

Three in a Row

**The '60s Return**

Music styles and sounds of the past are resurfacing and becoming more popular.

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**Overcrowding**

With more students in the school and the population continuing to grow, is it time to do something?

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**On Fire**

Alumnus David Horne burns his red shirt with his breakour performance as a true freshman at UNL.

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Grad makes his way into honor society

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

When Tyler Stahl began school at Central, he said he did not hold very many high expectations for himself.

So the idea that he would someday be inducted into one of the country's most prestigious collegiate honor societies would probably not have occurred to him.

But on Saturday, Oct. 5, Stahl became a member of the Dartmouth chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

Stahl estimated that there were between 40 and 60 sophomores and juniors inducted into the chapter with him.

The hour-long ceremony featured speeches from the chapter's president Cassandra Welch, a liaison from the national organization and a Dartmouth professor named John A. Rassias.

Stahl said Rassias' speech, entitled "Gods, Heroes, Fallen Angels and Fallen Arches," was particularly inspiring. The speech tied Greek and Roman mythology, which is Rassias' specialty, into the plights and challenges of teachers today.

After all of the speeches, Stahl said the inductees walked onstage and took the membership oath that highlighted the importance of maintaining and increasing the pursuit of academics.

Stahl said NSCS is comparable to high school organizations like National Honor Society in that it stresses community service, academics and leadership.

He said the chapter participates in many community service activities in the New Hampshire area.

They do things like going to David's House, a place where families of children in long-term hospital care stay.

Stahl said the main reason for his induction was his high grades in his freshman year at Dartmouth.

"They want people that can demonstrate clear academic performance," he said.

But other factors play into it. See **DARTMOUTH** page 9

Gateway to  
**GRIDLOCK**

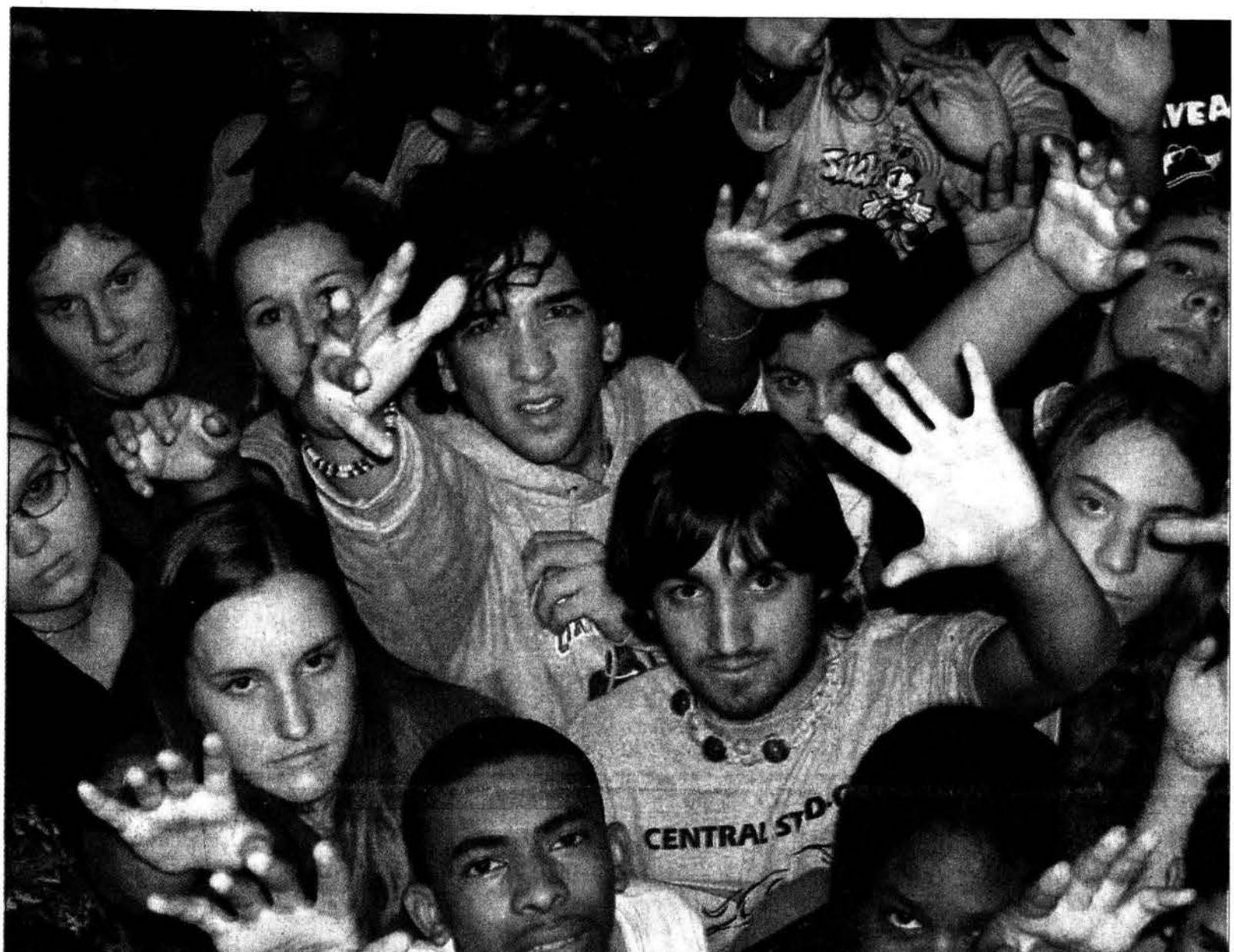


Photo illustration by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

This photo illustration, featuring various Central students, is meant to dramatize what may happen if the current trend of the ever-increasing population growth continues. How many is too many?

The halls are crowded, the classes are cramped. Some students feel they have to maneuver though the gridlock of the halls. For the last few years Central's population has been steadily rising. It is the highest it has ever been and officials are looking at what can be done to ease the strain.

Turn to pages 6-7A for an in-depth look at overcrowding

By Paula Salhany

Senior Zach Kruse said he has noticed the rise in Central's population from his freshman year to his senior year.

He said he notices his classes are bigger, the competition in sports seems to be greater and he said the halls during passing periods are even more difficult to navigate.

Kruse said it is harder to get through the halls and a lot of his classes are full.

"It's sometimes hard because with class sizes so big, teachers have a harder time giving individual attention," he said.

With 2,458 students in the school, Assistant Principal Paul Semrad said the school is definitely crowded, but right now it is manageable.

He said it is most crowded in the morning when students are gathered

in and around the courtyard.

He said the main reason for acquiring four portables this year was to help with over crowded classes.

"The portables give us an extra 36 classrooms a day," Semrad said.

This means that during any given period of the day about 120 students are out of the building. But that still puts Central over its maximum capacity which is 2,250 students.

Sophomore Nicole Ketelsen transferred from Mercy High School where she said there were about 350 girls in the whole school.

She came to Central to try something new and to experience a larger school.

"There are a lot of students but I like the fact that you can talk to a lot see **OVERCROWDING**, page 7

Vote against levy override hurts district

By Paula Salhany

If the people of Omaha had voted for the levy override, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) would not be looking at over a \$10 million deficit going into next year.

The levy override would have allowed the school district to use up to 15 cents more of property tax money in order to pay for the programs they currently have running, Luanne Nelson, publicist for OPS said.

"The important thing to note is that it would have been up to 15 cents," she said. "More than likely we would have used 8 to 12 cents of the money."

But because the override lost in the ballots by a 3-2 ratio, the district will have to look at other alternatives to make up for the money shortage, John Langan, president of the school board said.

"I knew getting this passed would be an up hill battle, but I had hope," he said. "We have gone to the people of Omaha asking for money before and gotten it. I was very surprised at how badly it lost."

The district is going to have to go back to the legislature now, he said.

Vicki Anderson, vice president of the Nebraska State Educators Association (NSEA) and Spanish teacher at Central, said the vote says something about both the economic times and the people of Omaha.

"Sure we're all feeling the pinch on our wallets, but the people of Omaha have a very narrow-minded, selfish view on education," she said. "They don't want to be burdened with education, not until it simply has to be dealt with. Well, we've hit that wall."

She said now, the district has a few options.

They could go to the Legislature and it could throw out the state aid formula and rewrite it.

They could also go through with the lawsuit that has been in the works for almost 2 years now. Or they could start cutting programs.

"We don't want to have to cut programs," Langan said. "We don't want to have to hurt students and we don't want to have teachers thinking that they are going to have to go looking see **VERRIDE** page 11

Family members reflect on teen's death after plea of drunk driver

By Paula Salhany

Beth Incontro doesn't remember a lot from the accident due to her injuries, but she does remember being unable to stop crying when she found out her sister, RoseAnn Incontro, had died.

Last year on March 15, Kevin Tadlock was driving under the influence and plowed head-on into the Incontro's car, killing RoseAnn, who at the time, was a freshman at Central. The accident also injured others in the car.

"My sister was driving and Kevin was driving towards us," Beth said.

"The railing was on one side of the car and another vehicle was on the other side, so she couldn't move the car anywhere."

Now, according to records from the county court house, Tadlock plead guilty on Oct. 16 to charges of motor vehicle homicide and driving under the influence causing bodily harm.

"I was really surprised he plead,"

**FACTS ON DRUNK DRIVING**  
Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 32 seconds and non-fatally injures someone every two minutes

Information courtesy of the National Center for Motor Vehicle Crashes

ing guilty. Even though he did plea, she said she is still not completely over her sister's death.

"For a long time I couldn't even

Beth said.

She said the family all had their testimony down and practiced. They were expecting Tadlock would drag the court case out. She said she thought he did the right thing by pleading guilty.

sleep in my own bed because I was so upset over her death," she said.

Sophomore Addison Incontro, RoseAnn's cousin, said her death deeply affected the whole family, causing them not to talk as much.

"I also have changed the way I look at drinking and drunk driving," he said.

He said once RoseAnn died he stopped drinking all together. Both he and Beth said they encourage their friends not to drink and drive.

"If it takes me being the sober one so no one drives drunk, I'll do it," she

said.

Beth said she still remembers her sister being a happy, cheerful, goofy girl. Her family is still compiling scrapbooks, to remember RoseAnn by.

"I miss her a lot," Addison said. "We had grown apart in the last few years but once we started to go to high school together we got closer again."

Tadlock has been released on a bond continuation and is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 7, 2003. Tadlock and his attorney were unable to be reached for comment.

INSIDE



**'The Mikado'**

The Drama Department embarked down a new road when it performed this play for the first time.

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**Softball**

Central's team came together to form an award-winning team that went farther than many previous teams.

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**Binge Drinking**

Some students at the school make a habit of drinking large amounts of alcohol on a regular basis.

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## Math Club hosts metro-area contest

The Math Club recently hosted a competition in which it placed second and earned many individual awards.

This is the first time that Math Club has hosted a high school level competition. This year the contest included six other metro high schools.

Central was within less than 20 points of a first place finish. The competition was won by Creighton Prep. This has been the best showing by the math team this year.

Senior Melissa Hepburn placed first in the target round, one of four different rounds which were held at the competition. Freshman Abby Camp placed third and junior Alex Bloom placed fifth.

In the sprint round of the contest, Hepburn finished second followed by fellow senior Nick Zielinski who finished third.

The Math Club will attempt to continue its success at a number of competitions which includes UNL Math Day and trips to Missouri and other neighboring states.

The club has attended many of these contests in the past. However, many feel that this year's team has the best chance of placing high.

The club also plans to host a junior high math contest in the spring.

## ROTC hopes practice will lead to perfect score

The Varsity ROTC Drill team will participate in the annual BFI drillmeet at the end of this month.

Junior Jeffrey O'Brien, who is the returning drill team captain from last year and Varsity member since his freshman year, said that once the team receives the moves they are to be examined upon, they are ready to practice for the competition. Upon examination by Creighton ROTC officials, the team members hope to earn a perfect score.

The ROTC Drill team will also compete in the regional competition in Missouri as well as the OPS drillmeet, which the JV team will also compete in, against other OPS high schools.

The team must master every step and formation perfectly if it wishes to receive a perfect score. This requires strict discipline and team coordination and control.

The team practices weekly in the new gym on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. They also can be seen marching on the turf periodically as weather permits.

## Latino Leaders give back to Omaha community

This year, the Latino Leaders have already given back to the community.

On every Wednesday the Latino Leaders help take care of children while their parents attend classes at Spring Lake School from the Chicano Awareness Center. The Latino Leaders helped clean up the Hanscom Park area on Nov. 2. They also cleaned the south 24 Street neighborhood.

Senior Diana Fernandez said she enjoyed cleaning up south Omaha on Nov. 2.

In December, members will sell enchiladas to help pay for scholarships for senior members of the club. Last year they sold enough to make about \$1,400.

"We hope we can sell more," Latino Leaders sponsor Susana Lara said.

Later in the year, an UNO student group, Rosas, will tutor Latino Leaders students during the day.

## New club mixes strategy with laughs, student says

War Strategy Gaming Club formed after a few students generated interest last year. They looked for a sponsor and science teacher Mark Smith was up for the task.

In its first year, about once a week the members got together to play such strategy games like Risk, where each player attempts to take over the world with their armies, self-appointed club spokesman junior Jay Searson said.

The club mainly plays board games now, but said they hope to play strategy games on computers in the near future. The main problem with this idea is that it is in conflict with the district policy that prohibits any games to be installed on computers.

Searson has researched the idea extensively and even drew support from Principal Jerry Bexten. He said that the next step would be to get approval from OPS administration, which will be the toughest step.

If they are able to play computer strategy games, the top titles on the list will certainly include Warcraft III and Starcraft. These popular strategy titles will dramatically increase membership in the club, Searson said.

Smith said that he sponsored the club because it seemed like a good idea for the students. Club members have lots of fun playing, while they also practice thinking many moves in advance.

He said that their club was similar to chess, but it required a less demanding learning curve.

Club president Greg Merrill said that the club members have fun playing board games now, but if they could secure more funding, they could have a variety to attract more members.



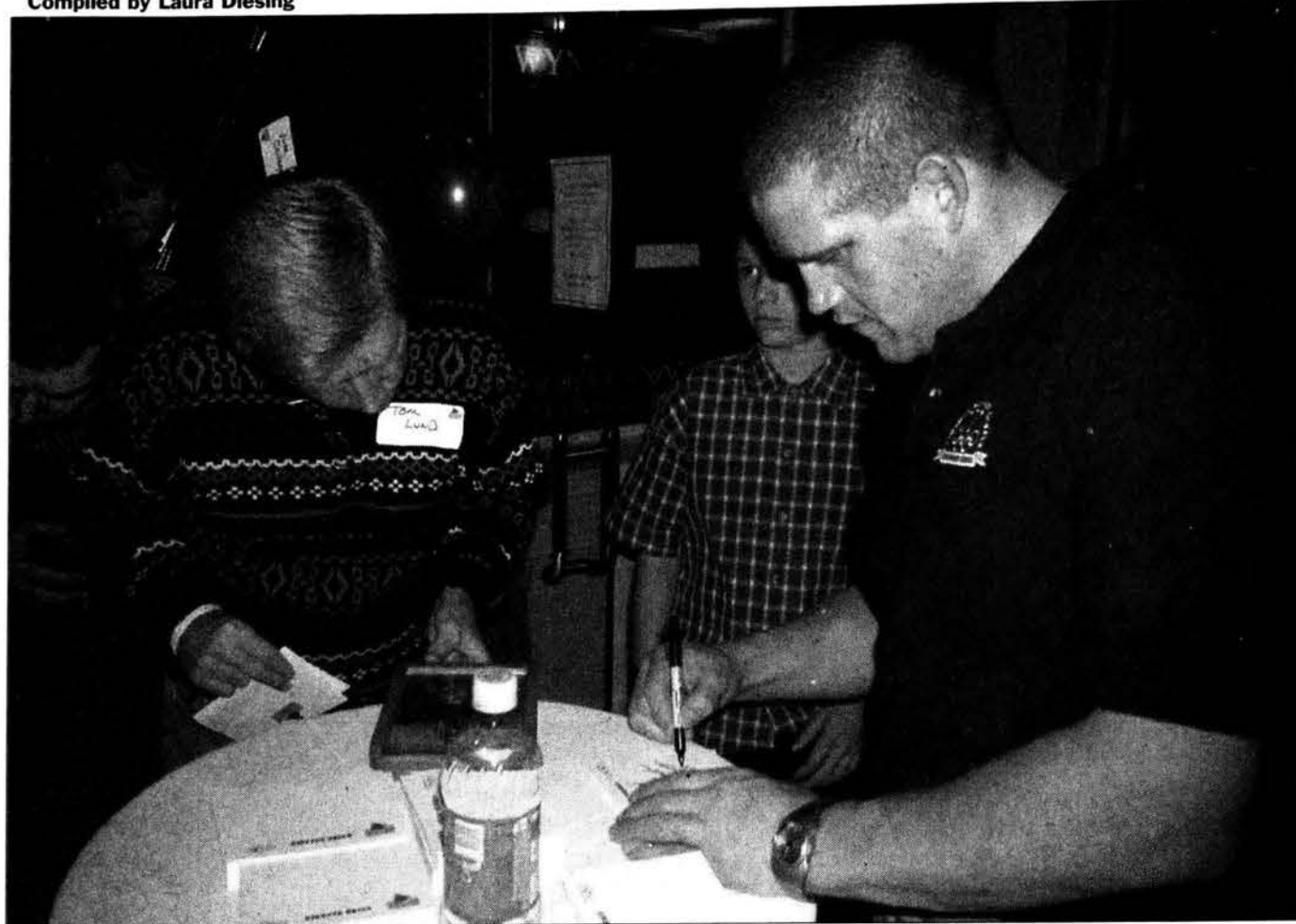
O'Brien



Searson

# Calendar

Compiled by Laura Diesing



World champion wrestler Rulon Gardner signs an autograph after giving an inspirational speech at UNO. Gardner was a gold medalist in the 2000 Olympics.

Photo by AARON MAURICE/THE REGISTER

## Olympian speaks of motivation, success

By Aaron Maurice

A crowd of more than 600 gathered on Nov. 13 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) to hear gold medalist and world champion wrestler Rulon Gardner speak.

UNO hosted the event mainly for its athletic booster members. Gardner attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL), but his former college coach Mike Denney now coaches at UNO.

Gardner's message to the crowd was one of hope and success. He was not always a champion when he grew up in a little town in Wyoming. It was only through hard work and dedication that Gardner became more than just another farmhand.

Gardner was the youngest in a large family on a Wyoming ranch. He was used to working hard milking cows and moving bales of hay.

His love of wrestling began in middle school.

Gardner then entered high school with plans to win in wrestling. He became a solid athlete, winning nearly every one of his matches. His next obstacle came from his counselors and teachers who said that he was not smart enough for college. Once again, his motivation to succeed was others telling him he couldn't do it.

He was recruited by UNL where

he began to dominate in competition. His senior year, he finished fourth in the NCAA tournament.

Gardner now had a new goal. He planned to make the U.S. Olympic team. He made the team and was able to compete in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

No one expected him to win. No one thought that a Wyoming farm boy would ever have a chance to succeed. Gardner once again proved them wrong.

He won his preliminary matches against all odds. He then found himself challenging a Russian for the gold who has not lost a match in 13 years.

Gardner won the only point of the match when his opponent Aleksandr Karelin broke his grip, conceding a point to the American. Gardner held out the last 5 minutes and 20 seconds of the match to win.

Gardner outlined seven points that he followed each time he wanted to achieve success. These points never have been more relevant to Gardner than in an experience that happened just a few months ago. He was driving a snowmobile with friends when he found himself stuck in a ravine. He was exposed to the minus 25 degree cold, wet and tired for 18 hours.

Gardner stuck to his points when he was rescued. His extremities were

frostbitten and his body temperature had fallen to a deadly 80 degrees. The doctors said that he would lose his feet and never be able to wrestle or even walk again.

Gardner took the diagnoses as a challenge. He worked every day to restore life to his dying body. After extensive therapy, he only lost one toe and is currently training with the national team.

"I should be dead, now I take every day as a blessing," he said.

He said that he is about 95 percent of the shape that he was in before his accident, but he knows that this is not good enough. Gardner plans to train to go to the world championships and the Olympics in 2004.

After his wrestling career, he plans to use the degree in physical education he earned at UNL to give back to the community that has supported him so well. Gardner wishes to teach in his home state of Wyoming, helping encouraging the next generation of youth to achieve their dreams.

Marketing teacher Harry Gaylor was among the attendees at the event.

He said that the message Gardner delivered can be applied to any person in any situation. He said that it had universal appeal.

"He is the best, a world champion," Gaylor said.

## GSA plans to unite students with tolerance

Central's Gay/Straight Alliance is doing all it can to help bring the school together.

For the past three years GSA has been spreading the word of tolerance.

"We're working toward building diversity at Central," Doug Stansberry, one of the club's sponsors said. "It is a continuous effort."

This year GSA is collaborating with Student Democrats to try and create a diversity awareness day. The clubs plan to pass out ribbons that they hope every student at Central will wear.

Adam Christensen, one of the GSA presidents, said that anyone is free to join GSA or sit in on a meeting.

Christensen also said that the club is just a way for students to get together to talk about any issue, not just about homosexuality.

## Group to sing at state contest

On Nov. 21, A Capella will travel to the state competition in Lincoln, bringing six first-time singers.

A Capella competes in a district shared with 11 other schools in the Omaha metro, including every Omaha Public Schools (OPS) high school with the exception of Burke and Northwest.

Senior Norma Reynolds said she believes they are in the most difficult district in Nebraska and anyone who qualifies for State is an exceptional singer.

"When we collaborate with other schools, all four of our sections (bass, soprano, tenor and alto) sound good while other schools may not," she said.

State will be held this year at the Lied Center between Nov. 2 and 24.

Recently, A Capella sang with the Omaha Symphony at the Orphium Theatre on Oct. 27. Its performance drew a sizable crowd.

"The theater was packed, the balcony was completely full," Reynolds said.

The only event A Capella attends in November is State, leaving extra time for singers to prepare for their packed schedule in December.

"November is a dead month for singing, except for State, but once December comes everything gets busy," music teacher and A Capella sponsor Lyn Bouma said.

## NHS volunteers help metro area

The National Honor Society (NHS) not only volunteers to help the Omaha community, but it is helping Central students get into college.

"It's basically a volunteer organization," Mary Michalak, NHS's president, said. "Most colleges recognize it as a prestigious thing."

The overall purpose of the society is to serve the community, Cathy Andrus said. Andrus is one of the three advisers for NHS.

The other two advisors are Jean Whitten and Carol Hipp.

The club has participated in activities such as Honey Sunday and has held charity events like the bowl-a-thon for spina bifida.

"Right now we're doing ongoing tutoring at elementary schools," Michalak said.

To be able to participate in National Honor Society students must have at least a 3.5 GPA. Aside from grades, the club is not exclusive, but a student must be involved in some activity outside of school.

Students who make it into National Honor Society must fulfill certain requirements to stay in. By the end of their senior year they must complete five group service projects and they must 35 hours of individual service projects.

"It's a great group to be involved in," Andrus said.

### November

#### 28 (Thurs) Thanksgiving Recess

The building will be closed this day and Friday the 29th so that students may celebrate Thanksgiving.

### December

#### 4 (Weds) Athletic Booster Club

Anyone involved in the Athletic Booster Club will need to meet in room 145 to discuss upcoming events. Please be there no later than 7:30 p.m.

#### 4 (Weds) PEP Holiday Tea

Parents Educators and Pupils will meet at the Scouler building from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. for a holiday celebration.

#### 5 (Thurs) College Financial Aid workshop

Seniors and their parents will need to be at school at 7 p.m. to learn about financial aid opportunities for college.

#### 7 (Sat) SAT Exam

Students who signed up for the SAT exam need to be at school by 8 a.m. to check in. The test will end around 11:30 a.m.

#### 7 (Sat) Academic Decathlon Scrimmage

Academic Decathlon will go to Wesleyan University for a scrimmage. Students must be at school at 7:15 a.m.

#### 9 (Mon) Road Show Meeting

Any students planning on trying out for the Road Show will need to attend this informational meeting after school at 3 p.m.

