smoothly in the Capital, I can guarantee more high school graduates will stay in state. As much as we all complain about Nebraska at one time or another, a lot of people genuinely like it here.

So once that happens Gov. Johanns, everything will be all right. But you better hope that it's soon.

Or you'll have a lot of splainin' to do!

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Money surplus or morality drain?

A proposal in the Legislature would allow for legalized gambling, including video slot machines in certain establishments. Opinions on the topic range from ecstatic support to vehement insistence that it will lead to a lack of morals and a rise in gambling addiction in the state.

■ Find another way to make money

Gambling will lead to heartache in Nebraska

If video slots are brought into the state, gambling addictions will increase, affecting families all over the heartland.

Parents would gamble away paychecks, house payments, insurance payments, and so on. In turn, these same parents would no longer be able to provide basic needs for

their children, for school or anything else. It's a sad cycle. How's little Sara supposed to concentrate on her school work if her parents are fighting this addiction?

Furthermore, these machines would fail to drastically increase the economic well-being of state. In fact, any financial benefits would be outweighed by the negatives that gambling would bring.

Some people who want the video machines say the money generated from the slots would help pull the Cornhusker state out of debt.

The revenue generated by these machines would not even come close to putting a dent in its deficit.

Other supporters believe that the money from video slot machines could mean more money for the schools. This is not the case. South Dakota put in slot machines and ended up having to raise taxes, which in turn left less money for schools.

Another component to their argument is that the money earned by Nebraskans would stay in the state.

People would not have to go out of state to spend their hard-

earned dollars on gambling. They could become addicted right here. That's nice. That's not a benefit to students, teachers, or anybody.

How much money will go to treating these people?

There are numerous self-help programs in Nebraska that provide help for compulsive gamblers, but not enough quality ser-

vices to keep up with the demand if these slots land here. More machines mean more people with addictions to gambling. It's as simple as that. That price is too high for the state and its people to pay.

Once video slot machines are placed in Nebraska, the public and Legislature will crave more because it will appear that these machines will be a quick fix and a big money maker.

A quick look under the surface would reveal all the social problems that come with gambling and taking the easy way out of fixing a problem.

There are more important things in life than money. If fathers are not at home being role models because they are out gambling, what's the benefit?

Do the people of a state, which is known for its high values, want to be known at the "Little Las Vegas"? Probably not. Yes, the educational system in this country needs more money. Teachers need to be paid more.

Programs all over the country are being cut because funding has dried up. Is that a reason to make any deal to get some of that money?

Find another way.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

■ Gambling provides revenue

Video slots will fill gap in state budget

Nebraskans seem to have some problems figuring out what their priorities are.

Video slots could be one of the best pick-me-ups Nebraska has had in years.

The revenue brought in from the slots could help Nebraska's quickly dying economy.

In times such as these when the stock market is gasping for breath and states cannot afford to pay for their schools, people should thank their lucky stars for anything that can bring in money.

The city of Omaha is a great example of what is going on in the state in terms of budgets and finances.

The city cannot afford to pay its workers. It promised raises to hundreds of its employees, but sadly they will not see a dime for years.

There is also a hiring freeze for any government position with the city. This means that not only do employees receive less money than promised, they also have to do the work of the positions that cannot be filled.

Omaha's public schools are suffering. Restrictions on the budgets have led to restricted summer schools and a lack of books and other supplies for the students during the regular school year.

Not to mention the fact that the people who have the power to mold the future are being paid an embarrassing amount of money. Teachers are receiving very little despite the fact that the state is

practically begging people to become teachers.

When supply is low, price goes up. It's basic economics.

If Nebraska does not put in these slots, then citizens will just go a few miles to Iowa's river boats to spend the money that

could be Nebraska's. Instead of giving money to other states, Nebraska should get the video slots to help its unhealthy economy.

If people think that bringing video slots to a few bars will lead to the moral downfall of Nebraska then they must have some sort of tunnel vision.

There has been gambling in Nebraska for years.

The state lottery takes in millions every year and there has been a thriving keno business for many years.

If people can let these multi-million-dollar-making business slide by their moral radar then why not a few video slots?

The fact that people will let children go uneducated, workers go unpaid and much needed programs be cut from the budget is sickening.

The state could raise taxes, but that would make very few people happy.

Legalized gambling is a way to get more money flowing without having to take it out of the working person's pocket.

For the greater good, such as a healthy economy, bring on the slots and the thousands of dollars that come with them.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff



the Central High School REGISTER

The Omaha Central High School *Register* seeks to inform its readers accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance. The staff strives to uphold the principles and ethics of journalism, such as professionalism, accuracy and honesty in all of its proceedings.

The *Register* is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), Quill and Scroll and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

In past years, the *Register* has been awarded a National Pacemaker from NSPA and a Cornhusker from NHSPA on several occasions.

In the spring of 2001, the paper was awarded a Best-of-Show prize at the JEA/NSPA National Conference in San Francisco. The following fall, the staff repeated this at the Boston conference, winning two Best-of-Shows, one for large school paper and one for specialty paper. In the spring of 2002, the paper won its third consecutive Best-of-Show large paper award at the JEA/NSPA conference in Phoenix.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the *Register* staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the students of Central High School or its faculty.

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Letters must include the author's full name and grade.

The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

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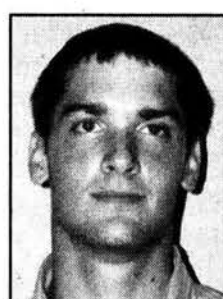
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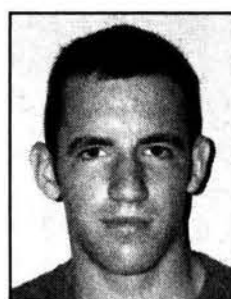
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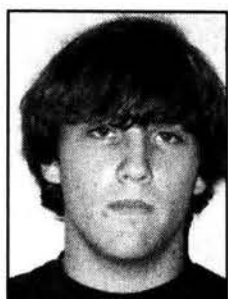
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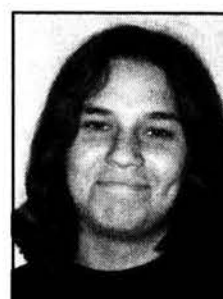
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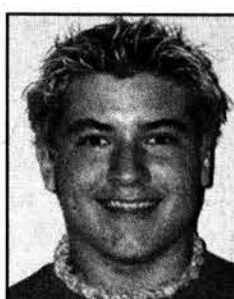
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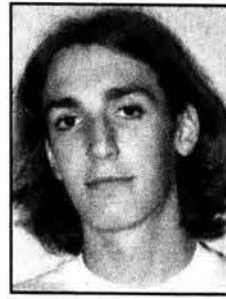
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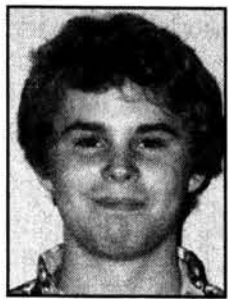
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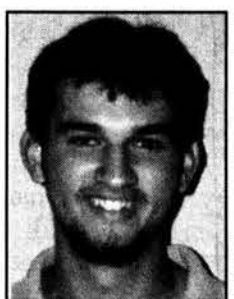
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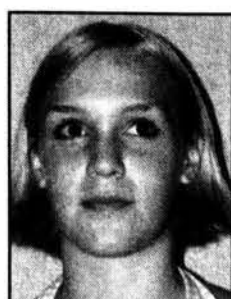
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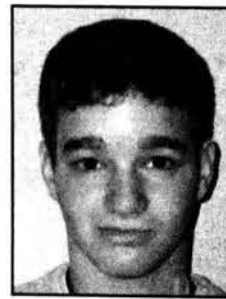
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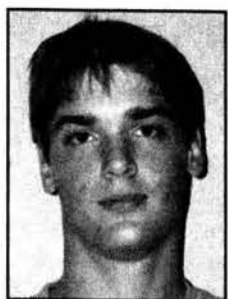
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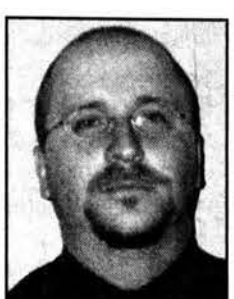
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A PLEDGE FOR ALL?

The Pledge of Allegiance inadvertently makes some students feel uncomfortable by including the phrase "under God." By removing this phrase, the government could make more citizens feel like they belong.

The Pledge of Allegiance is meant to be a unifying oath that makes every American feel like part of something bigger.

So it would be to the greater benefit of the country to eliminate a little two word phrase that makes many feel excluded.

At least that would be the logical assumption.

But when that two word phrase is "under God," that logic goes out the window.

EDITORIAL

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Register staff

Religion is one of the factors that some people believe defines them. Thus, they

take religion, and the integration of religion into everyday life, very seriously.

So when the idea of removing one small bit of religion comes into play, people can get very defensive.

Before anyone gets defensive, just step back and realize that not everyone who has a religion believes in just one God, or in any tangible God at all.

So all those who reacted with anger and fury at this summer's California Circuit Court decision that the phrase "under God" is unconstitutional should just take a second and think about how omitting those two little words might make a world of difference to those who feel intimidated by them.

Go into any homeroom on any morning and see how many students are not saying the Pledge.

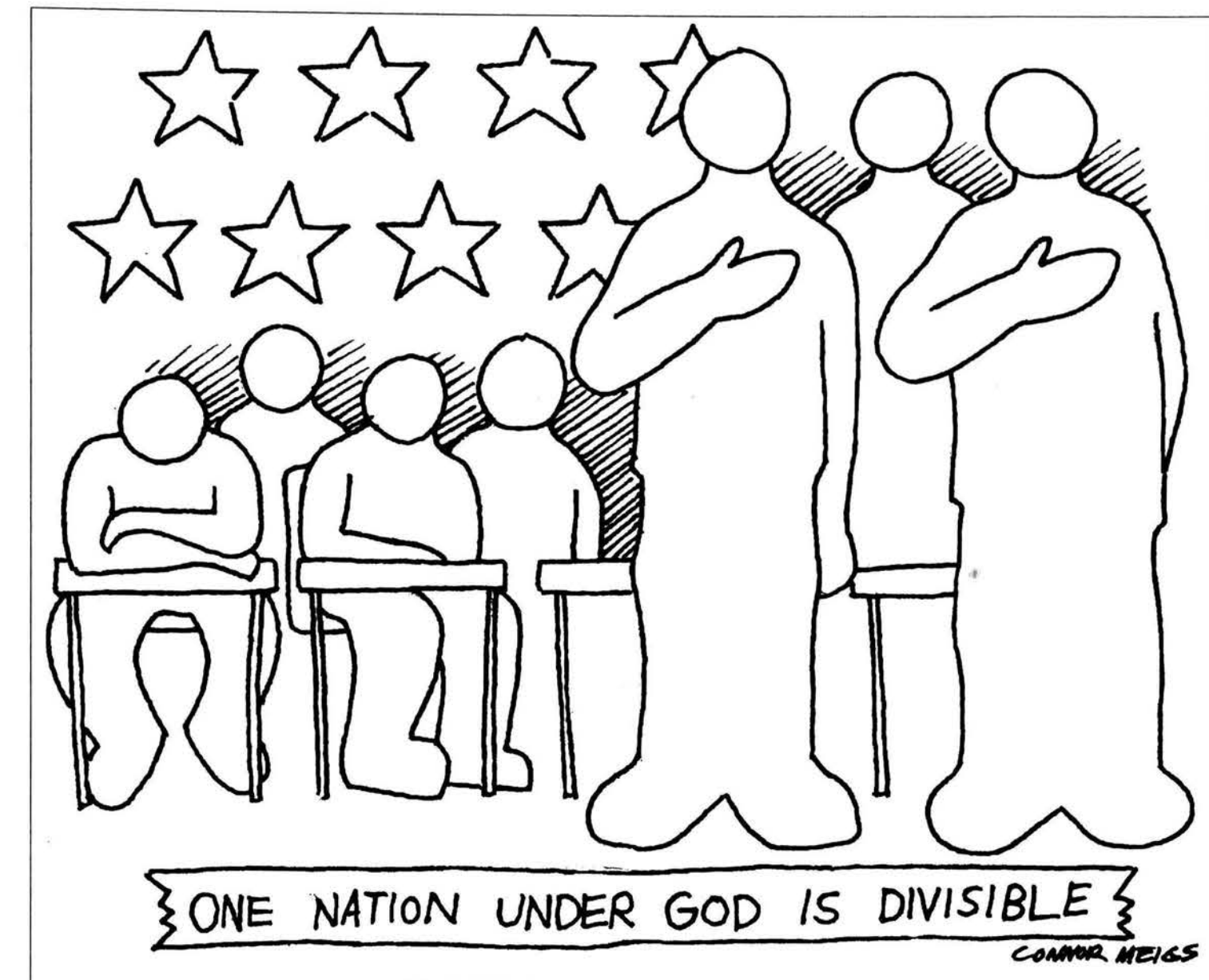
Some of them may have religious conflicts with saying any sort of oath or pledge.

Some may not be citizens.

Some may not feel comfortable swearing allegiance to a god they do not believe in.

Whatever the reason, many people have beliefs that restrict them from making any oath to any god.

So if the phrase "under God" was removed from the Pledge, all of those who



felt uncomfortable saying it would join in.

The idea that America was founded as a Christian nation and therefore should carry out Christian ideals and values is not totally without merit.

Our founding fathers were Christians and many of our laws are based on Christian beliefs.

The line should be drawn at bringing a Christian god into the daily routine of every American. In any given homeroom, there is bound to be one stu-

dent who believes in everything that the Pledge of Allegiance idealizes-except for the idea of a god.

The phrase wasn't even added into the Pledge until a wave of post-WWII McCarthyism inspired the country into adding it to prove that America was a wholesome and God-fearing nation, unlike our supposed enemies.

But now in the twenty first century, we have grown past reactionary responses aimed at targeting a perceived unknown threat.

We have grown past the idea that there is one God that everyone should pray and worship to.

We have grown past the idea that everyone should be forced to go along with the whim of the majority, especially when it is a violation of the Constitutional rights of the people.

Now is the time for logic and reason.

If logic and reason constitute making a large group slightly unhappy so a smaller group can feel at home in its country, then that is the way it will have to be.

Video store encounter shocks, teaches lesson

The next time you're shopping for your favorite video, browse with caution, you may get more than you paid for.

I never knew video stores were places to find dates until a stranger propositioned me at one.

I wouldn't necessarily recommend going about finding a date that way due to the inherent creepiness of accosting preoccupied video renters, but one should always keep options open.

It's possible there is some formula or etiquette to picking up dates while renting movies.

Unfortunately, I don't know them.

All I can recount is how one should not go about meeting new people, unless you're looking for some sort of sexual predator, that is.

It began as any mundane movie renting experience. I quickly picked out a movie and then commenced waiting in line until I could pay and be ushered out.

As I was walking out the door, a man, who appeared to be in his 30s or 40s, helpfully handed me a receipt that he said

I had dropped.

I didn't think anything of it at the time until I was almost to my friend's car when I realized I hadn't dropped my receipt.

What was the receipt the man gave me for then?

I looked at the front and it looked just like any normal receipt, then I randomly turned the piece of paper over and examined some scrawling.

It read something along the lines of:

"I think you're hot.
Call me."

With his phone number written below

About this time I was running frantically to get to the safety of my friends car.

As I slowed my pace to a moderate sprint, I began to reassess the situation.

Maybe the man was only informing me about how the adverse weather conditions seemed to be affecting my appearance.

His phone number could have been added for me to report back to him with

my opinion.

Possibly he just mistook me for a woman. Then again, maybe not.

I doubt his "move" would have been appropriate in any situation.

I wasn't thinking that clearly though, so I didn't consider asking him about his intentions, instead I jumped into my friend's car to hide.

Once inside I ducked my head behind the dashboard, sporadically checking to see if the man who had given me that undesirable note of affection had left.

Finally my friend came out of the video store. To my astonishment, the man was leaving the store, walking immediately behind her.

Fortunately though, he went to his car in the opposite direction.

Suddenly I realized that there was a little girl walking hand in hand with the man.

Now any combination of three things happened. One, the man finally acquired a date, possibly even a hostage. Two, the man had a daughter.

And finally, maybe he had an extremely prepubescent looking

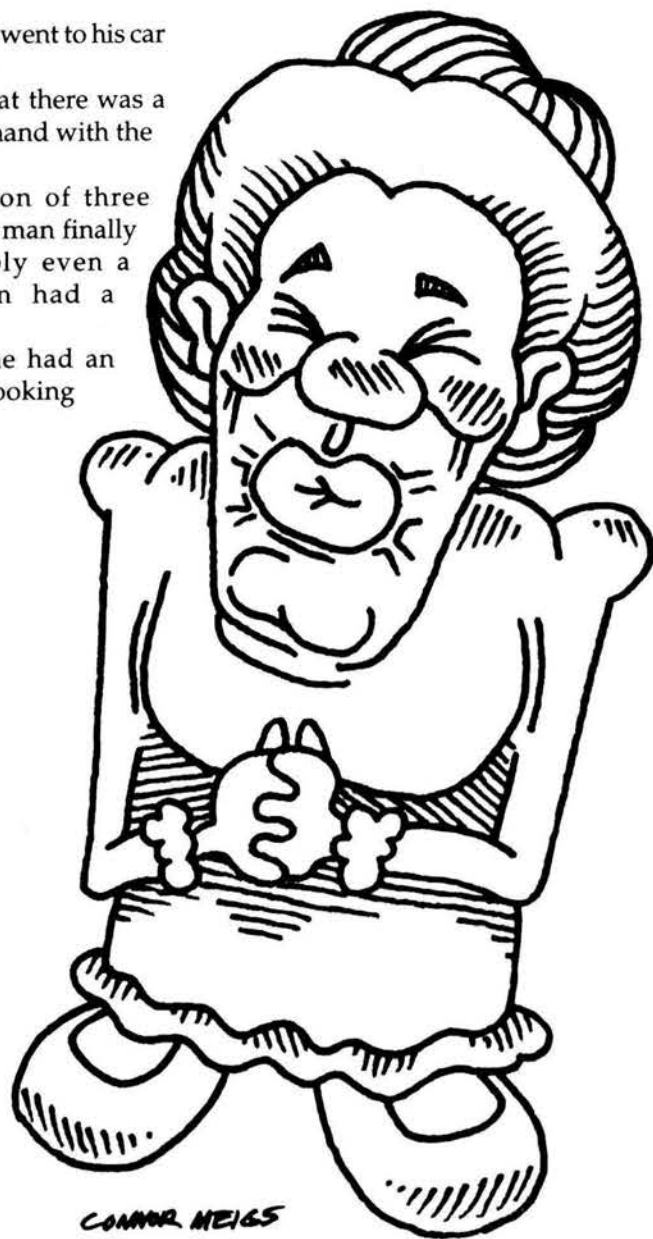
wife.

I really don't know which situation is more frightening. Either way the whole situation was very uncomfortable.

In retrospect running away from a possibly affectionate father figure may not have been socially acceptable.

I doubt if an attractive woman propositioned me I would have been startled, at least in the same way. All I know is that I wasn't exactly shopping for an new kind of lifestyle.

Maybe if you're looking to meet new and interesting people, video stores would be a good place to shop, but I wouldn't recommend doing it.



LIKE A PARASITE

Sara Rips

Trouble with math makes life difficult

I have a math problem for you. What is $365 + 435$?

Well, actually math is a problem for me so I may have trouble helping you find the solution to this easy problem.

That's my point.

I have never been able to grasp mathematical concepts. All throughout my childhood I have struggled with the ability to compute equations.

Whether it would be geometry, algebra, or even the basic addition problem. I have always had a hard time solving problems.

When I was in elementary school it was very easy to cover up my lack of mathematical skills. It was just memorize and repeat.

But as I began to ascend into the world of higher mathematics, it just wasn't easy anymore. When one works with higher levels of math, one needs something called mathematical reasoning. I don't have that.

If we were to take a test in algebra I would usually be able to follow the logic of the order of operations. But if the problems involved multiple steps I would begin to get confused.

Eventually I would manage to figure out the problem, but only after the test was finished.

In geometry, you have to do proofs. With proofs you have to write out each step and explain what you did.

Great! That's exactly what a kid who can't understand even simple math equations wants.

Ugh! Since I could never remember what proof applied to what, I would just make up proofs.

Now some people may be thinking that I am over exaggerating my poor math skills, but believe you me, my math skills truly are poor.

My sister will sometimes ask me to help her with her eighth grade math homework, by the time I have a semblance of an answer, she is already off watching "Ren and Stimpy."

Last year we took the Work Keys Test. For those of you who haven't yet had the joy of taking this delightful test, it is basically the pre-ACTs. When I got the tests back, I anxiously looked at my scores. I wish I could tell you the variance between the verbal and math sections, but let us just say that no guidance counselor has ever mentioned the word engineering to me.

When I grow up, if I do, I would like to be a movie director. I hope it is a relatively math-free job. I know I will struggle over the differences between 16mm and 35mm film. This can be quite a problem when one is trying to load a camera, for there is supposedly quite a size difference.

There must be a lot of people on studio lots who can't add. Artistic types who work in the movie industry get around their math problems by hiring accountants and business managers. Unfortunately, they often defraud their clients and run off with the money.

I eventually plan to get married, settle down and have 2.4 kids. As my children grow up they will begin to require help for their math homework. I will be able to help my children until they reach eighth grade.

This column is supposed to be over 600 words, but my computer is so archaic that it does not have a spell check. I have to add each word individually.

I have counted this whole thing about four times, but I keep getting different numbers. Once I got 234, then I got 565, another time I got some weird symbol. Can somebody help me?

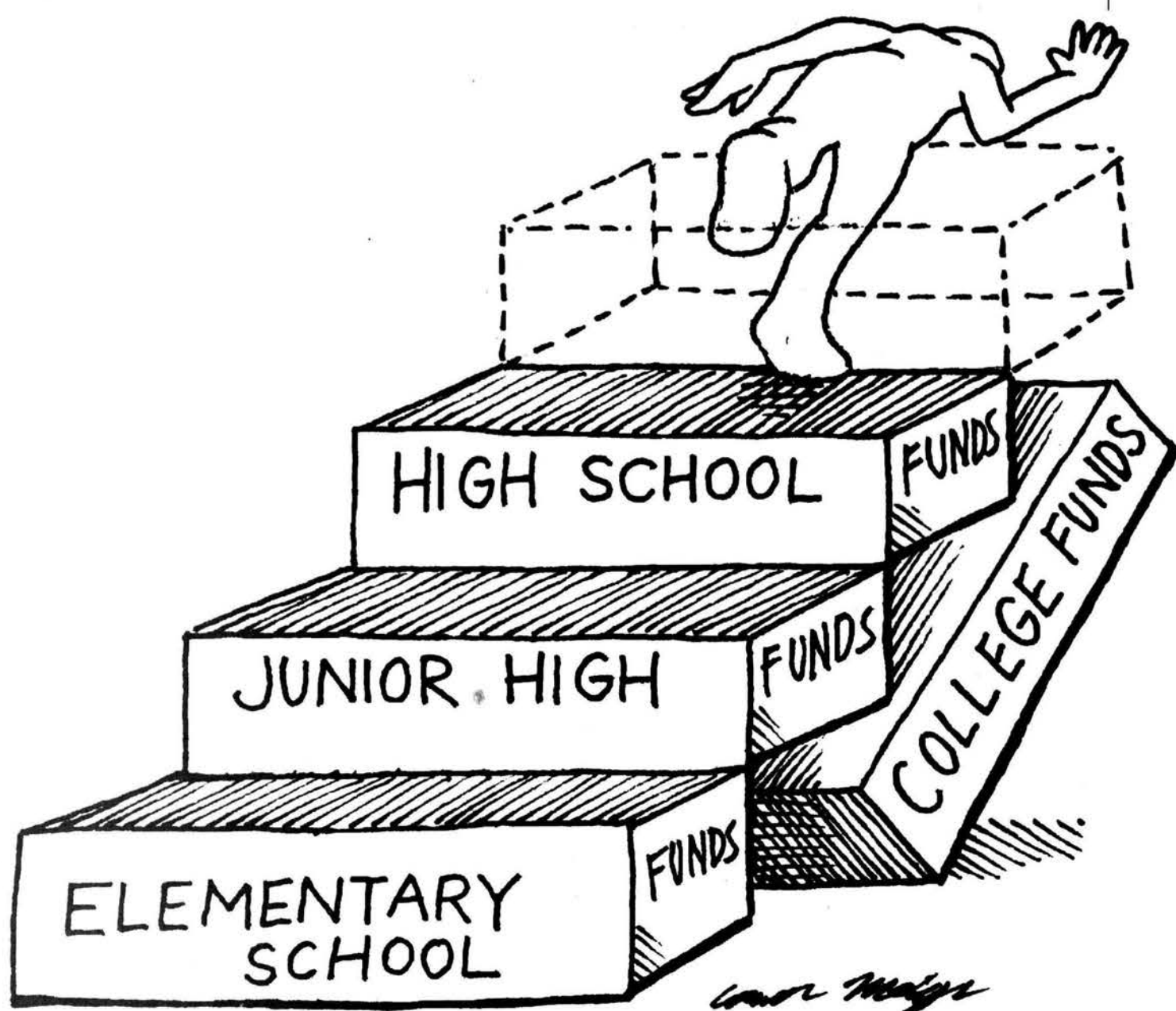
Top Ten Worst Places to Find a Date

1. Rash ointment aisle in the convenience mart, right next to the duct tape and motor oil
2. Self-help seminar for repeated sex offenders
3. Al Qaida training camp
4. **Your grandmother's retirement home (illustration at right)**
5. Elmwood Park restrooms after dark
6. The corner of 24th St.
7. Church Confessional-especially when neither one of you is a priest
8. Your imaginary friend's house
9. National Association of Pimps meeting
10. Police lineup

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



Mr. Jerry Bexten
Principal
Matt Deabler
Adviser
Paula Salhany
Editor in chief
Kaitlin Jessing-Butz
Editorial Editor

Budget cuts too deep

Taking money away from Nebraska colleges will chase students away. They will want to go to a university where valuable programs are not cut.

It only makes sense. If state officials want to keep the brightest students in Nebraska's colleges, deep budget cuts are not the answer.

Other negative effects of these cuts would be teacher lay-offs, delayed renovations and continued reduction in education quality.

Nebraska is in debt and state officials do not want anger to citizens by raising taxes. A proposal to raise the tax on cigarettes did not go over well for some reason.

School board committees have recommended budget cuts estimated at \$20 million from Nebraska Universities (NU) and \$750,000 from state colleges over the next two years.

Every state college and university will be affected by these cuts. The number and variety of majors and classes will have to be reduced.

Future Nebraska students will quickly lose interest in any college or university in the Cornhusker state.

As enrollment and funding decrease, certain faculty positions will have to be eliminated.

Qualified professors will go to states where higher education is valued and salaries are decent.

Colleges and universities would also have to raise tuition. The money has to come from somewhere. Students will be paying more for less.

In a proposed example from the Legislature, a state college per credit hour fee which now costs \$69.75, would cost \$87.25 per credit hour with the budget cuts. This \$17.50 price hike is only for state colleges.

Many students will begin to investigate out-of-state schools with better programs and more reasonable tuition rates after they see how the Nebraska educational system is changing.

To some students, paying out-of-state tuition and going through the hassle and expense of moving is worth the

increased program quality.

NU and state colleges will lose sizeable amounts of future undergraduates, starting a potentially never-ending cycle.

Once high school graduates leave the state, all university enrollments drop, cutting how much money the schools get through tuition charges.

Nebraska is not a very populated state to begin with, so a mass exodus of young people could be crippling to not only the state's university and college program, but the economy as a whole.

If this goes on for long enough, Nebraska could be reduced to a ghost state.

The only way to keep kids here is to keep the state's universities and colleges healthy and competitive, so that they draw in more out-of-state students, as well as keeping native Nebraskans here.

Nebraska needs to remember if you spend more you will get more. So if Nebraska is in debt, investing in education should be a priority.

Not only is it the logical thing to do, but it will aid the entire state's financial recovery.

The Legislature should realize cutting away from the education of the future would damage more areas and people than assist the irresponsibility that created the debt.

As of now the only way that comes to mind to solve the tax issue is to tax the inane items more instead of any educational resource. Nebraska should not disturb education of any level for extra money.

A quality education is priceless, and no one should ever be tempted to suck money away from it.

Investing money in higher education is not just a gift to the school, it is an investment in the state's future.

So if the citizens of Nebraska would rather settle for a second class educational system than pay a few more pennies for a pack of cigarettes, than that is their problem. But the Legislature should know better than that. Its responsibility is to think in the best interest of the state.

If the Legislature were thinking, it would want the best education offered in its own state.

EDITORIAL

.....
The opinion of the
Register staff

Rewards await new principal

Welcome to Central High School Mr. Jerry Bexten.

Welcome to the largest school in the state of Nebraska.

Welcome to the middle of multimillion dollar construction project.

Welcome to a new chapter in

Central's history, a history that dates back to the founding of the Nebraska territory.

Some might call you crazy for coming in during the most complicated years the school has faced.

Besides renovations, you must now deal with ever-increasing enrollment and ever-decreasing funds.

All of the old rules are out the window. No administrator has ever been in charge of Central in this state of disarray.

You will probably face things you never would have believed you would have to. But your years of experience will help you do the right thing.

Moving from a school with fewer than 1,000 students to one with nearly 2,700 students must be a challenge. Luckily you have a wonderful support staff and faculty to help you along the way.

In many ways, you are very lucky, Mr. Bexten.

You will be around for the unveiling of the new renovations and additions that will become the new face of the school.

You will be the first principal to work with all the new technology that will be added to the school.

You also have the benefit of being part of the new community partnership between Central, Creighton and

Joslyn.

This means that you will get to be the principal who can say he was a part of a downtown rejuvenation.

You will get to see the opening of Central's first stadium, an addition that will change the school forever.

You will also get to share in our school's numerous glories. From athletics to academics, Central has some of most talented students around.

All of these achievements will reflect well on your leadership.

Conversely, there will inevitably be something that portrays the school in a negative light.

It will be up to you to provide the support your students need to move beyond it. So the old saying is true, you must take the good with the bad. But in a place like Central High School, the good far outweighs the bad.

In short Mr. Bexten, you are beginning what is sure to be a life-changing experience.

You are in charge of leading Nebraska's biggest school through its biggest changes yet. This is a task that few would ever consider undertaking.

We wish you the best.

Rudeness tarnishes school experience

Opening doors, saying thank you, smiling and a nod of the head are courteous gestures to acknowledge someone's presence.

None of them take much effort and the tiniest gesture could make someone's day.

In society today the majority of people are just flat out rude or do not care about anyone but themselves.

Rarely, does anyone hold the door open for someone, who may have their hands full or hear someone say "excuse me", "please", "thank-you" or "you're welcome."

Now all that is spoken and heard are derogatory comments about how someone is an expletive name because they are not the same as the person talking the trash.

People are able to freely and kindly acknowledge their boy/ girlfriends and people of the same "social clique," but if it just happens to be a teacher who gave them a bad grade or a kid looking to have a friend they turn away.

A prime example of pure rudeness happens at school everyday.

When I was walking to one of my classes, I was about to pass through a doorway when I saw another girl heading towards me.

Everybody knows what's going to happen next.

I thought she would notice what doorway I was go-

ing to pass through and then move to another doorway, but she continued walking straight ahead.

When she got to the doorway she slammed the door in my face while laughing and proceeding to walk on without apologizing.

Come on, what did I ever do to this girl to get a door slammed in my face and not even receive some sort of an apology?

What she did can be considered rude and inconsiderate. I could have

been rude right back at her by yelling at her, but I saw no point in doing that.

Sometimes people just have to let things roll off their backs and keep things going without letting people get to them.

It's not easy to let everything go, but people could try to not take things so personally.

The excuse of having a bad day can only go so far. Everyone has bad days, but it is not an excuse to trample over people you see that day.

No one can be perfect and considerate all of the time, but everyone could work on it.

People should evaluate how they treat others, but before they can do that they need to notice how they treat themselves.

Actions can speak louder than words, so take the time and effort to acknowledge someone who is different.

Something could come out of it.

Everyone should be given a chance. It isn't right to shoot down someone's self-esteem because they are different.

HEROES & ZEROS

-Freshmen Day

Once again, freshmen day allowed new students to get acquainted with the school before the other students arrived. This was a smart move on the school's part, allowing its newest students to feel more comfortable and less tense on their first day. This change also allowed upperclassmen to get one more day of vacation.

-Early Dismissal Days

The early dismissals at the start of September showed that the district and the administrators were finally understanding all that Central students go through. As pupils in the only unair-conditioned school in OPS, Central kids finally got a break.

-New Locker Rules

This year because of changes in school fee policy, students were no longer required to have a hall locker. Those who chose to get a locker were no longer required to share with a person in the same homeroom. This eliminated the confusion of assigning lockers and searching for a partner.

-Extra Police Presence

For the first few days of school, students were greeted with police officers on horseback, extra officers in cruisers and plain clothes officers wearing bulletproof vests. Whatever the reason there may have been for having the extra enforcement, it did nothing but make students feel alienated and agitated.

-Vouchers

A Supreme Court ruling over the summer paved the way for vouchers in public schools. Though there is no imminent threat of a voucher program being put in place in Nebraska, but the idea that it could happen is scary. Vouchers only serve to take away money from public schools that desperately need it.

-Overcrowded Hallways

Between students stopping to talk in the middle of the hallway and others trying to make their way in and out of the building to get to portables, overcrowding is worse than ever this year.

Letters to the editor
Columns
Register your opinion
Political cartoons

OPINION

"Maybe teenagers just aren't interested in sports that don't involve big sweaty boys tackling one another"

Courtney Thomas, 10

The Big Issue: Renovations

Portables let students cool off

Dear Editor,
At first sight, all I could picture was walking through knee deep snow with no time to grab a coat.

Everyone has a different opinion on the portables. Mine is pretty much made of both upsides and downsides.

I mean sure, it isn't any fun to have to go from P3 to Trigonometry class up to 415 for Physics, but it really is no different from having a gym class.

Besides you get a chance to breathe some fresh air and sit in a cool, private classroom. Even though the hospital smell hits you the second you walk up the ramp and reach the door, you get to experience man's greatest creation, A.C. So for those of you who are not lucky enough to attend class in an air conditioned portable, you'll get your revenge on those rainy and freezing cold winter days when the rest of us have to trudge down to the turf and back.

Hollie Engdahl, 11

Lack of air causes distraction

Dear Editor,
I don't feel that any school should be without air conditioning. Central is one of the few schools without air conditioning. At the beginning of the school year, it is hotter inside than out. It is always higher than 90 degrees in the afternoon on the fourth floor. I feel when the temperatures are this high, it changes

the learning environment. It is hard to concentrate in the heat. Sometimes, it's even hard to stay awake when it is too hot.

Central is a college preparatory school and we should do all we can to perfect the learning environment. If we need dress codes and rules of that nature to keep us focused, then why don't we have air conditioning?

We can be let out early, but then we'll have to make it up in summer when it is hot again and teachers accomplish very little with a 20 minute class period.

We need air conditioning.

Patricia Dunn, 11

Overcrowding only worsens heat

Dear Editor,
I really wish that the air conditioning would be finished fairly soon. The heat outside is not really that big of a deal, but with the number of bodies in the classrooms and hallways, it feels like it is 15 degrees hotter than it really is. Some of the teachers have fans in their rooms and that helps a little bit.

Jessica Sheridan, 10

Space only problem with portables

Dear Editor,
The portables are a great addition to Central. The only downside is the amount of space they take up. Other than that everything's fine

Lindy Myers, 10



Illustration by CONNOR MEIGS/THE REGISTER

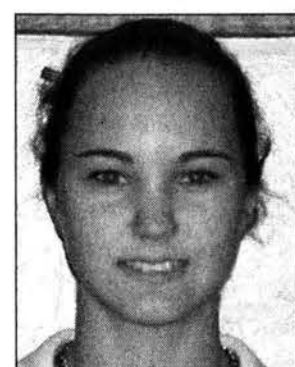
REGISTER YOUR OPINION

When you entered Central, what was the first thing that crossed your mind when you saw all of the renovations?



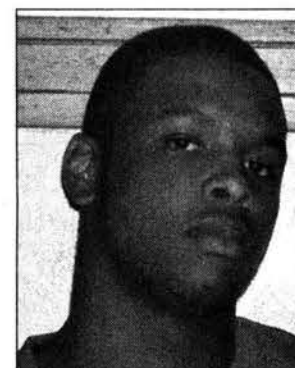
"It's a different experience. It's messed up right now, but it's going to have a good outcome later."

Madalyn Johnson, 10



"I was amazed. Since it is my first year, I was overwhelmed."

Melanie Sehr, 9



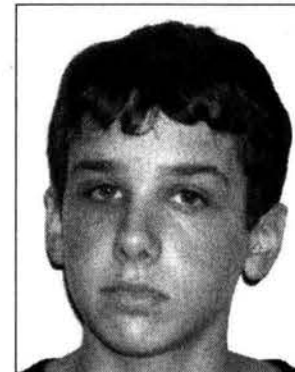
"Central looks beat up right now. It looks different then when I came here my freshman year."