#### 13 (Fri) CHS and Bel Canto Singers at the Joslyn

The CHS Singers and Bel Canto Singers will be performing at the Joslyn Art Museum at 12 p.m.

#### 14 (Sat) ACT Exam

Students who signed up for the ACT exam will need to be at school by 8 a.m. to check in. The test will end around 11:30 a.m.

# State aid formula to be revamped

By Aaron Maurice

Public schools statewide may be in for a shock next year.

The school aid formula, which determines the amount of funding each school district receives, is set for another overhaul next spring, Nebraska State Senator Ronald Raikes said.

Senior Luke Matyja said that any additional funds for the district would be beneficial. He said that he has seen over the past few years money become tighter and tighter, resulting in fewer class materials and supplies.

"Sometimes it seems that we just don't have enough," he said.

Raikes is the chairman of the Education Committee in the Unicameral. Although he has been serving in the Legislature since 1997, this will be his first rewrite of the controversial bill. The current bill was rewritten just five years ago.

The new bill hopes to settle a variety of issues this time around, Raikes said. The most surfacing ones include additional funding given for special education and English as a second language programs.

One problem the committee will face is how to evenly distribute the money, Raikes said.

In the fiscally tight budget, additional money will be scarce, meaning that any changes will certainly mean that one district will take funds away from another.

The proposed changes also come after serious threats from Omaha Public Schools (OPS) to sue the state for misappropriating state aid.

OPS claims that the current formula too heavily supports rural districts and does not give enough attention to costly programs that state law forces OPS to maintain.

OPS has a challenge to educate many kids with backgrounds that require special attention, said John Langan, president of the board of education.

He said that OPS has become one of the most under funded urban public school districts in the nation.

On the flip side of this battle is that of many rural districts. Some districts have also threatened a suit, citing that operating

their smaller school cost significantly more than the state claims.

The school aid reform could not come at a more desperate time for OPS. In light of the recent elections where a tax levy override was voted down nearly two to one, additional funding for OPS shows little hope in increasing.

Raikes said that he plans on introducing a bill that attempts to address these issues in the 2003 legislative year.

He cautioned, however, that this is not going to be a magic fix and the bill will always be a "work in progress."

Raikes current plan is to address a few key issues. On the smaller, rural schools he hopes to incorporate a system that more accurately reflects declining school population, a now common issue at many districts.

He also plans to organize the various districts into three categories, standard, sparse and very sparse. Large districts like OPS will be in the standard grouping, while smaller ones are considered sparse and very sparse.

Raikes said that this new system will better compare school

districts of the same size, which should better allocate funds.

"This should allow us to see where the money goes," he said.

The new plan also hopes to incorporate a new system of measuring the actual cost of running a school system.

For example, the old plan did not give any additional funds for hiring and keeping teachers with more experience, which are considerably more expensive than first year teachers.

One issue that is sure to benefit the urban districts is to increase the funding for low income and ESL students.

Historically, the state has greatly underestimated the funding for programs to support these students.

The new formula will not be favorable to all districts, as in slow economic times, some will lose money and some will gain money.

Raikes said that he expects a heated debate from all sides of the issues.

The final bill will be very different from his proposal, but he said that he hopes his original ideas will still be intact.

## Schools' fire safety called into question by officials

By Devon O'Connell

Some of the schools in Omaha are under pressure from the Fire Department to meet minimum safety standards. Recently, the department presented several districts with lists of potential problems that should be fixed.

There is no estimate on the cost of fixing the problems, but some say they couldn't have come at a worse time.

With the tax levy override failing at the polls, some say Omaha Public Schools (OPS) will be even more strapped for cash. Fred Clough, the fire manager of OPS, said that even though the override was intended primarily for supplies, it will be hard to cover any needed improvements.

"You're going to have to cut into the general pot because the money for supplies won't be

there," he said.

The department inspects all schools inside of Omaha and Douglas County, including Millard and Westside, several Ralston and Elkhorn buildings and private schools.

"The building was built in 1910, and the fire codes have changed since then, so you will have problems," Principal Jerry Bexten said.

Central has kept up and has not failed any inspections. Even with the current construction, officials said the school should meet regulations.

Connie Telfeyan, the Risk and Health Manager of OPS said that Central shouldn't be affected by the fire codes because the buildings will be brought up to code.

"At the time they were built, all of the buildings were built to

code," she said. "Now some of them are being updated, and we are trying to keep up to date with the fire codes that change every four years."

Craig Schneider, the Battalion Chief in charge of public education and prevention, said that the districts knew that there were inspections coming the whole time. He said that one of the main problems the department has with OPS is the way different materials are stored.

Clough said that at this time the districts have a good relationship with the department.

Clough said that the most important thing concerning fires in schools is evacuation.

"All of our buildings are safe, and what matters most is that we get people out of there quickly," he said. "Around our schools,

there are exits everywhere."

Clough and Schneider said that the schools in OPS, and particularly Central, perform excellently during fire drills.

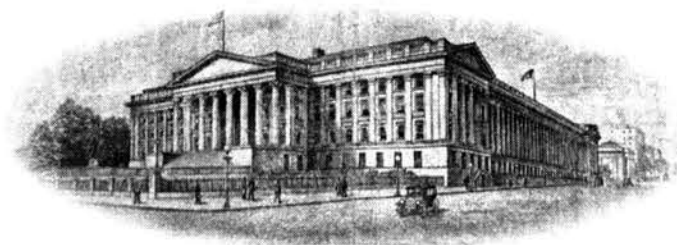
Assistant Principal Dionne Kirksey said that for its size, Central empties quickly.

The school had two drills this year, and an alert when smoke was reported.

"The fire drills have been awesome," Kirksey said. "I've been so impressed with the amount of people and how quickly we get out."

Senior Caleb Bentley said he thinks Central performs adequately during fire drills, but that there are problems.

"They just time us during the drills, they don't worry about who is still in the building," Bentley said.



## College Corner

### New York University

**Location:** New York, New York

**Admission:** 28 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year private university, coed

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 18,608

**Freshman Admissions:** Most popular majors are Liberal Arts and Business, 27-31 on ACT, recommended courses are 3 years of Math, 4 of English, and 4 of history

**Application Deadline:** Jan. 15

### Cornell University

**Location:** Ithaca, New York

**Admission:** 27 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year private university, coed

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 13,769

**Freshman Admissions:** Most popular majors are Engineering and Agriculture, recommended courses are 3 years of Math and 4 of English

**Application Deadline:** Jan. 1

### University of California at Berkeley

**Location:** Berkeley, California

**Admission:** 25 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year public university, coed

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 23,267

**Freshman Admissions:** Most popular majors are History and Biology, 1170-1440 on SAT, recommended courses are 3 years of Math, 4 of English, and 2 of history

**Application Deadline:** Nov. 30

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Location:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**Admission:** 40 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year public university, coed

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 15,412

**Freshman Admissions:** Most popular majors are Communication and History, 24-30 on ACT, recommended courses are 3 years of Math, 4 of English, and 1 of history

**Application Deadline:** Jan. 15

## This Omaha student found her future at Nebraska.

DANIELLE DAVIS came from Omaha Northwest with a lot to decide about her future. With help from University Career Services, she learned about a unique internship program for students of color--and earned an internship with ConAgra.

Now she is a senior business management resources major with a real passion for her work. And the tools to

been really great about

University of Nebraska-

Looking back on who I

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## Backwoods



NEVER STOP EXPLORING™

# Junior meets birth mother

By Katie Backman

An anticipated knock on the door occurred, and junior Chris Mason met his birth mother for the first time.

Mason said he felt a mix of emotions of happiness and confusion, but he mostly felt excited.

Once he heard her knock, he quickly ran downstairs and opened the door.

Immediately mother and son hugged each other.

"My mom was crying," Mason said. "I cried too. I can be emotional sometimes."

Mason said his birth mother wasn't alone, she brought his brother and sister who haven't seen him for 16 years.

His birth mother has a 7-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son, Mason said.

He said his birth mother struggled to get through college, and needed to focus more on school.

When Mason was two months old, she decided Mason needed a better life and put him up for adoption.

Mason's adopted mother, Charlene Mason, had a connection with the Nebraska Children's Home. She found out who his birth mother was and called her up to meet him.

Charlene said his birth mother agreed to the meeting and that it was absolutely beautiful.

She said everyone was very happy and had a very enjoyable time.

During the meeting, everyone sat down and caught up on the past.

Charlene told Mason's birth mother all of the stories about his childhood. Mason said she talked about the silly ways he hurt himself, made up games and how he played with his toys.

After a while, Mason, his brother and a few of his friends went outside to play basketball and catch up on their own stories. He said he left his mom inside with



Courtesy of Chris Mason  
Junior Chris Mason as a baby with his adoptive mother Charlene. Also in the photo are Harris VanOrt, director of the Nebraska Childrens home and Mason's case worker, Marsha. Mason said he as a good relationship with both his birth and adoptive mothers.

Charlene so they could talk.

Mason said his birth mom talked about taking him back. He said he loves her, but doesn't want to leave.

"I am pretty settled, I don't want to uproot myself," Mason said. "I have been here for 16 years. I am a junior in school and I don't really want to leave."

His birth mother moves around a lot, and at the moment she is living in Nebraska.

He said he doesn't want to leave Charlene because he has known her for all his life.

Mason said Charlene is supportive of his decisions and is very understanding.

"I definitely enjoyed meeting my mom because now I have two families," he said.

He said he loves togetherness, with two families it really makes a difference.

He said his birthday is extremely fun because he is able to have a lot of family and loving people around.

Mason said he got what his birth mother wanted for him, his adopted mom cared for him as if he was her own. Since Mason was only 2 months old when he was adopted he doesn't really remember anyone else besides his adopted family.

He said his adopted parents told him when he was 7 years old. He didn't react badly, since he was so young the news didn't really sink in.

"It never really bothered me," Mason said. "I never sat down and really thought about it."

Everything turned out for the best, Mason said. His conversations with his birth mother are very easy and smooth flowing, he said.

He said they can really connect about the past and they are able to reminisce about their histories for the times they have been apart.

He said he doesn't think talking about the present is as easy as talking about the past.

Both of his moms won't really understand what he is talking

about with people at school. They wouldn't understand because they don't know exactly who he is talking about.

"I don't think many parents understand what is really going on at school," Mason said. "But I still talk to them about school."

Mason said through his entire life there hasn't been much drama between himself and his mom.

He hasn't been upset with his birth mother because her intentions were good.

Charlene and his birth mother get along, he said they do because they are both mothers.

Mason is able to see his birth mother every couple of months.

He said he is very fortunate to meet his mom and connects easily with her.

He said he knows some adopted kids can be resentful towards their birth parents, but he doesn't dwell on the past when he was without her.

He said he tries to think more about the future of knowing her.

## Online practice gives drivers more choices

By Charlie Wence

It's Joey's sixteenth birthday, the keys to the car await him, but he failed his driver's test. He should have studied, but he was on the Internet wasting all his time.

Now he can waste away his hours on-line while studying for written driver's license and learner's permit exams.

The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles now allows prospective drivers to practice for their written exam on the Internet.

Sarah O'Rourke, the state motor vehicle administrator, said the idea came about by browsing at AAA's web site that contained a sample driver's test.

"We wanted to put something on-line to see if people could take test and do better," O'Rourke said.

Junior Desiree Fortina failed her written permit exam the first time she took it.

She said she did not study for the exam and missed six questions. The maximum number of questions one can miss is five.

Nebraska has a failure rate on the driver's test of 55 percent, worse than other states' failure rates in the region, O'Rourke said.

Fortina took the exam for the second time and passed without ever studying. She said the test was easy by itself.

"The people who fail the exam over and over again just don't get it," Fortina said.

Freshman Andrew Monboquette plans to take his written permit test when he turns 15 in March.

Monboquette said the majority of his friends that have taken the learner's permit test have passed it with the exception of one of his friends who

failed twice.

"I plan to study for the test, and since it is on-line, I use that method as well," he said.

French teacher Jeffrey Sill who teaches Driver's Education classes for the Safety and Health Council, said he believes kids who fail their written driver's exams don't get enough help from their parents and don't get quizzed enough.

"Some parents just haven't taken the time to take the kids out to practice their driving skills," Sill said.

O'Rourke said she believes since a lot of kids have computers at home and are using them frequently, this was a way to get kids into studying and thus bringing down Nebraska's failure rates.

"Kids just need to take the time, some of them walk in (to the DMV) and expect to pass without studying but walk out empty handed, studying should be done more carefully," O'Rourke said.

While the Internet will help kids pass the driver's test instead of them habitually failing, it will not help them when they actually get behind the wheel.

Sill said experience is the only way to get better.

"Getting behind the wheel is a completely different experience," he said. "They don't realize that doing something wrong could put them through the windshield. Practice can only make them a good driver."

After Jan. 1 of 2003, the Department of Motor Vehicle plans to put a test that is more like the practice quiz in place of the sample questions that are currently on the DMV website, O'Rourke said.

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12/11 Om Jr Lancers  
12/13 at Lincoln  
12/14 at Mason City  
12/15 at Mason City  
12/20 at Kansas City

\*home games played at McClean Ice Arena, Varsity begins at 7:30

## Northside (Metro North)

### 2002-2003 O.M.A.H.A. December Schedule

12/1 To be announced  
12/8 To be announced  
12/15 To be announced  
12/22 To be announced  
12/29 To be announced

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# Teacher finds calling through volunteering

**By Laura Diesing**

Student teacher Ryan Hunter never gave a second thought to becoming a teacher. That is until about five years ago when a volunteering experience changed his life.

A short stint as a volunteer basketball coach at the YMCA unexpectedly brought about a change in Hunter that surprised him more than anyone. Up to that point, business was the young boy from Iowa's only love.

"When I was in high school, business always interested me so I stuck with that plan," he said.

One look at his family and any outsider would find that Hunter's career choice was inevitable.

"My mom was a social worker and my sister, who is a year younger than me, is an elementary teacher," he said.

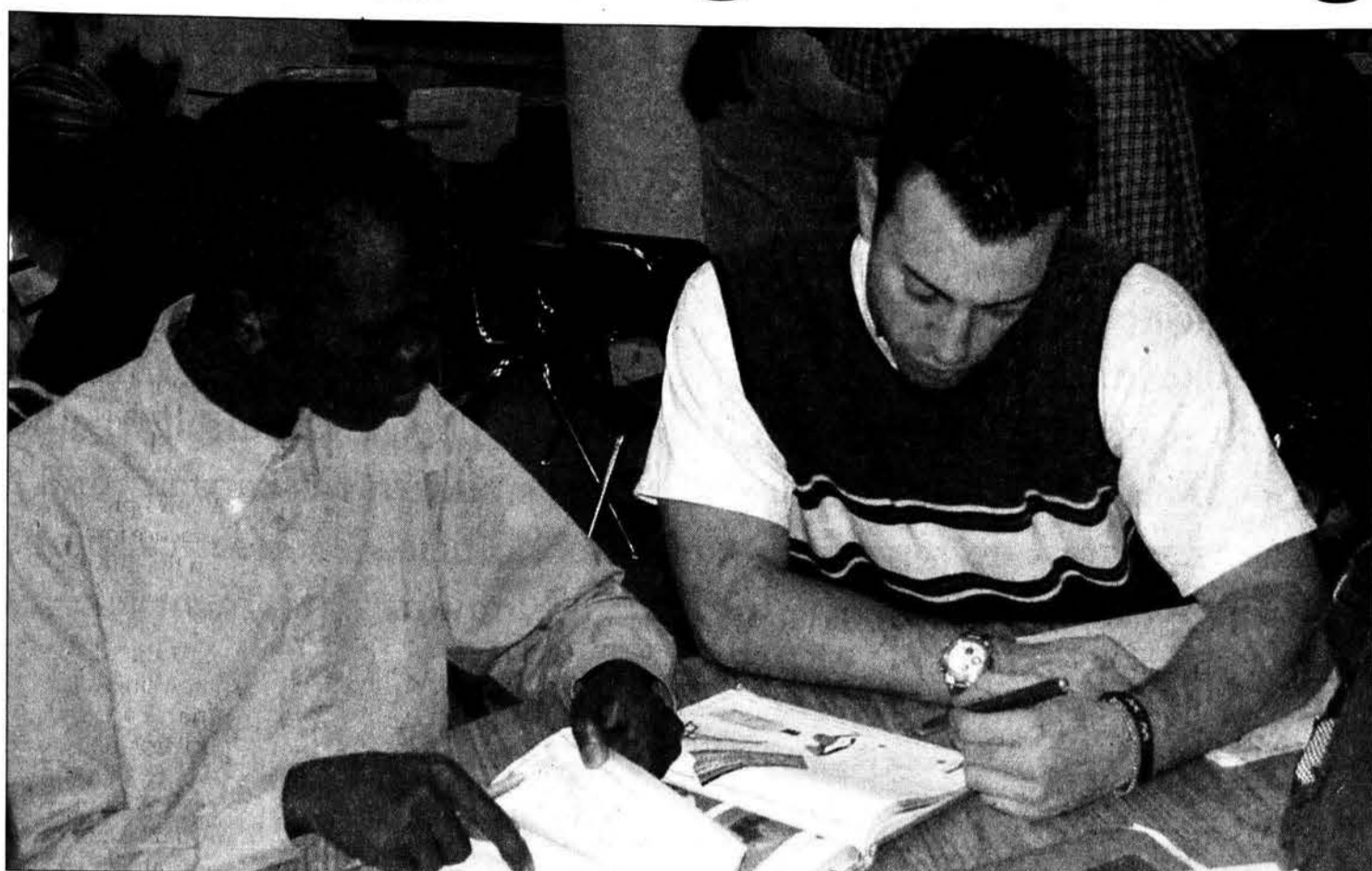
His youngest sister is now attending the University of Iowa and will possibly become a teacher as well.

In preparation to enter the world of business, Hunter enrolled in a junior college.

From there he transferred to the University of Iowa where he studied in an undergrad marketing program. This was before he discovered his love of teaching.

Having to start college all over so that he could change his profession did not sound that great, Hunter said.

Fortunately, UNL was offering a special opportunity to anyone willing to teach in the field in which they graduated. In a mere two years anyone could get a Master's Degree.



Student teacher Ryan Hunter helps sophomore Duoth Kuon with his Spanish homework. Hunter is a student teacher in the business department, but he also works in the ESL department for part of the day.

Hunter's dream would be to combine his three passions.

He would love to be able to coach basketball, teach and still work in a business environment, all of which he could do at Central.

"I purposely had this school arranged because I knew that if I could handle this size of a school and it would improve my situation in any other school," he said.

Hunter said he hopes to obtain a permanent teaching or coaching job here.

"If anything else, I'm staying on for the full basketball season," he said.

If there is not an available position on staff for him, Hunter said he would possibly like to pursue a career as a substitute teacher or a basketball coach at the new North Star school in Lincoln but he would ideally like to teach at Central.

Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

# New diabetes drug could bring relief from needles

**By Katie Backman**

A new type of insulin inhaler aims to benefit diabetics, but some fear it will create more problems than it will solve.

Dr. Lynn Mack-Shipman of University Nebraska Medical Center said the inhaler would mostly be marketed as another type of applicator to those who have adult and Type II diabetes.

The inhaler does not give a long-lasting dose of insulin, Mack-Shipman said. The patient would have to be inhaling insulin almost 24 hours a day to stay healthy.

"Initially people will want to try the inhaler," she said. "But because of its large size and the numerous dosages they would have to receive, patients will compare and not choose such a large device."

The interest in the inhaler, which is awaiting Food and Drug Administration approval, is already high, she said.

Junior Jovan Byars said he thinks the syringe is an annoying process. He said he has to stop what he is doing to take insulin shots, which usually take about five minutes.

"My first thought is I could do more

stuff," Byars said. "I could grab the inhaler and use it while I am out without going home to take an injection."

Byars said he would like the inhaler a lot more than needle. Being a Type II diabetic, he has the option to use it. But he also said he would worry about his lungs; he doesn't want to inhale anything that could damage his respiratory system.

The FDA is testing to see the effects on the lungs with inhaled insulin. Byars said he thinks the inhaler will not be as popular until it successfully passes the lung safety test.

Mack-Shipman said those who have Type I diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, won't use the inhaler because it can't get precise amounts of insulin.

This means sophomore David Cleveland, a juvenile diabetic, won't have the opportunity to take advantage of the advancement. Cleveland will have to keep using the insulin pump he currently has.

The insulin pump Cleveland has is an external machine about the size of a pager that holds a small vial of insulin. Small tube runs the insulin into a catheter connected to a needle placed in a blood vessel under his skin.

Mack-Shipman said the insulin pump is one of the most efficient ways to deliver insulin.

The insulin inhaler is not on a fixed time like the pump. The pump has a set schedule on when injections take place, and can be altered with the user's meals, she said.

Junior Kira O'Bradavich said her mother has been a diabetic since she was two years old. Her mother had to use a glass syringe as a child, which had to be sterilized by boiling it in water.

She said many inventions for diabetes treatment have come about, but they never last. Her mother would be fairly skeptical about the idea of an insulin inhaler, she said.

"Medical technology has come a long way since then," O'Bradavich said. "Inhalers would obviously be better than a glass syringe. I just don't know if it will be very successful."

O'Bradavich said she is used to her four injections a day. But she said she thinks it would be wonderful to replace the injections, but she would still have blood drawn.

She said she is not sure about the idea of the inhaler said she thinks with the inhaler, people could easily give themselves the wrong amount.

"I don't think the inhaler will go anywhere," she said. "I am just waiting for a cure."

Mack-Shipman said the price of the inhaler is the number one reason it is being put on the market. She said the scientists and inventors want to make money.

Mack-Shipman said scientists are developing a tablet of insulin that can be absorbed in the cheek. Cleveland said there is a watch that can test the amount of glucose in the blood stream.

O'Bradavich said she thinks the inhaler is a good idea, better ones will come along. Mack-Shipman said the inhaler will be more, but most consumers will use the more efficient treatments.

She said she thinks the most manageable way of insulin injection is with the pump not an inhaler. Mack-Shipman said researchers could improve the inhaler's function and size, but its future does not look bright.

# Blood drive successful in gaining student donations, meeting goal set by sponsor

**By Danielle Welty**

In recent years Central students have been asked to donate blood to the Red Cross during a day-long blood drive. This year the Eagle V Crew set up the blood drive, which was held on Oct. 24.

Usually, about 80 students sign up and about 50 donate. Family consumer science teacher Jeanne Weiss, sponsor of the blood drive, said that 47 students were able to donate this year, but all of the alternate donors were called upon to meet that goal.

"We realize that some students will be sick and others will be absent, the alternates are just those that sign up after all of the slots have been filled, so they don't have a set time to go and donate," said Weiss.

Several students were not able to donate as a result of not meeting one or many of the qualifications to give blood. All students had to bring a permission form from their parents to donate, as they are not considered an adult in the state of Nebraska until the age of 19.

Some other qualifications include that the donor must be at least 17, weigh 110 pounds, have no tattoos or home piercings in the last year and he or she must also be healthy.

The students are also urged to eat and get a good

night's rest before donating.

Many students are also afraid to donate for fear of needles, blood or feeling unstable afterward.

Senior Renee Ujhely said she was afraid beforehand, but donating blood was not too bad.

The students that choose to sign up for the blood drive were then screened the day of the blood drive with a 150 question survey in the blood mobile outside of Central in the Joslyn parking lot.

The blood that is donated is broken into three components, the red blood cells, plasma and platelets; therefore the donor could help three people.

The red blood cells are used for blood transplants; plasma is the liquid part of the blood and is mainly water. Plasma is used for burn victims.

Platelets are what clots the blood and contains the white blood cells that fight off germs and disease. Platelets are given to those who are severely ill or have a failing immune system.

Six weeks after the student has donated blood, they will receive a card that says they have donated and tells them their blood type.

Those who are possible donors are kept on file and called upon to donate in the future.



Senior Dan Tipton donates blood for the Eagle V Crew's blood drive on Oct. 24.

Photo by KATIE MAPES/THE REGISTER

## Kolasa was friend to OPS, students, colleagues recall

**By Aaron Maurice**

Deceased school board member Bernie Kolasa was an avid supporter of students, school board president John Langan said.

One of Kolasa's accomplishments on the Board of Education was getting counselors into schools.

Langan said Kolasa, who died in October, felt that it was important that students had a person to talk to when things got tough or when they needed a sympathetic ear.

Kolasa's goal was to create a public school system where the students felt secure and safe, fellow school board member Sandy Jensen said.

He knew that the only way for the best conditions for a good learning environment would be where students were comfortable.

"He did it because he believed in a good public school system for students," Jensen said.

Kolasa served on the Board of Education for 16 years and planned to step down at the conclusion the term he was serving.

He retired from being a political science professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha two years ago.

Those who had worked closely with him said that he knew when to support an issue and when it was over.

Jensen said that Kolasa would debate and fully support his beliefs and ideas, but after the vote was taken he would not hold any grudges or continually bring up the topic.

Kolasa firmly believed that the most important element of public schools is what goes on in the classroom, Jensen said.

He refused to make any cuts during the recent budget crisis at the classroom level unless it was a last resort, she said.

He also supported a move for more accountability with the public. He thought that the public has a right to see that its dollars are used efficiently, Jensen said.

Kolasa knew that no single test could possibly show all that a student knew, but he thought that some testing was necessary to find out the progress of students.

Social studies teacher Carol Krejci knew Kolasa on many levels.

Krejci had Kolasa as a professor when she attended UNO. They had also met because of their common Polish heritage.

Krejci said she supported many of Kolasa's achievements as a member of the Board of Education.

She said that he was a supporter of the teachers, and that he understood that the teacher's teaching environment was the same as the student's learning environment.

One particular example that she said she remembers of Kolasa's ideas happened at a board meeting when the board was discussing student assessments.

After everyone had finished their comments he presented a bit of research about his feelings.

He concluded with the statement that students don't learn from taking tests.


She said that the room burst into applause after he made his remark to the crowd.

Colleagues of Kolasa agreed that the community would greatly miss him and that what he did for students and teachers would not be fully realized for years to come.

"His goal was that every student succeeded," Jensen said, "he meant all students."

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***Best of luck to your staff  
and all of the students at  
Central!***

***From: Michelle Marsh***

## Districts add high schools, help students

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Several public school districts around Omaha will be adding new high schools in coming years.

The Papillion-LaVista district is building Papillion LaVista South High to supplement its growing student population. Lincoln Public Schools is adding one new high school next fall, besides the new one it added this fall.

Papillion LaVista currently has one high school, Papillion LaVista High, director of communications Annette Eyman said.

Papillion LaVista High currently has about 1,800 students. The new high school will have a population of somewhere between 900 and 1,000 students, Eyman said.

"Students will be moved from the current school as well as both junior highs," she said.

The district decided to build the new school because it wanted to balance growth with opportunities for students to participate in activities. The current high school and both junior highs are crowded, Eyman said. There will be a new junior high school added to the district next year as well.

Eyman said that by building another high school and keeping the populations balanced, the district is giving students better opportunities for activities.

"The goal of the district and the community was that we wanted more kids to participate in activities," she said.

Eyman said that by keeping the high school population relatively small, it meant that students could be involved in more activities because there would be more to go around. She said that in a big school, many students only get a chance to excel in one thing because there are so many students.

In a smaller school, students can participate in more activities because there are the same number of clubs and sports, but fewer students to compete for active roles in them, Eyman said.

She said the district thought this would benefit students the most.

"The school district and school community make decisions based on what's best for them (students)," she said.

Junior Scott Miettinen said that going to a large school has never stopped him from getting involved in an activity. Miettinen said a school like Central offers a diverse variety of clubs.

Even though the school population has not been growing at an alarming rate, Eyman said the district felt it was the right choice to build another school so that neither school would have overpopulation troubles.

"We've been growing at a steady rate, we go up and down with our growth," she said.

Lincoln Public Schools had a similar motive for building its new public high school. Associate superintendent of business affairs Dennis Van Horn said that Lincoln Public Schools added two new high schools to its district to combat crowds and give students more opportunities.

Van Horn said the district currently has five high schools, one of which, Lincoln Southwest, was opened just this fall. Another new high school, Lincoln North Star, will open next fall.

Van Horn said the ideal population for a Lincoln Public high school is about 1,500. Right now only Lincoln Southeast and Lincoln Southwest are under that target mark. All of the other schools range between 1,600 and 2,100, Van Horn said.

"Once we get North Star open, we should be able to get everyone gradually down to about 1,500-1,600," he said.

A bond issue also funded the building and furnishing of the two new schools. Van Horn said the district received a \$100 million bond, of which only \$90 million was needed to completely build and outfit the schools.

Van Horn said that giving kids more chances to participate in school activities was a motivating factor for building the school.

"When we open up two new high schools, we open up all sorts of new opportunities for kids," he said.

The district's plan seems to have worked. Van Horn said the initial expectation for Southeast's first year student population was around 700, but it ended up being roughly 1,200. Van Horn said students still tend to go to the schools that are closest to their homes, but that some may transfer for certain programs.

"We have not seen a mass exodus from any of our high schools," he said.

Neither district has run into any major snags while in the process of building these new schools. Van Horn said that for Lincoln, it has been an overall positive experience.

The next time you walk through the halls, count how many people you physically run into. Take into account how many seats are full in your classes. Ask yourself if teachers are able to give students enough individual time. Then ask yourself whether or not Central is overcrowded. With the school almost 300 students over capacity and the population continuing to grow every year, should school officials consider capping the enrollment? Should they use satellite locations? Or would limiting enrollment take away from the allure and uniqueness of Central High?

### Capacity of high schools in OPS

#### OPS Enrollment

Benson	1,456
Bryan	1,434
Burke	1,849
North	1,587
Northwest	1,805
South	1,927
Central	2,533

All numbers from the fall membership report.

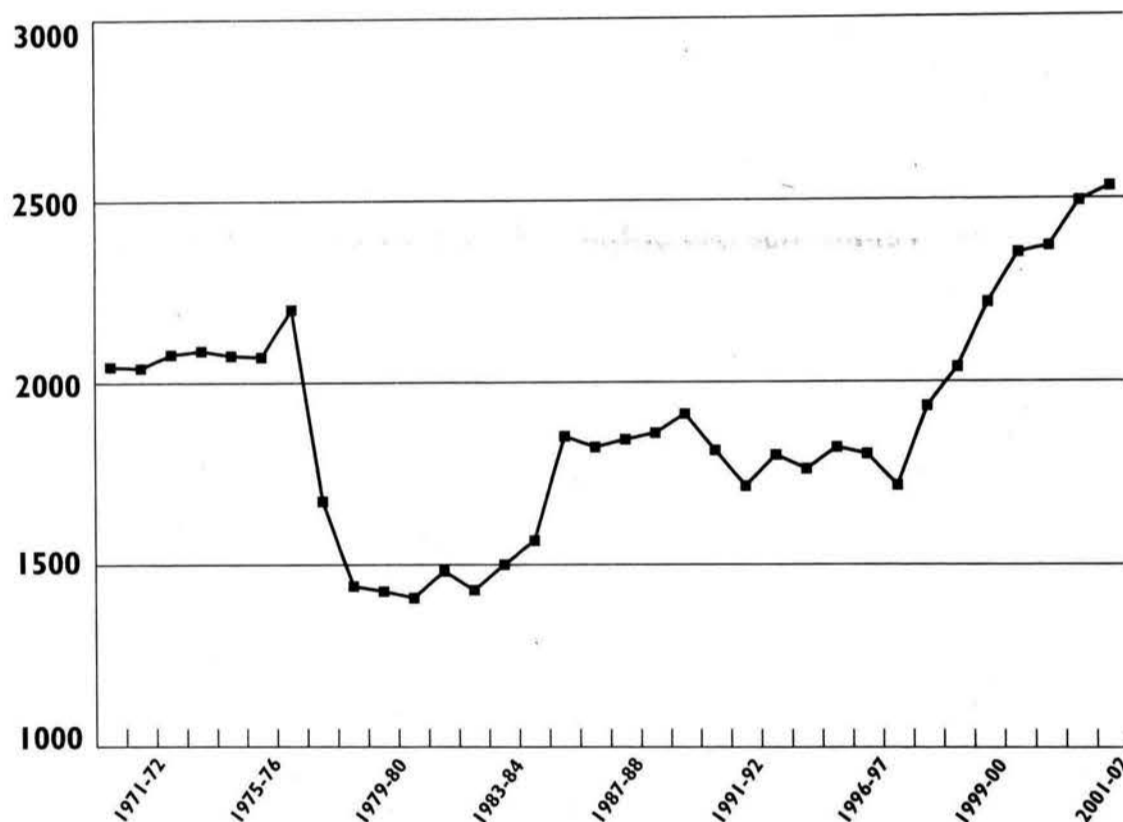
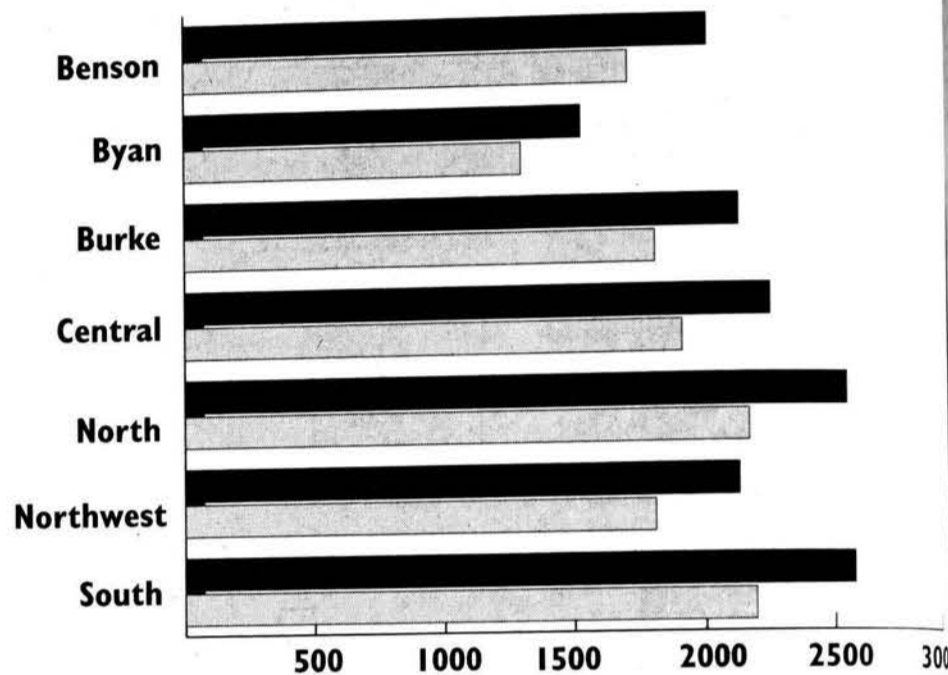
This graph shows the minimum (gray) and maximum (black) capacities for all the high schools in OPS.

Central's minimum capacity is 1,913. Its maximum is 2,250.

The capacity is determined by how many students are able to fit comfortably into the school taking into account special programs such as Special Education.

The school with the largest maximum capacity in OPS is South with 2,580. Unlike Central, South is well below its capacity.

Central is the only school over capacity.



### Population of Central from 1969 to 2002

With 2,458 students in the school, the population is at the highest it has ever been. The lowest the school population was in this time period was in 1979-80 when there were only 1,409 students in the school.

Though the school has been over 2,000 students in the past, this is by far the most students ever. Because of the large number, the district brought in four portables to create 36 extra rooms per day.

Next year, when construction is fully underway, there will be approximately 28 portables on the track.

## School housed in warehouse due to lack of space



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/ THE REGISTER  
Students sit outside of Liberty Elementary school at dismissal. The plans to create the school were approved in Jan. 2002.

By Danielle Welty

Kristel Mayberry, Central's librarian for the past seven years, left after last year to pursue her career as an elementary school librarian at Liberty Elementary.

Liberty Elementary has been temporarily located in a warehouse until construction is completed on the school. Inside the school, many cubicle-like classrooms have been set up and personalized with students' pictures and art projects.

The new elementary school, being built on 20th Street and St. Mary's Avenue, has a construction budget of over

\$8 million and is set to be finished by the 2004 school year.

The idea of Liberty Elementary was presented to the school board and approved in October of last year.

The Education Specifications for the school were approved in January of 2002, along with the designs in May of 2002.

The downtown Omaha area was chosen as the spot to build the new elementary school in order to draw in more families.

"Lots of people work downtown, and by building an elementary school here, parents can just drop off their chil-

dren on the way to work," Mayberry said.

There are also childcare services set up around Liberty for parents who must work longer or conflicting hours from the school.

Mayberry was introduced to the elementary school last year during a tour of the attendance area on one of Central's teacher in-service days.

"We drove past the building site, and ever since then I've been hearing about the school from different people, it was kind of like an omen," Mayberry said.

She said she has enjoyed the transition for Central to Liberty. She said that she does miss many aspects of Central, but the switch to Liberty was the right one. It was easy for Mayberry to switch from a high school librarian to elementary because librarians are certified to teach kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Towards the end of Mayberry's career at Central she became discouraged.

Physics and art were temporarily moved into the library during repairs and the increasing amount of Central students, along with the lack of extra help in the library were contributing factors to her leaving.

Though Liberty Elementary has exceeded the population of Jackson and Field Club Elementary with 400 students, none of the schools have a demand anywhere near that of Central's roughly 2,500 students.

"The school kept on growing and

no other full-time librarians were hired," She said. "I had a few student aides, but sometimes they were more harm than help even though we do have our moments."

At Central, Mayberry kept up with the older resources offered in the century old library. At Liberty she was able to not only order \$73,000 worth of new library books, but she was also able to set up the entire library system and is in charge of the technology program.

Mayberry said she not only enjoys the perks of a new school, she has developed great relationships with all the young staff members and the principal, Nancy Oberst.

"I loved all of the teachers and students at Central, but it's nice to have a woman in the administration and a lot of the new teachers here are wonderful as well," Mayberry said.

Liberty is a school that is based on the arts more than science or math. It is also surrounded by many art related places like the Children's Art Museum and the Rose. There are also many other learning-related centers that are within walking distance from the school.

"Liberty is the center of so many resources and we intend on expanding the student's curriculum and taking advantage of the surrounding establishments," Oberst said.

Many view Liberty as another feeder for Central students in the future. There is also talk of a new middle school being built downtown.

n its ever-growing population

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**Assistant Principal Paul Semrad said a lot of effort is put forth by himself, department heads and teachers to try and keep class sizes down.**

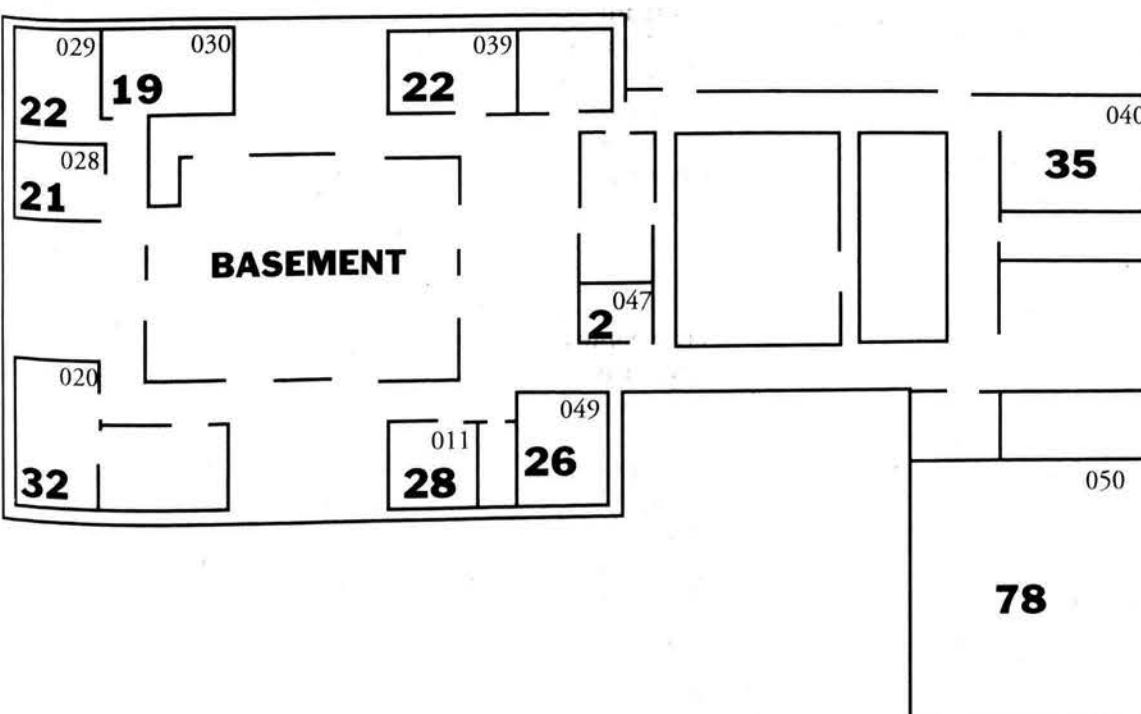
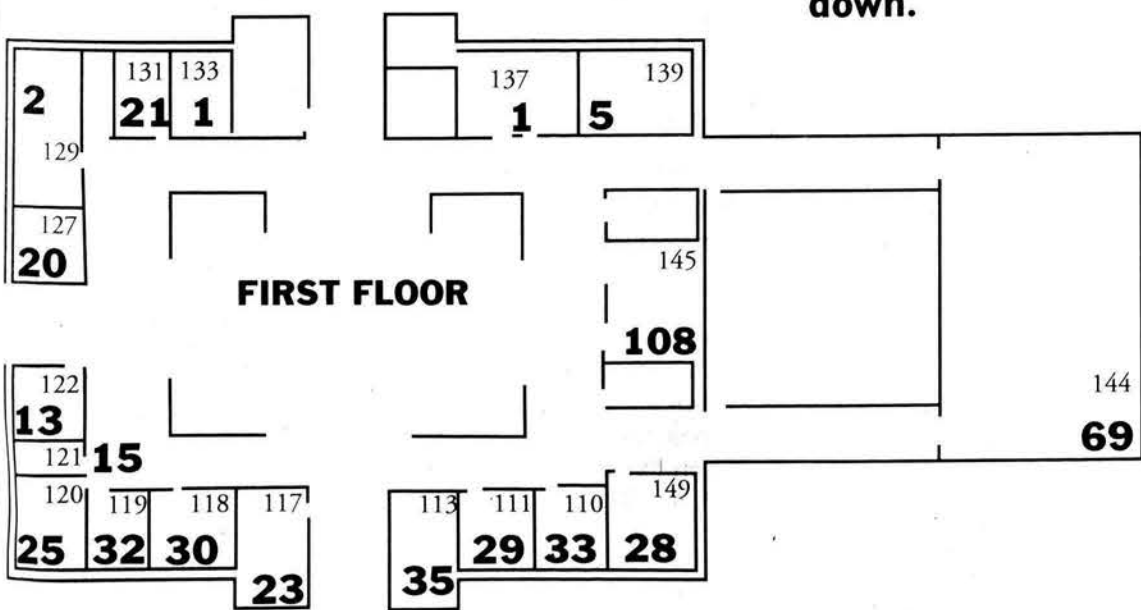
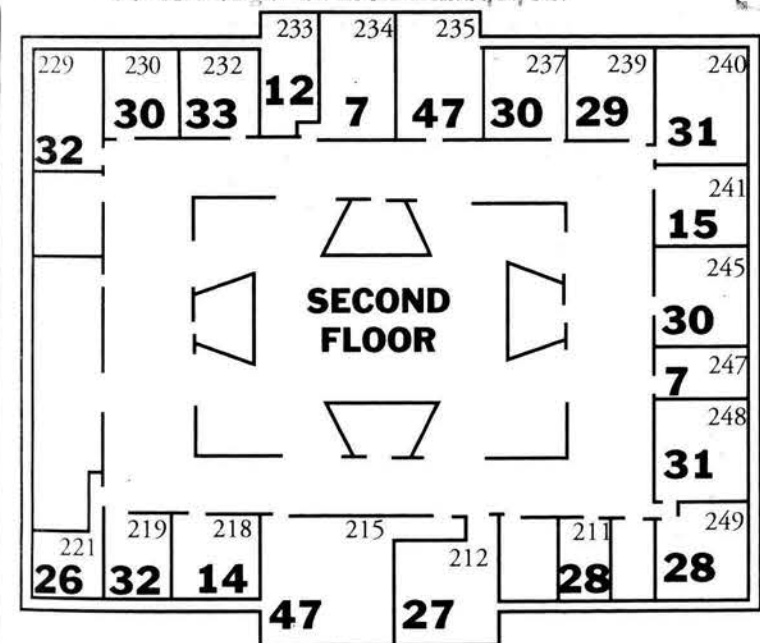
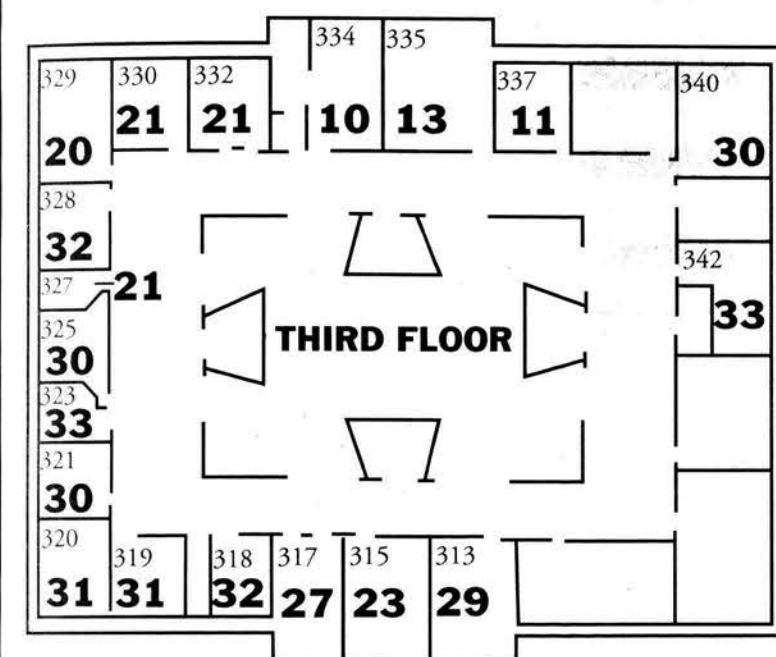


Photo by HALLIE BIEBER/THE REGISTER

He said on the first day of school, there are

Kruse said he would rather deal with the gridlock of Centrals halls and classrooms than be at any other school in the district.



Photo by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

French teacher Kristin Longacre hands papers back to junior April Bloomingdale. She and Spanish teacher Wendy Brownson received STAR awards for dedication to students.

## Language teachers receive STARS

By Danielle Welty

Recently, two Central teachers received the STAR award, an honor that is given to foreign language teachers who go above and beyond what is required both in and out of the classroom.

Each one of the letters in the word "star" stands for a different part of the award. The "s" represents study, "t" is for travel, "a" is for achievements and "r" is for recognition.

Thirty-one teachers received the award from all over Nebraska high schools, private schools and colleges. Among those awarded were two of Central's own, French teacher Kristin Longacre and Spanish teacher Wendy Brownson.

The teachers applying for the award fill out a form that explains what they have accomplished in each one of the previous categories. The forms are then sent in to be judged.

Longacre is a part of the executive board of the Nebraska Foreign Language Association

and the American Association of Teachers of French.

She also is the head director of the Nebraska International Camp over the summer. The camp is a week long and teaches the campers not only about the German, French and Spanish languages, but the cultures as well.

"I received a lot of points for the Nebraska International Camp. I used to be in charge of the French section of the camp, but heading the entire camp has been a great experience as well," Longacre said.

Longacre is one of several French club sponsors that helps plan and organize events and fund-raisers among many of her other accomplishments.

"Ms. Longacre is a good teacher because the activities in class are generally very hands on and you learn more than just reading out of a textbook," junior Sarah Schulte said.

Brownson recently traveled to Mexico and attended a conference in Chihuahua as an interpreter. As

a teacher, she has received her masters degree and has been a new teacher mentor in recent years.