Brandon Teamer, 12



"I thought it was noisy and everything was going to be in the way."

Tabatha Graham, 9



"It is my first year. I haven't been here, I don't really know what the school looks like."

Max Marrcell, 9



"I didn't want to get my shoes dirty because of all the mud that's out there."

Andrew Buffkins, 9

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES AND POLLS

Paper was not properly recognized

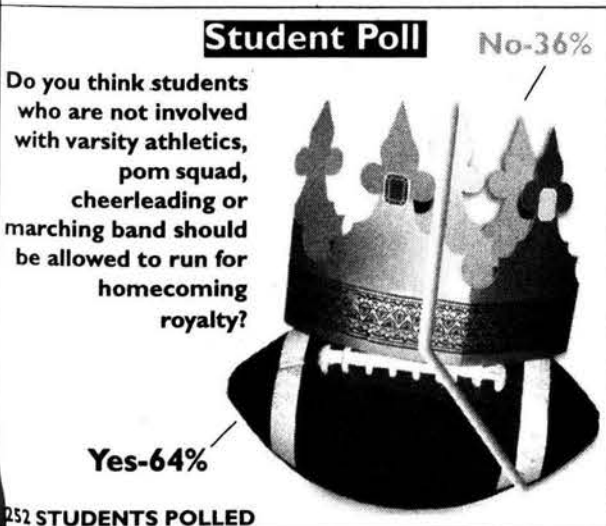
Dear Editor,
Last year, the *Register* made many notable accomplishments, most of which went relatively unnoticed because of a few incidents which were blown far out of proportion.

I'm hoping this year that people will realize the good the *Register* brings to Central and not get caught up in negativity.

It's one thing to have an award-winning sports team, it's another thing entirely to have a top-ranked academic program.

I hope the *Register* has another successful year and receives the credit it sorely deserves.

Michael Gerhardt, Graduate, Class of 2001



Women's tennis needs recognition

Dear Editor,
I am upset over the lack of recognition woman's tennis received last spring. Not a single announcement was made about any of our matches.

At the end of the season there was one that went something like 'Congratulations woman's tennis...'

and that was it.

I don't understand why there are 10 million announcements about football and basketball games, but for us to even be acknowledged is a chore in itself.

Maybe teenagers just aren't interested in sports that don't involve sweaty boys tackling one another.

For the record, tennis requires endurance, focus, agility and vigor among many other skills. It is a sport and deserves just as much recognition as all of the others.

Courtney Thomas, 10

Club offers fun, involvement for all

Dear Editor,
Do you know what Latino Leaders is? It is a club to make friends and help the community.

We have people from different countries and different cultures. We are like a family. We do important stuff and we also have fun. I love it. It's great to learn

a little about every culture.

This is not a club for Latinos or Spanish speaking people only. This is a club for everyone who wants to go beyond their knowledge and learn more about other cultures.

We need new people, people who will really love to be there.

I also think that the *Register* should cover a little bit more about Latino Leaders.

In May of 2002, we won a second place prize and nobody knew about it. We do a lot of things for the community and nobody knows about it. We do it because we love to do it.

Everyone that wants to be in the Latino Leaders club could join us. You'll love it.

We have our meetings most of the time on Wednesday after school in room 119 or just listen in the announcements.

Leandra Cartagena, 10

Athletes focus too much on money

Dear Editor,

There is a problem with people's morals today, it's all about money. As our economy continues to go down, baseball player's salaries keep going up.

What's going on?

What happened to our past-time? As their salaries go up, so does the price of concessions and tickets.

An average working man would use half of a paycheck to get his family into the stands.

What is all the fuss about?

It is plain out selfish of the players. If the strike date had carried out, they would have forever lost this fan and probably millions more.

Dennis Whelan, 10

Outlook for football looks bright

Dear Editor,

As we all know, the varsity football team has the toughest schedule in the state this season with games against Creighton, Millard North, Millard West and Lincoln Southeast. Some people believe that this year's team is not as good as last year's. Sure we don't have big names like Jamar Dorsey or David Horne, but I believe we will have a better season than some think.

I believe we could go the whole season with only one loss. I believe we have a better team this year. With names like Gunn, Pederson, Grixby, Friend, Falkner, and last but not least, Brandon Teamer, we can have just as good of a team.

The last couple of seasons have been let down by the kicking game, with kickers missing extra points and losing games for us. This year we have a couple of good kickers and I believe the kicking game will not be a problem. Finally, I believe this team can cause troubles for other teams.

Joseph Medeiros, 11

Parking in need of serious changes

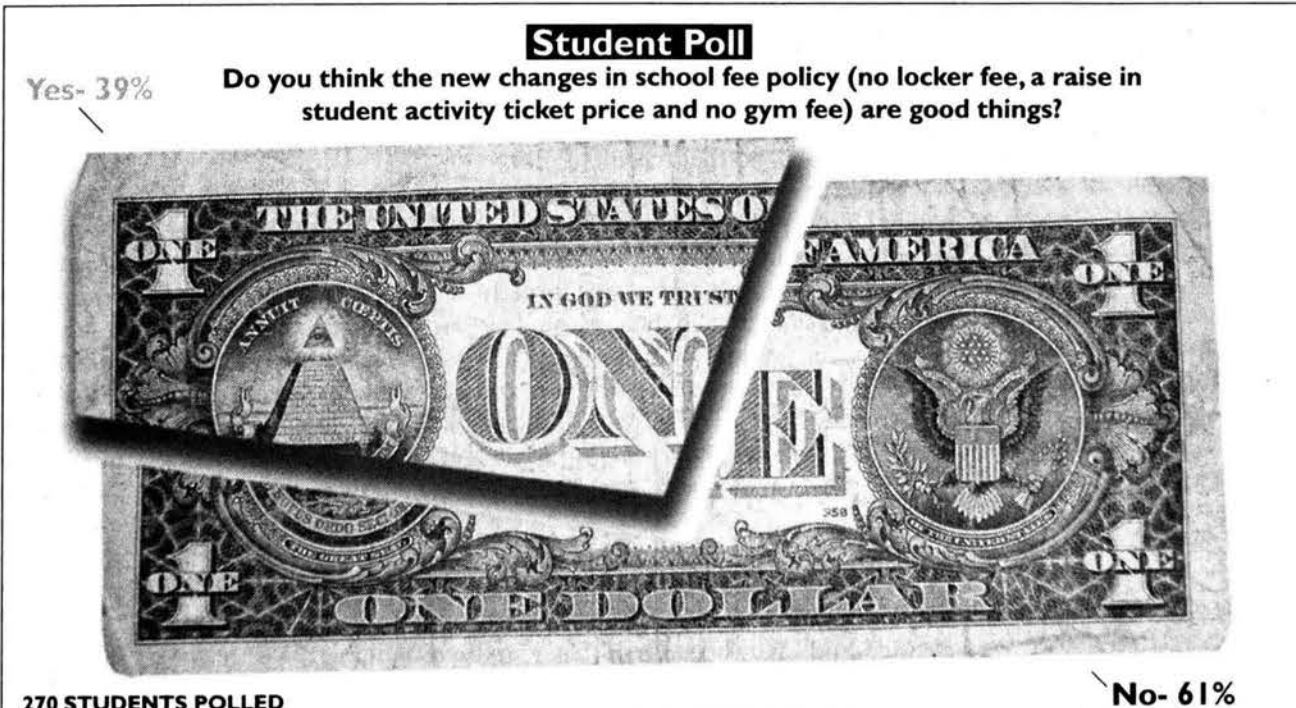
Dear Editor,

I disagree with the way our neighbors around school charge for or don't allow for student parking in empty areas or lots that don't get filled.

It is sad that this is such a good school for learning and getting ahead in life, but if you have to drive to school you have to be here by six in the morning to get a spot for free.

The school and neighbors around us should donate spots for the students who are passing all of their classes and have a part time job. Many people have to work to pay bills and don't have parents who can drive them to school and back or across the city to be at work at a certain time.

Salvador Piña, 11



Freshman year apathy blocks road to Oxford

I will never go to Oxford. I failed my second semester of Honors World Geography my freshman year.

I blame seniors. Many people of good authority have told me that one cannot attend such a prestigious university after he's failed a class.

What I fear the Oxford University Admissions Office will never understand is the specific extenuating circumstances that lead up to my reprehensibly low grade.

I contend to this very day that I was a victim of these circumstances and I feel that others could learn from my bad luck.



THE FIRST DRAFT

John Owens-Ream

I took ill during the second semester of my ninth grade experience, a combination of ills to be specific.

You see, I began the semester already affected by what I like to call severe homeworkitis.

When left untreated this disease can develop into many others, including the well-documented phenomena of senioritis, not to mention severe apathy for the relevance of any of the things that my teachers were attempting to teach me.

Either of these diseases alone were manageable, and even together they would not lead to such catastrophic events as failing classes.

Unfortunately, I was also plagued by some substantially more real diseases.

A bout with mono, followed only a short time later by the flu, caused me to miss more than one-fifth of my classes that semester.

Ms. Roberts, God bless her and her basketball team, my teacher for the class, allowed me many opportunities to make up my missing work.

Nonetheless, with an all honors load I found World Geography taking a back seat to classes that meant more to me.

Any class that spent an entire year pounding the "fact" that

America's greatest resource is its people (this question appeared on the midterm, the final and a few other tests) didn't seem to equal in importance classes such as English which actually laid the foundation for written and spoken word and is therefore more than merely essential to my survival.

My grades that semester were a paradox to even myself. The harder the class, the more important it was to me.

That should have been a sign right there.

The more important it was, the harder I worked to make sure that I did well and made up my

work.

The harder I worked, the higher my grade.

There truly was an inverse relation to how hard the class was, and how well I did in it. Classes such as World Geography and Pathways 21 fell through the cracks.

In retrospect I hope I learned something, my morsel of information I can pass onto all the inexperienced freshmen who are hopelessly lacking direction. I give you only five words: "Don't hang out around seniors."

Senioritis (or the underclassmen version: homeworkitis) is completely contagious.

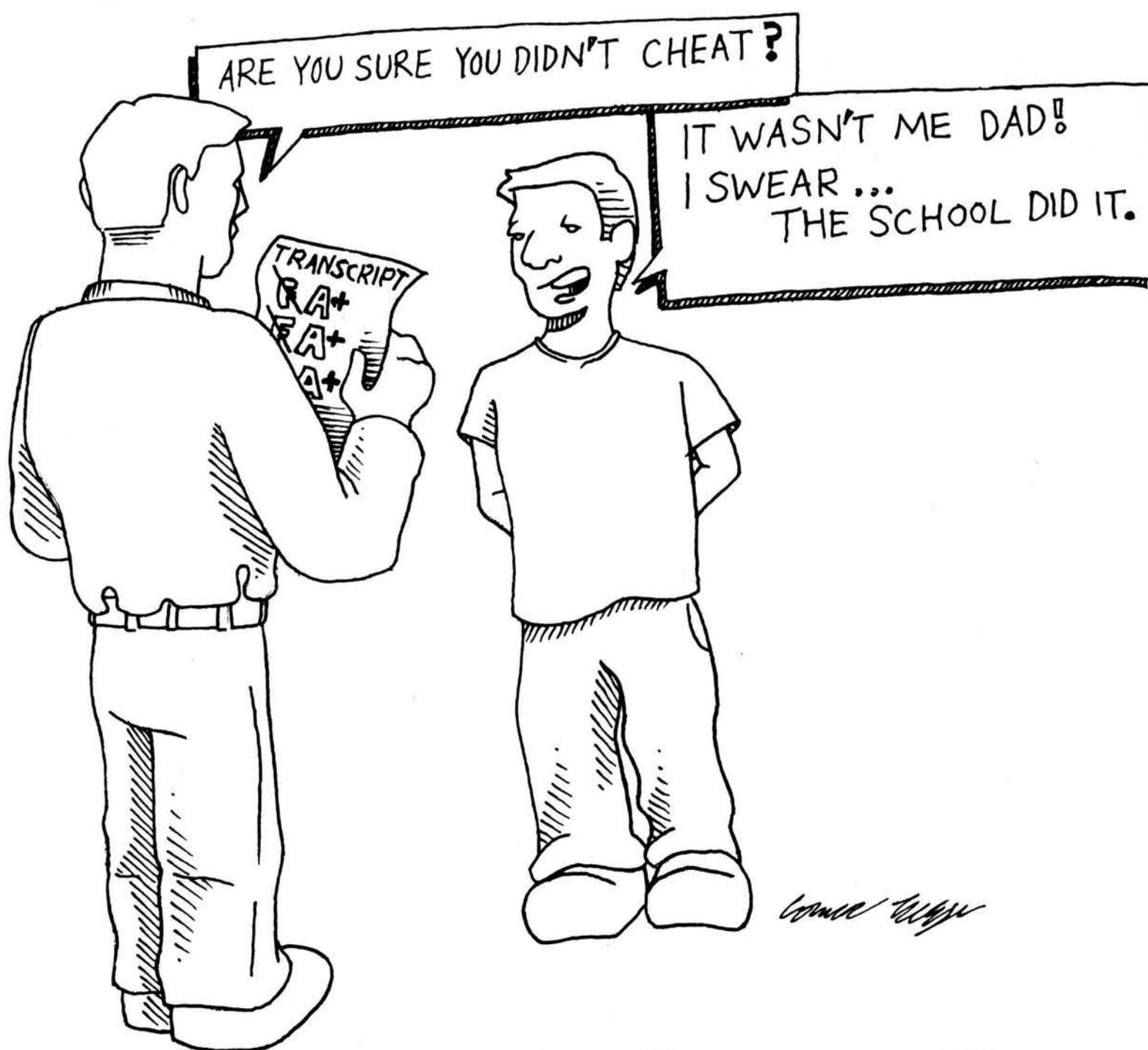
I blame all my problems freshman year on my senior friends who influenced me with their independent thinking and apathetic attitudes.

Of course now OPS has a new policy that lets students retake classes they have failed, so I suppose incoming freshmen may be able to have their cake and eat their GPAs too.

Just remember, homeworkitis today will have consequences tomorrow.

I am evidence of that.

The best advice would be to avoid upperclassmen all together. We're bad news.



New transcript policy sends wrong message

Failing a class is usually a sign that a student needs to spend more time on schoolwork, improve study habits or take a less rigorous course.

For whatever reason it is, failing is something serious that should remain on a student's permanent record.

That is exactly why the district's new proposed transcript policy is a bad idea.

Under the new policy, if a student fails a class or gets a four, but then retakes it and gets a better grade, the better grade goes on the student's permanent transcript and the original failing grade is completely erased.

Not only that, but if a student fails a class or gets a four and then takes a class with a similar curriculum and gets a high grade, that high grade replaces the original failing grade.

That means the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) will reflect the better grade, making the GPA permanently

higher.

This is completely ridiculous.

It only enforces the common perception that public education in America is a joke.

By instituting a policy like this, the district sends a message that in real life if you don't do it right the first time, you can always do it again and never have to face your mistake again.

That's not how life is.

There is no such thing as a completely clean slate.

Now all is not lost yet, this plan is in its infant stages. It is still not clear exactly how it will go into effect.

The school still has some jurisdiction over the policy as well, since it is up to the school to decide which classes may serve as substitutes for a failing class.

Central has always tried to emphasize its strong academic program.

By taking part in this policy, it shows that academics are not taken as seriously as

they should be.

A policy like this will also falsely inflate Central's academic statistics.

Since this policy permanently changes transcripts and GPAs, it will make students' records permanently better with no sign at all that there ever was a failing grade.

This gives students in OPS an unfair advantage when applying to college.

Central already has some of the highest test scores in the state.

There is no reason to inflate its numbers by any means to give it a better image.

Proponents may say that this policy will help students who may have failed a class because of personal troubles or adversity.

While it is sad when a student fails because of personal or family troubles, it should not be a carte blanche for getting a second chance.

Coming back from failing can be seen as a triumph over adversity. But it's not adversity if the setback that is erased.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

Drug testing leaves door open to privacy invasion

Beware unassuming little children, you could be drug tested at random if you join the science club.

Now because of a 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June, school administrators can randomly drug test any students in extracurricular activities.

Before, school officials could only drug test athletes, but now it's everyone.

It doesn't matter whether a student is in German club or math club, the school can demand for any student to take a urine test or a hair sample test even without evidence that they are doing drugs.

All that matters is that the student is involved in extracurricular activities.

If the student refuses to take the test, he can no longer participate in the club. No questions asked.

While supporters of this ruling think it will help with drug use in schools, it is only going to deter students who have drug problems from being in a club. In the process alienate students who have nothing to hide.

There is no rhyme or reason for making students who are clean nervous about being in an after school activity.

A police officer cannot come up to a person on the street and make him or her take a drug test, but a school official can do that very same thing to a student and according to the Supreme Court it violates no constitutional rights.

Why would a student who is addicted to an illegal substance choose to be in an extracurricular activity over his drug of choice?

Why would a clean student want to be in a club only to have

his privacy invaded with a random drug test?

Drug use is a problem and should be dealt with, but if a student has enough interest in something productive, a drug test breaks the trust that student has with the school.

But besides alienating students and invading their privacy it is also a waste of money.

Public schools are already hard pressed for funding.

Where are they going to come up with money for expensive urinalysis tests? They have a hard enough time keeping schools maintained.

These tests can cost anywhere from \$10 to \$40 a piece.

Multiply that by however many students administrators decide to randomly test and you probably have more money than school districts usually spend on text books.

That doesn't even figure in all of the time this would take from the task at hand at school, which is learning. School districts would have to hire a whole slew of new people. Which will only result in more money spent by the districts.

The numbers just do not add up. This is just another step towards making school less of a learning environment and more of a bureaucratic prison-esque establishment.

That's not the way to encourage learning, let alone extracurricular involvement.

If the best way to deter students from getting into drugs is to get them involved in extracurricular activities, schools shouldn't threaten them with random drug tests.

Voting will bring apathy, huge sense of responsibility

In a few months I will join the small percentage of Nebraskans who care enough to stand in line to fill in about 1,000 ovals to elect our fine state and county officials. Or I could join the majority of Nebraskans who simply do not care.

Now I can elect hundreds of state officials whose jobs are less important than that of fast food employees. Voting seems like a waste of my precious five minutes.

If I find a race that interests me, chances are the person is running by himself, winning by default. Would my vote make a difference?

Who cares who is the country clerk or state treasurer?

Who would even run for such an office?

I cannot name five members of the Unicameral or a single person in Gov. Mike Johanns' cabinet. And these are some of the more important officials.

I assume that these small offices are important and beneficial to life in Nebraska, but I do not think that one person would make a better candidate over another.

These positions just do not seem important. There is probably some reason somewhere for the seemingly insignificant government offices, but why hasn't anyone ever explained that reason to me?

Who knows, maybe without county clerks, life as we all know it would come to a horrible, fiery and apocalyptic end. But the chances of that happening are slim to none.

I guess voting is important though. It generally prevents bad leaders and encourages those elected to listen to their constituents. In theory, the government should be a better place with voting.

This system does not work now because very few people care about elections, much less what politicians stand for. People are more concerned with the latest entertainment and sports news, not with a president or congress that only has the power to change life as we know it.

So I ask myself again, why vote?

About 99 percent of the offices simply do not matter to me. The problem is that there is one percent that does. After some thinking, I decided I will vote because of this. I am tired of being ruled by conservative governors and mayors.

If I do not vote and a poor governor makes it into office, I will

know it is partly my fault. I could have attempted to make a difference, but I failed. In the November elections this year, I hope more teenagers vote.

They have a responsibility to voice the opinion of not only themselves but also that of younger people.

They are the closest and most in touch with young people, and that is important for our government to realize.

Many politicians do not cater to the needs of young people simply because they think that young people are not yet fully educated and cannot make a difference until they turn 18. This needs to change.

Many politicians are old, and getting older. They have little interest with the needs of students and therefore do not attempt to help them.

This attitude has repeatedly hurt funding for programs and education to benefit students. They do not understand that today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders.

Saving small amounts of money by cutting school programs will have a profound effect in the next 10 to 20 years.

Cutting education is a short-term solution with immense long-term effects. This is probably the most compelling reason for me to vote.

I want to help elect a leader who understands what it takes to take a generation of kids and turn them into a generation of highly educated adults.

I do not want to feel like I am being shortchanged by getting a subpar public education because no one in the Legislature cares about my generation. I will force myself to take action to improve the next generation of youth, because my time in publicly-funded schools is quickly coming to an end. My challenge to each person who turns 18 is to register to vote and then do it.

It does not take a whole lot of time or energy. Pry yourself out of your armchair, turn off "Spongebob Squarepants" and get out to the polls. Without a youthful voice in government, education and programs for youth will continue on their present course until they are obsolete and worthless.

This is OK for some, but for others who want something more in life, it's time for a change.



MYSTERY WHITE BOY

Aaron Maurice

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Jerry Bexten
Central's new principal

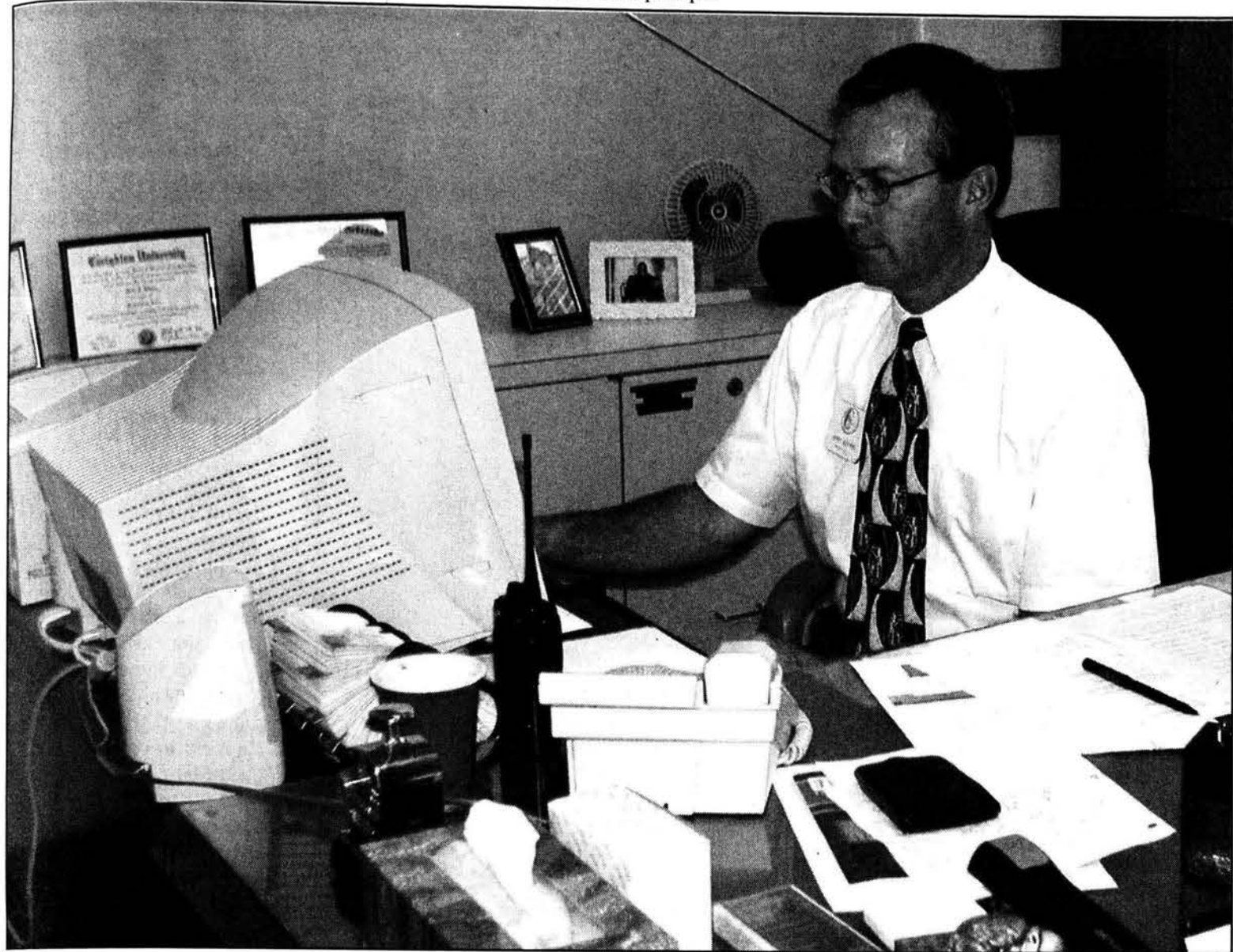


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

'There's a lot to do this year'

For this issue, the *Register* talked to Jerry Bexten, Central's new principal about his first impressions of his new job and his hopes for the year.

Q: What has been the most unexpected hurdle that you have faced so far?

A: "I don't know if I have dealt with any hurdles. The thing that impressed me much is the number of students."

Q: What has been the best part of the job so far?

A: "So far, meeting people—staff and students."

Q: How did you prepare yourself for the transition between Lewis and Clark and Central?

A: "I don't know if it's really possible to prepare yourself. I had been in a high school before so I had some idea of what things are like in high school. I talked to Dr. Thompson and other people here at Central to kind of get myself prepared. Dr. Thompson sent me a lot of things to read and look over last spring and through the summer. He was pretty helpful in the transition."

Q: Did the large number of new teachers this year make it harder or easier to come in as a new principal?

A: "It really didn't have a lot of impact for the simple reason that I needed to learn lots of new names, so having 20 new people didn't (make a difference). They were all new to me, or almost all, I knew some people here, but not a lot."

Q: Have the renovations and portables thrown any kinks into the first part of the year?

A: "It's made things busier. We have a weekly Friday morning construction meeting that I attend that takes some time. But generally speaking, it hasn't had any significant effect on the running of the school. The four portables, Mr. Semrad tells me, actually help him with scheduling because of added spaces where he can put students each period. Most of the construction is taking place outside of the building at least for this year."

Q: What are your hopes for the rest of the year?

A: For the rest of this year, well I want it to be a good year in a number of respects. I want it to be a good year academically for all the students, I want to talk to freshman, sophomores and juniors about setting academic goals. I want to spend a lot of time this year learning about Central High School, more than I know, learning traditions, learning about the culture of the school. There's a lot to do this year. It's going to be very busy."

School resource officer

Council should avoid cutting funds for cop

With money concerns mounting, the Omaha City Council and the mayor's office are looking into taking resource officers out of school.

This is a sad sign of the times, when faculty members have to be taken from schools because of monetary issues.

A faculty member is truly what a resource officer becomes after being in a school for a while.

He is not just "Big Brother" there watching over students' shoulders, he is a confidante that students can go to about their problems.

A good resource officer is like a counselor, security guard and teacher rolled all into one.

That is why it will be a shame if they have to go.

But when money gets tight, cuts have to come from somewhere and schools often seem to be the easiest place to trim a little fat.

This is especially true in high schools, where so much money seems to end up, though it never seems like enough.

Having a resource officer around makes students and faculty alike feel safer.

It is a scary thought to some to have this safety net taken away.

One justification for this plan is that the police officers would be doing a better service to the community by being out on patrol in the neighborhood.

In a school like Central, which

is not in any sort of residential neighborhood, this proposal would not help.

In fact, it would be counteractive.

One of the biggest benefits of Central having a resource officer is so that officer can help keep students in check and help restore Central's ties with the downtown community.

Proponents of the plan to remove resource officers are correct when they say a school can be run without one.

Putting officers in school is a fairly new thing, new enough that everyone should still remember the reasons—shootings, drug busts and petty crime in schools.

A resource officer's duty is to try and prevent all of this. Whether he succeeds or not, it is impossible to believe that the need to prevent such things has disappeared.

Taking officers out of school would be admission that safety has taken a back seat to money matters, going by the logic given as a reason to institute officers.

It'll be a sad day when officers have to go, but it may be a sacrifice the schools will have to make.

It's the same story time after time.

These are not easy times by any measure and everyone must find a way to get by.

It's just too bad that the way to get by too often ends up short-changing the youth of America.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the
Register staff

Thoughtless peers can damage classmates' egos

Countless students walk through the halls of Central with their heads hung low.

They are starving for attention, but most people do not notice the kids placing themselves in the shadows at school.

This background is where I once desired to be.

I was the student in class who never talked to people and never displayed the slightest indication of having a pulse.

I found my contentment sitting alone in the empty corner during lunch.

Everyday I see others who feel the exact same way.

Students can be easily scarred during their secondary school years.

I remember the day during junior high when I walked through the door of the principal's office.

I was completely oblivious to the circumstances he wanted to discuss.

Then I saw my student file on his desk. He reached inside and took out a letter I wrote a couple of days ago.

I wrote the letter to express my feelings about my former friends and how the social scene lured them away.

This happens all of the time.

I was one of the selected few people who tried not to follow the "popular" crowds in order to discover my own personality and type of friends I would want. Many people in junior high could not comprehend the reasons why I wanted to go in the world on my own.

I knew I was doing the smart thing.

Teens with the same viewpoints as me do not become distressed over the naive events that consume some teenagers today.

The students that separate themselves from school life become depressed because of the abuse they received from other students.

It does not matter if a teen was mistreated yesterday or a couple of years ago; they still have the remnants of misery.

I am proof of how far the pain can influence a person.

My perceptions were manipulated from the negative experiences in life to make me anti-social.

I can see some people in school gazing at a group of friends laughing. I see the anger they have, yet also they yearn to be involved.

I remember feeling those emotions, but then I made myself believe that way of life is not meant for me.

I finally acted on my beliefs to stay alone during school.

I had only one friend, who attended a whole different school district. I never associated with many of my classmates.

My teachers and fellow classmates were unaware of my existence. This sometimes made me happy, my plan was working.

I decided to be completely focused on grades and have absolutely nothing to do with the social life.

I finally realized this way of life, if one could call it a life, was exasperating.

I knew that this was no way to live my life.

This loneliness can grow so great that it becomes extremely unhealthy for anyone to live through.

One will lose all the confidence she has had, begin to hate the outside world and will believe that she will always be alone in life.

Unfortunately even today, after I have grown out of that dreary state of mind, there are some days I wish to sit in my quiet corner.

This was where I would sit in the dimness watching my days disappear, when I did not leave a single trace in the world.

It really makes it tough.

I hope I never have to visit the place I learned to lose myself or become invisible to society again.

Life is too short and I have too many things to do. I will no longer let anybody or anything make me want to go there again.



CHAOS MADE CLEAR
Katie Backman

Partnership will help rebuild ties with downtown area

It's simple. Central, Creighton and Joslyn's new downtown partnership just makes sense.

Central receives much needed space from Joslyn and Creighton or a revamped stadium.

Joslyn trades parking lot space by Central's west facade for area to the west of Central's current field.

Meanwhile, Creighton receives appropriate financial compensation for the land transferred to Central.

When once Central was a source of loitering students, it will now be a force for unity.

The joint effort will provide an opportunity for Central to mend its broken ties to the downtown community.

Such a positive effort is even more commendable given last year's fighting problem made evident through constant intercom reminders to students.

The land trade and consequential stadium construction will improve Central's utility as

well as appearance.

Furthermore it will serve to beautify Omaha's downtown as a whole.

Central's major fault has always been its downtown confinement.

Limited parking has always been a problem.

Because of this, a new stadium was out of the question. Or at least it was until Susie Buffet came along and provided Central the funding to start the project.

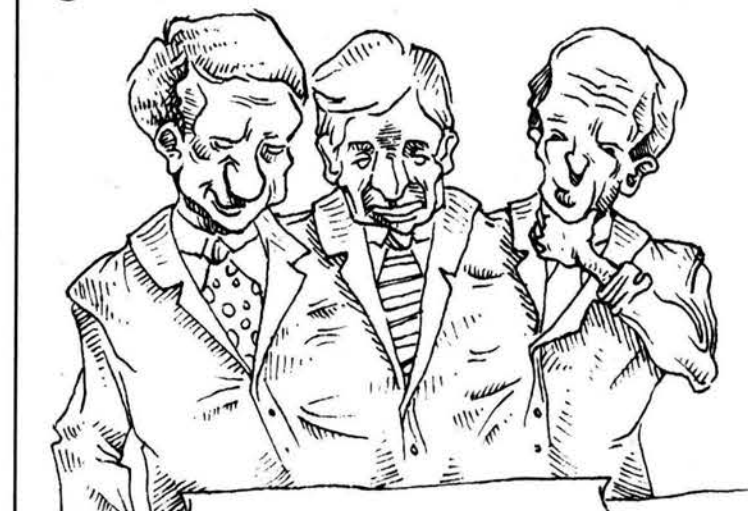
Now Joslyn won't have to worry about Central students tearing out their grass after a snow or rain, or crowding their parking lot after school waiting to be picked up.

Now Central will be able to host home football games, track meets and every other event that the current field's size has prevented.

As much as everyone loves Norris, Homecoming will finally take place at home.

Central athletes and specta-

3 HEADS ARE BETTER THAN 1



tors alike must happily bid farewell to car rides across town to the various practices, activities and 'home games.'

Alumni will be able to come back to Central and see the school they always dreamed of.

Not only will the building renovation be completed (most notable with air conditioning in-

stalled), but now Central will also have a functional track, field and proper place in the downtown community.

When considering the apparent success of the new partnership, it's a surprise that no one brought it up sooner.

Everyone's happy. Most importantly, Central is happy.



OUTLOOK

Thursday, September 26, 2002

B

Page 18
The RegisterTHE FINE PRINT
Nichole Tyrey

Eulogy in honor of loved car

We are gathered here today to remember a soul we all came to know and love. Your life was taken all too soon and tragically. I apologize my dear car.

I remember how beautiful you were on the first day laid eyes on you. To an untrained eye, you may not have looked like much. But I saw your full potential. From the Grateful Dead stickers on your windows to the half-eaten taco I found under the passenger seat, you were the epitome of perfection.

Remember the good times we spent together? The many road trips, the countless hours I spent curled in back seat? We were a match made in heaven.

I remember the first time I drove you. The way your speedometer and tachometer looked so similar amazed me. Before I even knew it we were flying like eagles, 70 mph down a gravel road, but the speedometer was stuck on 30.

I remember the time I spent an hour looking for my dad in the parking lot. If it wasn't for you we would probably still be looking. I called out, "Joe with the Black Beretta!" Soon we found him thanks to you.

These good times turned into great times, when on my sixteenth birthday I could at last call you my own.

I waited eagerly on my front steps for your arrival. I could feel my heart pound as I caught the first glimpse of you. The sun poured down upon your windshield and for a second I could have sworn you smiled.

That was the greatest day of my life. You and me together just like it always should have been. But I didn't know the happiness would only last a few days.

It was hot, just like every day in July. After my first day at work I was eager to go show you off to my friends. So I took you to the mall.

On the way back I was in need of a drink at Bakers. Little did I know this would be the last time I would ever see you in one piece.

As I rounded the corner, your door swung open leaving mere inches between me and the concrete of the road. You wrapped your loving seat belt around me. For that, I owe you my life. I only wish I could have saved you like you saved me.

What parts did survive the wreck have been put to good use. They saved the life of my new car, the Hyde to you, my Jekyll. You will always be the only car for me.

Though you are only a car, I still reminisce about the good times we had together. Rest in peace my dear car.



Illustration by Connor Meigs

Trouble accepting fees

With this year's new activity fee policy, school administrators made some adjustments that may have discouraged some students who are only in one club or activity, like skateboarding club in the above illustration, from participating at all.

After last year's lawsuit against the Omaha Public School District (OPS) regarding student fees, it became blatantly obvious that something would have to change.

OPS was really put between a rock and a hard place. It had to figure out a way to appease the conditions of the lawsuit, while trying to retain as much of the status quo as possible.

Under the lawsuit ruling, no student could be required to pay for anything that was required for a core class. But beyond that, OPS left it up to each school to make decisions.

The choice tough for Central officials, but certain aspects of it just don't add up. It seems they spent so long trying to cater those with special needs that some were forgotten.

Without realizing it, the school may have short-changed students who were occasional participants in clubs and activities. This is the exact group that they tried to reach out to last year.

This left Central with a daunting task, trying to make a program for the most diverse group of students in the state.

So those with decision-making authority hammered out a plan for Central's fee policy. While they made sure to cover all of the bases for students with financial needs and athletes, they forgot one group along the way.

Under the school's new policy, the price of activity cards has been raised to \$30. Any student eligible for free or reduced price lunch or one who qualifies after filling out a fee waiver form will receive a card for free.

The cards allow students to get into any home game or any

away game versus an OPS or Bellevue Public school for free.

Students are also entitled to participate in any athletic event, club or after school activity for which he does not receive a grade after purchasing an activity card. These clubs are no longer allowed to charge dues or membership fees to participants.

This policy works out great for students who are in quite a few clubs or sports or for those who are in financial need. But in a school the size of Central, some group is bound to fall between the cracks.

This time that group was the occasional participant-the kid that was in one or two clubs and honestly enjoys it, but maybe does not feel like paying \$30 for it.

There are quite a few students who fall into this category. Not every student can be in four or five clubs or sports, some don't have time because of work or family obligations. Some may only be interested in few clubs.