"I was both surprised and excited when I received the STAR award since I have only been teaching for nine years and have never really received an award like this," Brownson said.

In school, Brownson is the adult treasurer of Spanish club and is involved in the planning and functions of many of its activities. She was also awarded a grant for Spanish readers and belongs to the Nebraska International Language Association.

"Ms. Brownson teaches us more than just Spanish, we learn life lessons, she gets really involved in her students' lives," junior Joseph Medeiros said.

Both teachers were sent letters to acknowledge their accomplishments and attended a banquet in the participants' honor. There they were thanked for their service to the community and their efforts in and out of school.

## Student beats language, culture barrier

By Paula Salhany

Senior Yun Lin was 14 when her parents told her that her family was moving from China to the United States because of her father's job.

"When my dad told me, I was so excited, I wanted to tell everyone I was coming here," she said.

Lin said when she was little she used to hear about how you could have a better life in the United States, how you could get a better education and how there were better opportunities in America.

When Lin came here she did not know any English. She said it was very difficult to communicate and about a year ago she said she would never say any-

thing in class.

Lin said it is still very difficult for her mother because she doesn't know any English.

But now, after only one semester of ESL classes, she is fluent in English and she is involved in the school.

"I like the way school is structured here," she said. "I am able to study and be involved in activities at the same time. In China it was just study, study, study. I never had time to do anything else."

Lin is from a city in China called Guiyang. She said the culture there is very different from the U.S. Because of law, she is the only child in her family. She said education is highly valued there, and that the country is very

crowded.

"A lot of people use public transportation instead of cars because cars are just too expensive to run," she said.

She said over all, she likes the culture and atmosphere in America. She said she likes the fact that people are able to talk about sensitive subjects and she likes the school structure here.

She said she plans on staying in the United States. She also said she wants to go to college here and she wants to become a pharmacist.

"At some point I want to become a citizen," she said. "It's like I don't have pride for my country (China) I just like it here better. I like the culture, the people and the atmosphere," she said.

## Induction night honors prestigious alumni

By Andrew Neal

Alumni and Central High boosters were able to relive memories of their high school experiences. On that night, 14 of Central's most prestigious graduates were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The evening started with a dinner in the courtyard, catered by the Westside High School cafeteria staff. Following dinner, the band played the Central fight song and led the attendees down to the auditorium for the awards.

During the program, inductees were able to make acceptance speeches that lasted between five and six minutes, and then they were given a plaque signifying their accomplishments.

The inductees included everyone from a Broadway actress to a surgeon.

Inga Swenson Harris gave one of the most influential speeches of the entire night. Harris was an actress who performed on Broadway and was

also nominated for a Golden Globe for her supporting role on the television series, "Benson."

"Of all of the awards I have ever been recognized with, this may be the most significant of my life," she said.

The next day, Harris attended drama classes and talked about her experiences in the theater.

Another graduate, Howard Weinberg, class of 1958, spoke of his memories of the school and how he believed it has changed since he attended here.

"It used to be that the students were more respecting of the teachers when I was here, but now it seems that the respect between both has somewhat faded," Weinberg said.

Weinberg has produced many documentaries that have won various awards. He said that this passion for producing on subjects concerning mainly just politics came from his days as a journalist in high school and college.

Herbert E. Reese, class of 1947, said that this is the biggest accomplishment of his life.

"I have received numerous recognitions, but nothing will amount to this," he said in his speech.

Reese is a cardiovascular surgeon who served on the first open-heart surgery team for the U.S. Army.

The inductees were not limited to just giving speeches during their allotted five minutes. Frank P. Tirro, a composer of jazz and ballet, used his time to play selection on his French horn.

Kay Correll, a Hall of Fame committee member said that the year's inductees might be the most diverse group to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"We have everyone from a composer who has specialized in rediscovering African American composers and letting them become known to the general public, to a lady who has been serving on the Nebraska Board of Education," she said.

The night ended with a standing ovation for the 14 inductees and the other Hall of Fame members.

## Substitute teaching becomes more popular occupation, brings extra perks to retired educators

By Jillian Risavi

Substitute teaching has become more popular in recent years with people like Jo Dusatko who want a little extra money, more free time and have the desire to be around and teach kids.

After spending 33 years as a physical education and business teacher at Central she decided to become a substitute teacher because she missed interacting with students, Dusatko said.

"I'm able to stay intact with what's going on in the school," she said.

She said she subs two or three times a week usually at Central or Burke depending on the situation. She said she feels comfortable at these schools because

she knows most of the faculty and students. The biggest challenge is not knowing the kids like it was her own room, she said.

"You don't always know the classroom situation and the kids don't know my expectations," she said.

Dusatko said that she has to remember to conduct the classroom the way the teacher would expect it to be, rather than how she would handle things.

She said that it can be difficult handling a class when she does not necessarily know the subject matter but that she just has to do the best she can.

Since becoming a substitute teacher, she has had more experience learning

how to handle and relate to students, she said.

Dusatko said that she sees everything as a learning experience and as a substitute teacher, she is able to continue on learning.

The freedom to come and go and being able to travel with her husband are perks of being a substitute rather than a full time teacher, Dusatko said.

Marsha Taylor from OPS Human Resources Sub Desk said that the requirements to become a substitute teacher are a current teaching certificate from the State of Nebraska Board of Education, an interview and application on file.

The State of Nebraska Board of Edu-

cation issues a local substitute teaching certificate for someone but it is only valid for three years and only 40 days-a-year.

In the interview process someone can indicate whether or not they would like to be full time or not, she said. Taylor said a substitute can take however many jobs they want.

Taylor said that when a job opens up the teachers request certain substitute because they have been there already and feel comfortable with them.

She said that there are not any restrictions unless someone has a substitute certificate where they can only work 90 days-per-year.

"There aren't any benefits," she said.

"They are paid \$140 per day."

Junior Farhana Husain said she thinks that most substitute teachers don't have a clue what they are doing and therefore create problems for students.

She said that substitutes rarely know what they are supposed to be teaching which makes it difficult for a student to learn if they have a question about what they are suppose to be learning.

"Usually we just do busy work which doesn't help," Husain said.

When it comes to long term substitute teachers, Husain said that it isn't too much of a disturbance as long as the have some knowledge about the particular subject.

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## Students see benefits from eating organic

By Danielle Welty

Though the market for organic food has been steadily increasing, the amount of teens choosing to eat healthier food is seemingly not, yet some Central students are eating vegetarian and organic foods for the health benefits that they offer.

Organic food is food that has been grown free of chemicals. Many people believe this helps reduce the risk of cancer and improves one's health.

Junior Kira O'Bradovich, chooses to eat organic food.

O'Bradovich, along with several of her other family members, is diabetic.

By eating health food, she is able to keep her diabetes under control more easily.

"I don't get sick or miss nearly as many school days, and it wasn't hard to adapt to because I've been eating health food all of my life," O'Bradovich said.

O'Bradovich's mother was the one that introduced her to organic food, unlike junior Sarah Cavanagh, who began eating organic food and made the decision to become a vegetarian on her own.

"I like to be nice to my body, because it's the only one I'll ever have," Cavanagh said.

Cavanagh approached her mom at the age of nine and told her she was a vegetarian after becoming enlightened on the topic during a Girl Scout camping trip.

"My mom was really supportive from the beginning. She got me some pamphlets from work, because she's a nurse, and she helped me plan my diet," said Cavanagh.

Being a vegetarian can cause major health problems because most people get their daily requirements of protein from meat.

If one doesn't take the necessary precautions.

Cavanagh said she eats egg substitutes along with soy products such as soy milkshakes, soy nuts and veggie burgers to make up for the protein she doesn't get from eating meat.

It has become easier for both Cavanagh and O'Bradovich to find these products in the past few years as new health food stores, like the Wild Oats Market, spring up in the Omaha area.

Even though Cavanagh said she is not fond of big corporate stores that take over small co-ops and family owned stores, she said she appreciates the convenience.

There are also several restaurants, such as McFoster's Natural Kind Café in Omaha, that serve vegetarian and organic food.

Tom McFoster, owner of McFoster's, opened his restaurant because he said it was so hard for him as a health-conscious vegetarian to find anywhere that served food he liked to eat.

"Organic food just tends to taste better," McFoster said. "Whenever I went out to restaurants, I would order something and they would either bring me food that had been cooked with meat or hand me a platter of uncooked vegetables."

McFoster said that consumers are getting smarter and the attributes that to the growing health food market.

"People are demanding to be told how many grams of fat are in their hamburgers, and they're learning what they're really eating," McFoster said.

Since there is more of a demand for organic products the certification process of organic foods is being looked at more carefully.

Recently standards have been placed on labeling organic foods to ensure they are truly grown chemical-free.

## Elementary schools institute uniforms

By Aaron Maurice

First grader Etienne Brock must wear a uniform to school every day.

Although this is common occurrence at many private schools, she doesn't attend one. Brock attends one of the first OPS schools that now requires uniforms for all students.

Marrs Elementary, Brock's school, started requiring a uniform of khaki pants and a dark shirt, or a dark dress after the school's parents raised enough support.

A similar thing has happened at five other OPS elementary schools, which include Belvedere, Conestoga, Saratoga, Field Club and Druid Hill.

The change to uniforms for these schools came after a significant percentage of the parents wanted to put this practice into effect. They held a vote where over 75 percent of parents wanted them.

Principal Pamela Cohn of Marrs Elementary School said that her school adopted uniforms after a group of parents thought that their children needed to wear them.

Many of the supporters emigrated from Mexico where they were required to wear uniforms. They organized their idea and conducted a parent survey. The measure passed with proper amount of support and a committee was formed, she said.

The committee set standards for wearing uniforms as well as set in motion the necessary steps to a full implementation of their plan.

The school then required all

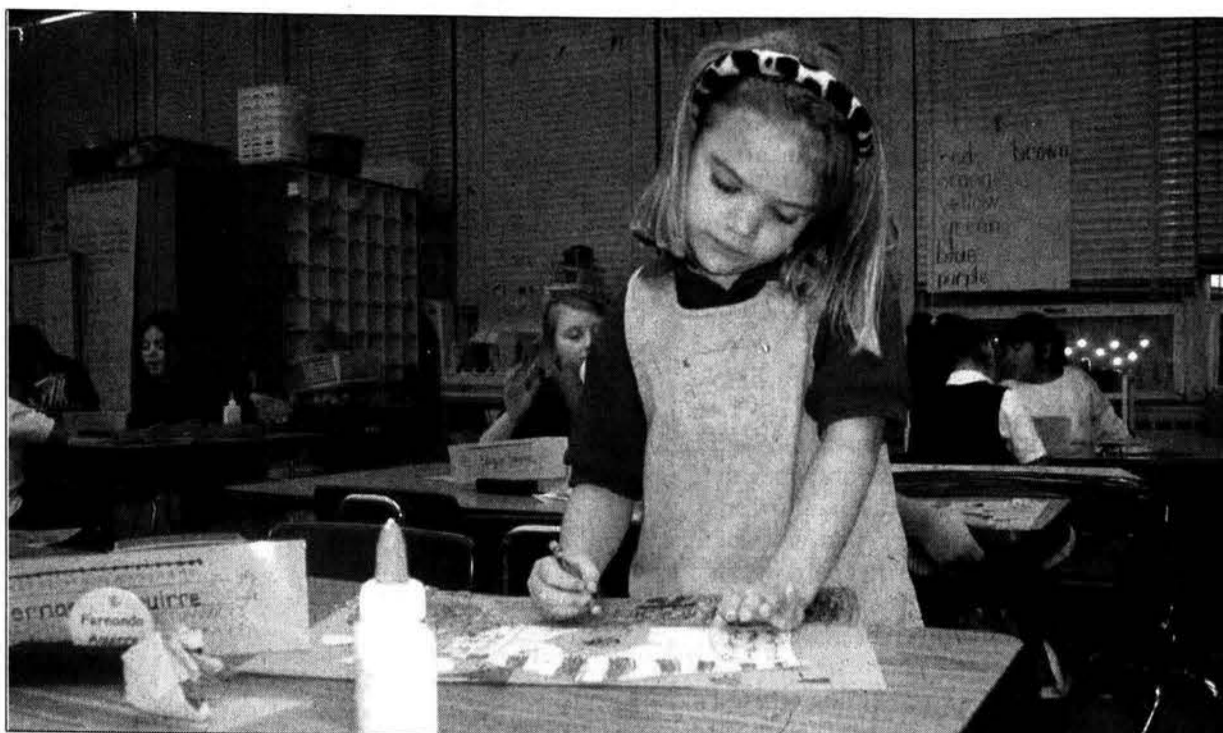


Photo by AARON MAURICE/THE REGISTER

First grader Etienne Brock colors during class at Marrs Elementary. Marrs is one of six OPS elementary schools that requires students to wear uniforms.

students to wear uniforms the following year.

The effects of a more formal school environment have been beneficial to the students, Cohn said. The students are more serious and less distracted than they were in previous years.

However, Cohn said the positive effects have come at a price. In the first few weeks that students had to wear the uniforms, teachers had to take the first part of class to see who was wearing the proper dress.

Incentives were given for classes that fully participated and now most students wear their uniforms consistently without incident, Cohn said.

Another effect the uniforms created was among the parents. To

implement plan, most of the parents had to work together, bringing them more closely into the affairs of the school.

This has improved relations and communication among parents and the school. Cohn said that parents are more aware of their student's progress and have become a better influence.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he had not heard of uniforms on a public high school level, although he questions whether they would have much of an effect.

"It's not as much what they wear, but how they wear it," he said.

Junior Joe Medeiros is opposed to school uniforms because he believes that clothes are a form of expression.

"One of the good things about high school is that teenagers could express themselves," he said. "Uniforms would be shunning this."

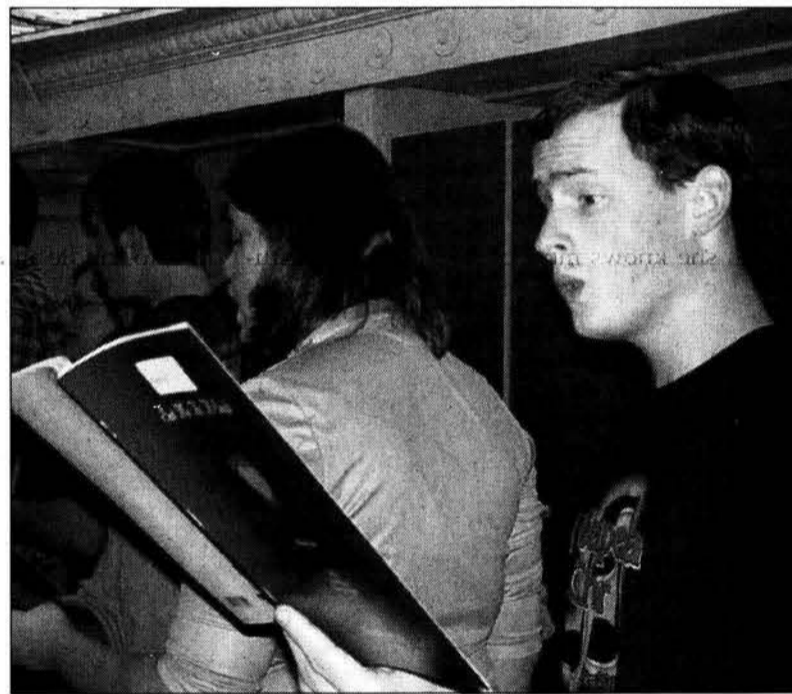
OPS Director of Student and Community Services Steve Nelson said that if a middle school or high school wanted to implement uniforms they would have to follow a similar route that the elementary schools did.

First, parents, not administrators or teachers must develop enough support to hold a vote. The vote must draw at least 75 percent in support for the measure to pass.

The next step would be to form a committee of parents to set guidelines, which could be implemented the following year.



(Left) Senior Ashley Krijan, senior Katie Musick, sophomore Hannah Wunsch and senior Rachel LaCroix play their French horns during first hour band class. (Right) Junior Jason Nehrig practices a piece during A Cappella. Because of the move of the all-city music festival from the Civic Auditorium to the TAC building, fewer vocal and instrumental students will be able to participate.



Photos by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ and ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

## All-city music festival moved to TAC building

By Paula Salhany

Senior Allison Kollath has been involved in the all-city music festival ever since she was in 6th grade. But now, there is a good chance she may not be able to attend this year.

That's because the festival has been moved from the Civic Auditorium, where it has been held for 53 years, to the TAC auditorium.

Because of a contract that the UNO hockey team has with the Civic, the performance got bumped out of the arena, Lyn Bouma, director of A Cappella said.

"If the Mavericks don't get to the playoffs though, the Civic will just be sitting there on that day," she said. "But because there is a chance they will be there, we got bumped out."

This will be the 54th year for the festival, Bouma said. Usually, it includes all of the orchestra and choir students from all the elementary, middle and high schools in OPS.

"It was neat because the little kids got to see the big kids sing," Bouma said.

Kollath said she remembers as a sixth grader looking up at the "big high school kids" and wanting to be them. She said the all-city festival is one of the reasons she continued on in vocal music.

Now, because the festival has been moved to the TAC auditorium, not only will the festival be split up into two days, the number of people in the performance will be drastically cut, Bouma said.

Each school is allowed 20 students from their choral group plus 20 percent of the whole chorus. Central will be able to take about 38 students, she said.

"I'm really upset because not even all of the seniors will be able to go," Kollath said.

She said she is worried she won't be able to attend. She said she feels everyone should be able to sing, especially the seniors.

Claudianna Todd, coordinator of music at

TAC said she along with others tried hard to acquire another concert hall.

"We tried to get the Orpheum, UNO and we tried to keep the Civic, but in the end the only thing we could get was the TAC auditorium," she said. "It needs a little cosmetic work but it will still work. The acoustics are good and the concert will be a little more formal than past years."

Todd said while she is disappointed about the move, the show should still be good. She said the music will be the same as planned before, the only difference is the number of students in the program. As for who gets to participate from Central, Bouma said she will be holding auditions in January.

Kollath said Bouma is bringing in someone from outside of the school to help her choose who will be in the chorus.

"I've been involved in all-city for forever," Kollath said. "I just want to be able to sing in it my last year in high school."

### ■ DARTMOUTH

## Former student accepted into prestigious collegiate honor society

the induction as well.

Stahl said his involvement with the Environmental Consciousness Organization, a campus volunteer group, and his participation on the fencing team probably played a part in his acceptance.

"Athletic involvement helped a little bit," he said.

Stahl said there were benefits to being a NSCS member, but all of them were not immediately apparent.

One of the pluses were mem-

bership was how students got to network with professionals in fields they wanted to go into.

"It's kind of a way to know someone in the industry that we want to go into," he said.

Stahl is an anthropology major, but said he hopes to study international affairs later in the year.

After college, he said he would most likely be pursuing some sort of graduate education, probably for another four years of college.

"My most realistic career goal

right now is to go into hospital administration," he said.

While at Central, Stahl was in band and was a National Honor Society metro representative.

Stahl said the two biggest influences on his academic career were social studies department head Carol Hipp and his two years in marketing.

"When I got to Central, I really didn't have high expectations for myself," he said.

Hipp said she first met Stahl when he was in her Advanced

Placement American history class.

"I made him learn to write, learn to be precise and just sort of kept him going during junior year when everything is new," she said.

Hipp said Stahl was an excellent student who studied a lot, worked hard to understand materials and participated in class discussions.

"(Stahl) always wanted to know the real answer why, he wouldn't take anything less," Hipp said.

## UNL recruits with honors curriculum

By Charlie Wence

Senior Scott O'Dell is staying in Nebraska for college. He is staying here because he said he believes that education is what you make of it and paying \$20,000 to go somewhere else is a waste.

But sometimes there is a problem keeping Nebraska kids in Nebraska after high school.

"The trouble recruiting to kids in Nebraska is that, for some, Nebraska is not their first choice," Patrick McBride, Associate Dean of Admissions at UNL, said.

Senior Emily Lebens is leaving Nebraska for college. She is planning on attending Trinity University in San Antonio, TX.

"I have nothing against Nebraska, I really like it," she said. "But there's a lot more out there and I feel like it's time to move on and go somewhere else."

There are still 15,557 in-state undergraduate students attending UNL as of this fall.

Efforts are being made to keep the more high achieving in-state students in Nebraska. UNL is spreading the word of its honors program.

"The Nebraska honors program's students have the highest ACT scores in the Big XII," McBride said.

The honors program offers regular course work, honors classes, discussion-driven classes and is also more challenged than the classes regular students enroll in, McBride said.

"I think the key point (to recruiting) is to get kids on campus and have them see for themselves," McBride said.

However, this year the Nebraska State budget has run into trouble forcing them to cut funds to many different areas, including the University.

McBride said he believes the cause for alarm about the budget cuts is because of the local news coverage, because the local media only covers the budget cuts for Nebraska's college and university system not other states' university systems which have also become victim to similar budget cuts.

"Everyone is hurting, but some states may be immune though," McBride.

McBride said he believes that when a student attends a higher tier university, like Harvard, everyone around them has a high academic profile and the student is seen as just one of many.

However, attending a school like Nebraska, students have a better profile and have more opportunities to succeed and receive more attention than being at the big name school, he said.

"At Nebraska, you become a big fish in a small pond," McBride said.

Yet, it becomes difficult trying to bring kids in who already have their minds set on a certain school out of state, McBride said.

"There is sometimes trouble recruiting students from OPS because their parents attended a college out of state, or their parents have hopes for their children to travel to a prestigious school," he said.

Lebens, who plans on majoring in secondary education mathematics, wanted to leave Nebraska because her parents stayed in-state and wanted her to see more than they did.

"I wanted to go to a small school that was warm. Just somewhere that I would fit in," Lebens said.

O'Dell's opinion on leaving Nebraska differs.

"You have the rest of your life to travel," he said.

O'Dell also said that if he wasn't going to attend a public school in Nebraska, he would go to Nebraska Wesleyan, an in-state private college.

## Internet diaries new fad among young people

By Laura Diesing

It's easy, it's fun and it's more popular than bean curd at a vegetarian convention.

It's weblogging.

People all over the world are converting their diaries to personal online sites called blogs.

According to blogspot.com, the definition of a blog is "a web page made up of usually short, frequently updated posts that are arranged chronologically—like a what's new page or a journal."

Most people use it to share their days with friends or as a public diary.

Others use it for business purposes, posting their company's progress for all of the investors to have access to.

But young people are catching onto blogging more quickly than most other groups.

"It's a way of having a diary but you can show your friends," junior Allison Wynn said.

Wynn used to have a website but she said it was too much work to update it all the time.

She said that weblogging is just so simple.

"It's a way to put everything out there," Wynn said.

Not so long ago, in 1998, weblogs began to appear on the Internet.

Just four years later, anyone can type the word "blogging" into a search engine and over 500,000 different sites will pop up.

Senior Valerie Hoff has had a few personal websites and now uses a blog site.

She said there is very little that users need to know to create their own blog pages.

Depending on the host site used, users can do the exact same things on a blog site that they can on a regular website, but the process is much easier.

Blog sites allow users to post links, graphics, and most have guest books.

"I used to do the same thing on my website, this is just a little more organized," Hoff said.

Wynn said she enjoys weblogging for the little aspects of it like writing lyrics for her friends to see.

"Most of the time all I do is take quizzes and post my results on the site," Wynn said. "All my friends have diaries too. We all write in our diaries so we only have to say something once."

Hoff said that she uses her blog site as a way to stay in touch with her friends.

"Sometimes you can't always talk to people. If they are away, they can read this and still know what's going on. It's a place to ramble about your day," Hoff said.

Wynn, unlike Hoff, said that she does not know very much about websites or computers.

"Most of the time I am instant messaging or updating my diary," she said.

## Security guard reaches out to students

By Doug Meigs

Security guard Frank Zavorka is cool. Students flock around him after school; after all he does drive a Harley Davidson and he has ten tattoos.

Zavorka said he loves his work at Central, but not because he's popular. He said he just wants to make a difference in youths' lives.

"My primary objective is to help kids," he said.

Despite the biker-ish appearance and yearly trips to Sturgis, Zavorka is truly compassionate towards the lives of Central students. Before he began working as one of Central's security guard in October of 1998, he had been a firefighter for 33 years and has even been a counselor at a youth camp.

"I wanted to do something where I could help again," he said. "They think I'm cool but I'm not here to be cool, I like to work with young adults."

So far he said he hopes he has been making a difference. Based on student response, it appears he has.

"I feel really good when parents came up at teachers' conferences and said 'you're the one my kid's been talking about,'" he said.

They shook his hand and said he made a difference, either by acting positive towards them, or helping them turn a new leaf.

"I see kids everywhere, I can't get away from them, I see them at the movie theaters," he said.

He said the students will come up to him and act surprised and say things along the lines of "Oh, I didn't know you go to the movies."

Sophomore Melissa Hester said she likes Zavorka because she can talk to him and he gets along with all the students.

"He's the best security guard we've got. He tries to talk to kids instead of getting in their business. They can relate to him so they feel they can talk to him," Hester said.

That's exactly how Zavorka said he tries to interact with students.

"I'm a good guy and sometimes all these kids need is someone to talk to. All these kids hear is negativity, it's a hard



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Security guard Frank Zavorka watches over the "C" from his security station by the main entrance. Zavorka has been working at Central for four years and says he enjoys working with students.

world to be growing up in, especially now," he said.

Back when he worked for the fire department he said he was the one that would always talk to young people if they came to visit, that could be elementary, high school students or any youths.

Then, through the department, he became involved with Camp Eagle in Fremont as a counselor for about four years. He participated in activities and had the opportunity to work one on one with youths.

He said a lot of the kids would come to the camp with really bad attitude problems and would leave completely straightened out.

"I enjoyed it. It was for the down and out kid, the kids that usually couldn't go to camp," he said. "It was fun for me and I got to do things I hadn't done before, like repel off of a cliff. If the kids saw me

do it, they weren't afraid to follow."

Zavorka said his wife recommended he become a security guard because he related well with youths. She is a paraprofessional in the ESL department, and before this year had worked at Bryan and elementary schools.

He went to TAC, told them he wanted to work with kids again, showed them his credentials and he said he was hired on the spot.

They sent him to Lewis and Clark for him to test out the job.

At the time he was only working part time because he was still with the fire department. Then, when he retired, he started working full time and came over to Central.

Security guard Russ Lane started working at Central the year before Zavorka. However, the two had known each other from high school. Lane said

Zavorka had signed his yearbook when they graduated together in 1961.

"He's an all right fellow, he seems to relate really well (to students)," Lane said.

When he gets called up to a room for say a disorderly student or some disturbance, he said he likes to talk to the kids and understand their perspective on his way down to the office.

"I usually try and see what happened and do a little counseling on the way down," he said.

Zavorka said he thinks Central is one of the best schools in Omaha and has the best security guard staff around.

There's a security guard with a personality that could fit any and every variety of students. So even though Zavorka is popular, the others are as well.

## Academic decathlon travels to New York, experiences culture

By Laura Diesing

Wide-eyed and excited, Central's Academic Decathlon class visited New York City, not knowing what to expect.

"Everything we did was fun because we were out of Omaha," senior Aron Cobbs said. "For lots of us, it was our first time there."

The class took a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City to see the paintings they had only seen photos of in their books.

To prepare for upcoming decathlon scrimmages, Academic Decathlon students have been studying art from the Romantic Period and oceanography.

The three-day trip to see pieces by Turner, Constable and Gericault left the students' brains bursting with knowledge.

"We had a very definite educational agenda," Academic Decathlon's teacher, Vicki Deniston Reed said. "That eats up a lot of time."

Though a large part of their days were filled with educational trips, the students did get to visit many of the places that helped to make New York famous.

"We went to the MET, Central Park and ate dinner in China Town," Cobbs said. "There's

so much culture in Chinatown."

Academic Decathlon also spent hours on crowded subway cars traveling to Times Square and Ground Zero.

The adventures did not stop after the students retreated to the safety of their hostel rooms.

"There was a big rat in the girls' hotel room," Cobbs said.

To better understand oceanography, the class took a short boat ride past the Statue of Liberty to an aquarium on Coney Island.

The trip allowed students to get close to sea horses, jellyfish, sharks and starfish.

"The coolest things were the walrus. They were huge and funny," Cobbs said.

Deniston Reed said that by the end of the year she hopes to take the class to Kansas City to visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

"It has very good Chinese and European art collections," Deniston Reed said.

Academic Decathlon will be competing in a decathlon scrimmage in December against strong competition like Burke, North and Prep, but team members are optimistic.

"We are strong and invincible," Cobbs said.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Academic Decathlon teacher Vicki Deniston Reed shows a map to senior Tim Shew as part of a social studies lesson. Shew was one of the students who went along on the trip to New York City.

## Montessori schools hold educational benefits for participants, involved parents, students say

By Danielle Welty

With American students losing interest in school as the years progress, there are other forms of learning that have emerged to make school more appealing, Montessori schools are one of them, teachers and parents said.

"Montessori schools are about teaching a child to love to learn and to work at their own pace which will hopefully carry through to college," Mary Kay Smith, mother of junior Will Smith and Zach Smith, a Montessori student, said.

These schools are not based on memorization of facts or numbers; it's about actually learning the material and applying it to

everyday life, she said.

"The students are allowed to advance at a much faster rate because they aren't restricted by a number grade or a regular classroom," Smith said.

Grades are not awarded to the students, that way the emphasis is put more on learning instead of getting the work done specifically for grading. Whenever students complete a set of work they move onto the next level of work.

Junior Nicole Stubbs, an employee at a Montessori school, said she didn't understand how the students learned anything because it seemed too crazy to her at first, but then she realized all of them were just working on their

own projects.

In the Montessori classrooms there are three classes in one room, and all the students work on projects.

The students keep the same teacher, who must get additional education to teach at a Montessori school, for the three years they are in the class.

She said the teachers then get to know their students well throughout the years they have them, the older students also teach younger students to give them all more one on one learning time. The small classrooms and open learning atmosphere make the students learn to enjoy school.

"There was a student that

would bring her books with her out onto the playground and continue to read, the children here just love to learn," Stubbs said.

The students learn everything from math to science, but whenever the student is in a "sensitive period," or a period of strong interest about one subject, the teachers expand on that, though not neglecting other subjects.

Some may think that the transition from a Montessori elementary school to a public school setting may be hard for the children both socially and educationally.

"Montessori schools are not for everyone. Some students do much better in a structured classroom, but others flourish in a

Montessori setting because the possibilities are endless," Smith said.

Smith, being a parent of a Montessori student, said it requires a lot of commitment and parent involvement.

"The difference between the Montessori I work at and others is that this one is a parents co-op, so all of the parents are really involved and essentially run everything," Stubbs said. "I baby-sit for a lady whose daughter goes to the Montessori school. She recommended me and that's how I got my job."

The students have three eating times that Stubbs helps out with throughout the day that con-

sist of two snacks and a lunch, all of which are health food items such as fruits, vegetables and crackers.

Stubbs' job also consists of putting the toddlers down for nap and reading a book to them so that they can stay all through the 10 hour school day.

Both Stubbs and Smith see Montessori schools as a positive experience.

"The students there are smart. They'll come up to you and say things you never thought a year old would say because their vocabulary is so extensive," Stubbs said. "I wish I had had the opportunities these students have."

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# ELECTION 2002



## Students vote for first time

By Charlie Wence

Senior John Demott is now 18 years old.

He now has the privilege to choose his government leaders through the power of voting.

"I think I will be able to voice my opinion through voting, but there still are other ways," Demott said.

Demott said he was excited to vote.

While there are some 18-year-olds who are excited to vote, statistics show that there is a problem with getting young people to the polls on Election Day.

The age group between 18 and 24 years old has the lowest voter turnout and voter registration out of all of the older age groups, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

There are 23,915 citizens in the 18 to 24 age group, only 50 percent of them are registered voters and only 36 percent of them showed up at the polls to cast their vote for the November election in 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Social Studies teacher Carol Krejci was in college while the voting age was 21.

A constitutional amendment in 1972 changed the voting age to 18 due to the Vietnam War, where 17-year-olds were fighting while they weren't able to vote for the government leaders who sent them to Vietnam.

After the Amendment was made, there became two elections.

There was one for state and local positions and one for federal positions.

The amendment was specifically made for federal elections meaning that an 18 year old could vote for president, but would have to be 21 to vote for governor of their state, Krejci said.

"I was 21 once the voting age was changed so I guess I missed out," she said.

Krejci encourages voting from the day one is legally able and for the rest of one's life.

"I always joke when I tell my students that I will come back and haunt them if they didn't vote," Krejci said.

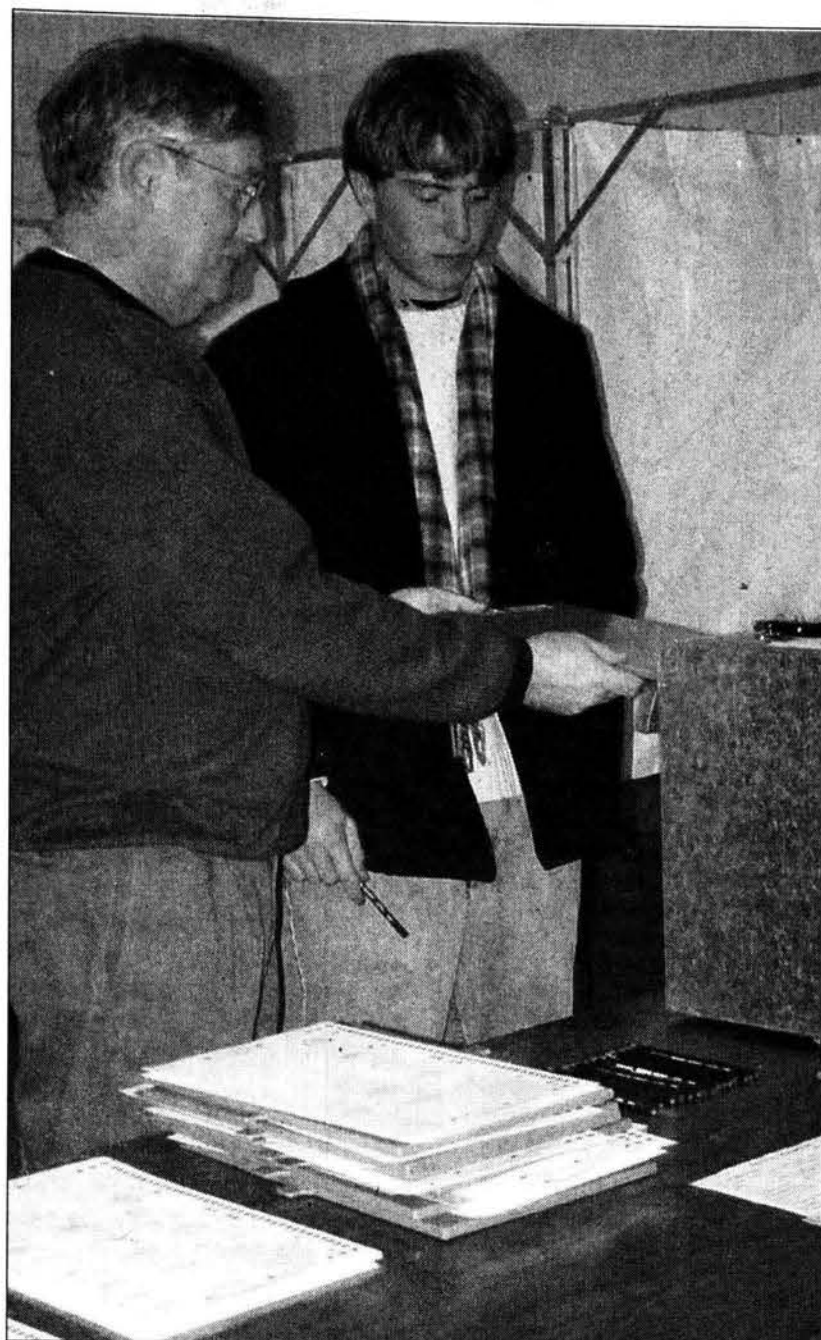


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER  
Senior John DeMott votes for the first time. DeMott and many other seniors had the opportunity to vote in this year's election.

When it comes to citizens who do not take advantage of their privilege to vote, she said they have no room for objection.

"I think they are fools," Krejci said, "I have a real problem with those who don't vote and complain, so I think they should either put up or shut up."

Demott said he believed that citizens who waste their privilege to vote shouldn't have any complaints.

He said these people weren't even around when they were able to choose leaders to deal with their issues.

In Nebraska there is a law that allows, in some cases, for 17-year-olds to vote in certain elections.

Around 1990 there were a lot of kids who felt disfranchised because they weren't able to vote for candidates who were going to be in the general election that they were able to vote in, Krejci said.

Because of that, now there is a law stating if a voter-to-be is going to be 18 years old on or before the day of the general election, law allows them the right to vote in primary elections, she said.

"Basically you can vote when you're 17 and a half," Krejci said.

## ■ OVERRIDE

## Voters turn down measure to get more public school funds

from **OVERRIDE**, page 1  
for new jobs."

Langan used the example of cutting English programs.

He said if teachers thought that they were going to have to look for a new job, their performance would not be as good in their classes and as a result students won't get as good of an education. Langan said even if it came to the point where the school board was going to have to cut programs, it would meet in a private session so they would not scare students and teachers.

He said the school board has already done a lot to allocate supplies and transportation so that the district can save money. He said they have done everything possible to cut back on things that won't affect the students.

Anderson said it would be nice if the legislature would throw out the state aid formula and simply rewrite it.

"If the legislature would get a brain they would have done this a long time ago," she said. "It is very easy for them to put education on the back burner and wait for something critical to happen. But we've already hit critical mass here."

She said it surprises her when the governor calls a special session for the death penalty but does not take the time to support the education system. Junior Kelsey Gotch was surprised when she saw that the proposal lost by such a large margin.

"Any money would help OPS," she said. "But I thought the bill would be more of a 50-50 situation."

She said she thinks voters' priorities are a little backwards when it comes to education. She said education should come first. Gotch said the override would have been a good thing and that she was disappointed when she saw the results.

"We are training the future here," Anderson said. "If we don't have the money to educate them, OPS is going to end up just like the Washington D.C. and Chicago public school systems."

She said many voters are also under the impression that TAC has too many administrators when in reality, they have cut back on the number of people in the building.

"Sometimes people don't realize there is actually a school in the building," Anderson said. "They see all the cars over there and get the impression that TAC is spending too much money."

Dennis Pool, assistant superintendent for OPS, said if someone were to look at the statistics they would find that OPS spends less money per student than the state average by approximately \$300.

He said with 45,000 students in the district it adds up to a lot of money.

The levy override would only help sustain the programs that already exist. The district would not even think about doing anything new, Pool said.

He said to a lot of voters the proposal only meant an extra \$150 in income taxes.

"They didn't understand what kind of money OPS needs," he said.

Gotch said she didn't think the community was as educated as it should have been. She said some of the ads were not as effective as they could have been.

Anderson said while there were campaigns out about the override, they probably didn't reach as many people as they should have.

"We were working with a limited amount of money and when we would meet there was also a limited amount of people who came," she said.

But now that OPS will not be receiving the money, Anderson said the lawsuit OPS, along with others in Nebraska, have been working on against the state is much more of a realistic option.

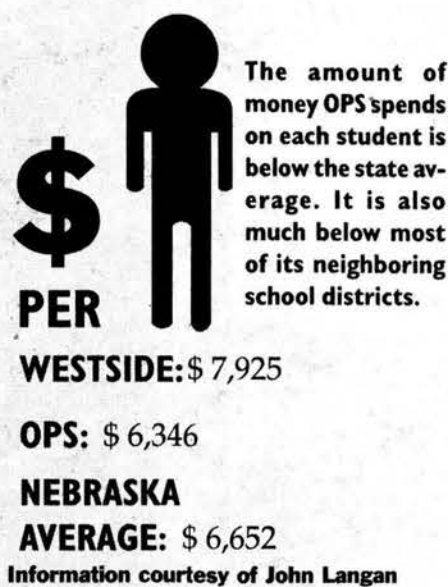
She said there have been many studies done to show how much money students need to get a decent education.

Because the state will not reform the education aid formally and because the voters are not willing to sacrifice the income tax money, they may actually have to file suit.

"We have all be working very hard to get the point across that we need help here," Anderson said.

She said even though she was still hopeful about the proposal, she saw how close the election was for Westside's levy override, she knew it would be an uphill battle. The fact is, OPS did not get the money it needed, Langan said. So in the mean time, OPS officials will have to think about what can be done to pull the district out of the deficit it has found itself in.

"We know that we don't want to cut programs and we don't want to hurt students," he said. "It's a really difficult situation."



## The Results

Winners are in bold

### Governor

**Mike Johanns, Republican- 64.89%**  
Stormy Dean, Democrat- 32.81%  
Paul Rosberg, Nebraska- 2.3%

### Senator

**Chuck Hagel, Republican- 78.44%**  
Charlie Matulka, Democrat- 18.28%  
John J. Graziano, Libertarian- 2.29%  
Phil Chase, Independent- 1.00%

### Congress, District 1

**Doug Bereuter, Republican- 85%**  
Robert Eckerson, Libertarian- 15%

### Congress, District 2

**Lee Terry, Republican- 61.95%**  
Jim Simon, Democrat- 34.22%  
Dave Stock, Libertarian- 1.43%  
Doug Paterson, Green- 2.4%

### Congress, District 3

**Tom Osborne, Republican- 93%**  
Jerry Hickman, Libertarian- 7%

### Levy Override

**No- 40,167-60.15%**  
Yes- 26,613-39.85%

### Attorney General

**Jon Bruning, Republican- 61.99%**  
Mike Meister, Democrat- 38.01%

### Omaha City Charter Amendment

**No- 38, 990- 49.17%**  
Yes- 26,613- 39.85%

### School Board Sub-district 1

**Penny Sophir- 67.18%**  
Anthony C. Fasthorse- 32.82%

### Sub-district 3

**Shirley J. Tyree- 82.36%**  
Dean Sciford- 17.64%

### Sub-district 5

**Nancy Kratky- 59.37%**  
Nancy Jacobson- 40.63%

### Sub-district 7

**Mark Martinez- 64.33%**  
Timothy Grollmes- 35.67%

### Sub-district 9

**John T. Langan (board president)- 100%**

### Sub-district 11

**Dick Galusha- 100%**

### Secretary of State

**John A. Gale, Republican- 57.17%**  
Jay C. Stoddard, Democrat- 35.65%  
Tudor Lewis, Libertarian- 2.48%  
Joseph A. Rosberg, Nebraska- 4.71%

Information courtesy of the Douglas County Election Commission

## Board member looks forward to serving Central

By Doug Meigs

Shirley Tyree was recently reelected to the third OPS sub-district school board chair.

Although she has held the chair since 1993, this was her first year to work with Central, which was moved to the third sub-district after OPS was redistricted.

Tyree was an easy choice for the position. Besides her nine year career on the board to recommend her, her opponent, Dean Sciford, left Omaha just before the election.

Even though he was no longer running, his name was still on the ticket. But Tyree never had a chance to meet him.

"The election process for me was not a difficult one. But I didn't take it for granted even though he (Sciford) left town," she said.

Tyree said there was always the chance that voters could have elected Sciford.

She said the major issues in the past election included the school bond debate which she said everyone seemed to be interested in, as well as the community perception that there is too much violence in schools, test scores and the presence of magnet schools.

The two issues that Tyree personally focused on were short-term suspensions and the current zero-tolerance policy.

"I would like to see some things done for children who are out of school for one or more days," she said. "They should be able to go to a specific building or location where they could be supervised and still keep up with their school work"

Parents have questioned Tyree in the past concerning the purpose of taking their children out of school when they tend to get in more trouble by being outside the school environment.

"It (her proposal) is just something so the parents will feel better about their children being out of school," she said.

Many parents of such students work during the school day. She said that this way they would know where they are, while the students could stay current with their schoolwork.



Photo by JILLIAN RISAVI/THE REGISTER  
Shirley Tyree works at her desk. Because of redistricting, Tyree now represents Central on the school board.

At this point it's only a suggestion, but Tyree said she would like to see it acted upon. Similarly she thinks new action should be taken toward zero tolerance.

"I would like to see it (zero tolerance) revisited so we can see what's going on," Tyree said. "Children change, situations change, and we need to be more in tune with what's going on."

Tyree said the way the policy is written works right now. But, due to the complaints directed at zero tolerance, she thinks it should be looked into again and nothing should be set in stone.

She started working on the school board after Brenda Council was elected to the city council and left her seat in the third sub-district open.

Tyree said she has learned a lot from her years on the school board and believes that everyone should try and hold some sort of office in their life times.

"Otherwise it's kind of hard to make a statement of what you say should be or shouldn't be," she said.

Tyree said OPS has an immense

amount of positive attributes that are often overlooked. Even though the district has changed over the years, it is still a positive educational institution like it was when she grew up.

Tyree was enrolled at Kellom, then attended the former Tech junior high and graduated from Tech high. However, there are some issues that she said have changed for the worse.

"I think it's changed to the point where teachers aren't really able to teach what they need to (teach)," she said.

With the assessment testing and other such institutions she said teachers have to follow unnecessary regulation by outside parties and wishes the teachers had more independent power.

"I can go along with some (standardized) testing, but there's a lot of testing, and the teachers aren't able to meet the needs of as many students," she said.

As for the rest of her new term, Tyree said she will continue to stay close with her constituency by going to meetings, attending neighborhood groups and taking calls from her home.

# BINGE DRINKING

Some students drink on a regular basis with the sole intention of getting drunk. This type of drinking also done for social reasons. To counteract this behavior, school officials and law enforcement are trying to educate students about the consequences.

By Laura Diesing

\*name changed to protect identity

It's 9 p.m. Friday night and the adults are out drinking, talking with their friends and perhaps getting a bit tipsy.

Little do they know, their kids have probably already had more to drink than they have.

Law and school officials have been trying to educate teenagers about the risks of underage drinking for years, but the information seems to escape the students' memories as soon as they walk out of the classroom door.

Unfortunately, binge drinking, which is having five or more drinks on one occasion, has become seemingly essential to a teenager's social life.

With both peer pressure and social pressures playing a role in today's society, teens are faced with the question of whether or not to binge drink.

"I think I have more fun when I'm drunk," Lisa Smith said. "I have a really high tolerance so I consume a lot of alcohol."

Like Smith, many students use binge drinking as a way to relax and become more outgoing.

"I'm normally a really shy person but after I've been drinking it's really easy to talk to people," Smith said. "I think I have a lot more fun when I'm drunk."

Smith said that all of her friends and most of the people she knows drink as well.

The number of high school students who regularly participate in binge drinking is alarming, but the Omaha police force is cracking down on the epidemic of underage drinking, city prosecutor Marty Conboy said.

"We've already arrested far more people this year than last year," Conboy said.

Since December of 2001, Omaha police officers have made almost 1,300 alcohol-related arrests. In 2000 there were only 914 arrests.

"It's not a sign that there are more teens with alcohol," Conboy said. "It's a sign that the police are even better. The enforcement has been stepped up."

The large number of arrests have not stopped Smith and her friends from going to parties and binge drinking.

"In the summer I drank every other day," Smith said, "but during the school year, I usually only drink about once a weekend."

At a party during spring break last year, Smith said she and her friends drank almost constantly from 6:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m.

Smith

Some teens use a beer bong to drink alcohol more quickly. Beer is poured into the funnel and then consumed from the other end.



Photo by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER  
A bartender fills a glass of beer at a local pub. Some students go out on the weekends and drink just to get drunk.

said her parents have never talked to her about the dangers of drinking.

"They think I'm a perfect, little angel," she said. "They would never suspect I do this."

Most adults do not realize that their "angels" go to parties and play games like "quarters" or "beer dice."

"People in my generation are probably unaware themselves of the problems that alcohol causes," Conboy said. "In my day it was just the way things were."

A lot has changed in today's society since the free love days of the 1960s, he said.

Over 200 car crashes were caused by teenage drunk drivers in the year 2000, Kris Peissig from Nebraska's Project Extra Mile said. Eighteen of these 232 crashes were fatal.

Many teenage drinkers try to be responsible but do not always follow through with their intentions.