After a campaign last year to get more students involved in after school activities, it seems counterproductive to do something that may actually end up discouraging students.

Obviously, finding a solution that would please everyone is nearly, if not totally, impossible.

With 2,500 students, there will never be a decision made in this school that will please everyone.

But this time the school may have inadvertently discouraged what may prove to be a very large group of students.

There are no easy decisions when it comes to the bureaucracy of public education. But there are decisions that require a second look, decisions that have seemingly good intentions, when in actuality they may end up causing more harm than ever imagined.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the
Register staff

Next year's portables to provide relief, solution to construction, overcrowding

Welcome to Central High School.

To the left, construction crews, to the right, construction crews. Next year, new students will be

thrown in to a big mess of orange pylons and construction tape, and if they are lucky, longer passing periods.

Our school will receive about 28 portables, that means no more football field and more running from class to

class. What more could freshmen want?

The first week of school is a big twisted blur and trying to get to class is not easy. As it is, students are late now,

and most of them know where they are going and have had some experience through the rapids known as the hallway.

The portables, which will be placed

on the football field, do have advantages along with many disadvantages. For one, the portables have air conditioning, which is what all students long for while in school, a nice, cool area where it is easy to learn and accomplish more.

With the portables, Central will not have so many students in the building at one time; more room in the hallways will make the school feel significantly cooler in comparison to past years.

Now sure everyone will be a little

bit happier, but everyone will all be paying a little bit for the slice of pie known as air conditioning.

Sure, portables are a good idea, but considering the building will be missing the second floor and most likely only one stairwell connecting the first and third floor, the mess will just keep getting bigger.

Imagine running from the west side of the football field to the third floor with fellow pupils in the same amount of time given now.

Now imagine this scenario in eight inches of snow or in the pouring rain or in the sweltering heat.

It's not a very pretty picture is it? But like most things in life, it is only temporary.

The 2003-2004 school year will be never-ending year of banging hammer and clambering workers.

However for students to get what's deserved, everyone has to work and struggle a little bit.

Just keep your eye on the prize.

EXTRANEIOUS PHRASES
Doug Meigs

Bathrooms on airplanes make for hard times

Airport security is a wonderful thing when taken in moderation.

It is not a good thing when you are standing in the crowded line to a bathroom 35,000 feet above the Earth.

From the end of the line, coach, I watched a flight attendant guard the door of the first class bathroom.

Meanwhile, looks of intense final distress reigned supreme across the rest of the plane. A herd of cattle-esque coach passengers stretched from the bowels of the plane up to where the toilet Nazi stood.

Already three hours into the flight, the line continued to grow.

Over that same three-hour time period, only one of the first class passengers had used the privileged toilet.

More passengers stood the aisle waiting to relieve themselves than sat in their seats.

"You can't come up here," this is for first class passengers only," the stewardess said as I tried to pass by her. She told me that after the Sept. 11 attacks was a security risk for coach passengers to use the first class bathroom.

I love capitalism. One is entitled to the benefits of hard earned money. If the stewardess guarded the bathroom because

was a perk to buying a more expensive ticket, I would have been content to wait alongside my fellow lowly coach passengers. But that wasn't the case.

I pleaded, but went back to the line. I couldn't believe an airline could take advantage of a tragedy like Sept. 11 to justify first class passenger privileges.

Such manipulations run rampant under cover of patriotism plastered over anything marketable.

Major publications have even proposed ads in special Sept. 11 tribute issues for their own profit of course.

America is decorated by new consumerist patriotism. Flags plaster cars, clothes and shoelaces, even at Central.

I wanted to ask the stewardess what kind of damage could be done that posed such a threat. I tried to look at it from the airline's perspective, but remained dumbfounded.

Then again, if security in the bathroom was a problem, any person could take the same explosive dump from the bathroom in the back of the plane as they could in the front.

I would think it would be more of a risk to have most of the plane standing in the aisle than the worry about the threat of a nuclear turd.

I just hope the flight attendant had to clean the bathroom



I Am Legend
Local band finds that
Omaha hardcore scene is a
good place to start out.
Page 26

Alumnus starts film festival for young directors

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Without Central alumnus Dan Mirvish, the careers of Steven Soderburgh, Christopher Nolan and Lauren Ambrose may not have gotten the same starts. Mirvish, a 1985 graduate, is the founder of the Slamdance film festival, an independent film festival for first time directors.

He is also a director himself, most famously of "Omaha: the Movie" and the upcoming real estate musical "Open House." Mirvish's career has been long and varied and has taken him to many places and introduced him to many heavyweights in the film industry.

When Mirvish was a student at Central, he said he was not involved with filmmaking at all, beyond taking a UNO video seminar. But his curiosity in regards to film was still apparent.

"I was always interested in film," he said.

His only experience was a Super Eight video he made with some friends in junior high entitled, "Beyond the Battle of the Stars." He said the only reason he made it was to have the chance to blow up his model train set.

During his freshman year at Washington University in St. Louis, Mirvish took a course in Super Eight filmmaking, but was not able to switch his major because there was no filmmaking major at his school. He still tried to incorporate filmmaking into his other courses.

"I thought about film in the context of a lot of other classes," he said.

He enrolled at a summer program at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he took classes with fellow Omaha native Alexander Payne, director of "Citizen Ruth" and "Election."

When Mirvish graduated from Washington University with degrees in history and political science, he moved to Washington DC where he worked as a speechwriter for Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and an intern at Washington Monthly magazine. Working for Harkin allowed him to dabble in film production video speeches.

"That kind of kept my film aspirations alive," he said.

Eventually his desire to be a filmmaker took over and he went back to school. He entered the University of Southern California's graduate film program and graduated in 1994, receiving his degree from George Lucas and Steven Spielberg.

During his last year of school, Mirvish had another project on his plate.

It was during this time that he began work on "Omaha: the Movie."

Inspired by director Robert Rodriguez's debut independent feature "El Mariachi," Mirvish said he decided that there was no reason he could not make a film of his own.

He shot the film in town, using local actors and crew members, many of them Central graduates, he said.

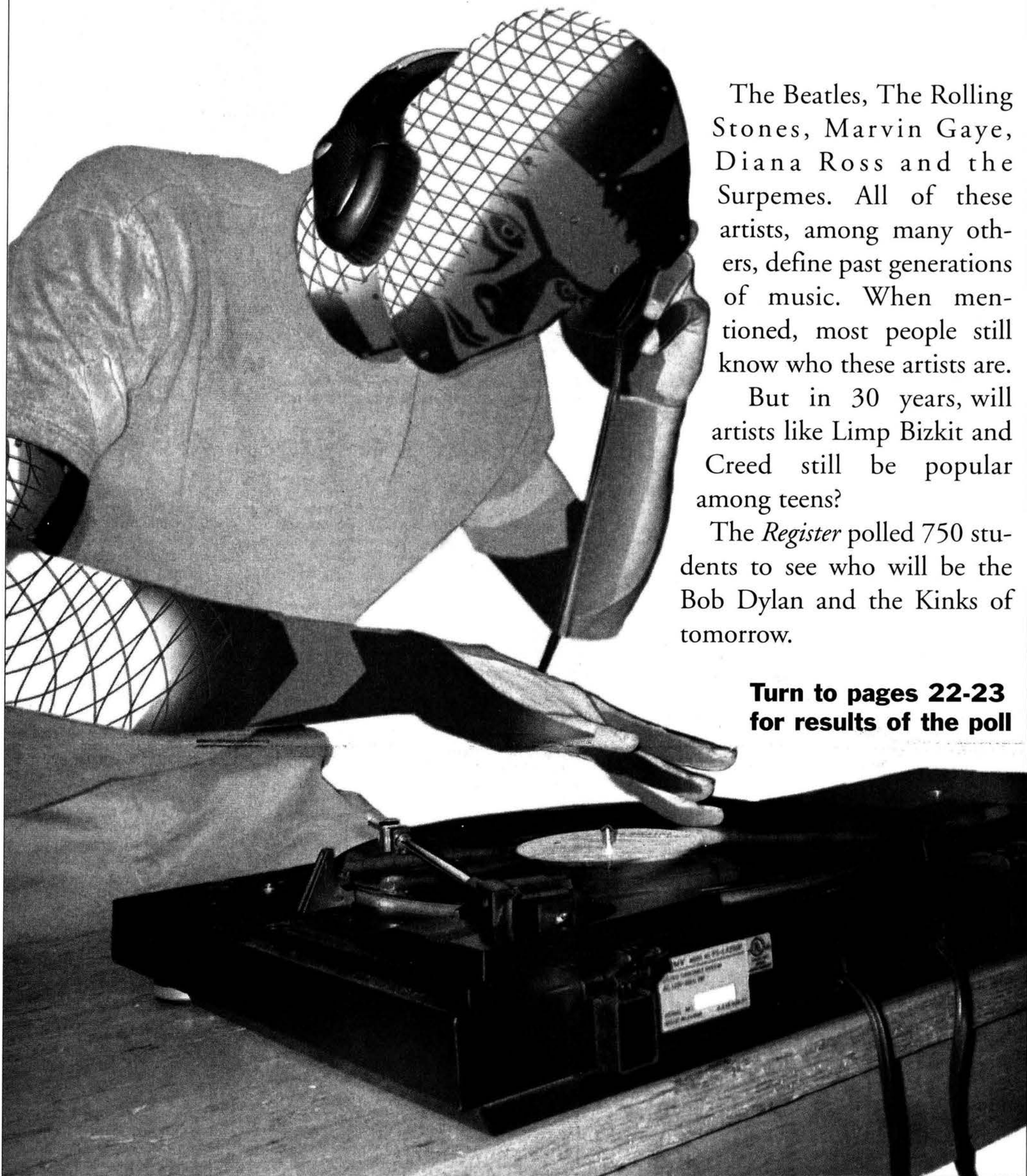
"It was a real wide range of people," he said.

The movie's funding came mostly from donations of people around town.

Mirvish came up with a fairly loose concept for the film and worked around it as he shot the film.

"The idea was to start in
Go to MIRVISH, page 21

TUNE IN TOMORROW



The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross and the Supremes. All of these artists, among many others, define past generations of music. When mentioned, most people still know who these artists are.

But in 30 years, will artists like Limp Bizkit and Creed still be popular among teens?

The *Register* polled 750 students to see who will be the Bob Dylan and the Kinks of tomorrow.

**Turn to pages 22-23
for results of the poll**

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Student rappers use food instead of profanity

By Laura Diesing

Eat your heart out Weird Al. Imp Jam is taking over.

One of Central's up-and-coming bands, Imp Jam, is tickling the funny bones of many students with radio hits such as "I Need a Chef" and "Still Fry."

Teddy Carter and junior Steve Hogan started the band seven years ago as a joke. Using the computer program "PC DJ" to create food-related parodies, the group quickly gained popularity.

Their friends, seniors Wes Carter, Jesse Wilson, Damien Cardwell and Johnny Tapley, were soon added to the group.

"We played a song in front of Wes and he thought it was so funny," Hogan said. "He had a song in mind so we just started more projects."

Joining the band is no easy task. To get in, one must eat as much as he can in 30 minutes. Wilson managed to stuff himself with three Whoppers, a box of Cheese-its and a 2-liter of Pepsi. Tapley had to eat four Big Macs, three super-sized orders of french fries and a salty Cherry Coke.

Teddy came up with an idea for the band's name while looking for computer mouse icons online, Hogan said. He found

an icon that was a funny-looking little jar of jam.

Teddy and Hogan came up with the name Pimp Jam. They eventually decided that the word "pimp" in the name did not sound good and changed it to Imp Jam.

The group, who has been friends for years, has performed at many talent shows, such as ones at the Gene Leahy Mall and the Sokol Auditorium. This year the group will be trying out for the Road Show with its most popular song, "I Need a Chef."

"We like to start our show with a buffet table," Hogan said. "We do the songs while simultaneously eating."

Wes said that Imp Jam's main purpose is to let people know that they should not be embarrassed about eating.

"Our goal is to get a following in Omaha and spread out in the continental U.S. to establish a chain of eateries," Hogan said.

He also said that the group writes positive rap songs instead of the violent, angry rap songs that are often played on the radio.

Right now the group's manager and long time friend, Michelle Harris, is working to get the band's CD, "The Real Deal Happy Meal," and the sequel to that CD sold at local record stores.

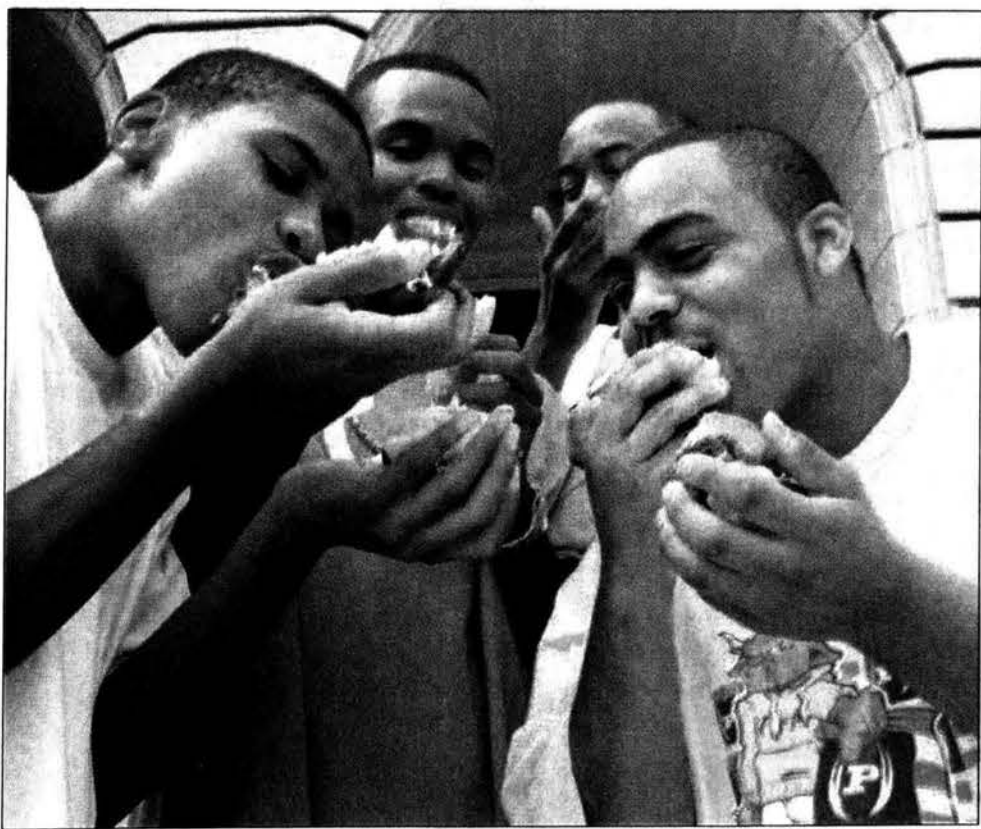


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Members of IMP Jam stuff their faces with snack cakes. The band raps about things such as Whoppers and Cheese-its instead of negative things.

Reviews

'Nellyville' home to great rhymes, beats

By Doug Meigs

School is in session in the land of Nelly. Two years since Nelly busted out of St. Louis with the multi-platinum "Country Grammar," it is clear that he has learned his lessons well.

"Nellyville," the rapper's sophomore release, is a street-smart experience in down home blues and dirty jazz resounding underneath the album's pervading bass blast.

The album's polished tracks offer something for everyone.

Master mixer Richard Truvali returned to work for Nelly after the 2001 releases from Destiny's Child and N*SYNC.

Building off of what made "Country Grammar" go nine times platinum, the recent release serves as a continuation of his ghetto fabulous decadence.

ALBUM REVIEW

"Nellyville"

Nelly

out of 5

Southern flavored bass thumps and rhythm pumps through the album's tracks, which while similar in many ways to Nelly's first album, come off with a fresh sound.

"Dilemma," featuring Destiny Child's Kelly Rowland and the "Work It" came from N*SYNC's Justin Timberlake, offer additional examples of how Nelly is expanding his pop horizons while remaining relatively true to his roots.

Many of the tracks have already been blasting from stereos across America since long before the album's summer release.

Meanwhile "Number One," "Hot in Herre," "The Gank" and "Dilemma" have taken a seemingly permanent seat in radio rotation.

Meanwhile, St. Lunatic counterparts Murphy Lee, Ali and Kyjuan, the self-proclaimed "school-boys" seem to be the next rappers off the block, pulled into the spotlight under the Dr. Dre-like tutelage of Nelly.

Any fan of Nelly's first release will love "Nellyville." But given its extension of the rural-esque rap styling found on "Country Grammar," anyone who didn't like it the first-time around won't now.

However, whether "Nellyville" passes or fails individual approval, it is already a hit.

Milemarker enchants with energetic show

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

If a politically-minded college rock band downed a case of Jolt cola in an hour, and then listened to a couple of early '80s synth albums before playing, it would sound a lot like the Chicago band, Milemarker.

Milemarker put on an amazing show Sept. 1 at Sokol Underground with its high-energy live performance. The band was in town to promote its most recent release, "Satanic Versus."

The lead singer/guitarist/back-up keyboardist thrashed around to the point where at one point it

CONCERT REVIEW

-Milemarker
-Taking Pictures
-Bleeders for Treats

out of 5

looked like his guitar would fly into the crowd.

Early in the band's set, the keyboardist began doing cartwheels across the stage when she wasn't playing.

The best thing about keyboardist was not her wacky antics, but her voice. A throwback to the early '90s, her gravelly, but sweet voice brought girl rock bands like Heavens to Betsy into mind.

The other guitarist/back-up vocalist played off the frontman well, still being energetic, but mellow compared to the wildly flailing lead singer.

The drummer put in an amazing performance, especially considering that he was doing double duty for the night, since he was also the drummer for the second opening band, Taking Pictures.

Milemarker's energy was so infectious that it even spread to the crowd. Everyone in the crowd showed some sign of life, whether it was nodding a head, tapping a foot or flat out dancing.

That was an amazing feat for any band that plays at Sokol Underground, a venue notorious for having hipster crowds that never move for fear of looking uncool.

Besides being an incredibly talented band, Milemarker also seemed to be a band with a message. The frontman introduced one particularly angry song as a "song about war."

Taking Pictures, also a Chicago band, was a solid group, but provided a bit of a lull in the evening.

It wasn't a bad performance, just a very average one and on a night when the other bands were extraordinary, average just did not cut it.

Still, the band was talented enough to keep the show from lagging and kept it moving along at a good pace.

Opening up the show was local band Bleeders for Treats, a consistently amazing group that started things off fabulously.

The band set the perfect tone for the rest of the show, getting everybody pumped for the stellar show.

The show featured one of the best touring indie groups to come to Omaha in quite some time. Milemarker is a band to watch. It is sure to become one of the most influential bands of tomorrow.

Calendar



Courtesy of Bandeira Entertainment

Conniving foreign exchange student Genevieve (Piper Perabo) is attacked by Starla (Jane McGregor) as their French teacher Monsieur Duke (Michael McKean) tries to keep the peace in "Slap Her, She's French."

Comedy takes a 'slap' at French

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

The French have always been easy targets.

Americans can't get enough of making fun of any culture that eats lots of cheese, hasn't won a war in the past century, enjoys art and has a notoriously dirty capital that's snotty towards tourists.

That's why the makers of "Slap Her, She's French" had such a wide range of material to pick from when making the new teen comedy.

Too bad they didn't pick very well.

The movie is a twisted tale of a small town beauty queen in Splendora, TX, named Starla Grady (Jane McGregor).

In an attempt to pass French and win a beauty pageant, she agrees to host a foreign exchange student, Genevieve LePlouff (Piper Perabo).

Of course the seemingly innocent Genevieve is hiding something

up her sleeve.

But in Starla's stereotypically twisted family (goofy camcorder-toting dad, drunken mom and too-smart-for-his-own-good little brother), who else will be able to see it?

Genevieve also manages to fool

Starla's cheerleading teammates, promiscuous bi-curious best friends and football star boyfriend.

The movie gets in a few genuinely funny gags, but this is a hit-and-miss film that misses more than it hits.

The filmmakers have attempted to take some sharp jabs at typical Texas stereotypes, but the jabs themselves often end up seeming lame and over done.

Many of the jokes seem to fall flat because the writers and actors are just trying too hard.

The truly funny moments occur

when the humor is somewhat simple and true to life.

The ending can be seen coming from a mile away and it leaves the viewer a little dissatisfied.

McGregor and Perabo try really hard, but neither one can pull off her role without getting irritating. Perabo's faux French accent doesn't pass muster and McGregor's cutesy southern drawl gets to be like fingernails on a blackboard.

Some of the supporting characters got in the funniest moments of the movie, including Michael McKean as the girls' French teacher. None of this is enough to make the movie really horrible though. The weak moments are still strong enough to keep the viewer watching and the funny moments truly are entertaining.

"Slap Her, She's French" is a good choice for anyone into teen comedies or bashing Europeans. For everyone else, it should make for a decent rental pick.

Album Releases

September

30 Sea and Cake "One Bedroom"

"One Bedroom" is an apt name for Sea and Cake's newest album, seeing as the band has made a name for itself playing lo-fi bedroom pop. Maybe this album's name signifies a self-awareness that will lead to a change in sound. Maybe it means nothing and will just be more of the same. Either way, longtime fans should be sure to check it out.

October

1 Blondie "Greatest Hits"

New Wave original Blondie releases its greatest hits collection. From "Rapture" to "Heart of Glass," the band's combination of electronica and Debbie Harry's self-assured vocals have made it a modern legend. Buy this album and you'll be humming along with the electro-pop loops.

7 The Strokes "Is This It" (re-release)

The Strokes will re-release its debut album "Is This It" with a bonus DVD along with it. The band's relentlessly catchy guitar riffs will have you singing along and the DVD is sure to be filled with the wacky stage antics of the heavy-partying band.

8 Black Heart Procession "Amore Del Tropico"

The gothic waltz duo that is the Black Heart Procession releases its fourth album on Chicago's Touch and Go label. "Amore Del Tropico" has been described in promotional materials as "...a vampire bat sucking the blood from a mariachi band while wearing headphones listening to James Brown sing Pink Floyd songs." This bizarre mix is sure to please fans of the band's first three albums.

8 Bjork "Greatest Hits"

The Icelandic princess of out-there puts out a compilation of her best work. Bjork manages to work a little of everything (and anything) into her music. From samples to screams, she weaves an intense tapestry of sound that is both intriguing and enthralling for the listener. This is a definite must-have for old and new fans alike.

November

5 Third Eye Blind "Crystal Baller"

San Francisco quartet Third Eye Blind returns with its third record. The band is best known for its hit singles "Semi-Charmed Life" and "How's It Gonna Be" from its self-titled debut album.

Movie Releases

September

27 "Sweet Home Alabama"
"The Tuxedo"
"Biggie and Tupac"

October

4 "Red Dragon"
"Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie"

11 "Below"
"Brown Sugar"
"Knockaround Guys"
"Pokemon 4Ever"
"Tuck Everlasting"
"Who's Your Daddy?"

18 "Abandon"
"Formula 51"
"The Ring"

25 "Ghost Ship"
"Jackass: The Movie"
"Madison"
"Paid in Full"
"The Truth About Charlie"

November

1 "The Core"
"I Spy"
"The Santa Clause Two"

8 "Eight Mile"
"Femme Fatale"

Concerts

September

26 Nichole Nordeman and Steven Curtis Chapman at the Civic Auditorium

27 "Punk-o-rama" at the Ranch Bowl featuring Guttermouth, GOB, Authority Zero and 1208

29 Onesidezero at the Ranch Bowl

October

1 Mest at the Ranch Bowl

4-6 Michael Feinstein at the Orpheum Theater

8 Broken Spindles, Azure Ray and Now It's Overhead at Sokol Underground

16 Better than Ezra and Cowboy Mouth at the Music Box

16 Karate and Neva Dinova at Sokol Underground

19 Chubby Checker and the Wildcats at the Convention Center Palace

30 Mercy Me at Kingsway Christian Church

November

1-3 School musical, "The Mikado"

5 D.R.I. and New Society of Anarchists at the Ranch Bowl



Band adapts to smaller field

By Katie Backman

The marching band has undergone several changes during this school year to accommodate the parking lot and portables being on the turf where it practices.

Music department head Pete Wilger, assistant band director, Molly Moriarty, administration and students had to make the decision on marching band practice location.

As a team, they made the decision to use the field and to practice parade routines by using the Joslyn Art Museum parking lot.

"We were aware of the field situation since last year," Wilger said. "We shared the information with the parents and then informed the students with the final decision. We spend the most possible time with marching."

The music department has been perfecting the plan for the marching band since last year.

Once the builders and administrators finalized the arrangement, they informed the department of the changes.

"Given the situation, we look at the music as a whole," Moriarty said. "We have adjusted to go with it [the changes]."

The band's program is going under renovations with the changes being added to the routine this year to deal with the lack of available space to practice.

Marching is still a part of the curriculum, but quite often, the marching routines can not be that complex as in previous years.

Senior Whitney Williams said she believes many of the students are taking this opportunity to improve other musical skills.

"I think they [students] are



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Freshman Kristen Van Putten practices "The Speak Up Mambo" with the marching band during first period. The band has learned to deal with only having a small portion of the field to practice on.

glad there is no marching band this year," she said.

A very positive result of the lack of marching practices is that students are now able to spend more time working on their musical pieces instead of their marching formations. "Students do not complain about the problems, they find new solutions," Wilger said. "The students, administrators and parents have been working on the changes as a team since last year."

The number of songs that will be taught this year has doubled. In previous years, the band learned three to four songs, but this year, members will learn between six and eight.

During the school year, the band members will also have more opportunities to experi-

ment with different instruments than in past years.

All of those changes have altered the schedule for the band's performances.

"We are having more parades than marching band routines this year," Williams said. "We will be playing at the football games and we have about three pictures [marching formations] that I am aware of."

An additional change that has occurred pertains to the drum line, the percussion section of the marching band.

In earlier years the percussion usually only performed fractions of songs.

Yet, this year the percussion will be learning and performing two to three whole music selections.

"The changes are good and bad," senior Chase Thornburg said. "There is more work to be

done on the music and not work with marching so much. It is a new thing to experience with my last year of high school."

Wilger is actively involved with the students spending time in the school practicing music pieces and formations on the field.

He said the classes in the portables are being very nice and very cooperative about sharing a limited source with the marching band.

As of now, Wilger said he is unaware of the circumstances with next year.

If changes do occur, they will do the same collaborative brainstorming before making any definite decisions.

"I take it one day at a time, I don't complain about it," he said. "We just wait until we see the results. Take it day by day, which is what both of us tell all of our classes to do as well."

Graduate gathers acclaim for festival

From MIRVISH, page 19

Omaha and end up in Carhenge and write the script about that," he said.

The film played theatrically in 35 cities and in about 35 film festivals, Mirvish said.

Not long after finishing "Omaha: the Movie," Mirvish started what is his best known project, Slamdance.

His motivation for starting it was the fact that "Omaha: the Movie" was not accepted into the Sundance Film Festival, which Mirvish said was the kiss of death for any independent movie.

"If you didn't get into Sundance, that was the end of your movie," he said.

An independent film that did not get into Sundance would hardly ever get a distribution deal, Mirvish said.

So in January of 1995, Mirvish held the first Slamdance, showcasing 12 feature-length films and 12 shorts.

He said the festival has a unique focus because it is for first time directors.

Mirvish said the festival has grown immensely since its inception, to the point where it has been called one of the top 10 in the country.

Last year, it screened approximately 45 films, narrowed down from 2,400 entries.

Mirvish has branched the festival out by holding screenings of Slamdance movies around the world.

Many of today's premier names in movie making have participated in the festival.

"We've had a lot of people, famous and otherwise, come out of Slamdance," he said.

Oscar-winning director Steven Soderbergh produced the

film "Day Trippers" that was debuted at Slamdance. Lauren Ambrose, of "Six Feet Under" got her first starring role in a Slamdance movie.

"Memento" director Christopher Nolan's first movie, "Following," premiered there as well. Another Slamdance premier, "The Accountant," won an Oscar.

This impressive list of accomplishments has given Slamdance a reputation for urging artistic development.

Though Mirvish may have moved far from his Omaha roots, there is still a local connection.

Fellow Central graduate Monteith McCollum won the grand jury prize for his film "Hybrid," marking the first time a documentary was awarded the prize.

"Omahans have a fairly good track record with us, strangely enough," he said.

Besides working on "Open House," Mirvish said he wants to stay involved with the festival while still being able to pursue other side projects.

He also would like to get "Omaha: the Movie" out in regular DVD distribution.

Mirvish had made a deal with the makers of Pioneer DVD players to have a DVD of the film inserted into every Pioneer player sold in North America.

He also arranged to have it inserted into copies of Total Movie Magazine.

This put over 300,000 copies of "Omaha: the Movie" into distribution on DVD.

No matter what may happen, Mirvish said that continuing to work in film and urging artistic growth were important to him.

Audiences should demand lower ticket prices, better performances

Concerts are rarely worth the money. The amount of money one has to pay to see mostly mediocre bands in simply pathetic.

I went to a few concerts over the summer that charged an outrageous amount to see whiney hard-core or inexperienced garage bands.

Granted, the shows had a few other groups, but I can listen to whiney, inexperienced kids at an open mic night for free.

So basically the price of a show allows you to see a band or two, but what

else does that get the concertgoer?

Nothing.

Some audience members choose to make their own fun by starting mosh pits or drinking copious amounts of alcohol and sing along.

I paid to see the band. I didn't pay to see vocally challenged drunken people sing and fall all over the place.

I can go to karaoke night and see that for free as well.

What should I expect? I mean, it is only a local show right? It is only our peers doing what they like to do. It is not like I paid \$45 to see the Eagles at Civic

Auditorium. Still, the bands should put some more effort into it.

Personally I think when a band does not perform as well as expected, it shows what the band really thinks of its fans. These cocky bands feel like they can show up, play some boring show and the audience is going to love it.

Wrong.

It basically makes the audience feel unappreciated.

What if people stop going to the shows? Where would all these bands and promoters be then? They might be pricing these concerts right out of the hands of the people.

If the bands here in Omaha are trying to get the music out to the people, why can't they make the shows worth it?

Why can't they put on shows that people would want to come back and see?

For all of the shows that are not worth my money, there is bound to be one that is. A great show makes the concert experience feel genuine and that makes the audience feel appreciated.

That's how it should be.

After reading about Omaha's own Conor Oberst's band Desaparecidos in a highly recognized music magazine, I was wanted to see more.

This show was worth every penny,

nickel and dime I pumped out to see it.

Isn't this what musical entertainment is supposed to be like?

This is one example of how members of a band have not let fame or recognition go to their heads. The band stayed true to its fans. That point was made very clear because the band delivered on every song.

So, considering that most of the concerts in Omaha charge a ton of money to see a band, what is in store for future local bands? Will they figure out that if they put on a great show, good people will actually pay money to see them?

One could only hope.



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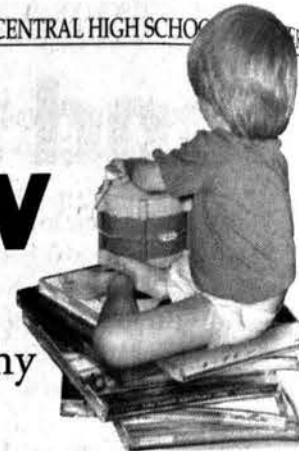
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Your Favorite Artists of Today

Make the Classics of Tomorrow

The *Register* staff polled 750 students to find out what artists of today they think will become classics in 20 or 30 years. Here are six of the top vote-getters, reviews of these soon-to-be-classic albums, a psychologist's opinion on why teens listen to the music they do and some student opinions on artists who did not make the cut.



Reasons for choosing music go beyond taste, doctor says

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

When a teenager goes to a record store and picks up a new CD, it may not be just because of a catchy single on the radio or a cool cover.

The reasons may be as varied at the variety of musical tastes in this country.

When is musical taste a form of rebellion?

Are there deeper ties that may influence what young people listen to?

What teens listen to can also be influenced by what social message they are interested in and how music compliments that message, said Dr. Lauree Tilton-Weaver, a psychology professor at UNO.

Early research once indicated that listening to music, especially music with counterculture ties could make teens more rebellious, she said.

Tilton-Weaver, who specializes in adolescent developmental psychology, said that theory has been proved to

mainly be a myth.

Tilton-Weaver said teens chose music for a variety of reasons, often basing the choice on individual social values. She said teens seek out music that has a message that fits in with their particular sets of beliefs.

"How they (teens) use that music is a different question," she said.

However, she said some fans do begin to imitate the artists of music they listen to when living their day-to-day lives.

Tilton-Weaver said one of the more obvious, recent examples of this has been kids imitating the style and look of goth-rocker Marilyn Manson.

This is nothing new because kids in the '70s had similar reactions to the punk rock movement during that decade when they began sporting mohawks, she said.

"It's a form of self-expression," she said. "It's not necessarily rebellion."

Most teens are able to choose music

in a healthy way that does not inspire them to be overly rebellious, Tilton-Weaver said.

"Most adolescents are not rebellious," she said. "Most adolescents are good kids."

Junior Aaron Gauff said that he listens to a lot of different kinds of music, from R&B to Blink 182.

He said his choice in music has never caused any problems about rebellion between him and his parents.

The reason that music seems so important to teens is that adolescence is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood, from a time of no power to a time of full power, Tilton-Weaver said.

Whatever culture an adolescent lives in determines how long the adolescent period will be, she continued.

"We(the culture) constructed adolescence," she

said.

The more complex the social structure of the culture is, the longer the period last, Tilton-Weaver said.

American teens live in one of the world's most complex societies, so they go through adolescence for a longer time than people of the same age in other countries, she said. Ever since the Industrial Revolution, society has been growing more complex, thus making the adolescent period longer, Tilton-Weaver said.

This means teens all throughout the

20th century have been progressively experiencing a longer adolescent period, she said, making the ones of teens today much longer than when their parents or grandparents were in that age range.

She said that American teens today are going through the longest adolescent phase ever, making music more important as a way to guide them through it.

Freshman Brian Cannon said he and his parents do not agree on music whatsoever. He said he considers their favorite artists corny and they hate the type of artists that he enjoys, but it still does not cause any major problems.

Central's Picks

Zombie album filled with flair, anger, hair

By John Owens-Ream

Equal parts Kiss, Marilyn Manson and Alice Cooper, with a dash of George Harrison for good measure, Rob Zombie (right) and his "Hellbilly Deluxe" is different, to say the least.

His music is infused with strong and steady drum beats, a pulsing bass and powerful distorted electric guitar.

Zombie only adds vocals about half the time, but when he does it is as much screaming as it is singing. However, from the very outset, Zombie doesn't pretend to be only about music. He is a showman, a figure to see and to hear.

Speaking in a strictly musical sense, there is very little to say in terms of quality. His music's main selling point is its psychotic and chaotic head banging sound.

Zombie is not the type of music to put on to relax after a long day of school. His music is brimming over the top with testosterone.

But that's not to say he doesn't have variations on the album. For someone who takes pride in being "a zombie first, and a musician second," he does take quite a few musical risks.

He manages to do what 95 percent of musicians won't do, by playing an entire instrumental track.

But it's something different.

In a world of everything-sounds-alike pop music, and one wanna-be rock band after another, even when you don't like his sound it is refreshing to know that Rob Zombie is out there doing something different.

He seems to be able to tell exactly when his songs need that little touch of exoticism.

It gives them a flavor which comes across as more than a middle-aged man in lots of make up screaming into a microphone.

Rap-rock band whines, offers nothing musically

By Charlie Wence

Limp Bizkit could be compared to a two year old trapped in an 30-year-old's body, with lots of whining thrown into the mix.



Courtesy of Interscope Records

ALBUM REVIEW

"Significant Other"

Limp Bizkit

out of 5

Its sophomore album, "Significant Other," released in 1999, is no more than griping about how everyone sucks and how "You better quit it, or you'll leave with a fat lip."

The quintet from Jacksonville, Fla. composed an album that had a blend of electronica, rap and hard rock, but was never really good at any of them.

Almost every track on this album either complains about how everyone is a backstabber, being broke or how that girl was no good for him.

In the track "Show Me What You Got," Fred Durst names off several cities in hope that the listeners will get excited that their hometowns was called and that it will make up for this musical catastrophe.

The only decent track may be "N 2 Gether Now," only because The Wu Tang Clan was featured in this track with a catchy beat, decent lyrics, excluding Fred Durst's tasteless and childish word choices as well as ruining the song's refrain.

The album's hits, "Nookie," "Break Stuff" and "Re-arranged" come off as catchy hard-rock tunes, but then morph into repetitive turn-that-off music.

As for the use of the guitar in "Significant Other," it was very basic and had no creativity whatsoever.

Limp Bizkit's continued use of violence, self-pity and countless phrases of isolation in its lyrics makes them off as a band with no talent.

Maybe one day the band will learn to grow out of its artificial, depressed, low-life personalities and possibly in the future release a decent album with lyrics that don't involve stating that everyone sucks at breaking stuff.

Rob Zombie (right) off of the cover of his 1998 "Hellbilly Deluxe" Courtesy of Geffen Records



What current hit will still be around in 20 years?