"I'm known to be very irresponsible,"

Smith said. "I drive drunk sometimes. I usually have fun until it's time to go home. Then I worry about it."

Junior Ali Huston does not think that getting drunk is worth any of the trouble that it can get a person into.

She said it is not worth the consequences.

"You have your whole life to drink," Huston said. "You're only young once. It's better that you remember it."

The most effective way to stop a teenager from drinking, so far, has been incarceration or being ticketed by the police.

"I'm scared of getting an M.I.P. That's my worst fear," Smith said. "Cops make me nervous and if I got an M.I.P. I would stop."

In the past 20 years, Conboy has handled over 30,000 cases dealing with underage drinking.

He also said that until societal pressure can be overcome, underage drinking will always be a problem.

## Grad teaches remedial reading to improve lives

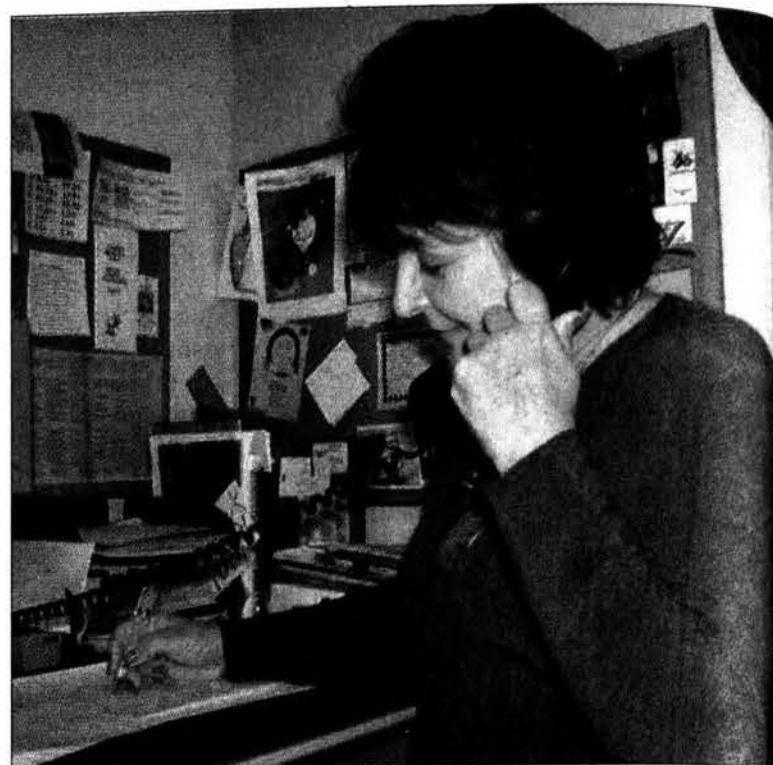


Photo by CHARLIE WENCE/THE REGISTER  
Nancy Calinger works at her desk. Calinger is now teaching a remedial reading course.

By Charlie Wence

Central graduate Nancy Calinger lives through events to keep her life busy. She managed her husband's political career and also works as a counselor at a middle school, but her latest endeavor is teaching a remedial reading course.

Calinger (class of 1960) started the program in 1974 while teaching students who were permanently expelled from junior high.

She said she believed young people were getting in to trouble, because they weren't able to read at their grade level.

Calinger taught two 15-year old boys in her class that read at 1.5 grade level (first grade, fifth month). But through her teaching method, she improved the boys' reading skills to a sixth grade level inside of that semester.

Calinger sees the boys around today and said she believes they have become great people. One of them went on to become an electrician.

When asked how the boys would have turned out without her tutoring she said, "They wouldn't be the men they are today."

She declined to comment on what her method of teaching the remedial reading program was.

The following summer she spent 500 hours polishing her program and 400 hours the summer after that.

Calinger, a full-time counselor of 34 years at Kim Junior High School on the far east side of Council Bluffs, finds a way to manage her time while being a neighborhood advocate for the neighborhood in south Omaha known as "Little Italy", bounded by the Missouri River, 13th street, Pacific street and Martha street.

Calinger, whose parents emigrated from Italy in the '30s, takes pride in her neighborhood and her heritage, despite the fact that there is only ten-percent of the Italian population is left from

the past immigration, she said.

While growing up she worked in her parents' restaurant, The Pearl Harbor Cafe from when she was five years old until she was 19.

"Life was difficult," she said.

Calinger was amazed when she first came to Central, mainly because of the food. The school offered macaroni and cheese growing up in an Italian family she ate most of her food with Italian ingredients.

After graduation, she went into teaching physical education as a traveling gym teacher.

"Inside of one week I worked with nine principals, 10 teachers and ten school administrators," Calinger said.

She was then placed as a counselor at now defunct Technical High School in the 1960's.

Calinger said she wanted to get her Masters in counseling at UNO because of state senator Ernie Chamber's avocation that "if you aren't certified, you aren't qualified."

She met her husband, Wendell Calinger who was teaching at UNO, who later went on to become mayor of Omaha for 14 months in 1988.

Calinger said that being the First Lady of Omaha was the most exciting thing that has happened to her aside from the birth of her children. Calinger headed an aggressive campaign for her husband's re-election while working her full-time counseling job, usually around ten hours a day. She said she spent whatever time was necessary to help her husband's campaign.

"I put forth 115 percent in everything I do, including being the best political spouse," Calinger said.

She said he lost his reelection due to competition with Lars Morgan's campaign, which he lost money to burn. She also helped campaign for other elections including going door to door to win former mayor candidate Brenda Starnes to the Council.

## Earth science extinct, teacher retiring after 30 years of class

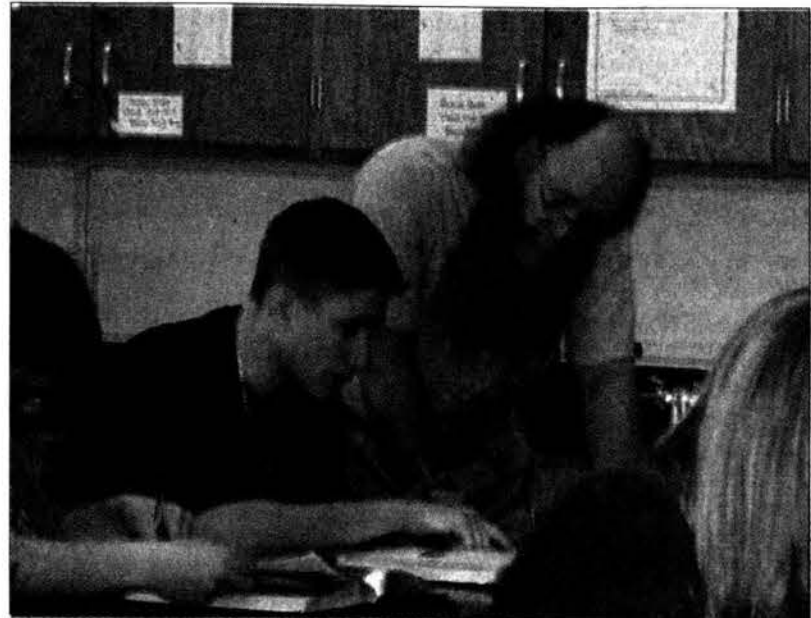


Photo by MIKE SMITH/THE REGISTER

Al Roeder helps Zach Poderys during one of his earth science classes. This will be the last year for both Roeder and the science class. Roeder is retiring after this school year.

By Michael Smith

For 30 years, Al Roeder has been teaching the earth science classes. He will retire after this year.

This will also be the last year for the earth science classes.

Roeder has been the earth science teacher at Central for as long as he has been at the school. He said, in that time, he has managed to get at least one period of the class a year. But this year he has six.

"Earth science is a hands-on class," he said. "It is the world around you, the air you breathe, the sky you see. It is something frankly that everyone can understand."

With such a passion for earth science, Roeder said he was shocked when the Omaha Public School District (OPS) decided to cut the program after so many years offering it. When he heard the news, he thought the district was out of its mind. He said he feels the cut is depriving the students of understanding the world around them.

Frank Tworek, science specialist for OPS said earth science is considered to be an important subject in high school because it is part of the national standards for schools.

OPS requires all students to take the course, by taking earth science and dividing it into three separate sections. One-third of the earth science curriculum will be placed into the biology classes, one-third in chemistry and one-third in physics. This way students are still learning the material.

"OPS is requiring earth science to be split up, so that everyone will have the knowledge of the class behind them," Tworek said.

He said he encourages schools to add a senior level earth science class to the curriculum, but said to his knowledge it is not a definite yet.

Roeder wanted all of his students to take something away from his class and to understand the earth as a whole.

Senior Shailla Bruckner said that she thought there was too much homework, but

there were other benefits in taking the class.

"I learned how to be responsible in the class and it paid off," Bruckner said.

Roeder said that many of his former students have told him that other science classes they could have taken would have been more difficult.

He said he believes that if earth science would have been required for freshman, followed by biology, chemistry and physics, it would have worked out better for students and it would have been a better answer than eliminating the class.

Roeder is retiring at end of the school year after teaching at Central his entire career.

Junior Heather Lee said that she has questions why she is taking the class.

She said she will always remember the little jokes, though corny, are still really funny.

Roeder is one of only a handful of teachers who have completed their entire career at Central.

**Test prep**

Preparation books give some students unfair advantage when preparing to go to college.

Page 14

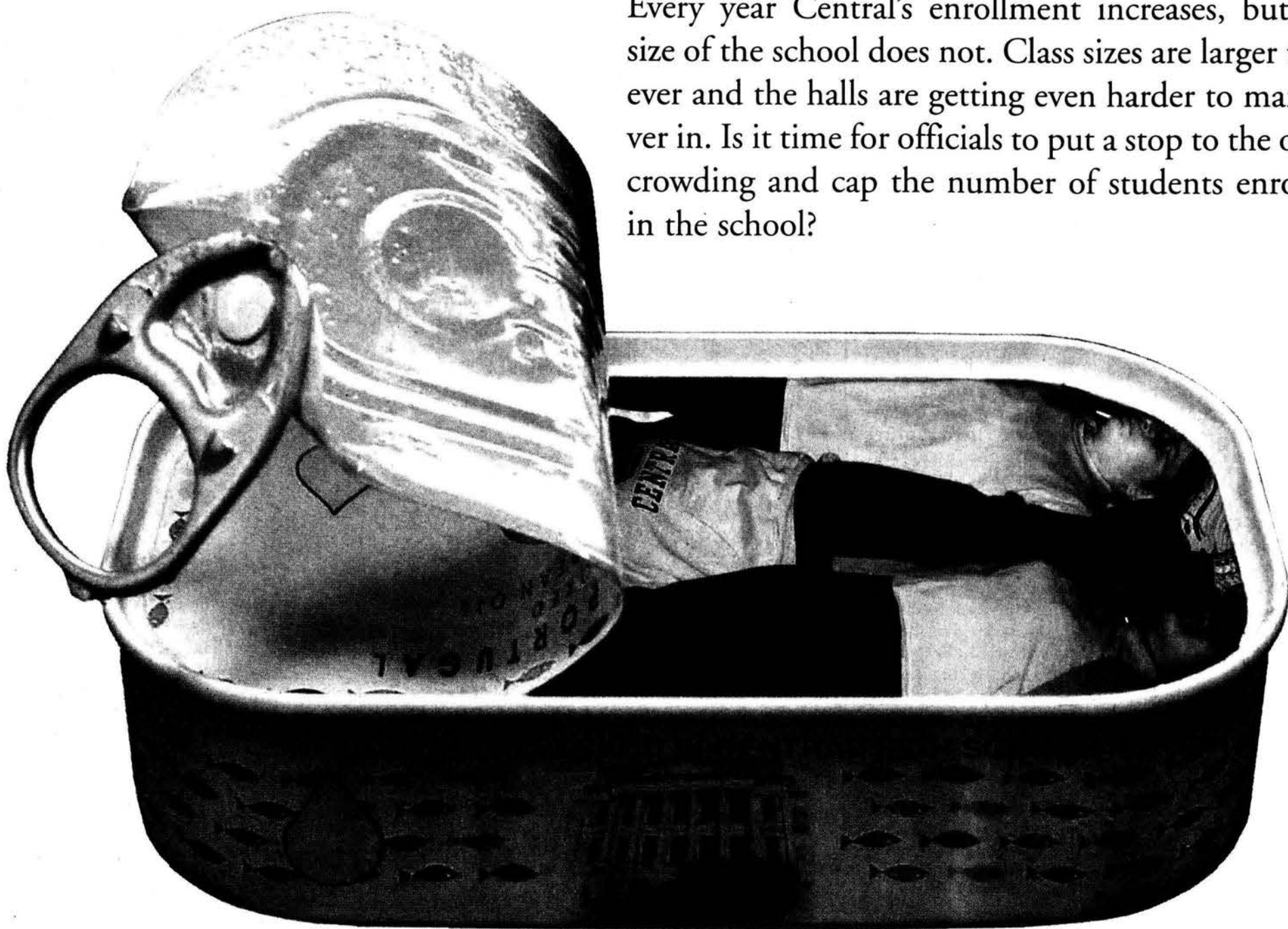
# OUTLOOK

Monday, November 18, 2002

B

Page 13  
The Register

## PACKED IN TIGHT



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Every year Central's enrollment increases, but the size of the school does not. Class sizes are larger than ever and the halls are getting even harder to maneuver in. Is it time for officials to put a stop to the overcrowding and cap the number of students enrolled in the school?

The old saying goes that there's no such thing as too much of a good thing.

The saying may not be necessarily true at Central.

This is one of the best schools in the state, well known for its high profile academics, excellent sports teams and diverse population.

Students from all over the city flock to Central to take advantage of all of the benefits that the school has to offer.

It makes sense.

What other school in the city offers such a wide variety of classes, high amount of Advanced Placement and honors options for courses and an incredible array of clubs, sports and extra-curricular activities?

So it's no wonder that students from all over the city and even surrounding cities want to come here.

But enough is enough. Central is currently over capacity. In fact, Central is so far over capacity that the portables on the field were brought in not because of renovations, but because there were too many students to fit in one building.

There has to be a way to do something about this. It is ridiculous to go to school in a place that is so large, yet students still do not have enough room to breathe.

The fact that Central still does not have any air conditioning does not help this fact.

Too many people plus soaring temperatures equals a no win situation where students feel uncomfortable in the very school they fought to attend.

There have been enrollment caps proposed numerous times in the past few years, but they have never been approved.

The district does not want to keep out any eligible kids from the school.

This problem is only increased by the open-enrollment policy that was adopted when forced busing ended. That fully opened the flood gates and allowed a mass influx into the school.

Overpopulation causes numerous problems at school, ones that run deeper than just being uncomfortable.

Too many kids mean some classes

are bigger than they should be. As hard as teachers try, they can only do what is humanly possible and may not be able to devote all of the attention to students that they need.

Overcrowding also wastes students' and teachers' valuable time.

If the halls were not so crowded, passing periods would not need to be so long. If classes were smaller, taking attendance would not last for ten minutes.

Maybe once the renovations are through, the problem will not be an issue anymore. The changes that will be made to the school will open up more classroom space and add some additional space to relieve the load.

But the renovations may bring even more students to Central. When future high schoolers see that Central is not only one of the strongest academic schools in the state, but also home to new facilities and technology, it may convince more students to become Eagles.

Eventually the district will have to make a stand. It will have to say, "this is it" and cap enrollment.

Sure, some students may be disappointed that they did not get into Central.

But what is better, going to a second-choice school or being miserable at a first-choice school because there are just too many kids in one place?

Though it may not seem appealing to students at first when they do not get into Central, it will be better in the long run.

The ideal answer would be to open a new school which would relieve the overpopulation problem.

Others school districts in the metro area, most notably Lincoln and Papillion-LaVista, will be opening new high schools in the near future.

Unfortunately, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) does not have the money for any such luxury.

So instead of expanding its scope, OPS will have to do a little reapportioning to try and balance out the populations at all seven public high schools.

Central is a great school and it is only natural for kids to want to go here. But to keep the school as great as it is, not everyone can be let in.

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff

## Dropout inappropriate label for some students

In the eyes of the state, one of my best friends is a high school dropout.

Now, if you knew the person in question, you would laugh at the idea of her being a dropout.

Just to give you a general idea of her personality, she's extraordinarily intelligent (quotes German literature all the livelong day), very kind, determined, employed and all-in-all basically everything that your stereotypical high school dropout is not.

Yet in the eyes of many, she is a high school dropout.

She chose to leave school to enter an independent study program which required her to disenroll, a.k.a. the official term for dropping out.

When I realized that, it made me think about how the phrase or idea of dropping out has such a negative stigma.

It also made me think about all of the other people I know who have not finished high school for one reason or another.

Many of them have done something productive with their lives, despite all stereotypes.

Now I admit that in most cases, dropping out is a bad thing. I've seen people drop out, claim they would go back, graduate or get a GED, but end up floating around town, bouncing from dead-end part-time job to dead-end part-time job.

That is obviously not a good thing.

Neither is dropping out because you/your girlfriend is pregnant or all the work your teachers ask from you is just too much.

Most of the people I see drop out have pathetic excuses.

Dropping out is not a catchall or end-all way to become rebellious, original or cool.

Others I see have really sad excuses, some sort of horrible personal troubles that they just cannot deal with anymore. In cases like that, it is no one's place to judge whether or not the reason for drop-

ping out is justifiable.

But then there are some people who just cannot fit into the mold that a traditional school provides for them.

Some people truly learn "outside the box" like the aforementioned friend.

Some may choose to leave school because of this and pursue outside endeavors that make them feel truly fulfilled.

So why should they have to deal with society's dropout stigma?

My friend could barely function in school. She honestly hated being in an environment where she felt stifled.

For her, dropping out was a way to ensure that she actually got through her teenage years.

I know she's not the only one of her kind. When I think of the most interesting people I know or know of, I can list at least ten of whom that never finished high school.

One of my favorite authors left school to run away from home to become an Associated Press stringer covering boxing matches.

Does she sound like your typical dropout?

Think of all the idealized glamorous gypsy-esque renegades that you see in really cliché movies about the wild and untamed who just cannot bear to live a normal life.

How many of them were worried about French homework or finishing a chemistry lab?

Albeit, these are not the greatest role models.

Actually, they are not role models at all, but they prove my point that not everyone is cut out for a traditional school and there is nothing wrong with that.

In fact, I think it could be a sign of a unique character or a free spirit, not a burger-flippin' failure.

For most people, finishing high school is a key to a good future and a happy life, that's pretty obvious.

But certain others need that road not taken or that unbeaten path.

Some people in life just need that certain je ne sais quoi.

More power to them.



LONG STORY SHORT

Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

In recent years, it has become a common sight to see books that advise students on the best way to fill out college applications, especially ones for Ivy League or select schools. The books are supposed to help students get into these schools. While some see them as a good tool for students who want to get accepted in an Ivy League school, others see it as one step above cheating.

8. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.

# Ad proposal sad sign of times

Just when it seemed advertisers had found every way to advertise every product, they managed to find a brand new venue.

The Omaha Police Department (OPD) has received a proposal that would give it a fleet of brand new cop cars- all of which would be covered with ads.

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The companies placing the ads would cover the entire cost of buying the cars and having the ads placed on them.

It is seemingly a free lunch for the OPD. But those in charge must remember the age-old adage, "there is no such thing as a free lunch."

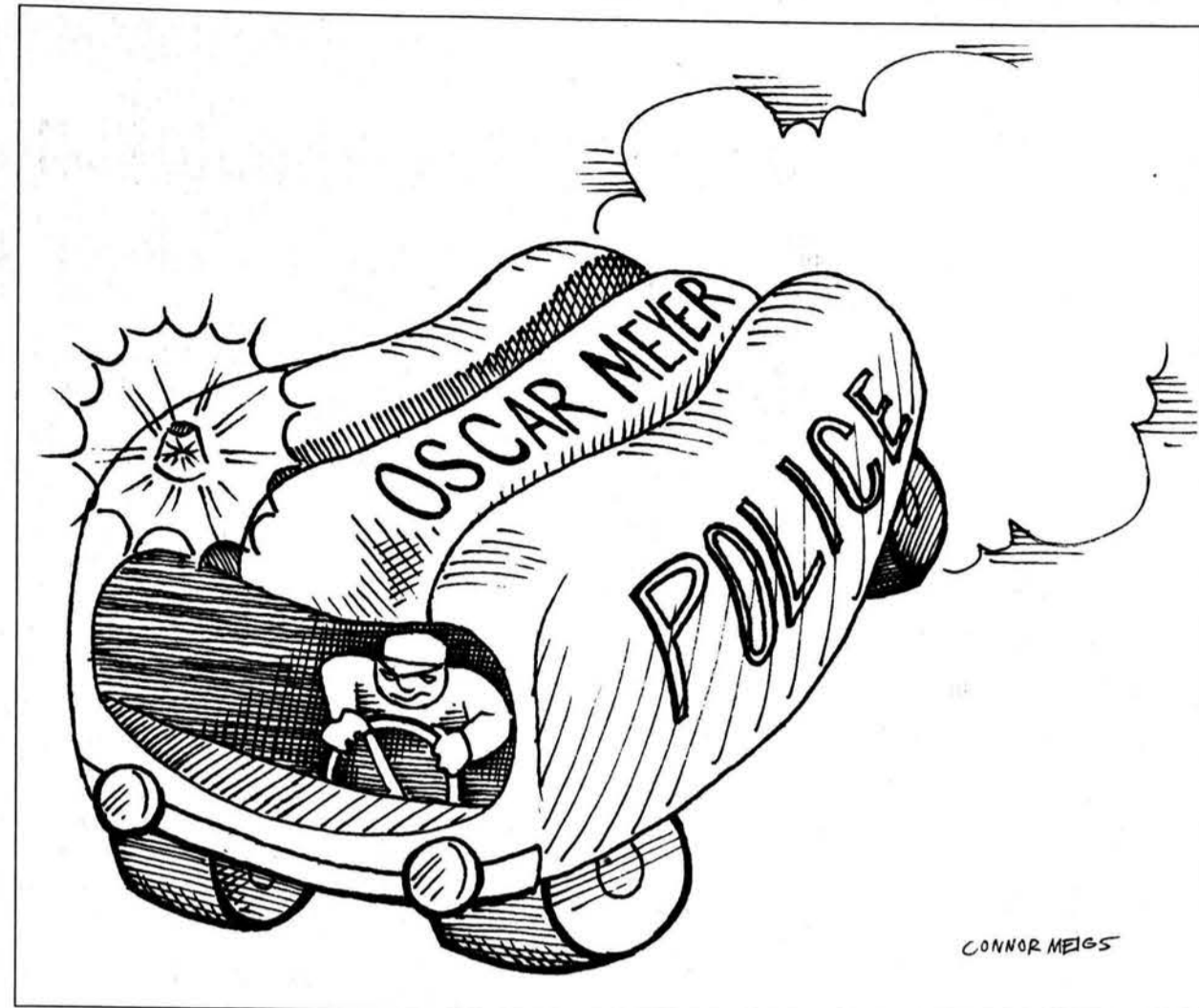
The OPD is in desperate need of these cars. Many of the cruisers it currently has are over the ideal mileage level, but they have to be used anyway because there is no alternative.

But this is not the way to do it. It may seem like a good idea on the surface, but there are deeper, more serious, moral implications that go along with this decision.

Police cars are tools of the law. There should be some air of dignity about them.

Imagine a police car pulling up to the scene of a fatal accident or going to tell the family of a gunshot victim that their son has died in a car with a Yahoo ad on the side.

Imagine a police car serving as an escort in a funeral service,



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all painted with fast food advertisements.

Not only is it undignified, but it is disrespectful and makes a mockery of police work.

It will also make people, especially people who already see the police department as a bureaucracy, think less of the officers because of the ridiculous cruisers that they drive.

The city is strapped for money, that has become obvious over the past few months of looming threats of budget cuts, but it cannot come down to this.

There must be a way to keep the police outfitted in properly working vehicles without selling the space on the side.

The police department has always prided itself on having a

code of honor and a set of values that ensures that it is doing the right thing for society.

Why should it have to shave away a little bit of that sense of morality just to receive new equipment?

Desperate times may call for desperate measures, but these proposed measures are not of desperation, they are of degradation.

# State should cease use of death penalty

Nebraska has been getting by for years with using the death penalty.

While other states around the nation abolished it or at least switched from the electric chair, a form considered inhumane and antiquated, to lethal injection or the gas chamber, Nebraska has not changed a thing.

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the right thing.

The court ruled that a jury, not a judge must hand down a death sentence. But in Nebraska, it was always the judge who gave a convict his sentence.

After hearing this news, there was talk of abolishing the death penalty in Nebraska, switching the state's method of execution or commuting all of the current death row inmates' sentences to life.

While this fuss may not be over with yet, it has brought the death penalty back into the public consciousness.

One thing has become blatant again, the death penalty should be abolished in the state of Nebraska.

Gov. Mike Johanns has made no secret of his support for the death penalty. As of late, he has been proposing a special session of the Legislature to vote on and potentially rewrite Nebraska's death penalty law.

The last minute special session is an obvious last-ditch attempt to keep the death penalty around for a little bit longer. But even if that works, there will be another time when it gets brought up and it will not be able to stand forever.

In a society that considers itself one of the most advanced in the world, the death penalty seems out of place.

It is a throwback to the days before the American justice system was as refined as it is now, before the concept of inmates' rights had ever been conceived.

In this century, the death penalty is no longer needed.

It is now a proven fact that it is cheaper to care for a prisoner for the entirety of his natural life in jail than it is to execute him and have to deal with the lengthy and expensive appeals process.

The Supreme Court's case should have served as a wake-up call to the state of Nebraska.

It was a sign that something needs to change. Nebraska needs to take the hint and step into the new millennium.

# Valuing acceptance above mere tolerance will encourage cultural diversity

Teaching tolerance is the dumbest idea since late night infomercials.

Now, before you go off in a rant about how I am racist, bigoted, hate-filled, or whatever else you want to come up with, let me explain.

I am one hundred and ten percent for the teaching of acceptance and understanding of cultures. But, tolerance is not understanding. Tolerance is just putting up with something.

I tolerate my little sister, I tolerate going to school, and I tolerate movies with poor plots.

However, I will not just tolerate other religions and cultures. Let me reiterate. I am for understanding and acceptance, but not for drawing the line just at tolerance.

If we all just took the time to learn a little about other cultures, the world would be a more peaceful place. Close your eyes (after you finish reading this, of course) and think of how much less war there would be.

I'm not saying that you have to go and hang out in a Satanist's grotto, but at least take the time to know about their religion.

While you may not know a Satanist, chances are you know a Catholic, a Jew, a Muslim, a homosexual, a heterosexual, an African-American, a Caucasian, an Asian or a Latino. Odds are you fit into at least one of these categories, but since you're not all of those (if you are, then congratulations you are the world's biggest minority), ask someone in one of the categories about his religion, culture or

way of life.

The goal of eliminating tolerance is not to eliminate all understanding and accepting, but rather, to increase the aforementioned things.

I am well aware how easy it is to let a "that's so gay" slip into a conversation. Maybe when you're on your way to class and someone walks into you, you might let out a slur or some bigoted obscenity. But, you have to remember that is just tolerance. If we were more understanding, these issues would decrease incredibly quickly.

If someone mocks your culture, you can only tolerate them for so long until you erupt into a volcano of anger.

This is the opposite of good because being a volcano of anger creates room for violence in a society that does not benefit from violence.

Schools should not support tolerance,

not because it isn't important to recognize and respect other cultures, but because tolerance is not working.

Tolerance is not working in the schools for two reasons. The first reason is because people casually say slurs as if they were an acceptable part of common-day English. The second is due to the fact that people are still ignorant, despite the weak attempt of the schools.

By this time I have tried to prove that I am not a hate monger, but some of you might be confused about what I am saying about understanding and accepting.

Understanding is taking the time to comprehend the ways of those like and unlike you.

Accepting is taking what you understand and using in your daily life.

I have a plan on how to eliminate tolerance from schools. Now, listen carefully because this is where it gets tricky.

As we enter elementary school, we are around many new kinds of people.

At least twice a week we are to do an activity with a partner. For example, the kindergartners might have to bring something important with them to school and they each get to talk about it. As the years progress, we continue to do the occasional activity with partners.

Over time these partners are able to understand and accept each other's cultures and religions.

Then, when someone makes a snide remark about the other person's race, creed, culture, or sexuality, the other student can stand up and tell the jerk to shut up. This will be the best way for schools to teach tolerance and understanding.

Just remember that mere tolerance is simply not good enough. People need to truly understand each other for society to work as it should.



LIKE A PARASITE

Sara Rips



AN OBJECTIVE SUBJECTIVITY

Connor Meigs

# Misconceptions lead to ignorance of Nebraska's good qualities, angers state's residents

Omaha must have gotten lost somewhere along the line.

I don't know how many times people have been surprised and confused when I told them where I was from.

Maybe I'm biased because I grew up in the city, but it really can't be as hard to locate as many non-Omaha residents make it out to be.

I guess I don't expect everyone to be able to pinpoint Omaha on a map.

On the other hand, it would be consoling to know that people in America have a vague recollection of the state Omaha is in, or at least the geographic region it's located in.

Omaha's enigmatic placement is not the only thing people are having trouble discerning.

People are attaching the prejudices and misconceptions they have against specific regions onto Omaha and its inhabitants.

Of course these misconceptions change depending on where the individual decides to place Omaha.

I could care less whether America ever discovers Omaha's true location, but it may be significant to note which individuals are having the most trouble with information pertaining to the city.

Once, during a trip to northern Minnesota, I overheard some of the locals laughing at a group of Omaha natives, remarking with French Canadian accents how odd the Omahans' accents were.

It sounded something like, "Leason der fooney accents, eh," which they then elaborated on with their theories of Midwestern dialect.

Often inhabitants of larger cities mistake Omaha as a small farming village where there's nothing to do.

Maybe that's not so far from the truth, but I'd like to believe Omaha's inhabitants have a few more pastimes other than tipping cows.

Even if someone finally finds out where Omaha actually is, inhabitants are still afflicted by being unfairly stereotyped as country bumpkins.

Although Omaha residents are justifiably irritated by these mistakes, they should realize that as long as Omaha is right across from Council Bluffs the confusion between the two cities will continue.

I like to pretend that at least the citizens of Omaha's neighboring communities have the ability to find Omaha on a map, but when I met a Kansas City native who thought Omaha was located in Idaho, I was forced to re-evaluate all my assumptions.

Omaha must be indefinitely lost, but if this is the case, who lost us?

Either that or everyone else in the continental United States doesn't realize there is actually a state in the middle of the country and not a major hole.

I would say that it was aliens, but that could be thought of as special profiling. Maybe if Lincoln hadn't stolen the credit of being the capital of Nebraska maybe Omaha would have gotten some recognition.

Maybe the fact that people find it impossible to locate Omaha doesn't matter at all.

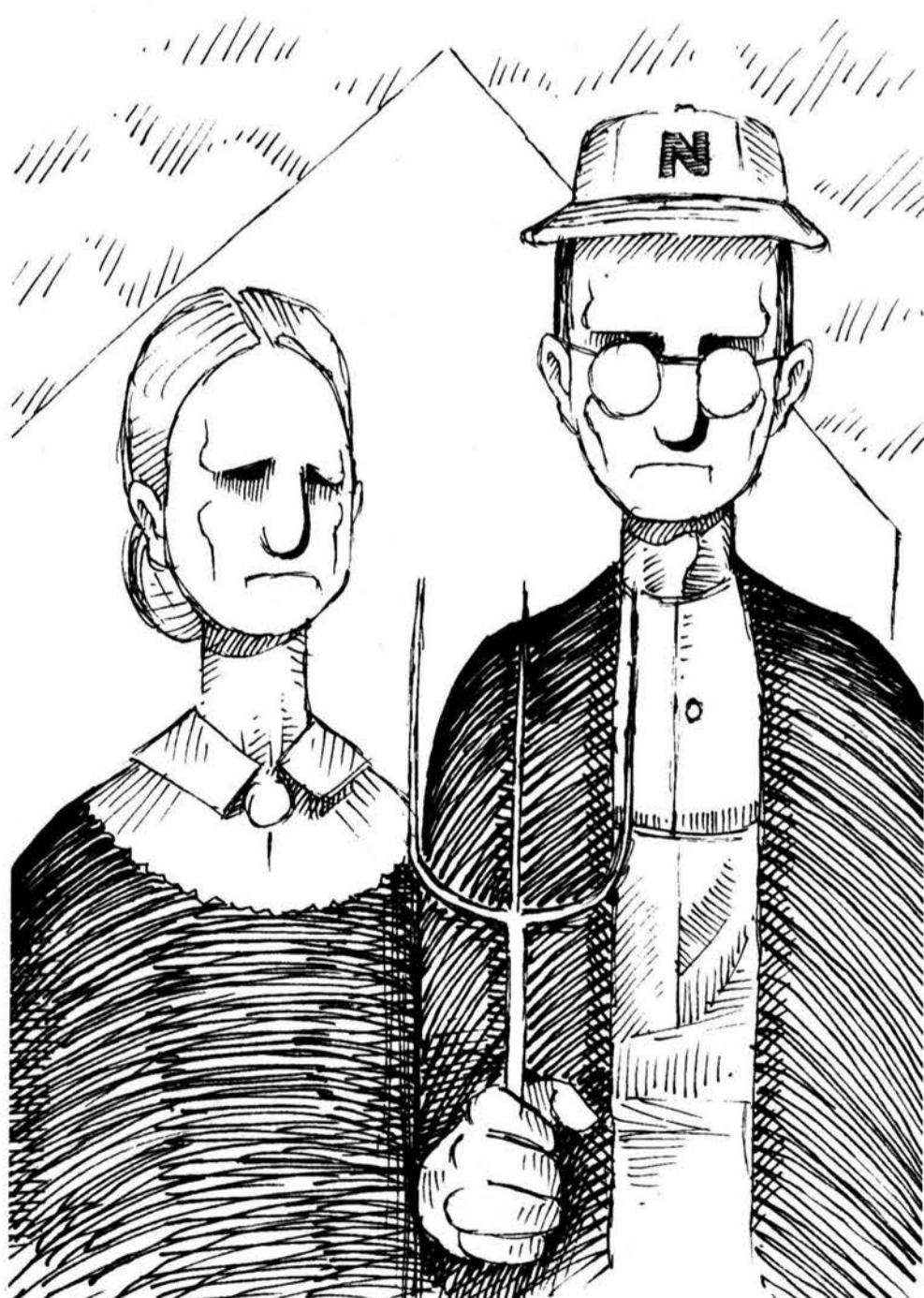
Do we really expect people to know where every little city is?

I mean who cares where North Dakota is?

On second thought that could be a state, but you get what I mean.

## Top 10 Misconceptions About Nebraska

1. We only go cow tipping on the weekends.
2. It's a great time to mortgage your sod house.
3. The fastest way to get around is via the Mormon Trail.
4. Gourmet cuisine consists of a 40 with a side of freshly smushed roadkill.
5. The only clothes we wear are red.
6. The "N" in Nebraska is for "Nowledge."
7. Rules about sibling love can get more than a little shady.
8. If it wasn't for the Platte River, it would be the Great American Desert.
9. The former football coach from our state university is one of our congressmen. Wait, that's actually true.
10. Voting Democratic is a capital offense, punishable by stoning.

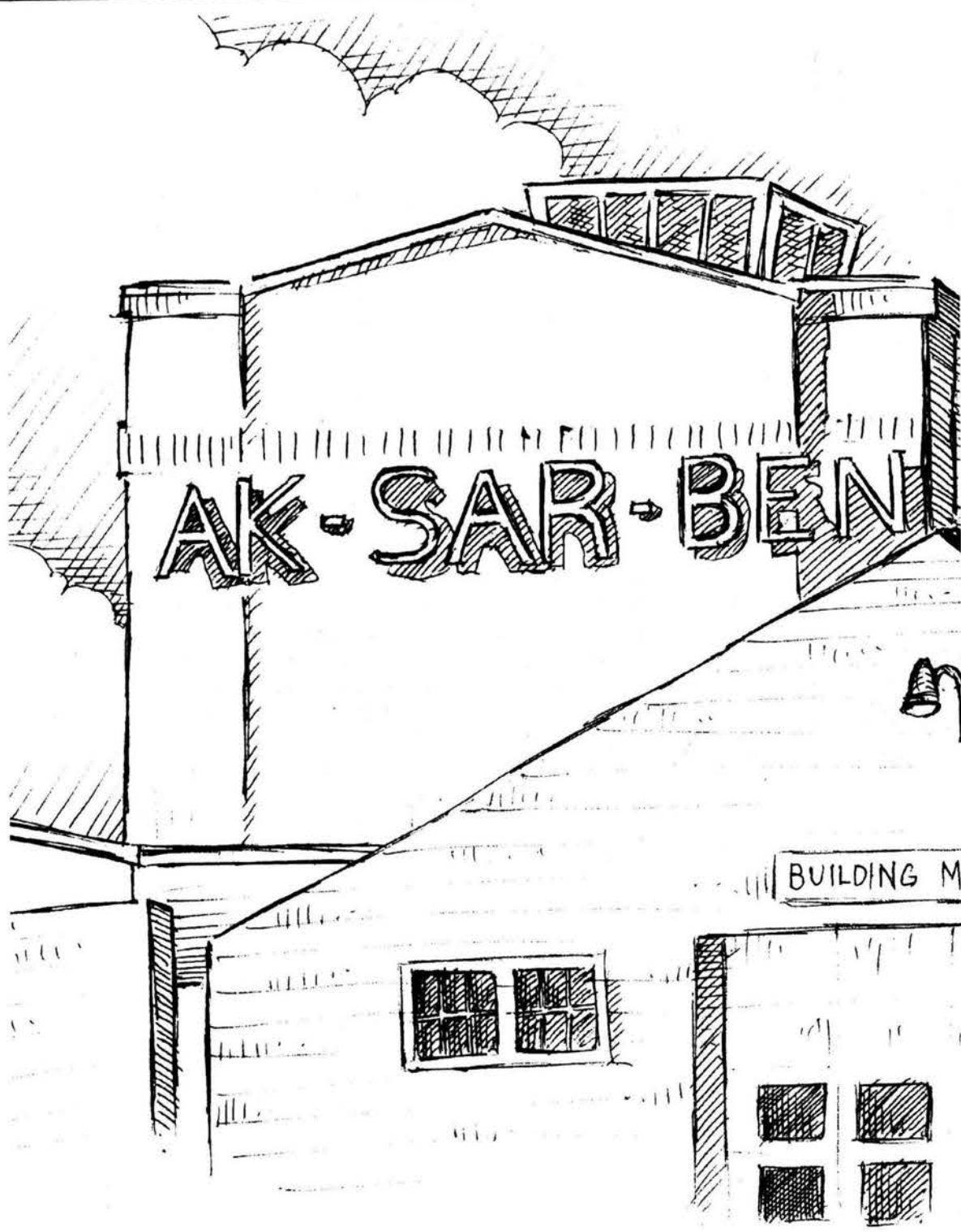


CONNOR MEIGS

# EDITORIALS

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably 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

## Landmark will be missed

Annual events that once took place in Ak-Sar-Ben now will soon become a memory.

After years of graduates streaming through the Ak-Sar-Ben for graduation ceremonies, it will be gone. The coliseum that once filled up 5,200 seats of family members and friends of the joyous students will now be reduced to a pile of rubble.

Ak-Sar-Ben's glory days are all over now. A place that was once a venue for some of the world's biggest stars to perform has reached the end of its life.

But it was good while it lasted.

Ak-Sar-Ben did a fantastic job providing for all of the people attending the graduation of thousands of high school students over the years.

This 75-year-old coliseum has also been a comfortable home away from home to countless musical and comical acts.

Stars such as Jerry Lewis, Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra and Bill Cosby have graced the stage at the hall, delighting Omahans with their unique and legendary performances.

Traditional events brought smiles and laughter into the walls of the building.

River City Roundup, rodeos and livestock shows decorated the open floor with color, foods and cattle and became popular places for families to come to find fun for all.

A skating rink added during the '70s added another invaluable feature to the coliseum.

By 1982, all of these features were in place and the coliseum remained that way until its demise this year.

Two hockey teams called Ak-Sar-Ben their home turf, the Omaha Knights and the Lancers. The games provided another place for fun and athletic enjoyment, no small feat in a town with no professional teams.

These family events will be missed, but they

will not be gone forever.

Concerts, graduations, the River City Roundup and hockey will continue on at other venues, eventually a class whose members are too young to even remember Ak-Sar-Ben will graduate at some other place.

### EDITORIAL

.....  
The opinion of  
the Register staff

Omaha Civic Auditorium will take in most of the events, but nothing can compare to the path well-paved at Ak-Sar-Ben.

Even though Ak-Sar-Ben will soon be knocked down with a heavy steel wrecking ball, no one can forget how Nebraskans used to spell Nebraska backwards for one of the greatest coliseums in Omaha.

Landmarks like the coliseum tend to get knocked down when they stand in the way of progress or development or whatever it may be called when the old is sacrificed in place of the new.

Maybe this is part of the price the city must pay for having a new convention center under construction. There already is the Civic Auditorium. Omaha is simply not a big enough town to support that many different large entertainment venues.

But few other entertainment venues will ever be able to boast the history of Ak-Sar-Ben.

The Indian Hills theater would have been able to, had it not been torn down a year ago to make place for a parking lot. Now the only other places in town that can ever compare are the Orpheum and Dundee Theaters.

It is a fact as old as the hills that progress is inevitable. It is also known that progress cannot happen without something being lost along the way.

But when what has to be lost is a landmark, a piece of a city, a rare old building that still had some distinctive character, it is more than a little sad to see it go.

## State should follow New York's example to keep teachers here

Over the years Nebraska has faced a dramatic teacher shortage. When will Nebraska get the idea? The solution has been under the state's nose for years, and no one been able to pick it up.

Other states have had the same problem and the problem was fixed.

How?

New York increased teacher salaries, some as much as \$7,000 annually.

Other, more experienced public school teachers in the state are making as much as \$61,000 per year.

The average annual salary for teachers in Nebraska is around \$34,000. That average includes veteran teachers who make significantly more than newer teachers because extra years of experience or education.

This is barely over half of what some New York teachers make.

Maybe it is time Nebraska followed its example and raised teacher salaries.

Believe it or not, when the rewards are higher, the turnout will be higher, and that is what Nebraska has wanted for quite some time now.

Now, obviously there is no extra money lying around to just give to teachers. Maybe the state should reconsider some priorities in its budget to give teachers a fairer shake.

There are a few examples of projects and plans that Nebraska has wasted too much money on that may show how the state could trim the fat a little.

First of all, useless tourist attractions, like the Kearney archway.

Yes, this will bring a few more tourists and eventually a little more money to the state.

But what is more important, a big concrete slab over the highway for a quality education for the people who are the state's future?

So let's get teachers back before the

shortage problem gets worse than already is.

Nebraska needs to realize that incentives are important in getting teachers to stick around. State schools may not be the worst in the country, but they have their fair share of problems.

Many new teachers are thrown into overcrowded classrooms, full of sub-par equipment and kids who do not want to learn because they have never been in a situation where learning seems beneficial.

Over 30 kids in a room with barely enough desks to accommodate them all is a situation that many teachers in Nebraska face on a daily basis. This could be intimidating for anyone.

Which is why Nebraska should treat all of its teachers, new or veteran, with a little more respect and dignity.

According to the National Education Association, the average Nebraska teacher has been teaching for 15 years.

Of the 20,560 teachers in Nebraska, 36 percent of them have their master's degrees.

Teachers deserve a raise anyway. They do not deserve a raise, then they at least deserve to be able to work with students who are not going to interrupt class and joke like school is nothing.

Teachers work too hard for the minimal amounts of money they get paid.

It takes a special type of person to become a teacher. A good teacher is a parent, part friend, part everything.

A good teacher does not mind going the extra mile to help students who need it and tries to get them actively involved in class.

The solution is clear, Nebraska.

Raise salaries and the teachers will come with bells on. It will only get better from there.

## Cheating should be seen as new way of learning, breakthrough in teaching

I did not cheat when I wrote this column. I must swear to this.

This has been the first year in my four at Central where teachers have been taking extreme countermeasures that are affecting even the most honest of students.

For example, at the conclusion of every Statistics test I must now sign a pledge that says I did not give or receive aid during the exam. Why?

This pledge will not persuade me or anyone else to not cheat if they really want to. It appears that the trust between the teacher and the student has declined faster than Enron's stock. The majority of students at Central probably have cheated at some point in their time in high school.

For most people, it is a phase that they go through when they are trying to find a way to get by when everything seems to be due at once. I would rather cheat on my homework one night than work well into the morning finishing it, just to skip school the next day because I am too tired.

Don't get me wrong, cheating happens on a regular basis at Central. Some students will always resort to less ethical methods to gain an advantage over others. This happens when 2,500 students are competing for grades.

Those who find themselves cheating repeatedly will eventually find themselves in a dead-end job flipping burgers. They will realize that by learning nothing in school, they threw away their next 40 years of their lives. That sounds like enough punishment for me.

Cheating will happen in the darkest of corners, even if great measures are taken to prevent it. The question now becomes determining what the word cheating actually means.

Many teachers and school officials believe that a student must not help or receive any help on their schoolwork, for it is their schoolwork.

This philosophy has been outdated for the last century. Why is it still being used? Students should be given the opportunity to cheat, or more correctly,

"learn as a group." As a group near every detail of a course is known in collective knowledge. This allows the group to teach themselves and cover information faster and more efficiently.

As a group, members may do homework together. Would this still be cheating? They each would know how to do the work plus they would learn it in a much faster way. People would also be working together, which is another benefit of this style of learning.

If the students each knew how to do the problems, would there still be a need to cheat on a test?

Cheating on tests is generally a way to cover for the information that they did not learn.

Maybe this new way of thinking would also help create a new way of learning. Maybe schools would be a little bit more enjoyable if everyone learned and worked together, instead of spending countless late nights making up for what was missed during the day.

This could only work if students were given back the trust. Students cannot work together to solve problems if there is a chance that it will be considered cheating.

At the very least this new way of learning would give students another medium to learn from what they need to be successful. Whether or not they apply it would be squarely on the shoulders of the students.

If this method proves unsuccessful, so be it. Our current educational model is not perfect. It is merely a collection of methods that have withstood the test of time. If we try my "cheating" system, maybe it will influence another, better one.

I will continue to practice my new philosophy of learning for now. Maybe it will catch on and be the greatest thing since sliced bread. For now, at least, I will not sign any blind statements on a test proclaiming my honesty. I did give and receive aid from my peers.

Working together is better than failing alone.



MYSTERY WHITE BOY

Aaron Maurice

## HEROES & ZEROS

### -UNO Students

Congratulations to the UNO students who have been vocally protesting on campus lately in response to looming budget cuts. The fact that these young people care so much about their education and that they are able to be vocal and active about it in a nonviolent, mature way is commendable.

### -Spanish National Honor Society

This group of students has been taking the time to give back to the community by teaching Spanish to disadvantaged students.

### -Blood Drive Volunteers

Last month's blood drive was a resounding success thanks to all of these students' hard work. Together, they and all of the donors saved many lives through all of the blood that was collected and donated.

### -Midterm Exams

Once again, midterms have put a thorn in the side of both students and teachers. These tests throw an additional bit of stress into what is already a very stressful time, since many teachers are beginning to assign semester projects right before midterms week.

### -Grade Reports

By scheduling parent-teacher conferences weeks after the quarter ends, all of the of grades students earn have the potential to be outdated or changed.

### -90 Day Transfer Policy

Although the policy has positive benefits, it may block some talented athletes from playing. Making students wait to play only delays their chances to get athletic scholarships.

# OPINION

"I like to talk to my friends too, but I've found a way to move my mouth and my feet at the same time.

It's a new idea called walking, please take advantage of your ability to do so."

Lindsay Coppock, 12

## The Big Issue: Overcrowding

### Careless people worsen crowds

Dear Editor,  
To all you people who enjoy lounging around in front of the staircases, the doorways or the courtyard during passing period: get out of my way!