Is music choice a form of rebellion?

Does the song make a social statement?

What makes a classic?

Central's Picks

(continued)

Rapper's second album reflects continued anger



Courtesy of Interscope Records

By Katie Backman
Eminem's "The Marshall Mathers LP" album, raises eyebrows with lyrics filled with anger, threats and mockery of those who criticize him.

ALBUM REVIEW

"The Marshall Mathers LP"
Eminem

out of 5

His music may be offensive to some, but his lyrics portray his pain and thoughts he has on multiple subjects. It takes a mature man to speak about the topics, such as the problems in his youth as a result of his mother or stereotypes the media places on him.

"I don't know it's just the way I am," a lyric from "The Way I Am" shows that Eminem is proud of what he has accomplished.

He speaks out of pure anger. Everyone can listen to his music because it puts chaotic thoughts one has into words.

Not only are his lyrics expressive, they are extremely catchy as well.

Eminem has the right idea to emot through music instead of taking his animosity on the people he raps about. All of the tracks on the album are grim. "I'm Back" has countless humorous lines explaining the reasons behind his actions with the refrain, "That's why they call me

slim shady."

The media only needs one artist like Eminem because he successfully states the blunt truth thoroughly.

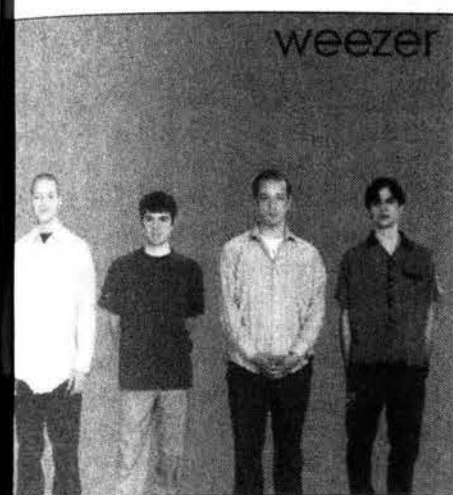
The music and beats on this album are as diverse as each topic he discusses. The music to one of his songs will never be confused with another.

Eminem is one of the few who can attain this kind of individuality.

The entire album displays skillful qualities with everything from the songs to the interludes.

The album is whimsical and emotional with family problems, his childhood, relationships and he even adds his own twist to a love song.

Album shows off honest songwriting, catchy melodies



Courtesy of Geffen Records

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz
Weezer's first album, the self-titled release that came to be known by fans as the "Blue Album," was a turning point in '90s alternative music.

This album helped define what is now called "emo," gave a generation of misfit music geeks a new best friend and showed off some of the most heartfelt and honest songwriting of the decade.

Eight years after its initial release, the album still remains a modern classic and a blueprint for scores of garage bands inspired by listening to the album on a beat-up bedroom stereo.

From the opening track, "My Name is Jonas," the album perfectly captures the sense of distance and isolation that nearly everyone feels at one point or another, especially during adolescence.

The album continues on from there, going on a roller coaster

ride that goes up to the simple pleasures of listening to music in the garage to the absolute lows of heartache and loneliness.

But besides being brutally honest, the "Blue Album" is also incredibly catchy. The tracks "Buddy Holly," "Undone-the Sweater Song" and "Say It Aint So" were huge radio hits for the band.

ALBUM REVIEW

"Weezer"
Weezer

out of 5

out of 5

The closing track, the nearly eight minute guitar epic, "Only In Dreams," is amazing and one of the standout tracks.

Weezer has managed to craft one of the most enduring and original album of the late 20th century.

Like an old friend, it is always there when you need it.

R&B songstress has talent to be huge star, needs to work on originality



Courtesy of Murder Inc. Records

By John Owens-Ream
Ashanti's debut and self-titled album has a lot of the same sounds and styles mixed throughout. All the tracks pretty much have the same bass rhythm, soaring vocals and chimes.

ALBUM REVIEW

"Foolish"
Ashanti

out of 5

In fact, Ashanti really didn't know when to stop with the chimes. In total she uses them almost two hundred times in the background of her best selling album.

It almost feels like being transported

into a Disney movie.

Notwithstanding, it is not a complete failure.

If they aren't different from each other in any recognizable way, at least Ashanti has found a style that is different from other R&B female vocalists.

But like many other R&B singers, really like many other singers and bands from all genres, Ashanti seems to have given in to blatant commercialization and forgotten about creating songs that are easy to listen to and not easy to sell.

It becomes quickly obvious that she was never intent on making a strong,

cohesive and enjoyable album, only on making some singles for the radio.

When the album, which is a remarkably 17 tracks long, is listened to too intently, the listener is in danger of going into a coma from the repetitiveness of the whole thing.

Put Ashanti on as background music, or listen to one track every once in a while, but when listened to for too long, too intently, the album begins to look more and more like a Frisbee.

And that is how CDs get thrown out of windows. Let's see how far this baby can be thrown.

Girl group shows transition between platinum divas, small town singers



Courtesy of Columbia Records

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz
Destiny's Child has earned a reputation for being a group of divas. Members quit, fire each other and live it up in designer clothes.

But when the group started, it was just four girls from Texas who loved to sing and had a super-motivated manager.

The band's second album, "The Writing's on the Wall," manages to capture the transition from simplicity to the big times.

From the intro sketch, the ladies of Destiny's Child (the actual original four members of the band) lay down the law to no good men who will try to trap them

in bad relationships.

These tracks were some of the bands biggest hits, like "Bills, Bills, Bills," "Say My Name" and "Jumpin' Jumpin'."

It is easy to see why because all of them are delicate mixes of polished production and sweet vocal harmonies, led by Beyonce Knowles, that provide the perfect mix for top 40 radio.

This is not an album full of experimentation, just an experiment in how long a proven formula can last. Just because Destiny's Child is telling off a few no-good boy-

friends, doesn't mean that it's about to go neo-riot girl on all of its fans.

The requisite love songs are here, from "Temptation" to "If You Leave," the girls show they are not giving up on men, they're just getting mad.

On the other hand, these four women are willing to show off the fact that they will not be taken for granted, which is admirable for any women in music today.

Destiny's Child has the potential to be the next Supremes-style classic R&B ensemble.

But it must remember that variety is the spice of life.

Student Opinions

Many students had strong opinions about the artists they voted for, even though they may not have been the top vote-getters. Here are some students' reasons why they made the choices they did.

Next classic rock artist:

Marilyn Manson

(photo at right)

"Because he wants to destroy Christianity and I support that all the way."

Tracina Stewart, 10

Next great rock star:

Ozzy Osbourne

"Ozzy! Look at him!!!"

Lisa Scarpello, 10

Next classic R&B artist:

Musiq Soulchild

"Many people of different age ranges enjoy his music and his lyrics are something everyone can listen to."

Danielle Minnifield, 11



Courtesy of Nothing Records



Courtesy of Wind-Up Records

Most influential artist:

Aaliyah

"She's gorgeous, talented and was actually a nice person. She would never have become full of herself."

Laura Ellis, 11

Classic rock artist:

Creed

(photo at left)

"A lot of people like them."

Sean McCall, 10

Next great girl group:

3LW

"I think 3LW because their new style is good and they are starting to sing with big names that have been in the music business forever."

Ashley Albers, 10

The Billboard Top 10

To get a little perspective on how fleeting hits can be, the Register compiled the Billboard Top 10 album lists from the week of Sept. 13, 2002 and the week of Sept. 19, 1992 to see if any of the older ones were still around.

Billboard Top Ten as of Sept. 19 1992

1. "Some Gave All," Billy Ray Cyrus
2. "Beyond the Season," Garth Brooks
3. "Unplugged," Eric Clapton
4. "Ten," Pearl Jam
5. "Bobby," Bobby Brown
6. "Boomerang," Soundtrack
7. "Totally Krossed Out," Kris Kross
8. "Temple of the Dog," Temple of the Dog
9. "What's the 411," Mary J. Blige
10. "Funky Divas," En Vogue

Billboard Top Ten as of Sept. 20, 1997

1. "Ghetto D," Master P
2. "No Way Out," Puff Daddy
3. "The Dance," Fleetwood Mac
4. "Songbook: A Collection of Hits," Trisha Yearwood
5. "Pieces of You" Jewel
6. "Spice" Spice Girls
7. "Yourself or Someone Like You" Matchbox 20
8. "Men In Black" Soundtrack
9. "Be Here Now" Oasis
10. "The Fat of the Land" Prodigy

Billboard Top Ten as of Sept. 12, 2002

1. "Home," Dixie Chicks
2. "The Eminem Show," Eminem
3. "Let Go," Avril Lavigne
4. "Nellyville," Nelly
5. "The Rising," Bruce Springsteen
6. "Come Away with Me," Norah Jones
7. "A Rush of Blood to the Head," Coldplay
8. "Now 10," Various Artists
9. "Eve-olution," Eve
10. "Lord Willin'," Clipse

All info. courtesy of Billboard.com

Joan Jett still loves to rock

By Bryan Switek

Authentic female rockers are few and far between, but one remains on top, that would be the one and only Joan Jett.

On Sept. 1, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts played a show at the Westfair Amphitheater where she had so much control over the crowd that she made them bark like dogs and howl at her command.

The excellent performance made up for the \$22 fans pumped out for a ticket. Although the venue managers decided to put in seats for the event, the audience refused to sit and proceeded to dance on the flimsy benches.

That's the type of show it was. The band ran onto the stage and started the upbeat guitar riffs of "Bad Reputation,"

CONCERT REVIEW

-Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

out of 5

The show was off to a good start. Early on, everyone realized that this was going to be a great performance.

You could feel the energy in the air.

Three songs later the band started to give the audience a taste of its wilder side. Playing songs called "Androgynous" and "Fetish." Jett had the audience in her hands.

The next song, a rock anthem, kept the audience going. "I Love Rock N' Roll" blared all over the area around the theatre and got everyone of the audience members on their toes.

Jett made the song famous, long before it was covered by pop idol Britney Spears.

The show rolled on with her rendition of the famous '60s song by Tommy James and the Shondells, "Crimson and Clover," the song calmed the audience down a little bit, just to get them all wired up again with her song, "Baby Blue."

Perhaps the best performance of the night was "Cherry Bomb," a song written while Jett was in her all girl rock group The Runaways back in the '70s. This song about teen angst and good girls gone bad proved to be an audience favorite.

As the show died down, The Blackhearts played the theme song to "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," which Jett is performing in on Broadway.

All the audience members should have realized that they had just witnessed a true legend in action. The show was great and all fans should have been there, but if they were not, they missed out on one rockin' show.

Local bands Tattooed Millionaire and Lovetap opened the show for Jett.

Album release show amazes crowd



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER
Singer/guitarist Jason Ludwick of the Bombardment Society rips through a guitar riff at Sokal Underground at the band's seven-inch release party.

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

The old saying is true, when it rains, it pours.

Some bands may have put on one good set for a album release show, but local trio the Bombardment Society arranged for four different yet amazing sets from a variety of talented local bands to celebrate the release of its self-titled seven-inch.

The band has been around for about two years and has developed a loyal fan base. That was just one reason that the show on Aug. 24 at the Sokol Underground was relatively well-attended for a local concert.

Another factor that helped fill the joint was a stellar lineup.

The mix of bands was perfect. Each one was extraordinarily talented and played a unique style of music that kept all of the concertgoers entertained.

The Bombardment Society tore through its set of material, old and new, including material from the debut, self-titled seven-inch.

Drummer Kevin Jones opened the set by wishing his mother, who was in the audience, a happy birthday.

Then the band ripped through the set, putting its all into each song and ending with a crazy feedback-topped finale that left the audience begging for more.

The band's music is hard to label, but seems to draw influences from early '90s indie and punk, as well as some art rock and a little bit of hardcore. Whatever mix it may be, the Bombardment Society has perfected it.

Opening up the show was a relatively

new band, Bleeders for Treats.

Its combination of rapid-fire drumming, gothic organ keyboards, screaming vocals and steady melodic parts blended together in a strangely pleasing way.

This band is sure to become a local favorite around Omaha, as it defies definition and any one style and blends many into a high-energy performance.

The keyboard player and frontman were both extremely energetic, flailing about the stage during the set.

Next up was Real Time Optimists. Another trio, it delivered an amazing set of songs played art rock.

Though the band was much more subdued than the Bleeders for Treats, it still kept the energy of the night flowing and did not let the pace slow down.

Third in line was local tractor-punk legends, the Monroes.

The owners of Speedy Nebraska, the record label that released the Bombardment Society seven-inch, are in the Monroes, so it was obvious that they would have a vested interest in making sure the show went well.

The show went extremely well thanks to the Monroes' high-octane performance punctuated by friendly banter with the audience.

The members seemed to be having a genuinely good time on-stage, which is one of the best ways to ensure a good performance.

Though the energy and raw talent of the night cannot be recaptured, the Bombardment Society's seven-inch may be purchased at the Antiquarium.

Tool puts on elaborate concert for Civic Auditorium crowd

By Nichole Tyrey

Giant atom-like balloons of skin slowly melting off of a skull with life-size models of the endocrine, digestive and circulatory systems and

an anatomy experiment gone haywire.

But it was the recipe for the awesome show by Tool at the Civic Auditorium on Sept. 5.

Tomahawk, an industrial-esque band warmed up the crowd for Tool. The crowd did not take to the band's style, which is reminiscent of early Skinny Puppy with a bit of David Bowie mixed in.

It was booed and hissed off the stage. Its only rebash was a pointing gesture using the middle finger and

a 10 minute song that sounded like a cross between elevator music and '80s show tunes.

Immediately after Tomahawk's set, a droning sound began to ooze from the speakers. It slowly crescendoed over the course of 15 minutes, giving the crowd goose bumps.

The dimmed stage lights slowly got brighter as Tool made an entrance. After the crowd's cheers subsided, they started playing "Sober."

The crowd rushed the stage in waves. It felt like we were in the middle of a hurricane. The mosh pit was the eye of the storm, providing a little breathing room. After the first song, the lead singer, Maynard Keenan, left the stage.

He returned shortly, minus

some clothing. He wore a black Speedo to match the stripe painted on his head. He played the entire show facing backwards next to the drums.

They played a few more songs ending the first set with "Aenema." The wave of people subsided.

The crowd stood there dumbfounded. The same cicada bass line droned from the speakers and we waited. Tool returned and began its second set, this time a little slower.

At the end of the show, Keenan finally showed his profile as he said, "I hope you all had an experience. A good experience, a bad experience, a different experience, or just an experience. Take those feelings and create. Think for yourself and above all, question authority."

The show was awesome, exceeding everyone's expectations and truly becoming a memorable experience.



Courtesy of Volcano Records
The members of Tool are, from left, James Chamberlain, Danny Carey, Adam Jones and Maynard Keenan

'To Whom it May Concern' concerns very few with lame pop-rock hooks, identity crisis

By John Owens-Ream

If you want to hear a 20 second music clip, then Splendor's latest is your album of the week.

However, after listening to the rest of any given song's repetitive, dull and completely unoriginal lyrics and melodies, many fans may be finding Splendor a little less splendorous.

Four years ago the band might have been a substantial breakthrough for the emerging pop rock movement.

This did not happen.

Unfortunately for Splendor, uppity and energetic bands such as Jimmy Eat World and already established bands such as Radiohead were already doing the same thing, only better.

Radiohead and Jimmy Eat World are a fairly strange combination, but "To Whom it May Concern" offers up an equally strange combination of songs and styles.

On this, its third album, Splendor seems to be having an identity crisis.

"Are we some sort of happy electric pop band?" they seem to ask on unfulfilling tracks such as "No Big Deal" and "But Anyway." On tracks like, "The Loneliest Person I Know" and "Good Evening," they seem to find their image as a fashion of acoustic rock with soaring vocals and overwhelming harmonies.

Unfortunately, Splendor is not confident enough to rely on innovative guitar and complex melodies to sell its album.

It ruins its only redeeming tracks by adding choruses and bridges that, though make excellent sound bites, completely ruin

the songs.

At times it seems the band is trying to reach the kind of pop perfection that makes classics, but it just can't.

On the tracks, "Here I am, There I Go" and "Wide Awake," its complex and psychedelic sounds slowly pull the album out of the trash bin only to dive face-first back in with contrived and cliché choruses such as, "Show me the sign...I would die for you."

Splendor wants to be what it is not.

That's a mistake.

On its sophomore album, "Halfway Down the Sky," the

members of Splendor establish themselves as emotional rockers who lack the harsh sounds of Linkin Park and yet are not so soft as to fit into the wuss-rock category of Matchbox 20.

Lured by the crossover pop success of its single, "Yeah, Whatever," the band seems to be constantly trying to pull themselves back into the realm of light emo-rock in order to rehash its prior glory.

By spending so much time worrying about what will sell records and not about what makes records worth buying, it has lost the golden opportunity to

delve into the genre and truly create something original.

Again, this is another mistake. Although the album does have some value, as a coaster, ultimately shows great promise and then manages not to deliver time and again.

But buy the album soon if you are planning on buying it at a low price. Besides mental bankruptcy, financial bankruptcy may loom in the band's very near future.

At this rate you can expect that Tonic, Third Eye Blind, and even Savage Garden will be suing to get their styles back.

Then again, maybe not.

ALBUM REVIEW

"To Whom it May Concern"

Splendor

out of 5

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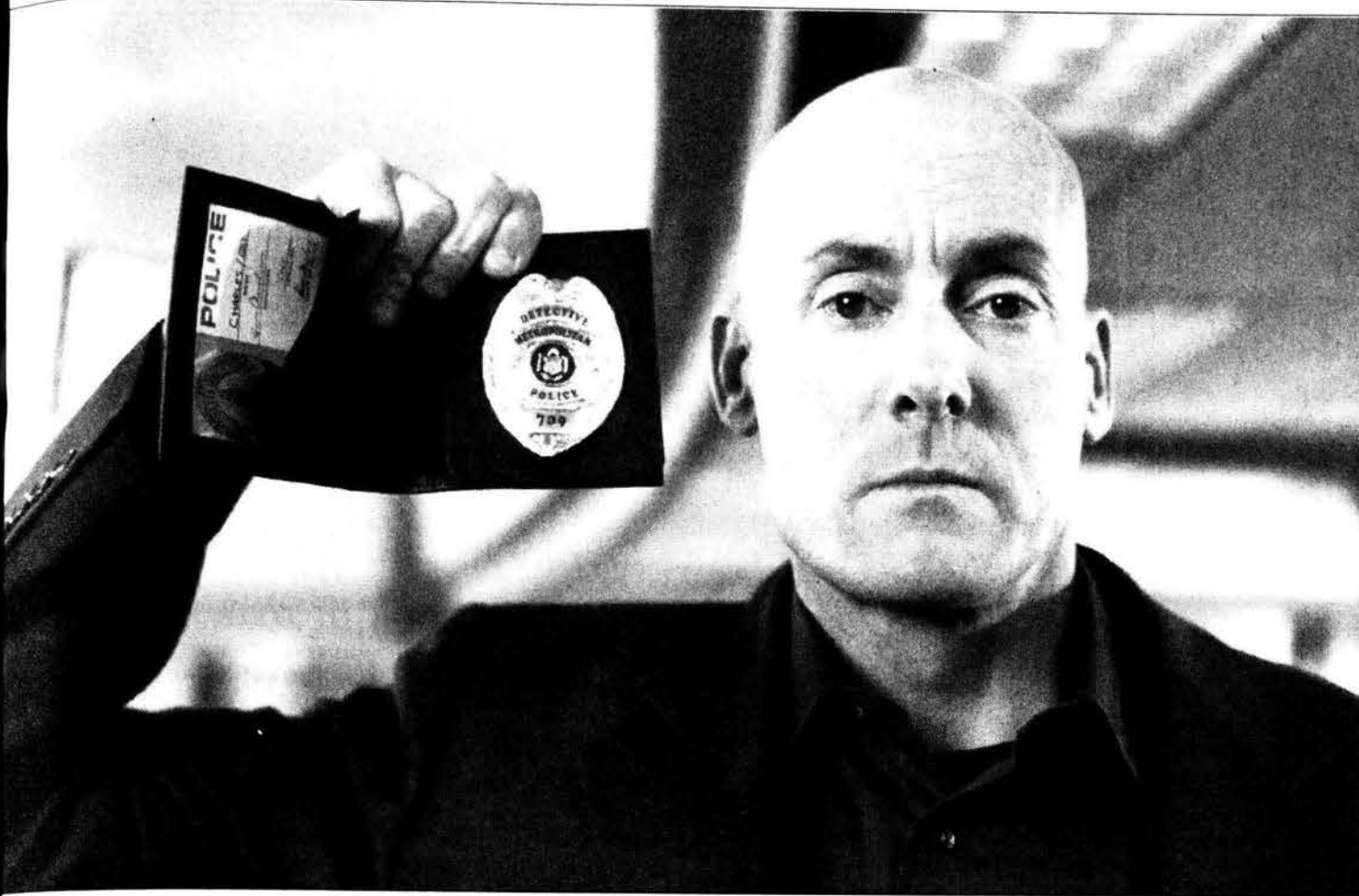
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Detective Charles (John C. McGinley) takes his job seriously in the new comedy "Stealing Harvard." Tom Green and Jason Lee also star in the movie.

Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Slapstick humor steals show

By John Owens-Ream

"Stealing Harvard" will never be a classic movie, but there was more to like than to dislike, more to enjoy than to hate and it left almost every viewer smiling all the way out of the theater.

As a poke in the eye to recent intellectual comedies like "The Royal Tenenbaums," Tom Green and Jason Lee remind audiences that movies don't have to be deep and relevant in order to be funny.

Staples of slapstick humor, such as random flying objects hitting people, are employed quite enjoyably without the audiences ever caring that there is no biting social commentary.

"Stealing Harvard" never pretends to have anything more to offer than laughs. But the movie does have low points.

Several times Tom Green threatens to pull the film down to an eight-year-old level by pulling stunts suspiciously similar to his last movie, "Freddie Got Fingered." But he never completely does.

In fact, one of the real joys of this movie is that it at so many points could have been quite awful, but was miraculously saved.

Both Tom Green and Jason Lee manage to deliver fairly enjoyable and believable performances.

The two team up to go around pulling off all sorts of wacky antics in an effort to get Lee's character's niece enough money to go to Harvard.

All of this is because of a promise he made to her as a little girl. Isn't that always the reason a person would do such things?

A bad directorial decision to let the plot resolve itself in completely

unbelievable ways does leave the audience a little unsatisfied. Nonetheless, the last 45 minutes are still some of the film's funniest.

Lee begins the movie with narration about his view of fate. It may be fate which allows this movie to safely make its way to the end.

Green, the MTV poster child for outrageous stunts, isn't quite a beacon of light in the vast sea of bad teen movies.

But he and Lee, along with a hilarious supporting actress, Leslie Mann, make this movie at least a flashlight.

For its genre, "Stealing Harvard" may very well be a masterpiece.

While, unfortunately, there is only so much good that can come from a teen exploitation film filled with cheap sexual innuendoes and crude physical gags, the one piece of good it can deliver is laughter.

Horror movie provides laughs

By Bryan Swotek

One of the great pleasures of watching movies is viewing a film that looks bad, but turns out to be spectacularly bad.

A horror movie that puts its own special spin on the word "howler," "Fear Dot Com" opens with a cameo from Udo Kier, a character actor whose presence usually means either something pretty good or something pretty awful is going to happen.

Digging his fingernails into the cover of a book and rolling his bloodshot drunken eyes, Kier stumbles across a soundstage that's desperately trying, and desperately failing, to pass itself off as a New York City subway platform.

It doesn't look good, in any way. Rolling his eyes as wildly as a drunk rolls dice, Kier flings himself into the path of a train, a completely irrational act that seems all too sensible for a cheesy movie.

Kier's character and a mysterious "she-devil" are in cahoots with a phantom that's haunting the Internet and a serial killer named the Doctor (Stephen

Rea), who videotapes his grisly crimes, then puts the footage on the Web.

A detective named Mike (Stephen Dorff) has been hunting the Doctor for some time, but hasn't been able to catch a break. When victims with bleeding eyeballs begin to litter the city streets, however, prompting the intervention of a department of Health Inspector named Terry (Natascha McElhone), the cold case begins to warm up.

All too slowly, Mike and Terry discover that the ghost in the machine draws Web surfers into a site called "feardotcom" where they, and the viewers, can watch the bad doctor slowly torture women to death with an assortment of needles and scalpels.

The web surfers get bloody eyes for their trouble and viewers get this horrible movie.

The story leapfrogs abruptly from scene to scene, and it makes such a mockery of narrative logic and continuity that the cast tends to look either baffled or as if they're trying to remain unrecognized.

Then again, while such artlessness doesn't inspire shivers, it's definitely worth a few cheap laughs.

Movie fails to deliver thrills, chills

By Katie Backman

The teen pseudo-thriller "Swimfan" is one of the most idiotic movies of the year, so no one should waste a valuable evening viewing it.

There was no one specific part that made this flick bad. It was the entire plot that made it more painful to watch than getting ones eyes cut with a razor blade.

It tells the story of star swimmer, Ben, who cheats on his girlfriend, Amy, with the crazy new girl, Madison. Ben begins to threaten Madison about their fling and orders her not to tell anyone, for fear of ruining his life.

Madison, also known as Mad, has some serious issues and secrets in her past. But of course no one realizes it. She doesn't understand the definition of a

one-night stand. She begins showing up at his home, hanging out with his friends, sending scandalous pictures of her and naturally attending the same parties.

The acting techniques were horribly weak. The actors' true talents, if they had any, were completely buried under this totally unrealistic plot.

A movie like this will never represent a high school atmosphere correctly. The actors could easily skip class, have a class with all their friends and separate people by popularity.

"Swimfan" will not stay above water by attempting to create a mystery plot in high school with sex and murder. The only purpose this movie serves is to display the lack of imagination with teen movies today.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Swimfan"
 Starring: Jesse Bradford, Erika Christensen
 Rated: PG-13
 out of 5

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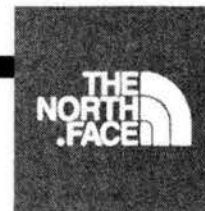
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New dining spot offers exotic food

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

For a dining experience that is totally unique, try the new Mongolian Barbecue in the Old Market.

This new restaurant puts an interesting twist on Asian food, while giving the diner tons of choices over his meal.

DINING REVIEW The best thing about

Mongolian BBQ in the Old Market Barbecue is that it allows

out of 5 those who are new to

exotic eating to dip a toe in the water and see what it's all about. First-timers can start off mild and work their way up to the more outlandish fare.

The restaurant is set up in an interesting manner.

First of all, instead of ordering entrées, there is a flat per-plate cost that includes appetizers. Diners may fill up their plates as many times as they please.

The per-plate price is steeper than fast food, but a value considering the quality and quantity of the food.

Once diners have their plates, they proceed to the buffet of fixings. First, they choose a type of noodle to serve as a base for the dish.

Then they move onto the spread of meats and vegetables. There is a variety to choose from and each person can choose his own unique blend.

The restaurant offers everything from the mundane carrots and snow peas to the sort-of out there squid and bamboo.

This provides the perfect variety for somewhat timid eaters who are looking to branch out.

After the meats and vegetables, the sauce bar. The restaurant provides an amazing array of oils, vinegars and base sauces that can be combined into different sauces.

There are menus up on the walls that give recipes for making different sauces, from spicy to mild.

The friendly staff is more than happy to help the indecisive make the right choice to complement their meal.

Next comes the best part of the Mongolian dining experience. Diners step up to a huge flat grill and trained chefs dump out the entire contents of the plate—meat, vegetables, noodles, sauce and all—onto it and begin to stir fry it.

This really is quite an interesting scene to watch. The cooks swirl the food about for a minute or two until the meat is fully cooked, but not so long as to make the vegetables limp.

Once the entire process is through, what is left is pure perfection. Since the diner has so much control over what goes into the meal, it is bound to come out suiting the individual's taste and smelling absolutely delicious.

On the whole, most of the meals come out something like Thai food, but with a more personal twist. The restaurant is an enjoyable place to eat a meal, not huge, but with enough open space that no one feels cramped.

After just the one try, it is guaranteed that the restaurant's great food, friendly staff and close proximity to Central will keep you coming back.

Homecoming 2002

If you are looking for the perfect dress for the perfect night, the *Register* has the guide to an exceptional Homecoming look. Try out a new style of clothes, update your old look or make your own dress. There are no rules. Whatever your budget is or whatever style you prefer, there is a unique look out there for you. It's your Homecoming. Enjoy it.

By Nichole Tyrey



Classic

This classic dress will turn even the most plain-Jane into a stunning starlet.

The simple strapless dress paired with the more contemporary red trends as well.

The flowing gauzy bottom adds dimension to this classic dress. It also provides a dramatic, romantic feel without making the dress horribly uncomfortable or bulky so it won't get in the way when dancing.

Pair this dress with a strand of pearls, simple shoes and a cream shawl and wow the Homecoming crowd. If you want a classic, classy look, a dress like this will suit you to a tee.



Retro

The wearer will jump, jive and wail in this eye-catching '40s inspired dress. One of the many good things about this dress is one like it can be found at a thrift store, garage sale, or even in the back of grandma's closet.

The black and white polka dots paired with red jewelry makes a nice contrast. Wear sky-high red heels and matching lipstick and nail polish to make this dress really stand out. Some simple accessories, like a rhinestone bracelet or a couple of rings will top off the look.

A combination like that is sure to make you feel like you've stepped back into a swinging jazz nightclub instead of a school dance.



Natural

This earth-toned dress is perfect for girls who prefer a low maintenance approach to Homecoming. This neutral dress is filled with endless possibilities.

When paired with hemp accessories, long flower hair and a flat, earth-colored shoe, it becomes natural child chic. It can also be updated by adding colorful accessories like a pink wrap or turquoise jewelry. Or go minimalist, scimp on the jewelry and accessories, wear casual flip-flops and this dress will carry you from dance to late night breakfast.

This dress goes from earthy to urban in two seconds flat making this an excellent choice for the girl on the run. Comfort is also a major plus to a dress like this. This flowy, soft fabric will never get old.

photos by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

I Am Legend finds local scene a good place to grow

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

For local hardcore quintet I Am Legend, being in a band is about more than playing music.

Being around their close friends and being part of Omaha's thriving hardcore scene are also very important to the band's members, vocalist Jordan Brand said.

Brand, drummer Scott Hillabrand, guitarist and vocalist Joe Mickeliunas, bassist and back-up vocalist Chris Kelley and guitarist Eric Brouillette have been in the band since November of 2001.

I Am Legend formed after the break-up of the former band of Kelley, Hillabrand and Brand. By the end of 2001, Brand said, the five members had come together as I Am Legend and began practicing, playing their first show in January of this year.

On July 19, the band released its debut album, an EP entitled "Linking the Blood

Mythologies." Brand said the band is searching for a label to put out its next release, a split with Back When.

The label that put out the EP released the album, but did not actually sign the band or do anything in the way of promotions, which is what Brand said the band is looking for in a label.

The closeness of the hardcore scene is important to the band, Brand said.

This tight-knit network allows Brand to meet musicians and fans from all over the place. He said people from as far as Kansas City and Sioux Falls SD have come to Omaha for shows.

"You get to know a lot of bands that come through," he said.

Brand said he has been going to hardcore shows in the area for eight years. The bands that are playing in Omaha now are some of the best he has seen.

"I like it here," he said. "I

think there's still a lot (of room) to grow."

The band members played around town about twice a month. The band is planning its first tour in September that will stretch to Madison, WI.

Brand said the band has wanted to go on tour because the members thought going on a tour out of town too early in the band's career was a mistake.

"We thought it would be better if we worked on building our following in Nebraska," Brand said.

For Brand, the best part about being in the band is that it is a way for him to work out his issues through his lyrics.

"It's (the best part) really like that release, that's what it's all about, getting the energy out," he said.

Brand said he hopes to expand the band's following by playing more shows and find a steady record label in the future.



Courtesy of Jordan Brand

Vocalist Jordan Brand and guitarist Joe Mickeliunas scream during a show at the Couch House. The band can often be found playing at house shows or Farnam Street with other local hardcore bands.



Homecoming

A look at who's who on the football teams for the Homecoming game.

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SPORTS

Thursday, September 26, 2002

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The Register

Horne hopes to be next in line at UNL

By Doug Meigs

If David Horne isn't seeing red, he will be. It's official...sort of.

Horne is on the verge of red-shirting at UNL.

Although Horne said he has red-shirted already, Lincoln's head running back coach Dave Gillespie said that the issue is still up in the air.

But it's just a matter of time.

Until then, Horne will continue to sit up for games and wait his turn on the sidelines.

Gillespie said that Horne has a good chance at red-shirting this year, but it all depends on how he performs in practice, injuries on the field and the tough competition from other contending I-backs.

"Right now, it's Diedrick's spot, but Thunder's got a good chance," Horne said.

Gillespie said the two seniors will definitely be receiving anywhere from the majority to all of the playing time in the I-back spot this year.

Then next year, other contending talent includes Josh Davis from Colorado and Corrie Ross from Iowa.

"I'm really happy with David," he said. "We knew coming in that he was physically impressive."

However, he said he was more impressed with his character, his attentiveness, willingness to work hard, and ability to learn quickly.

Horne said he doesn't think he will see any playing time this year, and seemed pessimistic towards his chances for next year. Nevertheless, he said he is hopeful and plans to continue working hard.

McMenamin said he's being modest. He said Horne doesn't give himself enough credit.

The head coach said Horne's been that way as long as he has known him, even as an All-American I-back receiving a seemingly endless supply of full-ride scholarships upon the onset of his junior year.

"I agree with the idea of red-shirting David because if he does this year, he'll still have four years left of good playing time," McMenamin said.

It takes most students five years to graduate, so he said it would make sense. Regardless of whether he does or not this year, he said Horne will make a major challenge next year for significant time in the I-back position.

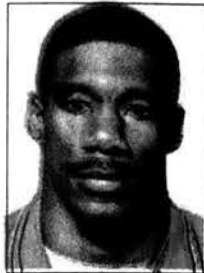
He said the issue is not whether or not he will red-shirt this year, it's whether he will have a chance to start next year.

McMenamin said that his summer performances alone should be a testament to Horne's continued excellence after high school. He was selected out of Nebraska's top graduating football players to participate in the Shrine bowl in Crete.

The game took place on July 17 and Horne was nominated tournament MVP.

Also during the summer, he played the select Downunder bowl in Australia. His team took second.

Since then, McMenamin said Horne has been living, drinking and thinking football. He said he is confident the work will pay off and predicts Horne will be starting at least by his senior year.



Horne

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Football tradition will stay alive as three new faces fight for the running back position

By Doug Meigs

For the past 30 years, their famous faces have looked down from the walls of Central at aspiring running backs.

Under the photographed gaze of Gale Sayers and his brethren, a stream of athletes have continued to pour out of the halls into college and professional football stardom.

Welcome to I-Back high.

It's a tradition. Year after year, Central has pumped out top notch All-American and All-State running backs. Head coach Joe McMenamin said that he doesn't see it ending any time soon.

He said it began in the early '60s with Sayers. He scored his way out of Nebraska and into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1977 for his career with the Kansas City Chiefs and the Chicago Bears.

Then within the decade, Joe Orduna followed by going pro with the St. Louis Rams.

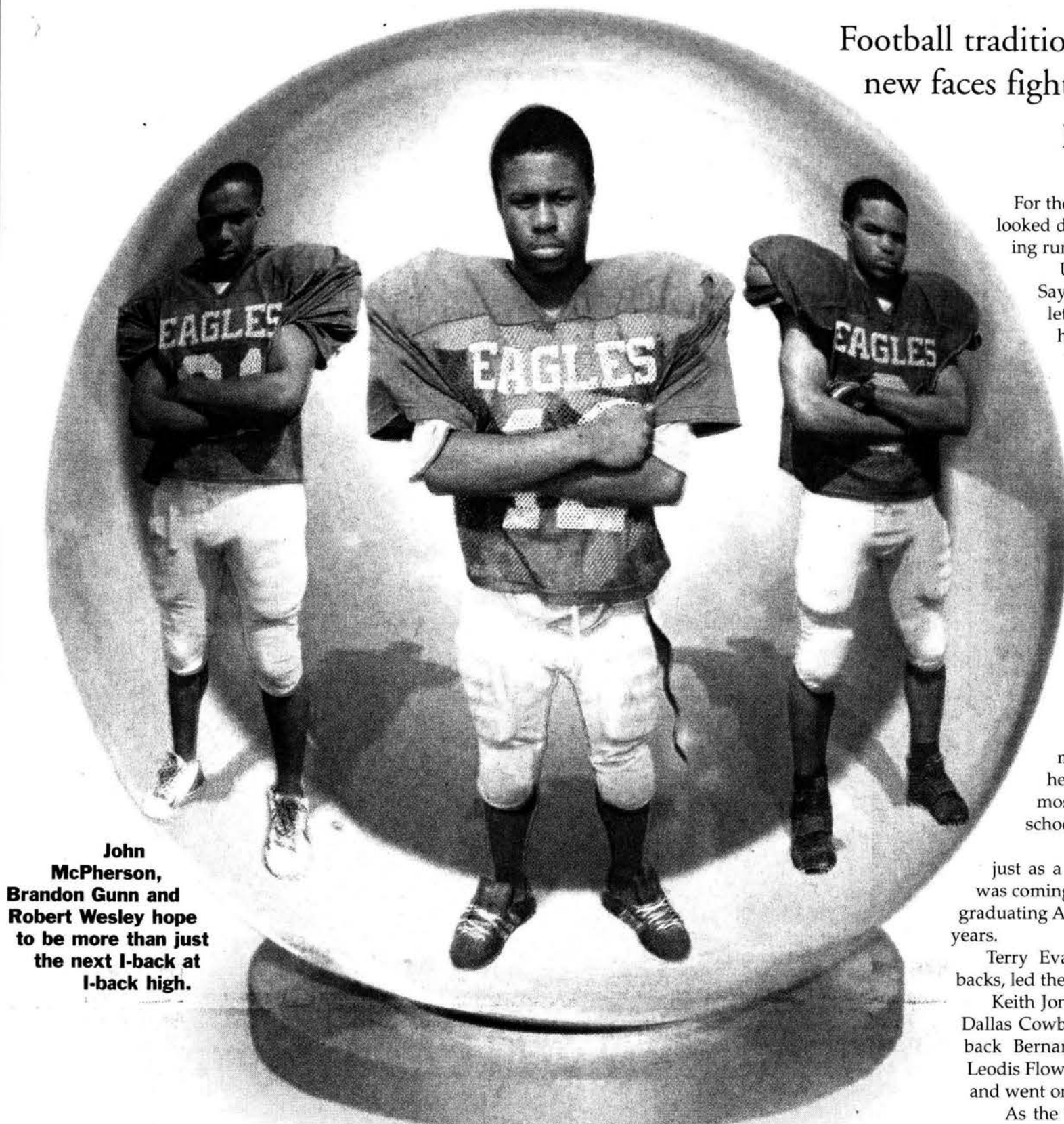
McMenamin began his involvement in the tradition in 1978. Although he said he might have missed two of the most notable I-backs to come through the school, the legacy was just starting.

He said he came to coach the Eagles just as a nearly ten year running back drought was coming to an end. Since then, Central has been graduating All-State running backs at least every two years.

Terry Evans, the first of McMenamin's star I-backs, led the state in rushing and graduated in 1981.

Keith Jones was next, going on to play with the Dallas Cowboys. Two years later, All State running back Bernard Jackson graduated. Then, in 1987 Leodis Flowers graduated as a Parade All-American and went on to play for the Miami Dolphins.

As the '90s kicked off, Calvin Jones graduated



John McPherson, Brandon Gunn and Robert Wesley hope to be more than just the next I-back at I-back high.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Quarterback position filled with talent, depth, coach says

By Devon O'Connell

Head football coach Joe McMenamin doesn't need to worry about the quarterback spot because juniors Cortney Grixby and John Friend both feel right at home taking snaps.

Last year Grixby was in contention for the starting varsity spot with two other players, but eventually started in the last three games of the season. Friend was the starting quarterback on the JV team, but also saw some varsity action.

Originally, McMenamin said he wasn't sure who would actually get the starting position this year, but over the summer, Grixby emerged as the favorite.

"Cortney has the edge at QB," he said. "He's faster, and has a little bit more experience than John, but it's still very competitive."

Grixby ran a 4.55 electronic forty-yard dash at the UNL football camp this summer, which was the fastest out of all 1,700 athletes in attendance.

Although Grixby got the nod for the starting position, McMenamin said that both players will see plenty of time.

"Both of them really looked great in the Outback Bowl this summer," he said.

Grixby received the starting spot over Friend in the Outback bowl, but Friend saw playing time as well. Grixby had one touchdown on the ground, and another from the air, while Friend passed for a touchdown.

Between Grixby and Friend, there is no misunderstanding about what needs to be done.

"It's lots of responsibility, we both have to come out and be the

team leaders," Grixby said.

Friend said that they both would do whatever it takes to lead and get things done.

"There is so much talent on this team that we can come out and score every time," Friend said.

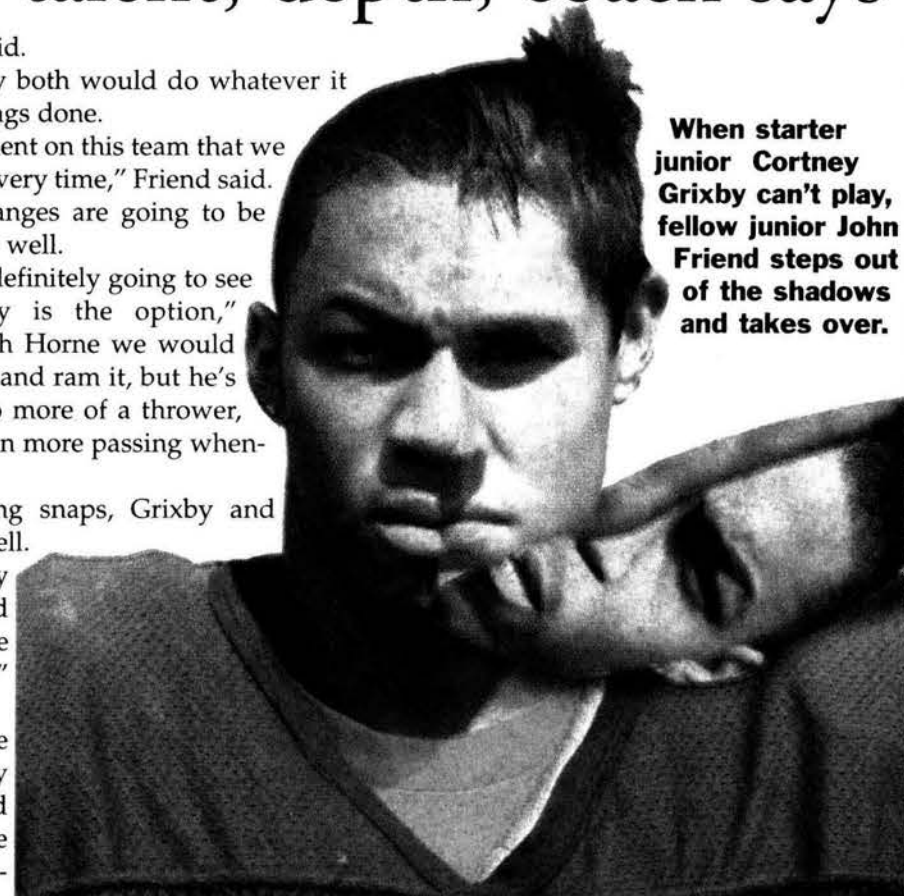
Some significant changes are going to be made with the offense as well.

"One thing you are definitely going to see more of with Cortney is the option," McMenamin said. "With Horne we would just have two tight ends and ram it, but he's gone now. Friend is also more of a thrower, which will probably mean more passing whenever he is in."

In addition to taking snaps, Grixby and Friend play defense as well.

"John will probably start as a safety, and Cortney is probably the best corner on the team," McMenamin said.

He said colleges are more interested in Grixby as a corner, which could lead to more playing time at the quarterback position for Friend.



When starter junior Cortney Grixby can't play, fellow junior John Friend steps out of the shadows and takes over.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Supplements help increase weight, muscle mass faster, athlete says

by Jillian Risavi

Seniors John Peterson and Mesha Reynolds are athletes who have taken supplements in attempt to pump up their physical strength, endurance, and weight.

Peterson said he

drinks two protein shakes a day made up of 60 grams of whey powder mixed with milk or water.

Whey protein comes in a powder, bar and drink form that is high in calories. It contains all the amino acids found in proteins that allow a person to gain weight and build muscle mass.

He said that since he has been using whey he has doubled his daily amount of proteins and carbohydrates. He said it has allowed him to gain weight and muscle mass faster.

Athletes can also take other protein supplements such as egg, soy and casein.

Peterson said that other than whey protein he has taken creatine.

"Creatine is a commercially available supplement, available without a prescription," Jon Wagner, director of the UNO College of Pharmacy, said.

Wagner said that creatine is found in three amino acids in the body as well as in red meat and poultry. He said that it's a supplement that works in the muscle cells allowing an athlete to work out longer.

"I had more endurance, faster muscle recovery and I wasn't as sore when I took it," Peterson said.

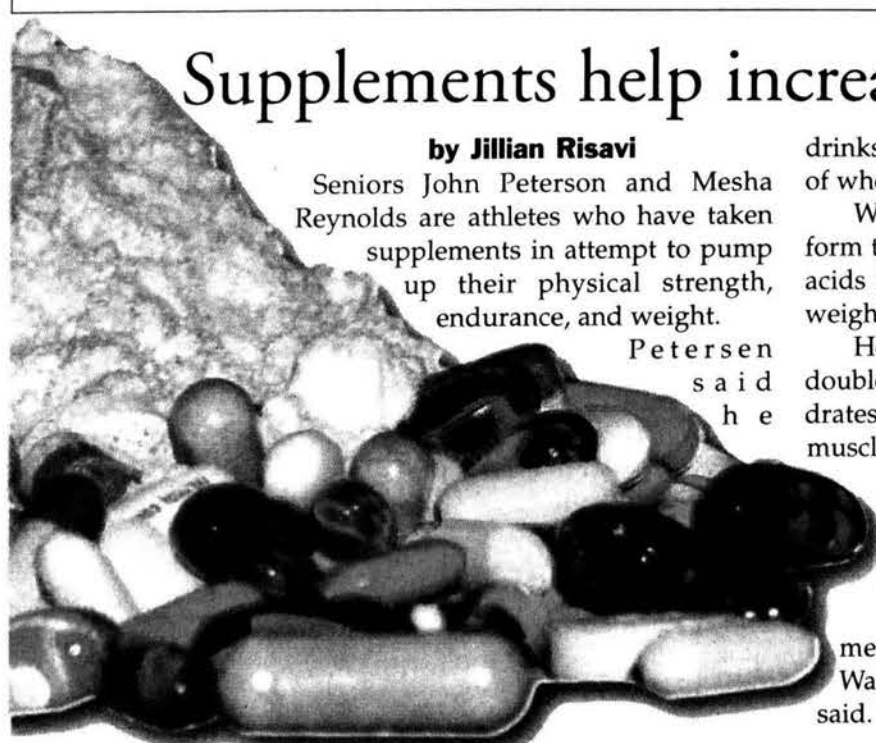
He said he began to take creatine at the beginning of his sophomore year for more intensity during his workouts.

He said that he took the recommended over-the-counter dose of five grams after each workout.

Peterson said he stopped taking it at semester of his sophomore year. He said he no longer saw a point to paying for something that he felt was not adequately helping him.

Like Peterson, Reynolds said she took creatine because she wanted to get stronger. She also said that

See MUSCLES, page 32



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Senior balances athletic pursuits at club, school

By Danielle Welty

Senior Mary Michalak said she hopes to lead the soccer team to athletic as well as academic excellence in the upcoming season.

Michalak said she will also continue to show similar leadership at the club level. This year will be her last year playing club soccer since she began eight years ago.

She currently plays for the West Omaha Gladiator Celtics. Recently, the team travelled to Brookings and Vermillion, South Dakota where it scrimmaged the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State.

The first game against the University of South Dakota ended in a tie, while it defeated South Dakota State 4-2.

She said it was a good opportunity.

The experience gained playing against the colleges will enhance her abilities as a player.

In turn, making next season even more promising.

Michalak said that out-of-town tournaments offer a higher level of competition and that in club sports you get more playing time than in high school.

"It's all very time-consuming and you have to give up a lot of things, like football games and going out a lot," Michalak said, "but it really is all worth it."

Along with her rigorous schedule of weekly games and practices, she said she still finds time for numerous extra-curricular activities.

Michalak said she recently began to work as a hostess at Outback Steakhouse for her marketing internship.

In addition, she is a member of the Distribution Education Clubs of America, President of National Honor Society and senior class treasurer.

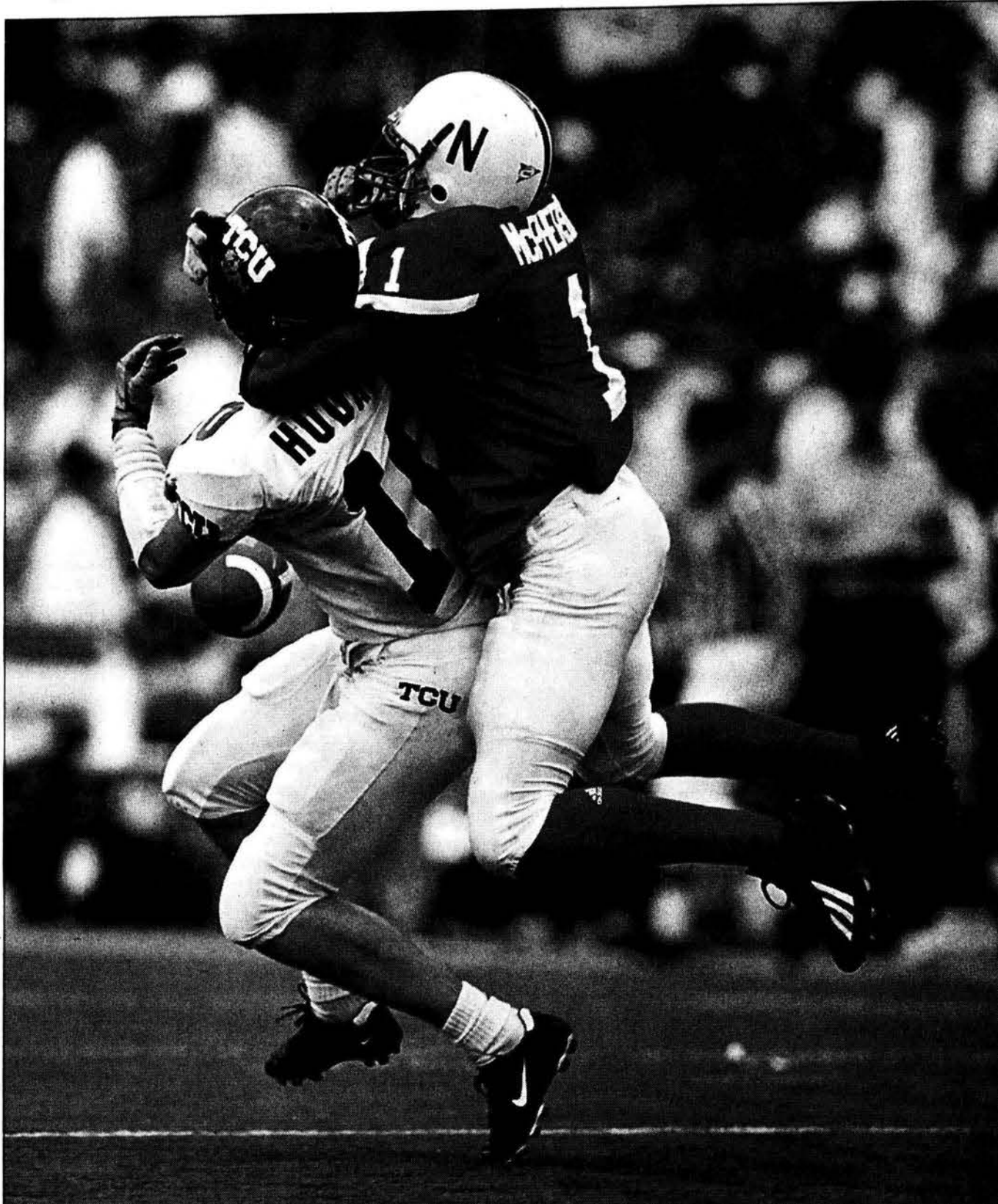
In the upcoming year she said she plans on playing varsity soccer, basketball and is hoping to qualify for DECA nationals.

After graduation she hopes to attend a division three school with academics as her priority. Washington University is one that she is considering.



Michalak

Calendar



Courtesy of UNL SPORTS INFORMATION

Lornell McPherson tackles an opponent in the Aug. 25 game against Texas Christian University last year. It was McPherson's first game of the year and the Huskers went on to defeat TCU 21 to 7.

Two alumni will reunite on field

By Andrew Neal

Lornell McPherson and Ja'Maine Billups spent four years together competing for Central's I-Back position before they graduated in 2000.

On Sept 28, the two will reunite this time in different positions and different teams when the Huskers take on the Cyclones in Ames, Iowa.

McPherson is a cornerback for the Huskers and rotates into the first string defense routinely. He red-shirted as a freshman and has since become a prominent member of the team.

He played all twelve games last year and started against Oklahoma, Troy State and Kansas. McPherson recorded 29 tackles and 20 solo tack-

les.

He was awarded fourth-team All-American honors after his outstanding performance last year.

Billups has met similar success at Iowa State. Just this season he moved from I-Back to safety.

McPherson said the game will be a great match up. He said he is looking forward to playing against his former teammate, but there isn't any rivalry.

McPherson said that Central was the best possible place for him to prepare for his current position at UNL. Since graduation both players have kept in touch with coach McMenamin and the current Central team. McPherson in particular said

that he regularly talks to his former coach.

He said he's also been trying to stay informed on the current Central football team.

McPherson was in a movie theater with other Central graduates (DeAntae Grixby and David Horne) now playing for UNL the night Central beat Prep.

McPherson said he and the other ex Eagles were all on their cell phones keeping up with the game and its big plays.

"They look good this year," he said. "I would definitely go to the championship game in Lincoln if they make it. I would probably be in pads with them."

Athletic Events

September

27 Homecoming football game

The Central football team will play Westside at Bergquist Stadium at Norris Junior High School.

28 UNL versus Iowa State

Central graduates, Ja'Maine Billups and Lornell McPherson will reunite on opposing teams. Look for other former Eagles such as DeAntae Grixby.

October

2 Metro: women's golf

Women's golf should make an impressive appearance. The team began the year with success and hopes to finish similarly.

9 Metro: men's tennis

The tennis team will participate in the Metro competition. The event will continue into the 10th.

10 District: women's golf/softball - Metro: cross country

Both women's golf and women's softball will participate in Districts. Metros for cross country will take place on the same day. The events will continue through the 11th.

17 State: women's softball/tennis - Districts: cross country

Women's softball and men's tennis teams will complete their seasons. Meanwhile, cross country will participate in districts. The events continue through the 18th.

25 State: cross country

Cross country will finish its season, Central's team has shown great promise early in the year and has high hopes for a good showing.

EAGLE REWIND

A look back at the past month in Central sports

As the school year progressed from summer to fall, each fall sport has begun to show great potential.

The women's golf team began its winning streak in the first four matches of the year.

Meanwhile, the football team began its season with a shattering underdog victory over Prep, showing that the young team is a force to be contended with.

All information as of Sept. 13

Golf				
8/29	V	WIN	152-188	North
9/5	V	WIN	181-275	Bryan
9/10	V	WIN	184-208	Burke
9/12	V	WIN	152-203	Northwest

Softball				
8/29	V	WIN	3-1	Bell. E.
8/30	V	WIN	5-0	South
8/30	V	WIN	4-1	Bryan
9/3	JV	WIN	5-2	South
9/4	F	LOSS	3-10	Mil. N.
9/4	JV	WIN	16-3	Mercy
9/4	V	WIN	8-0	Mercy
9/5	JV	WIN	3-2	Westside
9/5	V	WIN	5-3	Westside
9/6	JV	LOSS	4-6	Burke
9/6	JV	WIN	14-1	Bryan
9/7	V	WIN	5-2	North
9/7	V	WIN	9-1	Bryan
9/7	V	LOSS	1-2	Elkhorn
9/10	JV	WIN	12-0	Bell. E.
9/10	V	WIN	3-2	Bell. E.
9/12	V	WIN	8-1	Bell. W.

Tennis				
9/3	V	WIN	7-2	Bryan
9/5	V	LOSS	1-8	Westside
9/5	JV	LOSS	0-9	Westside
9/12	V	LOSS	2-7	Papillion
9/12	JV	WIN	2-7	Papillion

Volleyball				
9/5	JV	WIN	3-0	North
9/5	V	LOSS	1-3	North
9/6	JV	LOSS	0-2	Lincoln E.
9/6	JV	LOSS	0-2	Mil. N.
9/6	JV	LOSS	0-2	Westside
9/7	V	WIN	2-1	Mil. N.
9/7	V	WIN	2-1	Westside
9/7	V	LOSS	1-2	Burke
9/12	F	LOSS	1-15	Marian
9/12	R	LOSS	15-10/0-15/11-15	Marian
9/12	V	LOSS	8-15/15-10/15-11	Mil. N.
9/12	JV	LOSS	5-15/7-15	Mil. N.
9/12	JV	LOSS	15-13/9-15/15-13	Mil. S.
9/12	JV	LOSS		Mil. S.

Football				
9/5	F	LOSS	8-52	Burke
9/6	V	WIN	21-7	Prep
9/7	JV	WIN	7-6	Benson
9/11	JV	WIN	20-8	North
9/11	F	LOSS	0-54	Prep
9/12	V	LOSS	6-49	Mil. N.

Cross Country				
9/5	V	B: 3rd G: 3rd		Ralston
9/7	V	B: 4th G: 4th		Burke
9/10	V	B: 9th G: 10th		Bell W.

Tennis star leads peers with good attitude, grades

By Sara Kipps

Cameron Knowles is the star player of the men's varsity tennis team, and he's only a sophomore.

"This year he is stronger, faster and taller," tennis coach Mark Shafer said.

Shafer also said that Knowles will have a good chance at being number one in singles if he continues to improve.

Knowles is currently ranked sixth in the state for boys under sixteen.



Knowles

During the summer Knowles participated in a national competition for the United States Tennis Association boys' league which greatly improved his

game for the ongoing season. "He's very competitive, but yet I don't see him negative very often," Shafer said. "He only takes the anger out on himself for not playing his best game."

Cody Killion, a junior player on the team, said he enjoys being with Knowles on the team.

"He always brings a positive attitude with him," he said. "He doesn't bring his baggage to the court."

Knowles has been playing tennis since he was six.

He said he had always loved watching his parents play, so his mother put him in a youth program.

While tennis is Knowles' passion, he makes sure that there is always time for homework.

Every player on Shafer's team has a G.P.A. above 3.5. This includes Knowles, who considers schoolwork a high priority.

"I try my hardest at both," he said.

Knowles wants to go to Georgia Tech and receive a degree in architectural engineering.

He said he wants to work hard in school so that he can succeed in life.

"My main goal is to get into good college and play division one tennis," Knowles said, "but if I can go pro, great."

Senior proves practice makes perfect on field

By Steve Packard

Senior Liz Davis has spent the past four years perfecting her softball play at Central. Last year, she was selected for All-State, led the state in triples and was named team captain along with three other players.

"As a person and a player, she's looked up to a lot, or even when they need to go around," senior Aaron Muldoon said. "Everybody has their ups and downs and if somebody has a problem, she usually finds something good to go off of."

For the past three years, Davis has been training under Mark Wetzel, a professional batting coach who has taught metro area softball players as well as players on the Omaha Royals.

"He's definitely helped me with my swing," Davis said. "He's constantly telling me how to improve my swing."

Along with Wetzel, Davis said that her coach Kerri Murtaugh has also been very influential.

"Liz is an extremely coachable athlete, but she also takes it upon herself to take leadership of the team," Murtaugh said.

As for the future, Davis said she has no idea what she is going to major in at college.

"I'm just taking it all one day at a time," she said.



Davis

Different Strokes

For an aspiring golfer to be successful, she must have a comprehensive knowledge of her tools of the trade. Each golf club has a different purpose and usage. The following clubs display the variety an individual could choose from.

Three Iron

Used for longer shots with less loft and a lower trajectory.

1

Five Iron

Provides a medium mix of loft and trajectory. Easier to hit than lower irons.

Nine Iron

Used to obtain more loft with less distance. Used for chipping, approach shots, etc.

Three Wood

Used for shots requiring less distance than a driver but more than an iron

One Wood

Used for driving down the fairway. The most powerful club available.

Putter

Used for putting. The most important club in the bag.

Pitching Wedge

Useful when in sand traps, or for close play to the green. It provides a high loft.

Senior Emily Lebens demonstrates her golf swing. On the backswing, she pulls the club back until it is parallel to the ground, keeping her left arm straight at the same time in order to exert the maximum amount of energy during the swing.

2

As she swings at the ball, her left arm stays straight transferring more power to the clubface.

3

Lebens follows through completely, delivering a clean stroke while shifting her weight forward. She watches the ball sail towards the green.

All photos by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER
Information obtained from Curtis Hinman of Field Club of Omaha



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Senior Ashley Krijan reads the break on the green during a team practice at Elmwood golf course. The team practices at the course regularly in preparation for weekly matches.

Senior spends free moments on course

By Doug Meigs

Golf has been part of senior Ashley Krijan's life for as long as she can remember.

She started playing eleven years ago, but even before that she said she remembers playing with a set of toy golf clubs when she was four.

The current season is going to be Krijan's fourth on Central's team.

With the exception of this last summer, she has also been playing competitive golf at Pine country club's youth team over the summer for the past ten years.

It wasn't as if she was ever pressured to play golf at a young age, she said she has just always had an interest in the sport.

"My parents are really into it (golf) and they started me pretty young," she said. "It runs in the family I guess."

Although she said she plays golf primarily for leisure, she does enjoy the competition.

She said she hopes to play in college, but if that doesn't work out she will continue to play in her own time.

"It (golf) gives me a lot of recognition," she said. "A few of my friends have even nicknamed me 'golf'."

She said they even yell this at her from down the halls. Unashamed, she said she laughs at the nickname. It's a term of endearment that she doesn't mind.

After all, she does spend a considerable amount of time

practicing daily with her team and on her own.

"Ashley is very methodical and very dedicated to the sport of golf," head coach Wendy Brownson said.

She said that Krijan has been playing particularly well this year. On Sept. 18, she was the top medalist out of all of the competing OPS golfers in the OPS golf classic.

She said that Krijan has been the team's top golfer since she began coaching the team three years ago.

However, Krijan said that the team has a lot of additional talent.

In particular, she pointed out Brandi Smith and Naomi Rennard as two strong returning golfers.

Both individuals played as freshmen last year and have strong hopes for competing at State with Krijan.

Last year she missed making it to State by only a few strokes. The near State qualification paired with her additional experience is part of why Krijan can foresee herself competing this year.

"We get better and better every year," she said. "This year we have a pretty strong team so we should do pretty well."

Krijan's goal for the upcoming golf season is to make it to State and for the team to win the majority of its meets.

Brownson said that as long as Krijan makes it to State, she has a very good chance for success.

"It should be easy," she said.

Young golf team swinging for State, coach says

By Charlie Wence

With the bulk of the women's golf team returning with little talent lost to last year's graduation, a trip to the State tournament could be in the cards, head coach Wendy Brownson said.

The team is returning players Brandi Smith (10), Naomi Rennard (10), Co-Captains Ashley Krijan (12) and Emily Lebens (12) and are all expected to make extraordinary contributions.

Brownson said that with the team's record improving every year, she expects nothing less than a 6-2 season and hopefully a 7-1 season.

The team has already defeated North on Aug. 29, Bryan on Sept. 5 and Burke on Sept. 10, getting off to a fast three-win start.

The team beat North by a score of 152 to 188 strokes at Miller Park.

Brandi Smith was the medalist (the player with the best score in the match) with a score of 29 strokes.

The following week the team crushed Bryan by a score of 181 to 275 strokes at Elmwood Park. Smith was the medalist again with 40 strokes.

On Sept. 10, it defeated Burke at Elmwood by a score of 184 strokes to 208 strokes. Smith was once again the medalist with 39 strokes on nine holes of play.

Brownson said she is very confident for the rest of the year and expects nothing less than the best from her players. However, she said there will be some tough games coming up.

She said that Marian in particular will be difficult to beat. Marian was the Metro tournament champion last year and is favored for a repeat.

"If we beat Marian, it'll be a shock," Smith said. "Yet if we lose, it will be by only a few strokes this year."

Last year, the team came within one player of making it to the State tournament. Smith finished eleventh, but only ten players are allowed to compete in the tournament.

In its eight games this season, it will play against teams including Marian, Westside and Millard South. These are the

top three schools in the Metro tournament last year.

"My expectations for this year is to have a good record and make it to State," Smith said.

She said that gaining momentum early and putting forth a lot of effort is key to having a successful season.

"Hopefully, with a lot of practice, we will be set," Rennard said.

Competition for the top spot on the team seems to be quite tame primarily because the players all have a strong relationship with one another.

"We all want it (the top spot) I guess, but we get along well and the girls with similar abilities are not that competitive because we are all close," Rennard said.

Since two of the team's standout players, Smith and Rennard, are only sophomores, the players said they expect to have a dominating team throughout the next two years, establishing Central as a competitive golf program in the future.

Along with the talent of the sophomores, Rennard's younger sister, Dena Rennard has shown promise already as a freshman. She placed in the top five against Burke.

"If we can get some girls with experience with golf, we should have a good team," Smith said.

The team practices everyday after school for two hours at Elmwood Park Golf Course, with the exception of days with meets.

Practices and a performance at previous meets determine who plays in each meet.

"I practice in the summers on my own, but once school starts, the daily practices are usually all I can get in," Rennard said.

Practicing at Elmwood can be beneficial for home meets, yet becoming too accustomed to a home course can be a disadvantage when playing at other courses, Rennard said.

"Elmwood's greens are different from other ones," Rennard said. "If you are too used to one course then you are surprised when you go somewhere else and see that they have slower or faster green spreads and sometimes it creates a challenge."

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Rematch realigns teams, old grudges

By Doug Meigs

Be prepared for this year's Homecoming game to be the ultimate grudge match between what coach Joe McMnamin described as a clash between finesse and power.

Just like in the age-old tales of skill overpowering brute force, he said he is confident that Central will dominate Westside Sept. 27.

Recall David and Goliath, Athens and Persia, or Theseus and the Minotaur. Each case used ability to overcome power. For Central, it will be the task of facing up against one of the biggest and experienced lines in the state with its own rookie line.

Westside head coach Larry Morrissey said Westside is in the process of regaining momentum after two disappointing early season losses.

Meanwhile, the Eagles are slated for their own rebound after top-ranked Millard North knocked their helmets off by beating them 49 to 6.

Both coaches expect the game to be tough. Both plan on winning.

Looking back at last year's game

The last time the Eagles took on the Warriors, they were knocked out of the state tournament by one point. It ended the season on a disappointing note. That's something that McMnamin said many of the players who played or sat on the sidelines during the game haven't forgotten.

The difference between last year and the current season is that last year McMnamin said that Central had a physically massive line capable of squaring off with Westside.

He said the game consisted primarily of smashing the ball through or from the other team.

It was the first time Central had played Westside all season.

He said it began and ended as a continual uphill battle with the upper hand constantly teetering in and out of each team's grasp.

Senior Alex Tyson was on the field that day. He said he remembered the chaos.

At the time Tyson was playing, but he wasn't starting. He said he remembers wishing he could be out on the field more so he might have been able to help out. This year is Tyson's chance.

"It was a really tight game," Tyson said.

The Warriors came out strong and took the lead. Then Central came back and tied it while Westside regained the lead later in the game.

It ended in a failed extra point. McMnamin said that if they would have been able to retie the game, he was confident they could have come back in overtime and won.

Instead, Westside moved on to play Millard North who in turn went on to win the state title.

Tyson reiterated McMnamin's plan to take it one game at a time, but memories of last year can't help but be manifested in a desire to take revenge.

"Last year, they were hard," he said. "This year they'll play harder."

After all, Morrissey said the Warrior victory ended up hurting Westside almost as much as Central's loss in the game.

Just as Central was knocked out of the season, Morrissey said the game's physical rigor ended up pushing Westside out of the playoffs as well.

He said the team just didn't have enough time to fully rest and recuperate.

Power and finesse explained
"A power game is where you can physically line up, one on one, and move the ball. A finesse game is where you use a little trickery to fool them and move the ball," McMnamin said.

A team's style of play usually rotates in a cycle. He said he has to prepare for a different type of year every time the seniors graduate.

Because Westside has maintained a physically impressive line strikingly similar to last year, the Homecoming game will go to show just how far the Eagles have soared away from last year's makeup.

Last year was a prime example of two power football teams colliding.

McMnamin said that this year he will take a different approach.

However, next year he suspects that Central will return to the power game.

Central's game preparation

McMnamin said that he had briefly gone over the videos from last year during the summer to take notes over each game and players to look for, but it was more part of preparation for the general season. He said he wanted to keep the players focused on each approaching game.

The notes, along with information on teams gathered in previous years are kept filed away. While practicing for each week's game, he said he will go over those notes. Then as soon as the game is over, he'll go back to the files for his information on the next team.

"To take time out from focusing on the task at hand could cost us in the game," he said.

For example, he said the team had been completely preoccupied with Prep since they began practicing in the summer. The focus paid off with an upset win, moving Central's rank from seventh to third.

However, that's not to say that McMnamin or any of the players haven't thought about the Homecoming game.

"They periodically talk about how we're going to get back at them," he said. "When the time comes around, they'll be motivated for it, but as a coach, I want them thinking about the next game."

McMnamin said that even the players who may not have been playing in the game remember all the excitement and disappointment from the game.

Senior E.J. Falkner has been on varsity since his freshman year, but had broken his arm prior to the game. This will be the first year he has ever played Westside on the varsity level.

"I look at it as a regular game, but it will still be special," he said.

Since this will be Falkner's first and last time playing in a homecoming game, he said he will cherish the time even more.

Westside's game preparation

It's not that Morrissey is unhappy with how Westside has been playing so far. He said he just feels they could be doing much better. Much of the team's roster was still uncertain up through the Sept. 13 game against Burke.

Morrissey said the primary issue he wants to have straightened out before the game against Central is finalizing the running back and fullback positions.

He said that he's considering three primary people for each position. The I-back position will be particularly hard to replace since they lost an all-state running back.

"Your lines only as good as your running back," he said.

That's why he said he thinks the team isn't doing as well as it could. Nevertheless, Morrissey said that as soon as the position is final, the strength of the line should be able to make a move to peak performance.

However, it has been running into bumps in the process.

Prior to the game against Burke, the majority of the key players on the team were injured.

Much of the team was also in the process of recovering from a flu bug.

Strategy

Despite how Morrissey said his line is doing, McMnamin said a major focus in the game will be compensating for Westside's line.

He said he plans on doing this by avoiding head-on conflict with seniors such as Steve Schmitt, the 270-pound linemen who Morrissey said will lead his team's line.

"We'll just have to throw the ball and run a little more," he said.

Whereas last year, David Horne would take the ball and run behind Jamar Dorsey, this year McMnamin plans on fully utilizing his team's speed.

Junior Brandon Gunn will have to run harder and Cortney Grixby will have to perform more options play.

But that doesn't seem to be a problem.

For example, Grixby ran a total of 111 yards in the first game against Prep.

"He'll (Grixby) have an adjustment to make," he said. "Last year all he had to do was pass the ball to David."

In addition, fast players like seniors Chris Leflore E.J. Falkner will be cutting wide for long passes.

"I feel really good about it, even with all the experience they have, we'll match up well," McMnamin said. "We're not afraid of any team in the state, let alone Westside."

Power vs.

HOMECOMING 2002: Westside and Central

Westside's Power (BELOW)

Name: Steve Schmitt (BELOW)

Weight: 275 lb.

Height: 6'

Age: 18

Class: senior

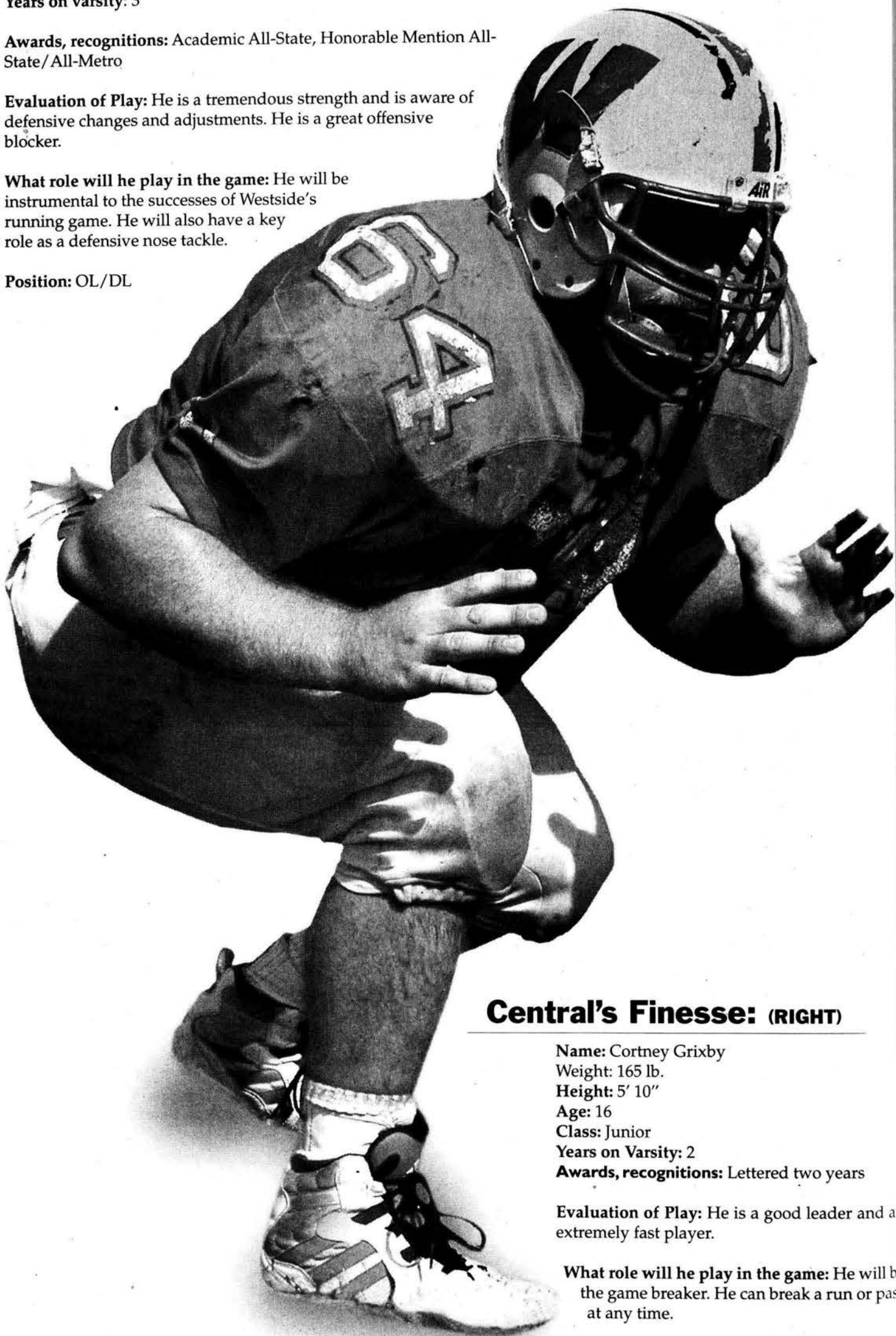
Years on varsity: 3

Awards, recognitions: Academic All-State, Honorable Mention All-State/All-Metro

Evaluation of Play: He is a tremendous strength and is aware of defensive changes and adjustments. He is a great offensive blocker.

What role will he play in the game: He will be instrumental to the successes of Westside's running game. He will also have a key role as a defensive nose tackle.

Position: OL/DL



Central's Finesse: (RIGHT)

Name: Cortney Grixby

Weight: 165 lb.

Height: 5' 10"

Age: 16

Class: Junior

Years on Varsity: 2

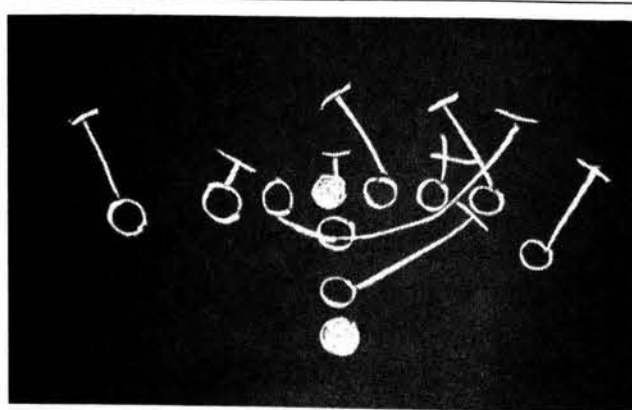
Awards, recognitions: Lettered two years

Evaluation of Play: He is a good leader and an extremely fast player.

What role will he play in the game: He will be the game breaker. He can break a run or pass at any time.

Position: QB

CHALK TALK

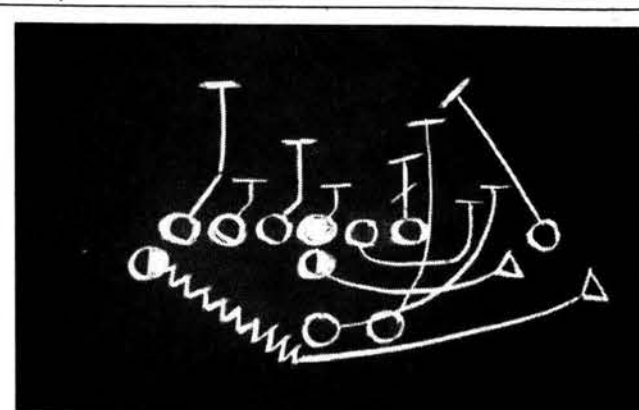


The Play: 57 Blast

The Mechanics:

This is the basic power running play that Central uses with its power attack. The fullback kicks out the defensive end and the I-Back follows his block, finding a hole at the same time. This run utilizes the I-back's speed and the big linemen up front.

Plays like this gave I-Backs in the past, like David Horne, huge gains and allowed linemen like Jamar Dorsey to make key blocks.



The Play: 37 Option

The Mechanics:

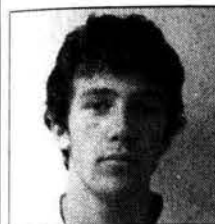
This weak-side option is a typical finesse play. The wingback motions behind the halfback, the quarterback snaps. The halfback leads, followed by a fake to the fullback. After that the quarterback and the wingback run the pitch route.

This finesse play was used by Cortney Grixby this year in a 44-yard run to the 3 yard line in the Prep game.

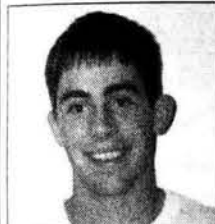
Finesse

collide in a bonecrushing grasp for victory

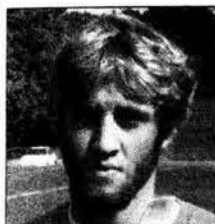
WESTSIDE KEY PLAYERS



Name: Ross Sinclair
Weight: 175 lb.
Height: 6'4"
Age: 17
Class: senior
Years on varsity: 3
Position: WR/DB

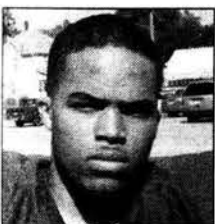


Name: Alec Young
Weight: 175 lb.
Height: 6'4"
Age: 17
Class: Senior
Years on varsity: 3
Position: WR/DB



Name: Brian Zuerlien
Weight: 205 lb.
Height: 6'1"
Age: 17
Class: Junior
Years on varsity: 2
Position: TE/DE

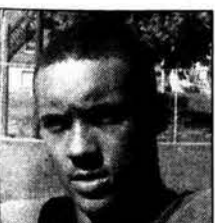
CENTRAL KEY PLAYERS



Name: Brandon Gunn
Weight: 165 lb.
Height: 5'10"
Age: 16
Class: junior
Years on varsity: 2
Position: RB



Name: John Petersen
Weight: 225 lb.
Height: 5'8"
Age: 17
Class: senior
Years on varsity: 2
Position: FB



Name: E. J. Falkner
Weight: 170 lb.
Height: 5'11"
Age: 17
Class: senior
Years on varsity: 2
Position: WR/DB



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/ THE REGISTER

Assistant coach Larry Lathan goes over a play with the team during practice at Conestoga Elementary's field. The team has a number of set plays that it practices every day.

■ Offense

Eagles equal youth, speed

By Devon O'Connell

It's that time again. Time for crisp, fall Friday nights, hard hits and big plays. It's football season.

But, without David Horne, Jamar Dorsey, Nick Lemek, and several other key players who graduated, head football coach Joe McMenemy has made some changes. One of the major changes this year will be the shift from a power-oriented offense to one that utilizes finesse.

The center of the offense this year is junior starting quarterback Cortney Grixby.

McMenemy said that although the team is smaller this year, it is faster. Because of this, the Eagles will be using the option more.

Grixby said he liked the idea of running the option because he has always considered himself to be an option quarterback.

McMenemy said that several other players have also stepped up to fill in the gaps left by graduating seniors.

"One of the real surprises this year has been John Petersen at fullback," he said. "He's been working hard, and his speed and strength have really improved."

He said Petersen, who is a senior, is the strongest player on the team. Over the summer he increased his lifts by nearly 100 pounds.

"I'm pretty confident about playing fullback this year," he said. "I like run-

ning the ball, but I feel most confident about hitting. I like to hit."

With the exception of senior Brandon Teamer, the offensive line this year has no returning starters.

"We have basically built the entire offensive line around Teamer," McMenemy said. "He's also established himself as a major leader, and he'll do well adjusting to the pressure."

However, Jamar Dorsey, the 6'3" 350-pound right tackle, arguably left the biggest hole on the line. Taking Dorsey's spot is junior Matt Barr.

"It's hard to fill the shoes of a guy like that," Barr said. "He was a team leader and a spiritual leader and his work ethic showed."

Filling in the gaps left by the receivers, who graduated last year, are talented seniors E.J. Falkner, Brandon Torrey and Chris Leflore. Falkner, who runs a 4.4 forty-yard dash, is the fastest player on the team.

"I've noticed that we've been putting the ball in the air a lot more, doing more trick plays, and using more receivers," Falkner said. "I feel good when I get more passes."

A common sentiment expressed among them is that they believe they have something to prove, and even because several big players left, their chances for a solid season are still good.

"It takes 11 men on and off the field to win games," Barr said. "It never just takes one."

Freshman's abilities fit perfectly

By Doug Meigs

Coach Jeff McCune said that Central's new finesse game of football is embodied by freshman running back/linebacker Andre McIntyre.

"A finesse player is a kid that's in really good shape and can sustain long drives out on the field all the time," McCune said.

He said that well-rounded abilities are what a finesse player is all about.

The coaching staff's decision to suit McIntyre for varsity as a freshman shows a tremendous amount of confidence in his abilities.

"The thing that Andre has got going is that he's a fast kid and his size," McCune said. "He catches on quick and has the potential to be a great player."

As a freshman, he has a lot of time left to play for Central.

In that time McIntyre said he hopes to be All-American by his junior year and receive as much time on the varsity field as possible. As far as game time, McCune said he can easily foresee McIntyre receiving substantial play on the varsity field next year, especially considering that he will be playing a considerable

amount on JV this season.

McCune said McIntyre has a lot of natural football ability. Last year, he was an eighth grade sprinting champion, along with fellow up and coming freshman John McPherson.

Over the summer he also ran track with other Central football players who compose the school's speed/skill-oriented offense (E.J. Falkner, Brandon Gunn, Cortney Grixby, Robert Wesley and Chris Leflore).

He said it showcased his speed. Although McIntyre said he would consider himself to be a finesse player, he said he still has a lot to work on.

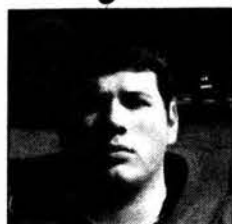
"I want to work on cutbacks, recognizing the defensive holes and my speed, all the aspects of the game," he said.

Then again, that's what McCune said a finesse player should be like. He said he has seen McIntyre doing this in practice.

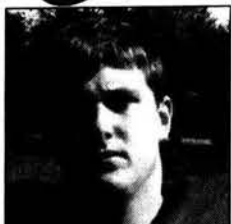
"You got to have the heart and desire," McIntyre said. "When your younger, you just go out there and play. Now there is a lot more competition. I just have got to go in there and practice and get better."

Laying it on the line

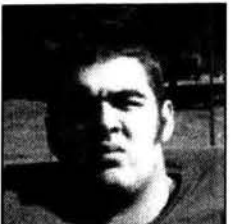
Westside



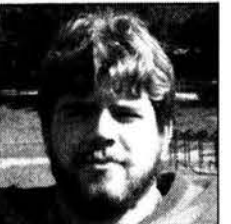
Justin Loehr
Age:17
Weight: 240 lb.
Height: 6'0



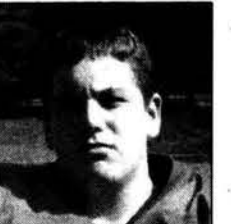
Dan Green
Age:17
Weight: 260 lb.
Height: 6'5



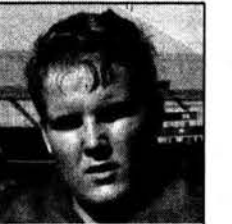
Matt Selling
Age:17
Weight: 300lb.
Height: 6'1



Steve Schmitt
Age:17
Weight: 270 lb.
Height: 6'1

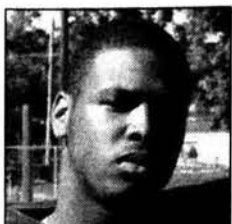


John Ferraro
Age:17
Weight: 272 lb.
Height: 6'3



Mike Bothwell
Age:17
Weight: 300 lb.
Height: 6'5

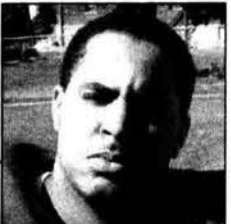
Central



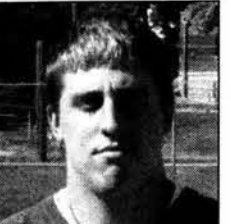
Brandon Teamer
Age:17
Weight: 272 lb.
Height: 6'5



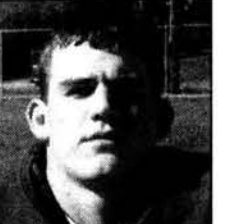
Kendall Dorsey
Age:16
Weight: 265 lb.
Height: 6'



Sean Lewis
Age:17
Weight: 280 lb.
Height: 6'



Aaron Blanke
Age:16
Weight: 235 lb.
Height: 6'1



Jake Sellin
Age:16
Weight: 215 lb.
Height: 5'10



Matt Barr
Age:16
Weight: 235 lb.
Height: 6'5

The size of Westside and Central's line will be key to the strategies of each team.

The average size of the linemen is considerably different between the two. Westside's average weight is around 270, whereas Central's is 250.

Westside doesn't have a single player under 250 pounds or shorter than six feet while Central has four players weighing less than 250 pounds and not one over 300, with one linemen shorter than six foot.

Westside has an average of three years of experience between its linemen, while Central only has two. It will be a matchup between primarily veterans and rookies.

Last year, Central suffered a heartbreaking one point loss to Westside in the playoffs. That game is still fresh in the mind of both teams.

Furthermore, both teams are coming off recent losses and are looking for a win. Not only that, but there is the added tension of the game being Central's Homecoming game.

Although Westside may have a more impressive line in terms of mass, Central will strive to make up for the loss ground by using strategy. However, it may prove difficult with Central's inexperience in comparison to Westside.

■ From FUTURE, page 1

I-Back High alive, well

in 1990 and made his way onto the 1996 Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers. By 1995, Ahman Green had left Central and went on to eventually play on UNL's 1997 national championship team before moving onto the Seattle Seahawks and then the Green Bay Packers.

In 1997, Brandon Williams graduated and is currently playing quarterback as a senior at Michigan. The next year, DeAntae Grixby hung up his Eagle cleats and donned a pair at Lincoln, where he is currently starting as a fullback.

The tradition has continued in the new millennium with Billups and McPherson going onto Iowa State and UNL, while last year, David Horne took his place in the procession as UNL's next possible great running back.

Looking back on his coaching career, McMenamin said he has been blessed to work with such great athletes.

"It's funny because in Evans' last game, we lost the quarter finals of State," he said. "Afterwards, he walked off the field and gave me a hug. I thought I would never have a player like that again."

Obviously such has not been the case, but McMenamin said he feels that way every time one of his star I-backs graduate.

He said some coaches go a lifetime without coaching an All-State running back. He has had the opportunity to coach more than eleven.

McMenamin said the cycle is somewhat self-perpetuating. Players around the city know that Central does a good job promoting the I-back spot. He said David Horne's transfer from Prep after his sophomore year is a prime example of this.

Now with Horne stepping away, junior Brandon Gunn has stepped up as Central's next I-back. There is more talent on his trail, including sophomore Robert Wesley and freshman John McPherson.

Brandon Gunn

Ever since Gunn started playing football, he said he has played I-back. He went straight to varsity his freshman year. However, due to the team's strength in that position (David Horne) McMenamin said that this will be his first year to truly showcase his talent.

"I have big shoes to fill, but I have confidence in myself," Gunn said. "I've been waiting for this chance for two years."

McMenamin said that Horne was a special player, but Gunn has the potential to be just as successful.

"He's one of the fastest kids in the school and as fast as he is he has good size, and besides that he has a good vision of the field," McMenamin said. "That's the combo for a great I-back."

Gunn said he didn't feel like he was in Horne's shadow, he just had to wait his turn. In fact, Gunn said that Horne helped him to develop his skills. A similar relationship was mentioned by Gunn's heir apparent, Robert Wesley in regards to Gunn.

Although Gunn is replacing Horne this year, he is stepping onto a different team. With the

difference in the line, he said it will be a big change.

"My first year, I was used to the big line, but I think they are going to make the holes just like last year," he said.

Gunn said he is currently trying to keep his college options open. He said he likes Colorado and the southern colleges. Oklahoma is his favorite. However, he said he hasn't taken any time to look into the depth on any of the teams.

McMenamin said that Nebraska, Colorado and Michigan in particular are all watching him.

They all know he's Horne's replacement, so they have big expectations.

"I knew I wanted to play high school football, I knew I wanted to play college, and I knew Central was the place to go," he said.

As far as Gunn's own I-back replacements, he said he is more than confident that they will be able to continue the legacy at I-Back high.

He said it's a privilege to be a part of, and is glad to keep the tradition going.

Robert Wesley

Wesley falls right in the track of great Central running backs, coach Josh Montzingo said.

McMenamin agreed, he said that Wesley seems to be cut out of the same piece of cloth as all the greats that have come before him.

However, with Gunn's experience ahead of him, he won't have as good a chance to play the position as he might have otherwise, at least until his senior year.

That's why McMenamin said the team will be using him in other areas of the game until that time comes. Because he's too good just to sit the sidelines, McMenamin said that Wesley will be receiving a lot of playing time in the backfield.

"I just want to put on a good show for everyone and make it to college," Wesley said.

At this point, Wesley said he's extremely grateful to coach McMenamin for moving him up in Central's roster as quickly as he has, as well as the guidance he's received from both the coaching staff and Gunn.

Wesley said that he looks up to him as a role model and mentor.

John McPherson

McMenamin said that John McPherson is definitely the latest freshmen sensation. He said McPherson seems very fast and gifted on the football field.

Montzingo, who coaches the freshmen team, said that he has done a lot of one-on-one instruction with McPherson.

But there are a lot of natural skills a coach can't teach a player.

He said McPherson seems to have such attributes genetically engrained.

"He is a hard worker and very competitive," he said. "He has the most balance I've ever seen at the freshmen level."

Although Montzingo said that it's really too early to say how great Central's next I-backs will be, there will always be some strong players moving up to carry on the tradition.

GRASPING FOR GLORY

It is hoped that the success the varsity baseball team experienced during summer league play will lead to regular season victories

By Steve Packard

Central baseball's continual improvement over the past two years was exemplified by the 10-5 victory in summer league over regular season state champion Millard North.

"Nobody believes me, but we beat Millard North," first baseman Zach Kruse said. "It was probably one of our best games of the summer season."

Playing a total of 52 games, the Millard game was one of 17 victories for the team over the course of the summer.

The success over the summer could be the sign of a successful upcoming spring season baseball, coach Scott Hodges said.

"We really outplayed them (Millard North) on the field. No doubt about it," Hodges said.

At the end of last year's spring season, the Eagles ended with a 10-18 record.

Although the record was better than their 2001 record, Hodges said it was still below their potential.

But it wasn't just the victory over the state champions that made the summer for the team.

Camps and games kept the summer season busy and a learning experience for the team.

One of the season's greatest leaps was on the baseball team's ability to really come together, Hodges said.

"We probably were a little younger in the last couple years than we have been through this spring and summer seasons," he said. "Some of the kids in these past years didn't really know what it was like to win and I think that hurt us in the long run."

Hodges said several of the games were dominated by the baseball team's unfortunate ability to "beat themselves."

He said the team made mistakes that weren't so much physical as much as mental mistakes.

"During a game against Westside, we really didn't play as a team,"

Hodges said, "We really gave Westside the win, but we outplayed them."

Although the game was a clear victory for Westside, he said that the team ended up with more hits and quicker outs, but the team that still had improvements to be made.

By the Millard North game, he said the team clearly came together.

"We didn't beat ourselves that time," he said.

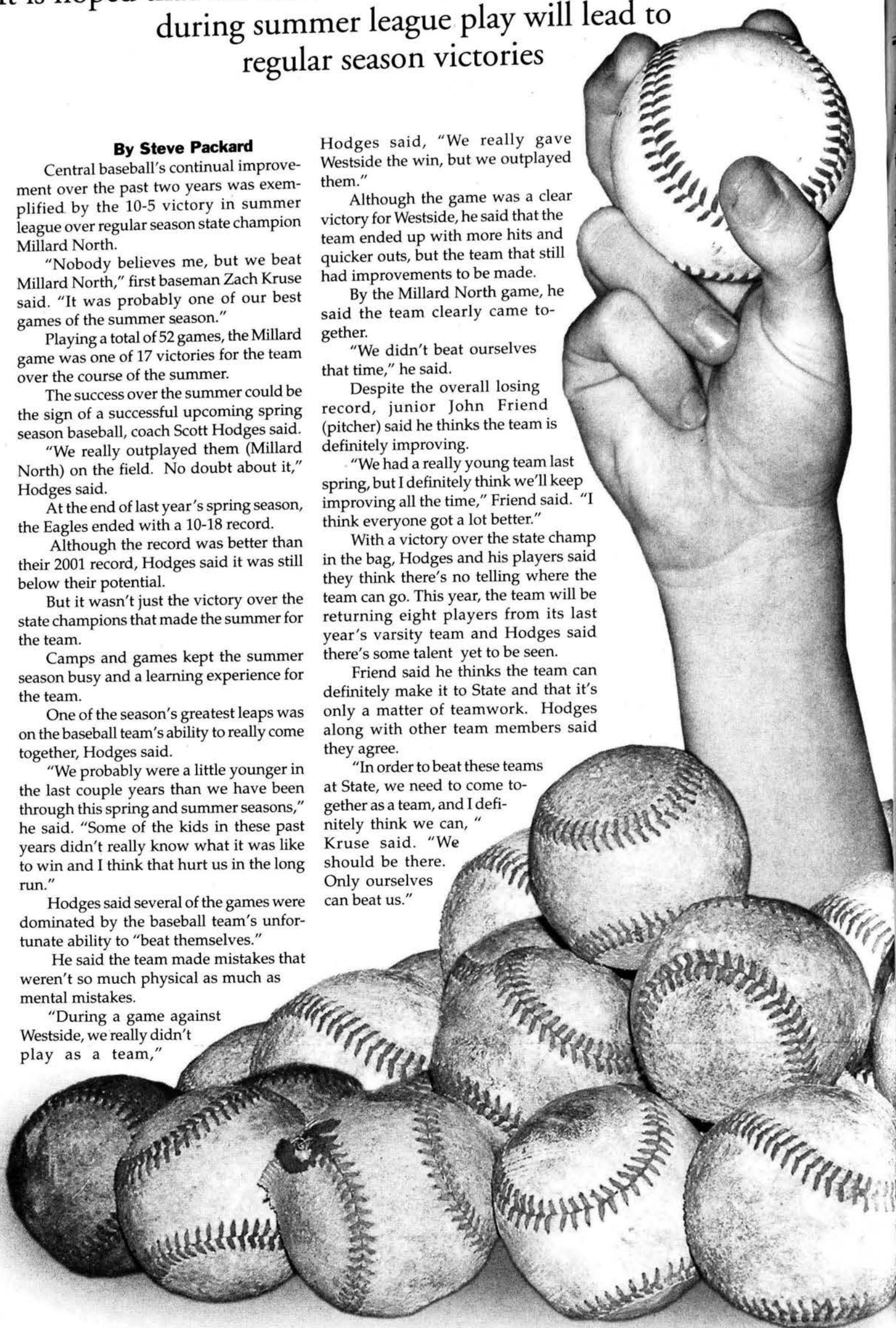
Despite the overall losing record, junior John Friend (pitcher) said he thinks the team is definitely improving.

"We had a really young team last spring, but I definitely think we'll keep improving all the time," Friend said. "I think everyone got a lot better."

With a victory over the state champ in the bag, Hodges and his players said they think there's no telling where the team can go. This year, the team will be returning eight players from its last year's varsity team and Hodges said there's some talent yet to be seen.

Friend said he thinks the team can definitely make it to State and that it's only a matter of teamwork. Hodges along with other team members said they agree.

"In order to beat these teams at State, we need to come together as a team, and I definitely think we can," Kruse said. "We should be there. Only ourselves can beat us."



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

■ from MUSCLES, page 1

Enhancers may cause weight gain, negative side effects, doctor says

her dad wanted her to take it.

"I stopped because I was getting dehydrated and we were reviewing for a test in my weight training class and talking about steroids and creatine and the effects of them," she said.

Wagner said that there is a misconception pertaining to what creatine is in relation to steroids.

He said that anabolic-androgenic steroids are substances made by man that relate to the male sex hormone, testosterone. "Anabolic" means muscle building while "androgenic" means increased masculine characteristics.

Wagner said that a few of the

effects of taking steroids could be muscle growth, weight gain, dehydration and death.

He said the biochemistry of steroids is not well understood which makes it difficult to know what causes these side effects.

Wagner said that a person who maintains a healthy diet does not need to take a supplement of any kind, but someone who is a vegetarian or lacking in iron may want to look into it.

Junior Liz Sharpe said that she has never had the desire to take steroids or a supplement.

She said her coaches discouraged her from taking a supplement because they don't want her

to depend on them later in life.

She said she thinks that they are harmful to the body and could potentially make someone weaker.

"If people are taking them, to me, it seems like they don't have enough self-confidence," Sharpe said.

Creatine is not a drug but a supplement," Wagner said. "It's not banned by anyone, but it is controlled."

The Omaha Public School district has no regulations against athletes who take supplements. The district does forbid athletes to take any forms of steroids that deal with rapid muscle growth.

The school district's rules state that any athlete found using a drug such as steroids, or any other illegal narcotic, will be suspended from the activity pending the number of offenses.

Freshmen head football coach Josh Montzingo said that he does not recommend athletes to take any type of supplement.

Montzingo said that people today are unaware of the risks and are more concerned about now which in the long run they do not know what could happen.

He said that the most effective way to deal with nutrition is through a balanced diet and exercise.

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The Register's Sports Star Cards

At the beginning of the fall season, the *Register* asked each coach to select a player who would play the most vital role on the team.


The coaches chose the following players based on their expected role leading their teams to successful years.

As the season wears on, the coaches expect to see these players stepping up to the front and helping each respective team on to victorious State tournament performances.

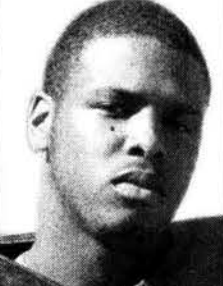
	FALL 2002
	Cameron Knowles
	He will be even more successful this year.
	Men's Tennis
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Matt Shafer	
Returning starters: Cameron Knowles, Robbie Garvin, Eric Shradar	
Season outlook: The team's juniors will have to step up, especially in doubles. A major weakness this year is the loss of last year's strong seniors.	
Key games this year: Papillion Invite, Millard West Invite	

	FALL 2002
	Robyn Sorensen
	Her experience will be crucial to the team's success.
	Volleyball
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Jodi Dierks	
Returning starters: Robyn Sorensen, Carolyn Schaeffer	
Season outlook: There are many new faces in the lineup after losing five seniors to graduation. However, many talented juniors are ready to step up. This year's team isn't as tall, but will still be very competitive.	
Key games this year: Millard West	

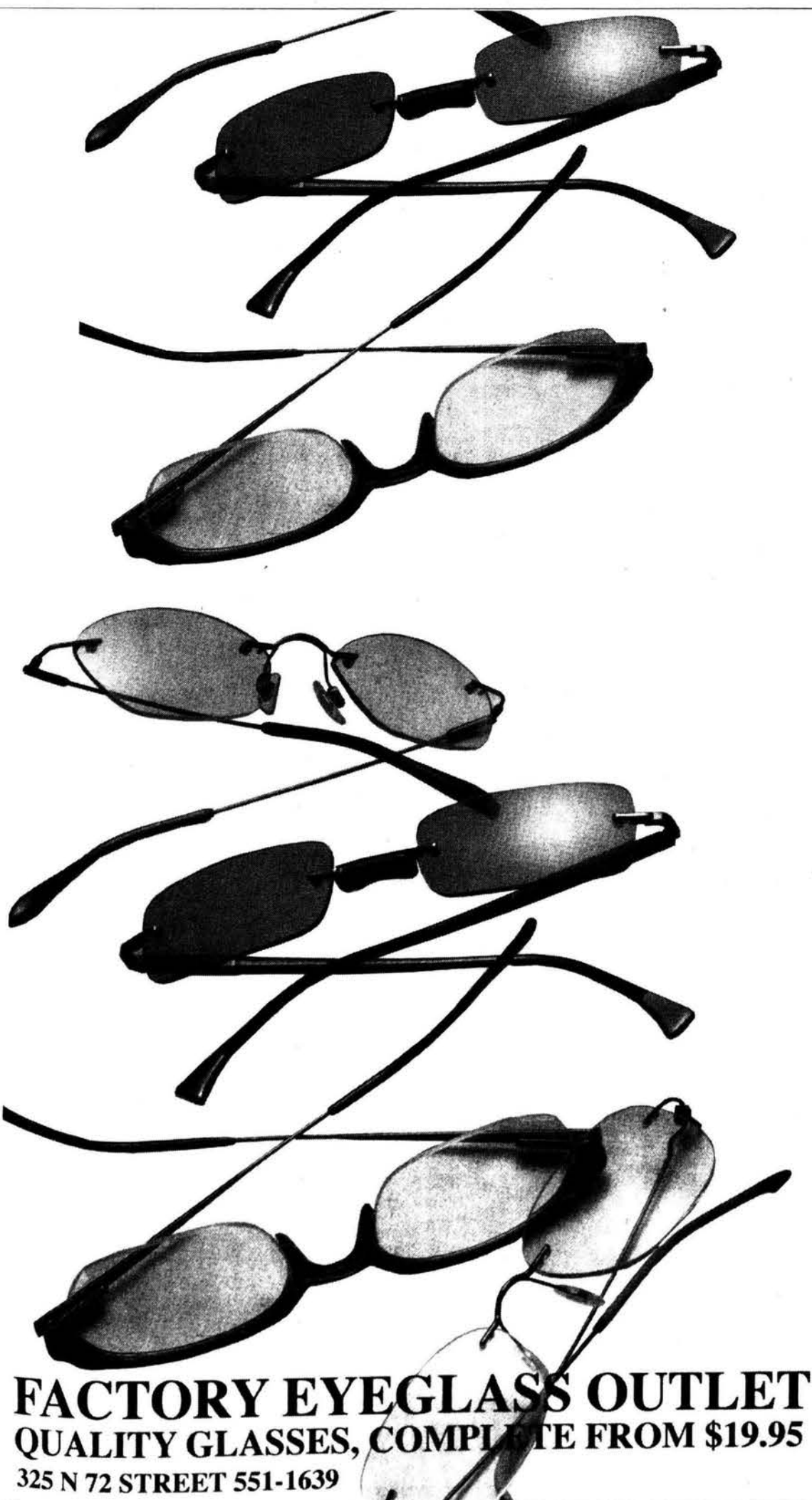
	FALL 2002
	Chris Gorga
	As a returning State qualifier, he will help lead the team.
	Men's Cross Country
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Trent Lodge	
Returning starters: Chris Gorga, Ryan Shaw, James Boatright, Brandon Skocz, Clay Lidgett	
Season outlook: The team is well-rounded and has improved since last year.	
Key games this year: Districts	

	FALL 2002
	Brandi Smith
	She is a very dedicated player, devoted to the game.
	Women's Golf
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Wendy Brownson	
Returning starters: Ashley Krijan, Brandi Smith, Emily Lebens, Naomi Rennard, Jordan Zendejas	
Season outlook: The team should greatly improve this year. Last year the team came close to making it to State, this year an appearance is nearly assured.	
Key games this year: Marian, Westside, Papillion/La Vista	

	FALL 2002
	Jenny Miller
	She will help lead the team as one of its three captains.
	Softball
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Kerri Murtaugh	
Returning starters: Jenny Miller, Kate Muldoon, Liz Davis, Julia Darrow, Emily Muskin, Darcy Rutherford, Allison Rutherford, Alison Hess	
Season outlook: The lineup is filled with experienced players coming off of successful summer seasons.	
Key games this year: Burke, Millard North, Bryan, Millard South	

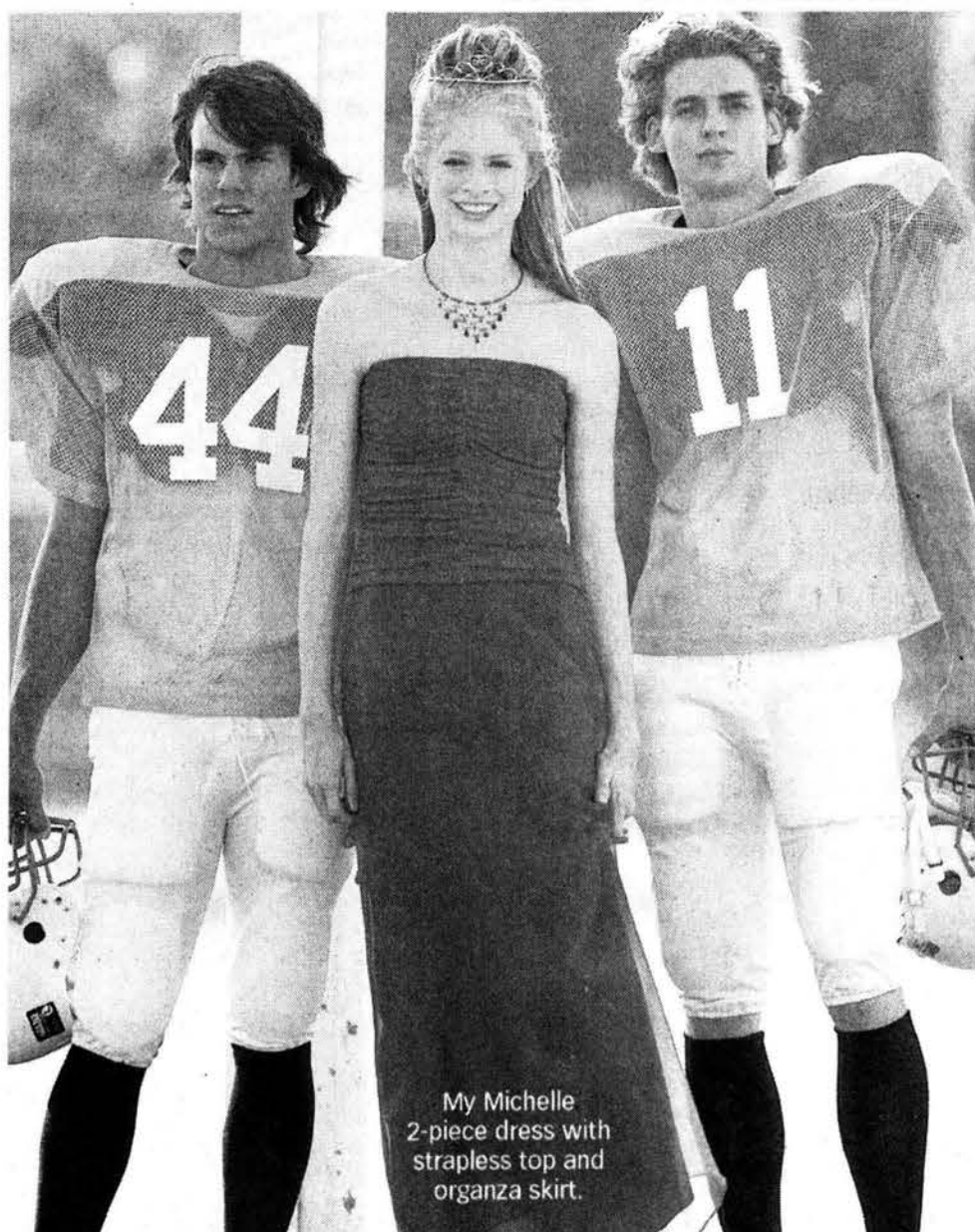
	FALL 2002
	Brandon Teamer
	He will be the anchor to the offensive and defensive line.
	Football
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Joe McMenamin	
Returning starters: Brandon Teamer, Courtney Grixby, E.J. Falkner, Chris Leflore, John Petersen, Sean Lewis	
Season outlook: The team shows signs of great improvement. Although the team is young, by the end of the year, it should mature in terms of skill as well as ability.	
Key games this year: Millard West, Creighton Prep, North	

	FALL 2002
	Kaitlin Hartnett
	Although the team is strong all around, she is a standout runner.
	Women's Cross Country
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE	
The Team	
Coach: Trent Lodge	
Returning starters: Kaitlin Hartnett, Casey Bigsby, Meredith Grunke	
Season outlook: Both the women's and men's teams have a good chance at qualifying for the state meet.	
Key games this year: Districts	



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SPORTS

Thursday, September 26, 2002

D

Page 34
The RegisterWeight room
increases perks
of renovations

By Charlie Wence

The days of doing hand cleans, bench presses and squats in intense heat will soon be over once the gym renovation project is completed.

The expansion is expected to double the square footage of the weight training area, which is now around 450 square feet.

The current square footage pales in comparison to Prep and all the Millard schools, which have weight lifting rooms ranging from 700 to 900 square feet.

However, when it comes to the equipment, Central is already on the same playing field as these two high schools.

Weight training teacher Ryan Murtaugh said he believes that Central's equipment is just as good or better than other schools with larger space.

The equipment in the current weightroom was donated by David Van Metre in January of 2001.

Van Metre went to Mount Vernon, Iowa and had a look at how bad the physical education facilities were and decided to aid in upgrading that school's weight room.

That's when Van Metre decided to check up on Central's weight room facilities.

"When I asked how Central's weight room was like, I was told that it was the same as it was twenty years ago," Van Metre said.

Van Metre, one of the owners of Travel and Transport travel agency in Omaha, had two sons who played football and graduated from Central in 1981 and 1982.

"A number of good things will come of this. I think the athletes will benefit along with the physical education program," Van Metre said. "You feel a lot better walking out of the weight room than you did walking in."

He also made contributions to the weight room at South by buying the school new pieces of equipment to go along with some decent equipment it already had.

Weight training classes are currently held in the weight room and the Old Gym at Central.

When the renovation is complete, the Old Gym will be converted into a cafeteria, instead of moving food back in fourth between the first and fourth floors.

The current cafeterias will be renovated and made into technology labs.

The current weight room will still be used in addition to the added on space.

Junior Joe Medeiros, who plays soccer and football, said he expects the addition to benefit the athletic department in many ways.

"The current weight facilities are fine, you don't get a lot of reps in, but you get stuff done," Medeiros said. "More space and better equipment are something I'm hoping for."

The larger facilities will provide an advantage to athletes from every sport.

"Because more players will get in there, the team will be faster and help our physical ability," he said.

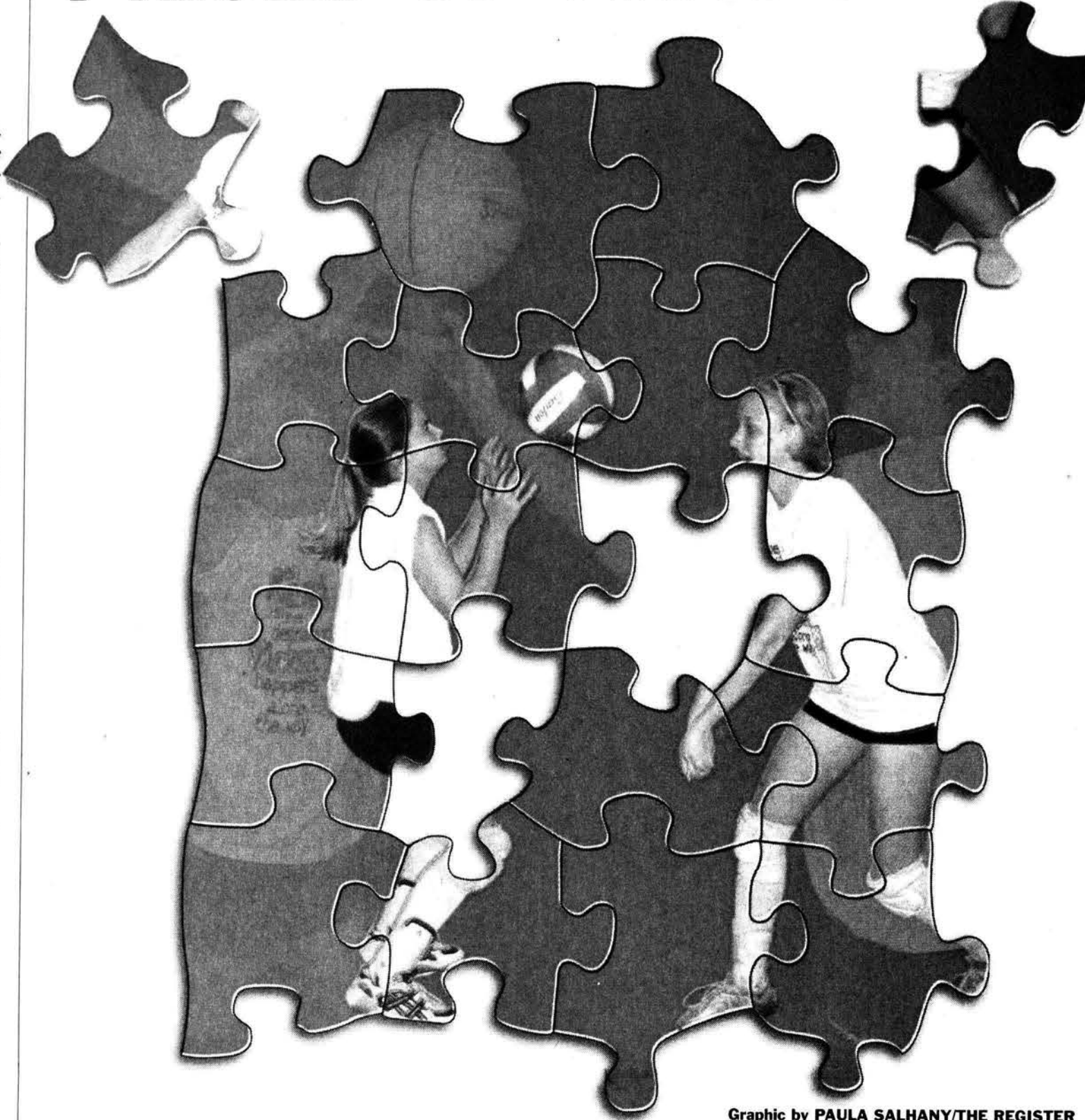
Athletics, including football and soccer, use the weight rooms for pre-season conditioning.

Football has weight lifting sessions in the mornings during the summer.

The renovation will also include installing air conditioning to the facilities.

"Having air conditioning during summer conditioning will help everyone stay comfortable and get a lot done," Murtaugh said.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

The volleyball team builds off of last year's success despite losing experienced players, coach says

By Doug Meigs

Despite possible setbacks to this year's volleyball season, coach Jodi Dierks is confident that the season will not be a rebuilding year.

Although she admits the year will be different, she said it will be more of an extension from last year's success.

It's just a matter of picking up the pieces and moving on.

So far, senior Carolyn Schaeffer said that the team seems to be working well together. She said that the members of the team have good chemistry and despite what might be looked at as a mediocre season thus far, will be able to pull together for a successful season.

As far as the first four games, the team was 2 and 2, but Schaeffer said that both losses were to ranked teams, and were close losses.

The team finished second place in a recent tournament invite. It lost its first

game against Burke by a small margin, then crushed them 15 to 1.

Then in the last match of the tournament, lost again by only a few points.

"We're a young team so we need to work on consistency," she said.

Dierks said that the team has improved in each of past four years she has coached volleyball at Central.

Four out of five seniors who graduated last year went on to play college volleyball.

Dierks said that two of last year's star players, Holly Greenamyre and Natalie Lubbert even have a good chance to start at their respective colleges, Northern Michigan and Western Illinois.

As far as the team's height, most of the seniors last year were at least six feet

tall.

This year, the only players on the team who have both the height and experience of last year's seniors are Schaeffer and Robyn Sorensen.

The two are the only remaining seniors on the team.

Both players have been playing on the team since their freshman years, which brings experience to the team, Dierks said.

In turn, both players also had a chance to be part of the 2000-2001 team that was the first Central to team to ever make it to state.

"It's going to be different than last year, but that's obvious since we lost a lot of our good players," Schaeffer said. "They weren't the entire team. They had a lot of skill, but height and skill aren't everything, you still have to play hard."

Teams cope
with smaller
practice area

By Laura Diesing

The practice field is now a tiny fraction of its former self, but this is not holding back the teams who use it, head football coach Joe McMenemy said.

"There is some disappointment, but nobody really notices," junior Aaron Blanke, varsity football player, said.

Blanke and his teammates have been practicing on the condensed field for weeks now.

He said the only downside is that, since the varsity and junior varsity football teams share the field, there is not enough room for everyone to practice.

"We don't have as much room so we don't do as much," Blanke said. "The offense doesn't get as much practice."

The football players are not too down about the smaller practice field.

Every other day they practice at Conestoga Elementary School.

McMenemy said the limited space has not really affected the football practices.

"It's not an ideal situation, but we're making it work," he said. "One positive thing about it is the new stadium."

Sometime near the year 2003 Central will be using its brand new stadium for practices.

Without Central's track to practice on, track coach Trent Lodge and the athletic director Paul Pennington are rushing to find a place to hold track practices in the spring.

"Worse comes to worse we could use Norris Middle School's track," Lodge said. "The surface isn't ideally what we want to run on at Norris."

So far the only prospects besides Norris are the tracks at the Boys and Girls Club and South High School.

Not only does the track team need a place to run, it must also have the use of a long jump pit, starting blocks, a place for shot put and discus, a high jump pit and transportation to and from the place the team practices at.

"We have very talented girls and boys and we need something for them to practice on," Lodge said.

He said that the players deserved the proper facility to practice on.

For now coaches and Pennington are working together to find the best places possible for the athletes to practice.

New dean doubles as assistant football coach

By Jillian Risavi

John Hammil is a dean by day and a coach by night.

He came to Central after a year of teaching at Benson High School. He has coached basketball and football at his previous schools for the last five years. Hammil said that he is unsure what to expect as the dean and out on the football field.

He said that he was pleased to see, so far, how well the students have gotten along and about the diversity among the students and faculty.

"At football I get to see the kids' sense of humor, at school it's different," he said.

Both positions entail different criteria. He said the students he sees at school treat him differently during the day, but after school when he is out coaching, they are more laid back and act like themselves.

"I'm able to form strong relationships with them so I can try to relate with what they are going through," he said.

As the dean he has to deal with the disciplinary problems in the school everyday.

"I think a lot of people will respect him," senior Stephanie Marsegan said. "He seemed nice and like he was able to get along with kids."

Hammil said that this year he hopes to be able to

assist students by working through their difficulties with them and trying to get them back on the right track.

Paul Pennington, assistant principal and athletic director, said Hammil will know the athletes who cause the problems in the school. He said that will be able to form relationships with the students inside the school, but after school when the halls are clear and he heads out to football practice, he change from being the dean to being the defensive/running back coach.

As the defensive-running back football coach he said that he sees the athletes as being good, solid kids who are willing to work and learn in order to get better.

"I like his style and flavor that he brings to the team," senior E.J. Falkner said. "I already knew the basic fundamentals, but he has broken it all down so I know what I am doing on the field."

Hammil said that he is uncertain about how things will run this year on the field, but he said that things should go smoothly. Pennington said Hammil will be busy, but his enthusiasm and energy for his work, along with his dedication are some of his strengths that will allow him to be a dean and a coach.

"He may have to be late to practice and the other coaches may have to cover for him till he gets there," Pennington said.

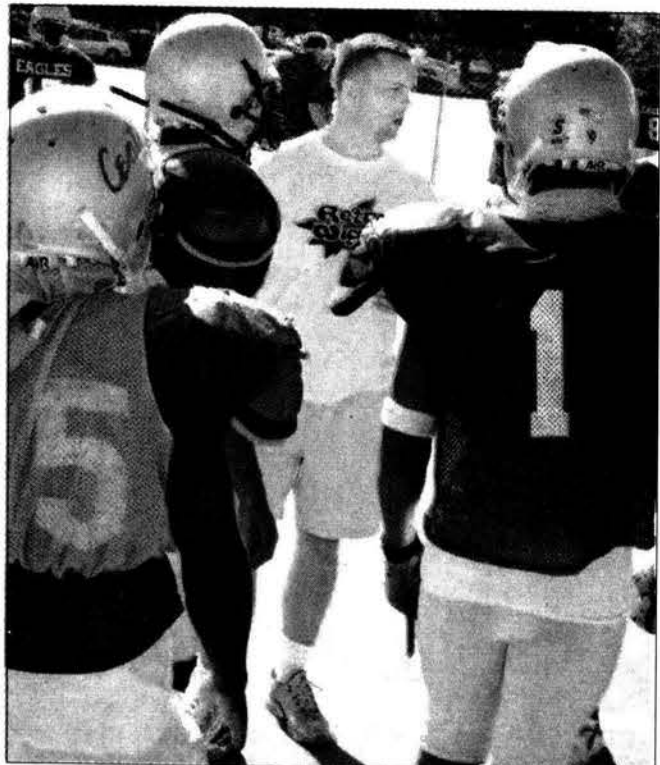
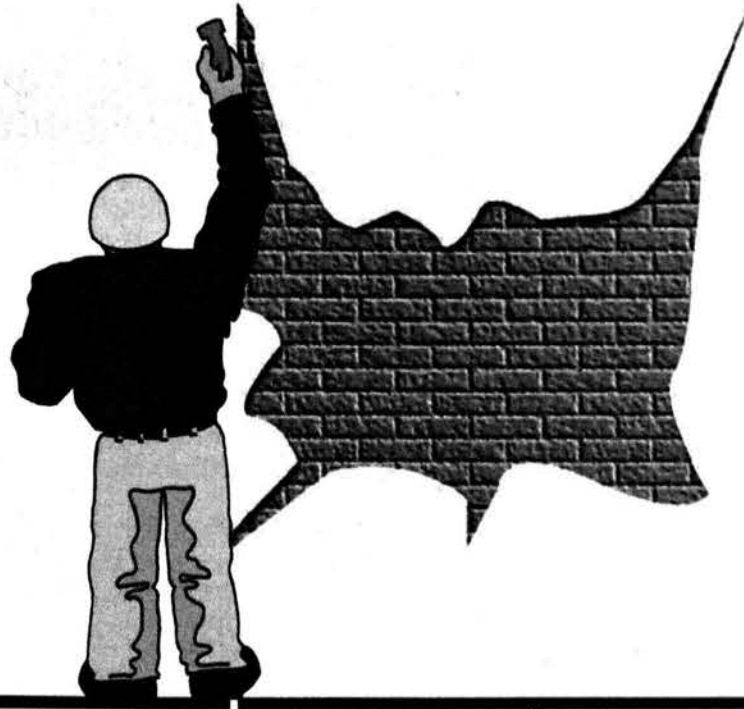


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER
John Hammil explains the plays to the varsity players. He is acting as both dean and coach.



Central High School Register **UNDER CONSTRUCTION** Renovations 2002



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

There are many steps to the renovations. A Hawkins construction worker smooths cement on Davenport Street for a new sidewalk. In this six page section, the Register breaks down the fundamentals of the Central renovations.



PHASE 2 IN PROGRESS



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Construction running smoothly, on schedule

By Paula Salhany

This year, Central High School looked markedly different as students arrived on the first day of school.

Starting in late May, a week after students were let out for the summer, Jacobs Facilities and Hawkins Construction Co., moved in to start the next phase of renovations.

This phase included the building of a new cafeteria and gym. Both are scheduled to be completed between October and December of 2003.

The first step in doing this was to demolish the exterior of the East and West sides of the building. And despite extreme heat on some days, construction went, for the most part, on schedule.

"Things started out well and are still going well," Jacobs Facilities project director Randy Kirkpatrick said.

Along with the physical change to the face of the building, four portables were put in on the track, a senior lot was created on the far west side of the track and a new path from day-ent up to the school was devised.

By the time students arrived on Aug. 20 everything was in place to keep them comfortable and safe.

The construction site was clearly marked with fences and barricades to prevent anyone from walking into a dangerous situation.

"We don't foresee having any problems with the students and the construction workers interacting," Principal Jerry Bexten said. "We expect students to be respectful and stay out of restricted areas."

On any given day, there are approximately six to seven companies and about 15-20 workers on site. Of the six to seven companies there are excavation teams, plumbers, electricians and dry wallers, Kirkpatrick said.

Bexten said, even though he is new to the school, he has been familiarized with the plans over the last year. This has made the transition to Central much easier.

"It's like being a freshman," he said. "You're walking into something new without really knowing what's going on. It's a bit overwhelming."

There are ways that Bexten stays on top of things, however.

Every Friday morning meetings are held to bring administrators and the officials in charge up to speed on what is happening.

"The meetings are run by Randy (Kirkpatrick), and are very helpful to everyone," he said.

Kirkpatrick is the man who runs everything. Because he is the project manager for Jacobs

Facility, he acts as a kind of liaison between Hawkins and OPS.

He coordinates what happens and when. He tells Hawkins what needs to be done and at the same time, he makes sure DRL, the designers, are on target with the blueprints.

Having a set up like this makes things go smoothly, Kirkpatrick said.

"I am very happy with the way things are working out," he said.

He also said all the companies have been working together wonderfully. If at any point a problem has come up, it has been solved quickly and without incident.

Right now, workers are putting in footings and laying cement for the walls of both the new gym and kitchen additions. The kitchen addition will be where the old dock was, and the new gym is to be on the west side of the building.

Students may see cement trucks and large cement pumps around the school from time to time.

This is so workers can get the cement from the truck to the footings, Kirkpatrick said.

He said construction will continue throughout the winter and that weather will hopefully not be a problem.

The site manager is prepared to clear the site if it snows. If it rains they are ready with pumps to clear standing water, he said. This ensures progress and lessens the chance of delay.

There is still a lot to be done.

Once the footings are down, more of the structure will begin to appear. Students will slowly but surely begin to see the kitchen and gym take form.

This is all more change than Central has ever seen, but for the most part, the exterior of the building will not change. The historical allure and finesse will not be destroyed, he said.

In the future, site work and structural work on the existing gym will begin.

This means tearing down the wall on the East side to allow expansion.

Also, renovations of all floors will start.

Next summer renovation of the basement and first floor rooms will begin.

The renovations occurring in the classrooms will allow workers to install the much anticipated air-conditioning system.

In the end, Central will have air conditioning, a new gym and kitchen, and more computer labs and classroom space, Kirkpatrick said.

Right now, the projected ending date of the renovation project is Jan. 25, 2005.

So far there have not been any set backs and Kirkpatrick said he hopes things will keep going at this pace.

DIAGRAM OF PHASES

To make the renovations less daunting and more organized they have been broken down into phases. This also makes it possible for construction to go on around the students while impacting them as little as possible.

The gymnasium level will be renovated in six different phases. The most extensive phase is the building of the new gym addition.

This addition will be parallel to the current new gym.

In the end, there will be one large gym area. This will consolidate the physical education classes into one area and potentially allow for home basketball games.

In other phases, the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) system will be installed and upgraded.

While this is happening students will not be allowed into these classrooms. They will have set classes in one of the 28 new portables on the track.

During the renovations of level one, the HVAC system will be put into the courtyard, classrooms and administrators offices.

Because upgrading the HVAC requires workers to take down the ceilings in the rooms, many rooms, but not all, will be re-carpeted and re-painted.

The second level will be the first level worked on when students are in the building.

Classes that are normally on the second floor will be the first ones moved out to the portables.

The areas being renovated will be blocked off allowing students to walk only from floor to floor via the stair cases and landings.

Classrooms on the third level will be some of the last rooms to be upgraded. Once again the HVAC system will be upgraded and as well as the ventilation system in the science labs.

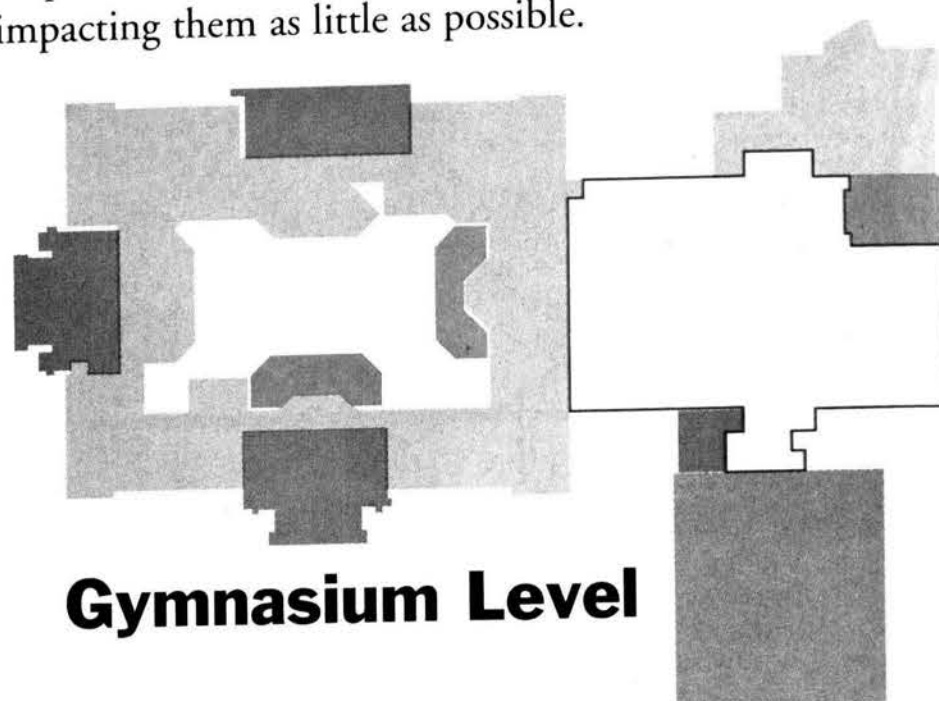
On the fourth floor the current cafeteria rooms will be converted into computer labs. The existing kitchen area will be used for Central's server and computer wiring.

The computer labs will allow teachers to use the Internet as a more extensive tool in their classes.

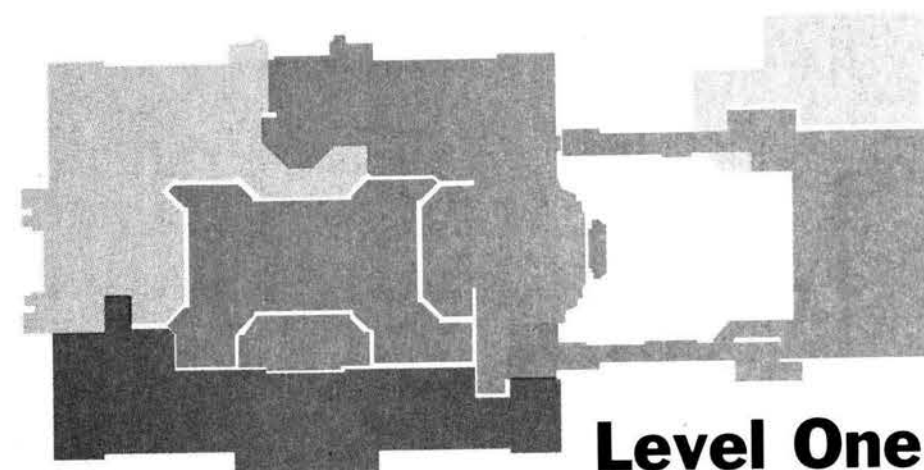
The science rooms and the art rooms, which are also on the fourth floor will have the HVAC system upgraded. Like the other levels, all classes in these areas will be moved out to the portables.

At the end of it all, Central will be air conditioned, have a new gym and kitchen and have new computer labs.

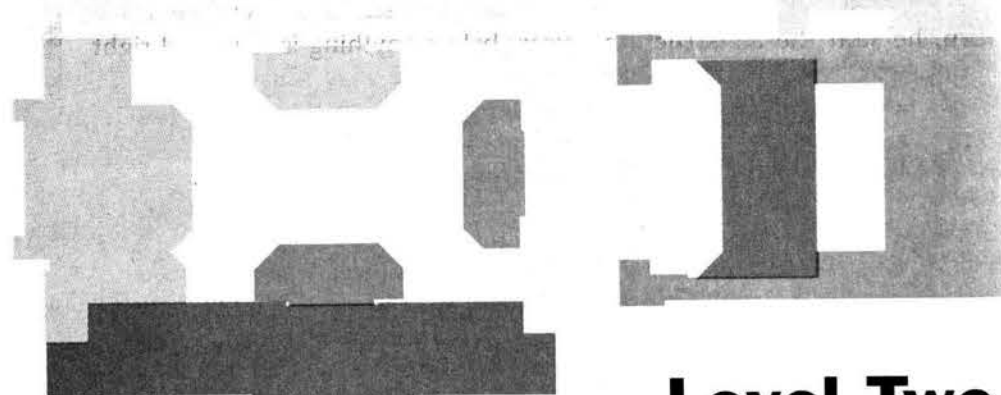
All renovations are scheduled to be finished in 2005.



Gymnasium Level

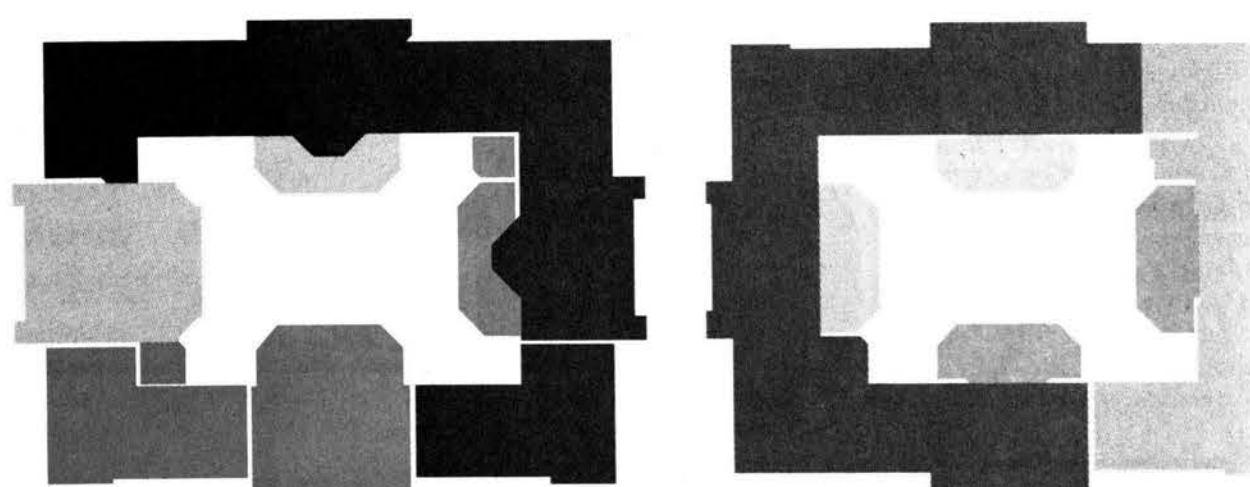


Level One



Level Two

- Phase 1
- Phase 1B
- Phase 2
- Phase 3A
- Phase 3B
- Phase 4
- Phase 5
- Phase 6A
- Phase 6B
- Phase 7A
- Phase 7B
- Phase 8



Level Four

Level Three

Plans courtesy of Jacobs Facilities/Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Portables provide extra space, convenience for students, construction

By Paula Salhany

One of the goals construction workers had over the summer was to install four portables and create a new senior parking lot, all on the pre-existing track at Central High School.

All that enabled administrators to pull roughly 500 students out of the school building and make a few more parking spaces for seniors and faculty, Assistant Principal Paul Semrad said.

So far, everything seems to be going smoothly, he said.

There haven't been many incidences with the portables, save some mold in the air conditioning of one, and the use of a toilet where there was no plumbing in another.

English teacher Diane Allen said she likes the smaller classes and the idea of being secluded from the rest of the school.

Allen had taught in a portable when she was teaching at Lewis and Clark Middle School, so she jumped at the opportunity arose to teach in one.

She also said students don't seem to have a problem with the portables, in fact in most cases they like them.

Junior Lauren Holm, who has two classes out in the portables, said she likes the portables because they are a change of pace from the normal classroom setting. But as of right now, there is more on the field than just the portables.

The track has been reduced because of the construction making scheduling practices a challenge Athletic Director Paul Pennington said.

"Right now the football team has been doing a great job using what little field they do have," he said. "But they are able to go to Conestoga and practice every other day."

As far as other teams, so far it has not been a problem. Another reason for the shortened track is the senior parking lot. Because Hawkins Construction Co. is occupying the original senior lot, administrators were forced to come up with an alternative. The far west side of

the track was the answer.

"Part of the problem is the growing number of faculty," he said. "We have to accommodate them with a parking place but we're having trouble coming up with spots."

As a result, students will notice a few cars lined up on the north side of the track. The faculty isn't the only thing that is growing though. Part of the reason Central received the portables in the first place was because of the ever-expanding student population. Semrad said. Last year there were roughly 2,500 students whereas this year it is closer to 2,620 students.

Semrad said Central had requested more portables originally, but because of renovations being done on other schools in the district, only four were available for Central. Next year there will be approximately 28 portables installed due to further renovations.

"I have been very pleased with how this situation has been going so far," Semrad said.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Over the summer, construction workers installed four portables on the track. Next year there will be about 28 on the field.

Renovations change school image

By Doug Meigs

Central's face is in a state of continual change.

The school has gone through numerous alterations since it was the sight of territorial capital. The current school was built up around the original structure. Then the tower was removed and eventually sealed.

It is evident when walking past the school's construction project, such changes have continued to this date.

Between the renovated building, various land exchanges between Joslyn and Creighton and a new stadium, Central will be a new school.

The Building

The current development is slated for completion by 2005. However, project director for Jacobs Facilities Randy Kirkpatrick said that exterior changes have already become noticeable.

Although the passage across the track and the dirt pit in place of the former loading dock area have long since become part of the school's landscape, he said that the landscape will continue to build up from the foundation currently being laid.

The two areas directly off of the school being worked on include a kitchen and loading dock addition to the north-west corner and gym addition to the northeast corner.

Expansion of the kitchen and loading dock area will consist of an approximately three level addition, making the extension the same height as the current building.

He said it should be completed by December of 2003.

He said the lowest level will be an expanded loading dock and receiving bay reaching further out toward Davenport Street than the previous one.

Above that, the kitchen and servery will be transplanted from the fourth floor to a newly constructed facility.

Kirkpatrick said that also around that floor will be a sub level serving as an equipment room.

"The addition will be concrete stone matching the current exterior, the intention is match it as exactly as possible," he said.

In turn, he said the construction project never ran into any conflict with any historical preservation societies by conflicting with the current facade. He said that construction will not affect the facades in any way.

The expansion off of the gymnasium will be covered by pre-cast panels identical to the current panels around that side of the building.

Kirkpatrick said that the addition will add an entrance into a stairwell that is near the sidewalk close to 20th Street.

Following the entrance, he said a stairwell will extend upward and past two levels of undetermined spaces that could possibly be used for classrooms before reaching the new gym.

Kirkpatrick said that the gym is going to be an extension of the current gymnasium with a new floor.

He said that the new gymnasium should be completed by Oct. of 2003.

"The most notable change will probably be the gym as it extends out to very close to the sidewalks," he said. "And after all is done it will rise up about four stories."

Surrounding Area

Besides the immediate building, Central's landscape will continue to change with the community partnership between Central, Creighton University and Joslyn Art Museum.

Creighton is selling land off of 21st and Davenport Street to Central, while Central and Joslyn are exchanging land off of the current practice field and to the east side of Joslyn, Joslyn media relations coordinator Amy Rummel said.

Although Central knows they are going to use the land acquired to build a stadium, both Joslyn and Creighton are relatively unsure as to what they plan on doing with their end of the exchange.

"As far as our plans go, we don't know what we want to do with it, Rummel said. "We don't really know what we'll do with the land."

She said they are considering all of their options.

Some fields currently being considered include additional parking, green space, or additional buildings.

She said that if Joslyn pursues any building expansion, it would require funding.

She said that the initial building was constructed through the funding of Sarah Joslyn's wish to commemorate her husband.

In 1994, an addition was built with the aid of Susan and Walter Scott along with other donors, Rummel said.

Creighton on the other hand, is selling land to Central rather than trading. With the money they will receive, Creighton public relations coordinator Cynthia Workman said that the university is looking to expand their campus eastward.

Like Central, Creighton is also involved in several renovation projects.

Right now, she said that they are looking at purchasing some land currently holding older, leased, or abandoned buildings that are not currently being put to much use.

"The deals been in the works for a while," she said. "Some planning is going on currently, but its up for discussion."

Part of the area being sold to Central includes the Creighton House north of the school off of Davenport.

She said the house is a residence hall with an academic focus. The building is slated to be torn down next May.

As part of the school's expansion, Workman said that there is interest in building additional residence halls, possibly for juniors and seniors as well as some graduate dorms.

However, she said it will be a few years before anything is done and right now a master plan is being assembled.

Included in that master plan is a new soccer complex. Workman said that the hope is to have the field playable next fall then the stadium will be built around it.

She said that Creighton's expansion is just part of a greater development in the downtown area as a whole.

Other areas of development downtown include the new First National tower and the new convention center and arena, Workman said.

"It's a sign of growth for the city, a revitalization of downtown can be very beneficial to Omaha as a whole," she said.

Despite not knowing exactly how Joslyn will be using its new land, Rummel said that they are also excited to be part of all the changes going on downtown.

Stadium

John Dineed, an architect for HDR (the firm designing the stadium) said that the stadium, which is slated for completion around 2004, is still in the design phase.

"At this point, all that is definite is that they will be a looking at a 5,000 seat stadium and football field sunk into the ground," he said.

All the distinguishing characteristics will be worked out within the next few months.

He said that they don't know how deep the stadium will go or what the grade of the incline will be because they are still considering their options.

What he said HDR does have is a number of preliminary schematic drawings.

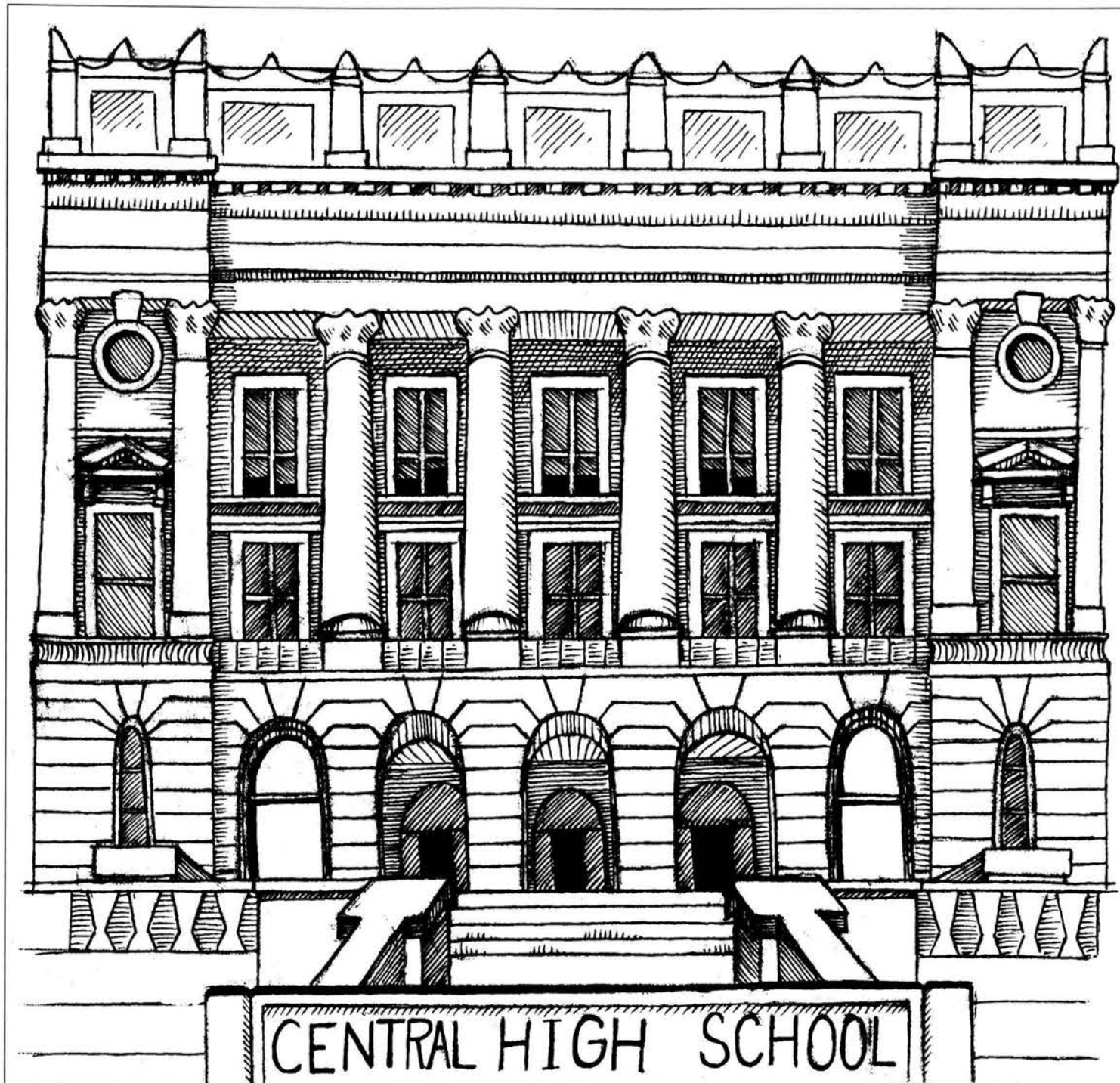


Illustration by Connor Meigs

This illustration shows the east side of the building. Even though renovations will affect a lot of the school's facade, it will not change the appearance or the quality of the school. One of the major concerns in the beginning of the renovations process was how the school's appearance would be changed.



Courtesy of Western Heritage Museum



Courtesy of Western Heritage Museum

The above photos show Central at two very different times in its history. The photo at left is Central on May 21, 1941 and was taken from the top of the Northwest Bell Building. At this time, the courtyard was still open. At right is the site of Central in 1857.

Right now he said they will have a few revisions to go through, but the design is becoming more concrete every day.

However, Dineed said a lot can change between now and when the completed designs are finished in the next few months.

Reflecting on Past Changes

Latin teacher Rita Ryan has worked through many parts of Central's renovation in the 30-plus years that she has taught at Central.

"I'd say they (renovations) have been difficult, but everyone has managed with grace and perseverance," she said. "You have to be tough to get through a lot of the changes."

Ryan said that most notable change in Central's appearance has been the

courtyard renovation. Her description of the school was drastically different from the current building.

"Anyone who was here when they enclosed the courtyard can tell you it was extremely difficult," Ryan said.

The old Latin room was located where the current conference room and Principal Jerry Bexten's office are now. She said the two rooms used to be one long room that was changed after the courtyard renovations.

Ryan said that a huge wooden tunnel was put in place next to the room.

She said if she wanted to go from the main office to the nurse's office, she'd have to take a detour up around the second floor.

During the renovations, she contin-

ued to teach class in the room despite the blaring noise from the machines constantly moving in and out of school. She said she would have to yell over the noise during her lectures.

"We were in school in class when they brought in the pylons for the courtyard with helicopters, it was noisy," Ryan said.

Nevertheless, she said the courtyard looked wonderful when the work was completed. Ryan said she thinks the result will be the same with this year's construction.

The construction can be unnerving, but we'll get through it," she said. "All you can do is grin and bear it. Progress takes its toll, but you've just got to buckle up, it will be nice when it's done

Installation of air conditioning to bring anticipated relief

By Doug Meigs

Heat days will not exist when freshman Zack Brooks is a junior. Air conditioning will have been installed in the December of the previous year.

Brooks said he's looking forward to that day, and feels that the trade off between shortened school days and a comfortable learning environment will be well worth it.

Until that time, he said waiting for the installation is not that big of a deal. After all, last year he spent his eighth grade year at Norris Middle school, which does not have air conditioning.

Jim Torres with DLR group, the firm that designed the renovation layout and blueprints said that each classroom and office will have its own individual ceiling units connected throughout the

school in a system of ducts.

Chilled water will come through pipes from the Energy Systems Co., a downtown utility provider that chills the water and pumps it into surrounding buildings' air-conditioning systems to enable the systems to operate.

He said that the new system will be separate from the current air conditioning Central has in some of the offices. However it will incorporate the old into the new.

Torres said that before air conditioning was around, buildings had to be designed and constructed for natural ventilation.

He said Central was designed with lots of windows. When opened, air would flow through the windows, into the halls, and up through the open courtyard.

Central also had vents installed in the upper walls of classes so that warm stagnant air could be released.

In addition, large fan rooms were constructed in the basement on the east, south and west sides to further create airflow.

As soon as the new system is installed in 2004, he said the old one will be completely removed. That includes the fans and vents.

However, building code requirements still require buildings to have so much outside air in circulation through a structure.

So Torres and DLR had to create a separate system that intertwined with air from the air-conditioning system.

"What will happen is that next summer, much of the constant emphasis will

shift to areas inside the building," Principal Jerry Bexten said. "They will break it down by say one side on one floor at a time, but it's a lot more complicated. They will be all spread out over the school. It will involve a lot of shifting and moving around on our part."

Bexten has copies of the plan in his office in an almost inch-thick booklet filled with complicated, color-coded pictures illustrating the project.

"I'm glad I didn't have to design that," he said. "It's a lot of work."

Last year, Bexten was principal at Lewis and Clark Middle school. It has air conditioning.

He said that even though his office here is air conditioned, he has definitely noticed the difference in temperature.

"If people complain about anything

at this time of the year at Lewis and Clark, it that it's too cold," he said. "Many of the students carry sweatshirts from class to class."

Sophomore Bryan Vana said that he is extremely impatient for the day when air conditioning will be installed.

He said that he wishes he had some classes in the portables because they are air-conditioned.

One of the only places in the school that he said is comfortable when the temperature is extremely hot is in the air-conditioned hallway next to the weight training room.

Although he knows that Central is receiving air conditioning, he said he is considering transferring to South High rather than go through another year in the unbearable heat.

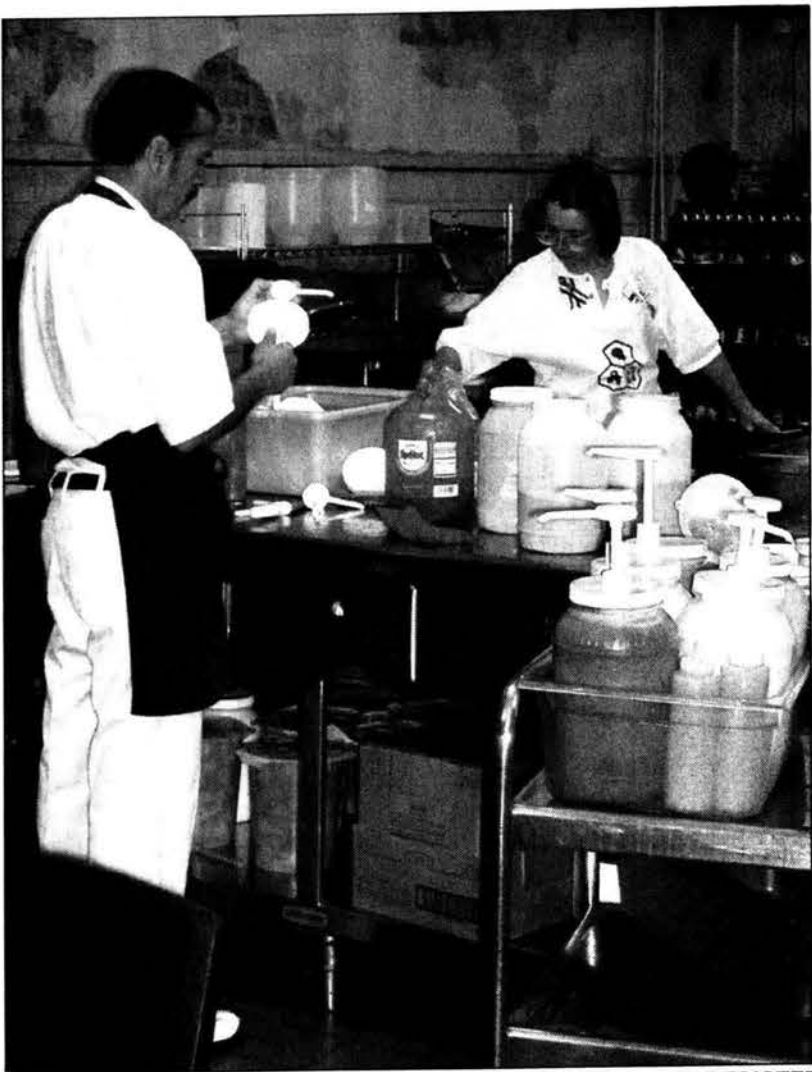


Photo by HALLIE BIEBER/THE REGISTER

Jose Frayne (left) and Jan Monico prepare lunch before fifth hour. The renovations will add a new, larger kitchen to the school, so there will be more room for cooking.

New kitchen will speed up service, ease crowds

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

For years, the cafeteria workers have been dealing with cooking the school meals in one area and then taking it to three others, two cafeterias adjoining the kitchen and the courtyard three floors below it.

The renovations may help ease the hassle. A new kitchen and cafeteria will be added to the school, in the place of where the old gym is now, Randy Kirkpatrick, project director for Jacobs Facilities said.

The work for the kitchen was started in Phase 1B of construction, which is currently going on, and the cafeteria work will be started in Phase 5, which will be going on next fall.

This will make the daily tasks of the cafeteria staff much easier, while making things less crowded and congested for students, cafeteria manager Jodi Smith said.

The staff will also not have to deal with constantly bringing in repair people to fix the old equipment, which she said is a constant issue.

"It's going to be nice," she said. "We're going to have all new equipment."

The new kitchen will not be finished until next year, Kirkpatrick said, so for this year, the cafeteria situation will remain the same.

But once the phase of the renovation is completed, there will be an entirely different set-up.

The renovations have been arranged so that the completion of the kitchen and cafeteria does not overlap with the transformation of the fourth floor cafeterias into computer technology labs, which could cause problems.

"That's for pretty obvious reasons," Kirkpatrick said.

Organizing the plan like this will mean that the cafeteria staff will not have to worry about transporting food from the new

kitchen on the first floor to the fourth floor cafeteria, or vice versa, once the project is completed, Kirkpatrick said.

Not only will there be a new kitchen and cafeteria, but all of the cooking equipment will be replaced and updated, Smith said, which has been a necessity for a while.

The new larger kitchen will be one big open area, Smith said, instead of the three connected areas that make up the current kitchen.

This will make the working area cooler and more accessible for those who have to work there.

Smith said the new floor plan will have a more efficient layout to make preparation faster.

There will also be an extra elevator added just for deliveries.

The new cafeteria will have three food lines for students to go through.

Smith said this would probably make it easier and faster for students to go through since there is only one line in each cafeteria now.

"It's going to be more organized," she said.

Freshman Angela Gilbert said that it can take as long as 10 minutes for her to get through the lunch lines in the court yard, but that it was not a huge inconvenience as long as the line is not too long.

She said she would probably start eating in the new cafeteria once it opens if it is quicker.

"A lot of people will start going down there because there will be more room," Gilbert said.

Smith said having the kitchen on the same level as the courtyard will also make it easier to transport meals to the courtyard from the kitchen.

She said the greatest benefit of the new kitchen and cafeteria will be how much easier getting through will be for staff and students.

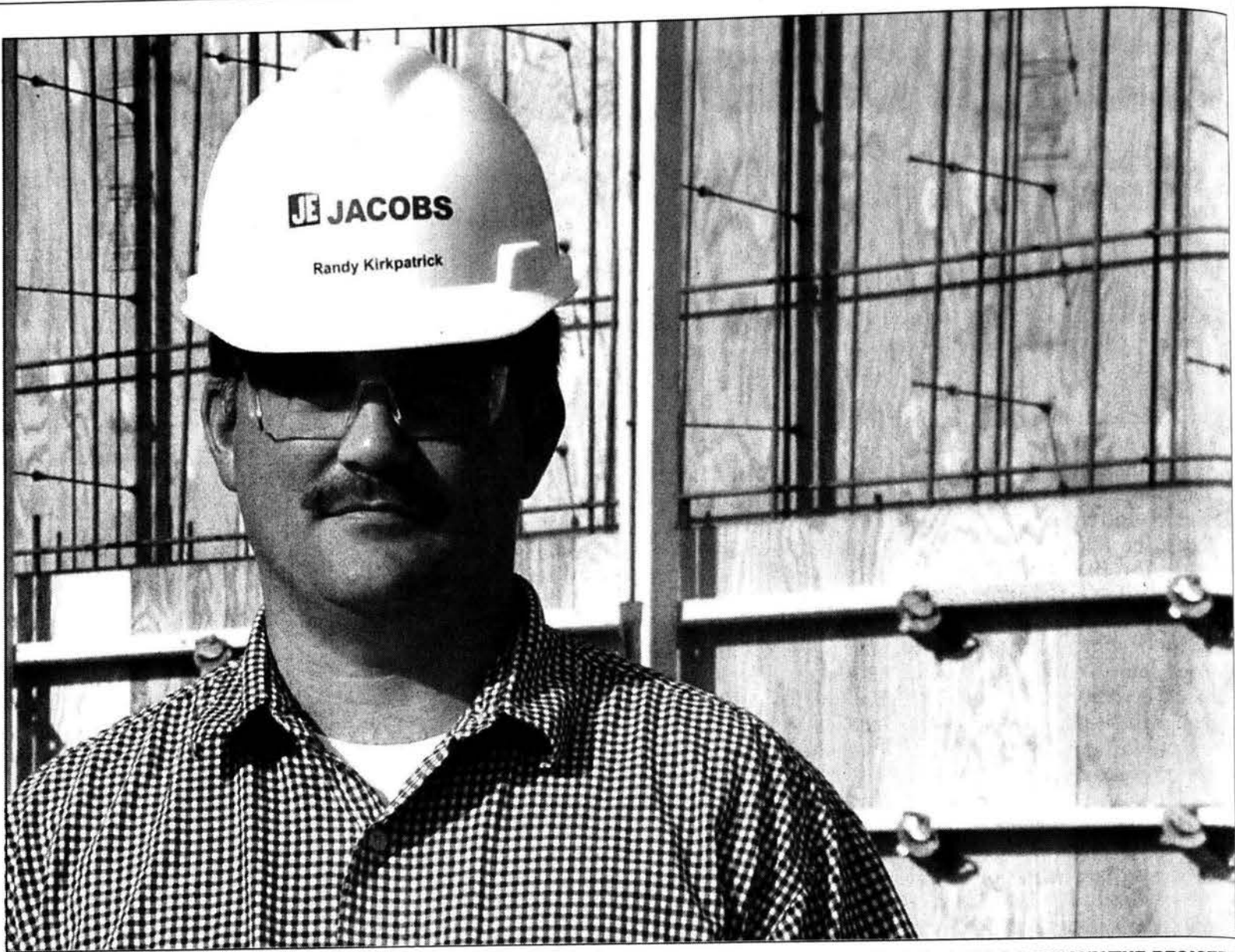


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Jacobs Project Facilitator Randy Kirkpatrick stands outside the Central renovation site during the summer work phase. Kirkpatrick helped oversee all of the projects and served as a liaison between OPS and the contractors.

Project manager enjoys work

By Paula Salhany

Randy Kirkpatrick's days are filled with meetings and problem solving to make sure Central's renovation project stays on track.

As the project manager at Jacobs Facilities, he deals with design, architecture, owners, contractors, money and general problems that arise as the project goes on.

Not only does he act as a liaison between Hawkins Construction Company and OPS he also makes decisions about the project. He makes certain information is passed to the correct parties so things can run smoothly.

He makes sure everything stays in budget and that the renovations are perfectly accommodating for what needs to be done.

He is the one to say if the job is not good enough or if the job would require more money than is available.

"It's very exciting, challenging and hectic all at the same time," he said.

Kirkpatrick started on the Central renovation project at Jacobs in April after he had a conversation with a worker at Jacobs who expressed the need for a project manager.

He decided that he would be able to apply his knowledge and experience into the project. He said he knew he wanted to be an engineer ever since sixth grade.

His class was going on a World-of-Work field trip where students picked a job they were interested in and went on a job shadow.

Kirkpatrick said he asked his father where he should go and his father, who worked at Hallmark, suggested he look into

Hallmark's engineering center.

"I spent the day at Hallmark and knew from then on that I wanted to go into engineering," he said.

In order to be qualified for the job, Kirkpatrick had to have a regulation professional engineer license.

He went through University of Missouri at Kansas City's four-year engineering program and later had to pass exams given by the state of Missouri.

After passing the required tests, he went on to work with various owners and architects.

Before coming to Jacobs, Kirkpatrick was working on the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Federal Courthouse with Clark Construction. Though the project was fulfilling, in order to keep working for Clark, he would have to move to Washington D.C.

"My family and I enjoy the Omaha area so I decided to find a job in Omaha and came to Jacobs," he said.

Kirkpatrick said he thinks the renovations are an excellent addition for the school.

He said he thinks it will be more convenient for students during the lunch hour and the gym will help consolidate P.E. classes into one area.

He said though these renovations are very extensive, there is always the need for some improvement at any facility.

In the far future there may be the need for more renovations.

"Working on the Central project has been very rewarding," he said. "I have enjoyed working with OPS, Hawkins and the Central staff."

Stadium made possible by generous grant

By Jillian Risavi

Central scored a plan for a new football stadium thanks to a \$5 million grant given by Central graduate Susan Buffett.

A mixed effort between Central, Joslyn Art Museum and Creighton University is allowing the project to take place.

Susan Buffett Jr., the daughter of Susan Buffett, said Joslyn has been interested in the practice field for sometime and knew that it would not happen without Central being compensated in some way.

She said Joslyn is paying for the land, which is owned by Creighton. The stadium will be built just north of the Central campus and is projected to be finished by the fall of 2004.

"The stadium has to be built before Joslyn can take the practice field," Buffett said. "There will be a reconfigured campus-like situation where everything will get moved around."

Buffett said her mother gave the grant be-

cause she understood that Central does not have the money to pay for the building of the stadium.

Luanne Nelson, the executive director at the Omaha Schools Foundation (OSF), said that Buffett donated over \$5 million to the OSF specifically for Central's stadium.

"It's a restricted donation," Nelson said. "That means we hold the money and it can only be spent for what the donor restricts it, too."

She said once the donor approves a transaction to be made, the OSF makes sure that it gets paid.

Nelson said that the OSF is trying to help with the cost of the stadium by generating mailing lists for donations and organizing fund-raisers.

Buffett said that the total cost of the stadium and where the money is coming from is still not known. Principal Jerry Bexten said that the primary source of the money is the grant

given by Susan Buffett.

As for the rest of the money he said that some of the money should be coming from what the school district budgeted for a new turf on the Central practice field.

Buffett said federal grants, if given, some of the bond money and additional outside funding should hopefully pay for the construction of the stadium.

Bexten said he thinks this collaboration will be a good thing and potentially will allow more projects to happen.

"I hope we do other things with them," Bexten said. "Joslyn is a great treasure right next door."

Buffett said that Joslyn might create additional parking and green space once they gain control of the practice field.

She also said that Creighton would use the money that it received from the purchase of the stadium land for future projects to enhance the university.

Additions to fourth floor will bring technology upgrade, more class space

By Doug Meigs

The south and west cafeterias will look drastically different by the time renovations are complete.

Students won't be able to eat lunch upstairs anymore.

In fact, these spaces won't be cafeterias any more. They will be Central's new consolidated technology labs.

The lunch tables and milk cartons will be replaced by computers to form labs for student and classroom use.

CAD teacher Trent Lodge said that he has seen the preliminary drawings for the floor layout, but a lot of the process is still indefinite.

However, Lodge said that he does know that two of the rooms will be dedicated to CAD.

Right now, he said that Central has a wide variety of class options to choose

from—everything from CAD to programming to design.

He said that the current software is pretty good, they just received new computers last year. Unless the funding appears from somewhere, he said that those computers will be transferred from the current labs into the completed facility.

Because the new facilities will be concentrated in one area, rather than spread across all of four levels of the school, Lodge said that facility will expose students to a wider range of technology classes.

Freshman Matt Holzapfel said that he looks forward to being able to utilize the completed facilities.

Currently enrolled in visual basics and computer programming, he said that he plans on taking further technology classes during his high school career.

His older siblings, junior Nisa, senior Tristen, and 2001 graduate Damien had all been involved in the technology program.

Although he will be the last of his family to go through Central's technology program, he will be the first to make use of the revamped system.

Holzapfel said he isn't looking into a career in technology.

However, he plans on going into the field at least in college, and the classes at Central will allow him to succeed more readily in that environment.

"Computers are becoming more and more a part of everyday life," he said.

He said the individuals who know how to computer program and utilize the technological tools that surround them are vital in this ever expanding technology based society.

He said a new computer facility will encourage such education.

Junior Chase Steenboch is also actively involved in Central's technology program.

He has taken visual basic for the past three years and is also involved in a number of other computer classes such as C++.

He said he wants to go into video design after he completes college.

In contrast to Lodge's belief, Steenboch said that computer program's major drawback is a lack of variety in courses.

In particular he said he'd like to see more classes offered that teach different computer languages.

But, Lodge said that any changes in classroom size or construction will not alter the current curriculum.

Another drawback that Steenboch said he has observed are the current classroom sizes.

He said they are too small not to mention hot. This is always a problem at Central.

As a result Steenboch said he has known many students who haven't been able to enroll in computer classes because of limited class capabilities.

"At this point I don't think they could (enroll more students), Pathways and the other labs use up all the class time," he said.

He said there is not much time for classes other than what Central offers now and that most students' schedules are very full.

Unfortunately for Steenboch, he will graduate by the time renovations will resolve that complaint.

THE NEXT STEP

Though it may seem like a lot has already happened, this is just the beginning of Central's renovations. The biggest changes to the school are still ahead.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

A Hawkins Construction worker carries pipes to the pit dug for the kitchen. Everyday a little more is done towards the completion of the renovations. The kitchen addition is scheduled to be finished Dec. 9, 2003.

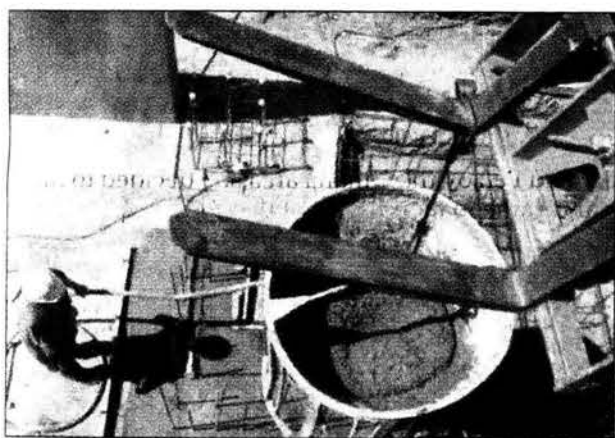


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Cement is poured into the new gym addition on the east side of the building.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

A Hawkins Construction Worker measures the ground outside the new kitchen addition.

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

The renovations at Central this year may look impressive, but this is only part of a multi-phase process that will not culminate until 2005, Randy Kirkpatrick, project director for Jacobs Facilities said.

Currently, the school is undergoing Phases 1A and 1B, which involve preparation for the gym and kitchen additions.

Phase 1A will wrap up in the middle of October, while phase 1B will end around the time that school lets out for holiday break in December. Phase 2, which was site and structural work in the existing gym area was started and fully completed over the summer.

Once phase 1B is over, there will be no more work on the school for a while, according to the Jacobs construction plan.

Most of the interior work will take place during the 2003-2004 school year.

The interior work that was done over the summer was mainly done down in the basement and the mechanical rooms, Kirkpatrick said.

Kirkpatrick said this is the part of renovations that will interfere with students' day-to-day lives the most.

Kirkpatrick said during this time, the construction crews would completely shut down one floor at a time and reschedule those classes in the portables.

"There will be more portables utilized on the field," he said.

Kirkpatrick said there will be around 28 portables next year, up from the four this year.

He said he could not be absolutely sure how many portables there will be, but that they will be brought in as they are needed.

Freshman Rebecca Briles said this could cause some confusion for students who had to go long distances between classes.

"It really matters if you have to go from the fourth floor out to them," she said.

The work will start on the first floor and the crews will work their way up from there. All of the classes will have ducts installed for air conditioning, Kirkpatrick said.

Some will also get a fresh coat of paint on the walls or new carpeting.

"The majority of rooms will look newer from paint and carpeting," Kirkpatrick said.

The floors will receive new finishes, but beyond that, not a lot will be done with the general layout of the first three levels.

The final floor to be renovated will be the fourth floor. Kirkpatrick said that the changes on this floor will be different from all of the others.

The spaces that are now the west and north cafeterias will be converted into computer labs and technology centers, Kirkpatrick said.

All of the stairways and emergency exits will be kept available, Kirkpatrick said.

Another major component of the next step of renovations will be the addition of a new gym. Kirkpatrick said this gym would cover the area that is now the "new" gym, plus the area on the east lawn that is currently under construction.

By the end of this year, Kirkpatrick said slightly over 50 percent of the total renovations will be done. The additions and interior work will all be completed during the 2003-2004 year.

Certain parts of the interior work will not be done until the summer of 2004, Kirkpatrick said.

The final parts of the work will be done during the fall of 2004 and early winter of 2005, though those will mainly be minor additions. Briles said she would notice very few changes once the renovations are complete.

"The only difference that I would notice is the air conditioning," she said.

Until then Central will be a whirl of activity resulting in a changed school, Kirkpatrick said.

Stadium revenue unknown

By Paula Salhany

Central has never had the pleasure of playing a home game at home.

But now, with the construction of a new stadium, football players will be able to run out to the field from Central's locker room.

Along with that, the new stadium provides the possibility to bring in a little more revenue to the school.

"It may not bring in a lot more though," athletic director Paul Pennington said.

This is because Central already receives ticket receipts from home games held at Norris middle school.

The only way it will generate more revenue is the possibility of attracting more people to the games, Pennington said.

But for some students like sophomore Kathleen Staats, it will be much easier to go to games at Central rather than at Norris.

"I would like to go to more games, but since I live in North Omaha, it's just not that easy for me to get to Central," she said.

She said once the new stadium is built, she will definitely go to more games.

On the whole, the new stadium will make things much more convenient for everyone, he said.

Central won't have to worry about getting permits for playing at Norris and it won't have to be as concerned with scheduling as before.

This means more games could be played at home, he said.

"It's not so much for the revenue, but the stigma of being able to play our home games at Central High that has so much appeal," Principal Jerry Bexten said.

He said it is a logical thing for Central to have its own stadium.

He said he thinks the stadium is a very good idea even if it doesn't bring in much more money.

"Hopefully, it will make downtown Omaha just that much better," he said.

Pennington said another way revenue may be generated is by renting out the field to others in the area who want to use it.

However, the stadium will be generally open for people who want to come walk or run on the track, Bexten said.

He said Central has no intention of making the track an exclusive facility.

It will be run much like the old track was.

"No matter how you look at it though, the stadium is a wonderful thing for both the school and the community," he said.

Overcrowding becomes more of an issue due to construction

By Doug Meigs

Central had finally hit its limit. Now that limit is being renovated.

Under former Principal Dr. Gary Thompson, the school had grown about 100 students every year since he took the job seven years ago.

However, due to limited space, Thompson said that overcrowding quickly became an issue.

For his last two years, the possibility of an enrollment cap always loomed around the corner as the school continued to consecutively take in the largest freshmen classes in its history.

As a result, he said classroom sizes had continued to swell, up until this year.

Now, with the addition of only four portables, assistant principal Paul Semrad said that congestion has been significantly relieved.

The opportunity for continued

growth is right around the corner. However, Semrad said he's not sure whether that's something Central will be looking for.

Next year, with the arrival 28 additional portables, he said the student population would probably stay at about the same anyway.

But, by the time construction is completed, he said the school will have seven additional classrooms.

He said classes will open up when the cafeterias move from the fourth floor to the old gym.

Then the classroom where the current technology labs are will open as the classes move to the slated computer facilities in the present north and west cafeterias.

Further space will be made available where the kitchen is and in an area underneath the addition to the building. Also, the old weight room will be

moved to the new facility being built.

With the 63 free periods, Semrad said that his job will be a lot easier scheduling teachers and students, and if need be, could fit in additional students.

"I'm really anxious to know what will happen next year," he said. "It will take a lot of planning."

As far as scheduling for next year, Semrad said as soon as the renovation schedule is more concrete, he will meet with the department heads and organize which classes will be in the portables.

Semrad said he used a similar approach last year, but it was on a much smaller scale.

By June last year everything was going smoothly. He said he hopes it will work equally well this year.

Principal Jerry Bexten expressed similar hopes.

However, he said he doesn't have the experience at Central to base any

assumptions on. The same goes for his opinion on restricting enrollment.

Before Bexten would be able to make any specific opinions regarding capping or expansion, he said that he would have to have more first hand experience.

Thompson on the other hand, had ten years experience teaching at Central before he became principal.

In turn he said he has long favored an open door policy.

"A major goal of OPS is to leave options open to students," he said. "The cap would limit that."

Regardless, Thompson said that growing enrollments forced the school to consider ways to stabilize the student body. He, along with Bexten and the accountability office at TAC met together to consider the options last year.

He said proposed solutions included a greater allowance for students to

transfer out of Central after already being enrolled, as well as closing the school to students who wanted to transfer from other schools.

Senior Dan Tipton said that he would like to see the enrollment continue to grow.

Although he said that he noticed overcrowding in the past few years, it didn't seem to be more than Central could handle.

"It's all part of the tradition," he said.

Tipton, who has a sister who is now a freshman, also has a younger sibling that plans on attending Central. He said that he wouldn't like to see any sort of enrollment restrictions because he wants his family to go to Central.

"When it's all said and done, there will be more class room space," Bexten said. "But I think were probably as big as we want to be."

How it happens

Summer Renovations

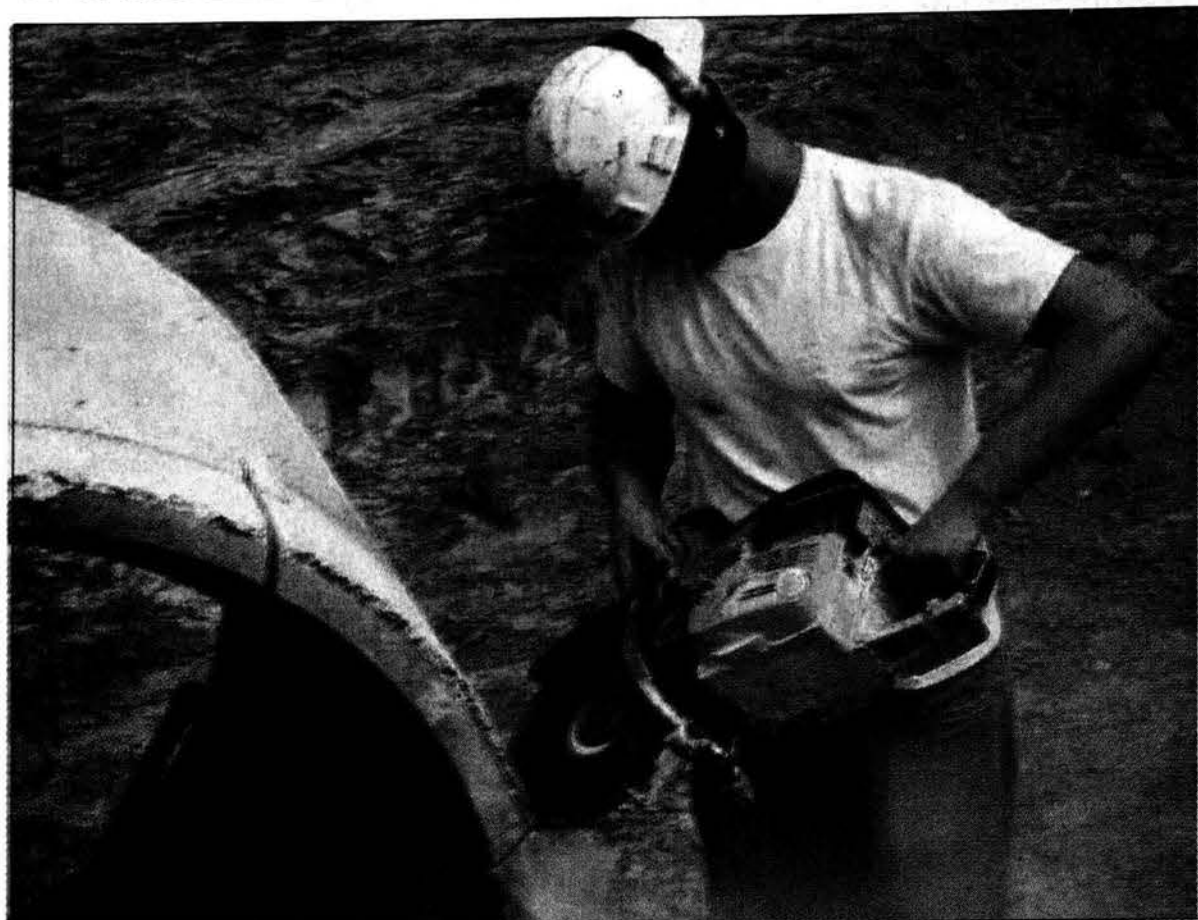


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

A construction worker sliced a large piece of concrete that will eventually be a part of the new kitchen addition.

The summer renovations brought many physical changes to the school. The area that was once the dock was demolished so work on the new kitchen addition could begin.

At the same time, on the south side of the building, the facade of the building was taken off and another large pit was dug for the new gym addition. Preparation was made for footings and cement to be laid and for the building to start to take place.

All in all, the gym addition will be roughly the same size, in feet, as the kitchen addition.

Once the gym is finished there will be continuous gym area as opposed to the two areas currently.

Over the summer, workers toiled to make the school easily accessible and comfortable for the year. Four portables were put in, the track was resized to accommodate the senior lot and the portables and a new walkway was formed from Davenport Street up to the school.

So when students arrived on Aug. 20, they were hardly fazed by the construction.

But unlike last year, the construction did not end at the start of the year. Moreover, the construction this year will continue until 2005.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Construction workers lay cement on the east side.



Photo by JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

A Hawkins Construction worker drives a cat tractor.



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

From now until 2005 the school will be under construction. The school will change visibly over the next few years. The time line of events can look daunting at first, but it will all work out.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Mobilization: April 8, 2002

Hawkins construction company moved its trailer into the area previously known as the senior lot. Now, seniors will be parking on the far west side of the turf. Soon this spot will be torn up so workers can start building the stadium. The new area for the general contractor is still undetermined.

Phase 1A:

April 8, 2002- Oct. 17, 2003

Phase 1A has begun. This part of the renovation will result in the new gym addition. Currently, a large pit has been dug on the east side of the building so that workers can start laying the foundation for this new addition. Footings will be nailed together, concrete will be laid. The structure will begin to take form. (See left)

Phase 1B:

May 31, 2002- Dec. 19, 2003

Work begins on the new kitchen addition. Fences have been put up around the west side of the building where the original dock is. Much like the gym addition, a pit was dug and workers started laying the footings and foundation. (See left)

Phase 2:

June 7, 2002- Aug. 2, 2002

Site work and structural work at existing gym area begins. Bracings were put up in the new gym so that when workers tear down the wall on the east side the ceiling does not fall down. Other work inside and around the building took place.

Phase 3A:

June 2, 2003- Oct. 17, 2003

Basement mechanical spaces and upper auditorium renovation begins. The upper auditorium will be converted into technology rooms and computer labs. But first, the ground work has to be done.

Phase 3B:

June 9, 2003- Aug. 8, 2003

Renovation of basement and first floor rooms, library and fourth floor art rooms. Plumbing and the workings for air-conditioning will be put into the floors over the summer. Though they will be working on the first floor, not everything will be finished in those rooms.

Phase 4:

June 9, 2003- Dec. 19, 2003

Renovations on 1st and 2nd floor classrooms begin. Most of the work on these floors will be on improving the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. For all of this time, students will not be able to access these floors. (See left)

Phase 5:

Oct. 20, 2003- Dec. 19, 2003

Work on the new cafeteria begins. This will be in the current old gym. The courtyard will still be used as a lunch room.

Phase 6A:

Dec. 26, 2003- May 28, 2004

Fourth floor computer lab renovation. The old cafeterias will become computer labs so that classes will no longer have to fight over the few and far between computers in the building.

Phase 6B:

Dec. 26, 2003- May 28, 2004

Second floor classrooms will be worked on. The second floor will be incapacitated. Students with classes on this floor will be moved into portables. Workings for air conditioning will be put in.

Phase 7A:

June 7- August 13, 2004

First floor administrators offices, the Courtyard and the 4th floor science rooms to be worked on. The HVAC will be updated in these areas. Students will have to walk around the courtyard while work is being done. (See left)

Phase 7B:

June 7- September 24, 2004

Third floor science labs. The HVAC will be upgraded. At the same time new ventilation will be put in the rooms.

Phase 8:

Sept. 27- Dec. 24, 2004

Third floor classrooms. This is the last floor to be renovated. Much like the other floors, the 3rd floor will be blocked off while the air-conditioning system is upgraded.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER



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Photo by JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

A look at some tools, equipment used to put it all together



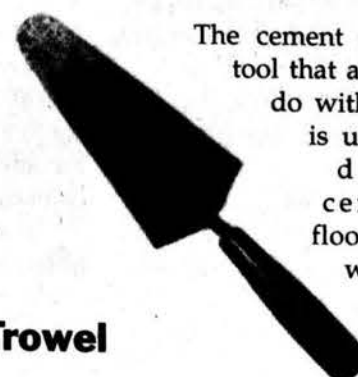
Wheelbarrow

Workers have been toiling for about four months on the new gym and additions. Though through it all there have been many high-tech machines, the wheelbarrow is an essential piece of equipment for the job. It is simple but extremely useful.



Tool belt

The tool belt is very important to a construction worker. Not only does it keep tools all in one spot, it also acts as an organizer. It is compact and easily fastened on around the waist. This belt keeps the ball rolling when it comes to work.



Trowel

The cement smoother is a tool that a building can't do without. This tool is used to smooth down the cement walls, floors and sidewalks. It is very important tool.