Today, I had to move out of the way of a couple making out right in front of a staircase, just so I could get to my class.

I like to talk to my friends, too, but I've found a way to move my mouth and my feet at the same time.

It's a new idea called walking, please take advantage of your ability to do so.

It aggravates me that I get smart comments from people and literally pushed out of the way when I am being held up by 273 people in front of me.

The middle of the courtyard is not the ideal place to socialize.

So please and thank you, take heed of this advice.

Lindsay Coppock, 12

### Registration cap badly needed

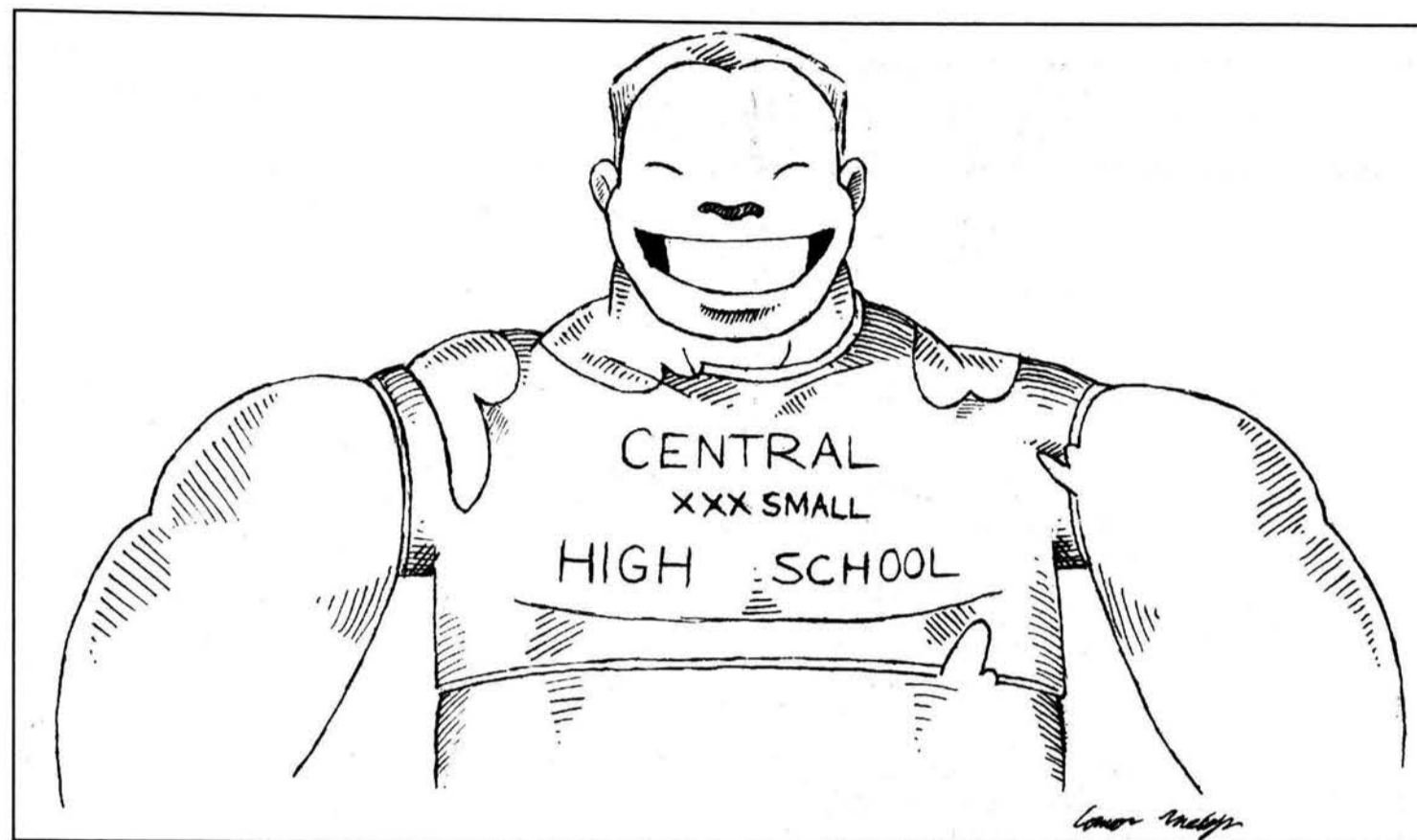
Dear Editor,  
I have a comment about the overcrowding of Central.

I think they should have capped registration since this school isn't made for this many students. The rudeness and crudeness of some of the students is alarming.

The way people shove and yell at people to get to where they need to be is shocking.

I'm highly upset that Central has turned into a breeding ground for bad manners.

Sarah Schulte, 11



### Courtyard lacks space for all

Dear Editor,

There's not enough chairs in the courtyard.

It seems like every time you get up to get your food or throw your trash away, somebody steals your chair.

Even if your books are on it, they just put your books on the ground and take your chair anyway.

Also, some people have nearly 13 chairs at one table. I just think that there should either be more chairs or a capacity limit.

That's my opinion.

Luke Bird, 9

### Population becomes ridiculous

Dear Editor,

Central is very big!

We have five minute passing periods, that should be enough time. But when people stop in crowds and don't move, it's ridiculous.

You can get through, but you don't have enough time because of them.

It's just ridiculous. People, learn how to walk.

Amanda Wirth, 10

### Congestion in hallways irritates

Dear Editor,

Central hallways are way too crowded.

It really irritates me when people are standing in the doorways or in the middle of the hall and I try to get past them and they say "Excuse you" in a rude tone.

It irritates me that they get mad at me for trying to get to my class.

I don't mind people talking in the hallways, they just need to move out of the way of traffic.

Rachel LaCroix, 12

### REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think Central is overcrowded? Why or why not?



"Yes I do because there are so many people it causes traffic problems."

J.R. Powell, 9



"I think they should cap it eventually, but it's not that bad right now."

Nick Waszak, 11



"I don't think it is overcrowded because the class sizes aren't that big, but I don't think they should let anymore students in."

Garrett Day, 10



"There are a lot of students, but it is not unmanageable. I think the policy makers should keep considering the enrollment policy though."

Sarah Alston, 11



"It's incredibly overcrowded because you can't move without hitting five other people."

Jennifer Adams, 11



"Yeah, in my opinion, it is overcrowded. There's a lot of kids in the hallways, it's hard to get to your locker or find your seat in the courtyard."

Dan Klacynsky, 10



"Yes, because a lot of kids in the hallways make it hard to get to classes on time."

Krystal Griffin, 9

## LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES AND POLLS

### Music coverage needs to be more diverse

Dear Editor,

I just have one request for the newspaper this year. That is to put all types of music listings and stories in the entertainment section.

I remember a time last year, I'm not sure exactly when, but it was around the time of the Ja Rule and Ludacris concert, which was not included in the area of the paper that listed concerts and the like.

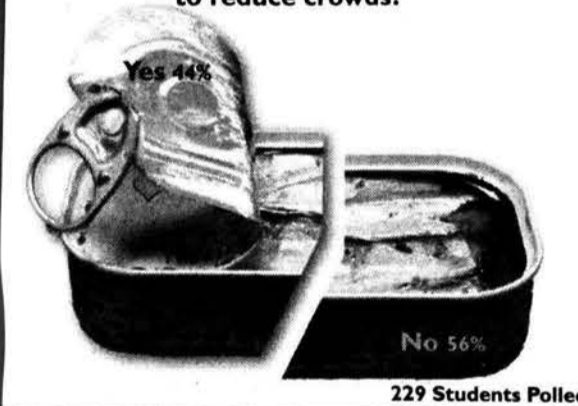
There was every rock, emo, pop, etc. concert in there, but it said nothing about R&B, hip-hop or rap.

In order to have a great newspaper that everyone wants to read for entertainment, and not just for sports information, the staff needs to cover all of the bases of what everyone likes, not just some bases of what some people like.

Ashley Scheel, 11

### Student Poll

Do you think Central needs to cap enrollment to reduce crowds?



### All sports need equal amounts of attention

Dear Editor,

I think that some of the smaller sports should get more coverage. Golf, track, tennis and soccer don't get very much attention. Please try to include them in the next issue.

Sara Illig, 10

### Club hockey team has good season outlook

Dear Editor,

October starts the second year of club high school hockey in Omaha. I am the hockey coach for Metro North, a team that has many of its players from Central. Since most of the players are from Central, I thought it would be important to let your student body know what is happening in this new league.

Metro North starts this season off as last year's play-off champs.

It was a great year, and we are looking forward to retaining our crown. Last year, the league was comprised of six teams. This year there are 10.

The following is the makeup of the club teams: Metro North: Central, North, Benson, Northwest, Bennington, Roncalli and Woodbine

Creighton Prep: two teams

Skutt/Elkhorn

### Letters to the Editor Wanted

Letters to the Editor are gladly accepted in room 315, via e-mail at [register@ops.org](mailto:register@ops.org) or in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office.

Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.

Westside  
Millard North  
Millard West  
Millard South  
Papillion

Metro South: Omaha South, Bellevue East, Bellevue West, Gross, Bryan, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln

I strongly encourage your student body to come to these fun games.

The games are usually Monday through Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. at Tranquility Ice Complex and Sunday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m. at Motto McLean Ice Complex.

Last year, upwards of 700 fans came to our games. The admission is free.

I encourage your students to bring Central High flags, mascots or other items bearing your school colors to show support for the team. Hockey is a very fast and exciting sport to watch.

I look forward to coaching the Metro North team this year. I have been coaching for 15 years and am looking forward to what may be the best year ever.

Students can contact me directly by e-mail if they have any questions at [ttctrtrts@aol.com](mailto:ttctrtrts@aol.com).

Thank you.

John Thomas  
Coach, Metro North

### Aerobics classes deserve better equipment

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on how our aerobics classes do not get very much money for equipment. We hardly have enough mats, pedometers or step boxes.

Although we do have great music, microphones

and videos, I am just thinking that if we have to take gym, shouldn't we have better stuff?

We also have a great class and good teachers.  
Jenni Mapes, 10

### Next year's inconveniences will be greater

Dear Editor,

So we have half of a turf with four portables on it, no northwest entrance and jackhammers running almost all day.

This makes for a pretty bad mix of not only inconvenience during our daily passing periods, but also sound pollution when the windows are open.

So we think the situation is bad now, right? Let's just wait until next year when we won't have the second floor.

Most students should be able to overcome their sentimental feelings toward floor number two, but what about our precious rectangles of personal space, otherwise known as lockers, that it holds?

Without the second floor, we lose a fourth of the lockers. I don't know about you, but I would find it very odd if they decided to put transport those out to the turf.

Remodeling of the fourth floor cafeterias will change the location and arrangement of eating areas and study halls.

Over 20 portables on the turf will take up the room for morning football and band practices.

Also, I have heard some talk of only having one or two staircases to the third floor open at a time. I don't think I need to explain the madness that would cause.

Okay, do you still think things are crazy now? Think again. It's going to be chaos, complete lunacy!

From the point of view of an upcoming senior, I get to enjoy the traffic and horror of construction and not reap any of the benefits before I graduate.

I realize the school needed to be updated, but why all at once? I really can't wait to see how this all turns out. I know myself and many other students would appreciate an explanation of the construction process so we can better understand the necessity of this disruption of our daily routines.

Hollie Engdahl, 11

### Student Poll

Do you think binge drinking is a problem among students at Central?



# Guilty plea reminds all of evils of drinking, driving

Recently, Central was reminded of how drinking and driving can destroy lives. It is now up to its students to listen to it.

On Weds. Oct. 16, 2002, Kevin Tadlock pled guilty to felony motor vehicle homicide for causing the car accident that killed RoseAnn Incontro, a Central freshman at the time of the accident.

This has served as a sad reminder of the tragedies that can occur when people drink and drive.

Driving should not be taking as lightly as it is, especially by teens.

Too many people think it is all

right to down a six-pack in an hour and then get behind the wheel of a two-ton machine and take it wherever they may please.

Some people think that driving is a right, not a privilege granted by the state and therefore they should be able to do it in any condition that pleases them because heaven forbid anyone infringe on their "rights" to do so.

A large amount of people think that it will never happen to them, that they can "handle" their liquor and still be able to drive.

It is a common perception that it is okay to drive drunk if it is only done once in a while.

Attitudes like that cause acci-

dents like Tadlock's.

Attitudes like that cause tragedies like Incontro's death.

Luckily, more and more people are becoming aware of the dangers and tribulations of driving under the influence.

More people are choosing designated drivers when they go out or simply choosing not to drink.

There is even a new club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) that was started to discourage students from drinking and driving.

This is a good start, but there is still a lot to be done.

While raising awareness is a good thing, people must make active decisions not to drink and

drive.

High school students need to understand that when they choose to drink and drive, they are not making a choice that only affects them. This choice also affects any person who happens to be out on the road at the same time.

It affects anyone who happens to be walking along the sidewalk as the car passes. It affects anyone who is crossing the street.

Under the law, teenagers should not even be drinking to begin with.

It is pretty bad to break one law and risk getting arrested and having that conviction on a permanent record forever.

But to compound that conviction with a drunk driving con-

viction or a vehicular homicide conviction is even worse.

A drunk driver may say it is his right to do as he pleases, but it is not his right to do any harm to anyone else.

The laws made against drinking and driving were made for a reason.

They were made to protect innocent citizens from reckless drivers and reckless drivers from themselves.

Most importantly, they were made to be followed, not to be disregarded by young people who believe they are invincible and indestructible.

It's time for a wake up call among teenagers. It's time to realize that actions have repercus-

sions and rules were made for a reason.

It's time to realize that it is simply not acceptable to drink and drive.

RoseAnn Incontro died because someone else did not learn those important lessons.

She was a young woman full of potential that could never be realized because someone else chose to act carelessly without any regard for others.

She could have been anything she dreamed of and made incredible accomplishments during her life.

But now she is not able to do that is the biggest tragedy of all.

A tragedy like that should never, ever happen again.



## Gender equality should be educational goal

Females have burned their bras, refused to shave their armpits and developed catchy slogans to help hurry along the women's rights movement.

Now according to a study by Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), males are the ones in need of the revolution.

The survey showed that not only do females outnumber males in most colleges, they also outscore them on many standardized tests.

Historically, females have outscored males in the reading and writing portion. Now, males are not only lagging behind females in reading and writing, they also score lower in the science and math portions of the tests.

Females should be applauded for their success in a "man's world." They have worked hard to live up to, and exceed, the expectations of males.

Yet little, if any, organized effort has been made to directly address the long history of males scoring lower in reading and writing.

The success females have achieved in math and science is attributed to their response to the cultural awareness that they are weaker in these fields. Once they were told that they were "weaker" in these fields, they actively worked to

improve test scores.

With the knowledge that males are now becoming weaker in all areas, teachers need to cater their instruction to accommodate these needs.

Ideally, there should be no difference in scores between the two genders. But if one is falling behind, attention should be given to make sure things are as even as possible.

Females lagged behind for years not because they were less intelligent, but because societal pressures often convinced them that they could not do well.

It took years of work for those barriers to be broken down and for females to live up to their potential.

This does not mean males have been dealt a bad hand. Just because females are catching up does not mean males are being held back.

There could be a variety of reasons why males are not performing as well as their counterparts.

Some men, especially teenaged boys, do not think it is "cool" to do well academically. Others simply have their priorities mixed up, ranking social life or athletics above school.

There are no proven significant differences between the intellectual capacities of males and females. It is up

to each individual to make a difference and represent his or her gender well.

That means males cannot be given any special treatment to make sure they can play catch up.

There are not any "female only" tutoring sessions. Males must also work harder to compete with the ever-growing female population.

It is not only the teachers' responsibility to assist the males in catching up with the females in these areas.

Males must also take action to make schools an equal place for both sexes.

If this serious lacking of males in these fields does not receive attention from teachers, students and parents, a reverse revolution may occur.

One theory on why the academic weaknesses of males have not received much attention is because the weakness does not seem to hurt them economically. In the workplace, the average salary of males is higher than that of females, with males still dominating high-tech fields.

If the pattern that the WASL detected continues on into the work field, many fields currently dominated by males would switch over to predominately females.

While females should have all of the same opportunities as males, the goal should be equality, not supremacy.

## Nostalgia brings desire for lost remains of childhood

As a junior in high school I am already more nostalgic than my grandparents.

From transformers to four square, I miss everything about everything that used to be anything to me.

The list is endless.

Voltron, you know, those mechanical cats that formed together to create one giant cat warrior.

They were sort of like Power Rangers except a decade earlier and with fur.

I can't even remember when that was still a Saturday morning cartoon.

Simply looking at the old toys makes me get all emotional.

How sad is it that while a 70 year-old man sits on a park bench and remembers the first time he met his wife in that park, I sit a few feet away remembering that time so long ago, a year and a half ago when I was a freshman, when we went to McDonald's that one time?

While my teacher tells the class sadly how she remembers exactly where she was the day that JFK was shot, I'm not even paying attention.

I am too wrapped up in myself remembering how good life was back in the years of the Clinton administration to bother with anyone else's nostalgia.

But I'm not the only one. Just yesterday morning I overheard a conversation that went something like this:

Freshman Girl #1: Geez, do you remember the good old days?

Freshman Girl #2: You mean back in middle school?

They've only been part of the Central community for three months and already they're wasting away reminiscing when they were big-shot eighth graders.

Seniors at least tend to be a little bit more refined in their nostalgia.

Upperclassmen get teary-eyed remembering preschool when the female members of the class still had girl-cooties and the worst insult imaginable was, "Well I'm not inviting you to my birthday party."

But I have to reach further back into my memories to get truly nostalgic. Nothing gives me a better flashback than the old toys that truly defined my childhood.

Thinking back about Tamagachi still chokes me up.

And yo-yos! Oh, yo-yos.

The entire two months that yo-yos were popular were some of the best

times in my life.

I could do a double around the world better than anyone else I knew could.

For a little while there I even wondered if yo-yoing might be the profession for me.

Sadly yo-yos were the way of the Pog and the \$20 Duncan Deltax yo-yo that I begged my parents to buy me.

Heck, that's even better than my He-man action figure.

Generally, I hear the elderly reminisce about how high school was the greatest time of their lives.

I go to high school, if you're reading this then you probably do, too!

If this is the greatest time of our lives then I shudder to think what the future holds.

And since I spend so much of my time remembering how good life used to be then what will I have to remember 50 years from now?

I will sit on a park bench throwing crumbs to the pigeons thinking about how good life was back when I was reminiscing about when someone would say a bad word and everyone would turn and point:

"Ooooooooooh, Ooooooooooooooh, you said a cuuuuurse worrrrrrrd."

Everything is better when you remember it fondly.

The days of high school spent wishing you could crawl into a hole and die will seem much less harsh in 20, 30, 50 years.

By that time new memories and old age will have eroded away at all of the embarrassing, humiliating or just plain horrible things we have all endured one time or another.

After that amount of time, nothing will be left but the golden childhood memories of good times and the somewhat whitewashed, dulled memories of high school.

Nostalgia truly is a beautiful thing. It lets you keep your memories while keeping the bad details conveniently out of mind.

Time may be able to heal all wounds, but nostalgia can turn a sharp attack into a bee sting.

Maybe after enough time even thinking about cafeteria food will make me want to cry.

For now I'll have to settle for eating it to induce tears.

That's the way life is.



THE FIRST DRAFT

John Owens-Ream

## Misleading 'troubled' label makes youths look like bad apples, covers up good qualities

I've managed to do it again. I've put myself in a position I don't want to be.

I've put myself squarely in the hands of the Douglas County Justice Department.

Not that I have anything against the county justice department, but it is the reason I am currently part of a juvenile court diversion program meant for "troubled" youths.

Nearly every student knows the connotation of the word, "troubled."

It's the one-for-all word that many adults in this world use to describe any stoner, skater, goth and any other youth subculture that has been unfairly labeled just

because one of them has gotten a bad wrap.

Personally, I've never considered myself a "troubled" youth.

I've always been pretty sure of who and what I am, and most importantly, what I want to do and how I intend to achieve it.

Unfortunately, in the eyes of the court, this made no difference and I was given a date with the local diversion counselor, a seemingly nice, yet conservative woman who seems to have a burning desire to reform these "troubled" youths.

In theory, reformation is a great idea, but reality and the reform theory have their problems.

First of all, the diversion pro-

gram is run by the Boy Scouts of America.

The very same young men's association whose last great reformation (nothing short of a full-blown controversy) involved banning all openly gay males from their organization, which leads me to believe that perhaps the Boy Scouts of America isn't the wisest youth diversion venue in Douglas County.

Perhaps MADD Dads, local religious youth groups or other youth programs who give youth an equal chance could better reform these youths.

One only has to ask openly homosexual former Boy Scouts about this. Discrimination is not reformation.

Second, the idea that youth can be "troubled" is ignorant in

my eyes. It's a word that has lost much of its meaning.

Keep in mind many people are troubled in this world.

The homeless, for instance, who for one reason or another can't seem to find a home.

Or whales who are being hunted to near extinction.

Or people who climb on dangerously high towers without proper safety equipment.

Or people (NOT necessarily youths mind you) who get drunk and get behind the wheel of car.

The list goes on and on.

The fact that I am a young person, who is still in school, taking honors classes, listed on the honor roll and an active volunteer with a single misdemeanor on my criminal record doesn't necessarily qualify me as being "troubled."

The way I see it, the positives in my life have outweighed the negatives.

That doesn't justify labeling me or anyone else who has such an overall positive record.

Now, true, some stoners and skaters have had their squabbles with the law.

But I do not know members of either group to be malicious, dangerous or destructive, and actually, anything but what I mentioned above.

The label is just wrong.

So ultimately, the word "troubled" is a stereotype (much like "zero tolerance") that is blinded to what it should be: a policy or method that has care for the circumstances of each and every individual.

And to anybody who would

ever label me, or any other youth "troubled," I wouldn't nearly see it that way.

If anything, we're set.

We may make mistakes every once in a while, but for the most part, we are smart kids.

We are also the future of this great nation and should be trusted to be good honest citizens.

Today's young people are not a troubled group. We are just young and sometimes make mistakes.

All people make mistakes. How come youth are the only section of society that is labeled as being troubled?

People need to look at the person as an individual and not as part of some group that is incorrectly labeled.

Give us a chance.



MY TWO CENTS

Steve Packard

## Internet

# Censorship invades students' lives

Over my years at Central, I have realized that the school becomes more and more ridiculous every day.

I was in the library, typing a paper that was due in about 30 minutes. Needless to say, I was desperate to fill pages.

A random Internet search of the words "Middle East" revealed several sites in which access was denied by "Symantec Web Security."

Out of curiosity, I looked up a couple other subjects that may some how have a questionable nature, like birth control or anything remotely dealing with terrorism.

They were all blocked. My frustration continued to grow.

I was just about to slam my chair through the computer screen, when I heard a familiar Nelly tune.

Now "Country Grammar" isn't exactly the type of song I would expect to hear on a Monday afternoon in the library.

But sure enough, the kid sitting two seats away from me was singing along with Nelly.

Upon closer inspection, the girl two rows in front of me was watching the new Alicia Keys video.

Huh, that's funny. How is it that if I want to utilize the Internet for purely educational reasons, I can't, but by all means, I can watch all my favorite pop-stars' latest videos, or bask in the glow of Eminem's "phat" rhymes.

The truth is that the censorship at this school is not only too excessive, it is poorly handled. Something needs to fix these problems ASAP.

Now I can understand the administration's problems with websites pertaining to building pipe bombs and hardcore pornography, but I fail to see the reason why sites with purely educational applications are restricted.



YES, I'M WHINY  
Devon O'Connell

High school students aren't little kids. They may be quite immature at times, but they aren't stupid.

Censorship has never ever led to anything positive, even when it is applied to teenagers.

Another thing completely blocked at Central is e-mail.

Hotmail, AOL, Earthlink, you name it, it's restricted.

I understand that a lot of kids use e-mail just for social reasons, but there is a large percentage who don't.

E-mail is a way to correspond electronically, and it is becoming increasingly important with the onslaught of college applications, scholarships, jobs, etc. that come knocking later in a student's career.

For those who don't have Internet access at home, it is a huge inconvenience.

There are also students who aren't slaves to the PC world or to Microsoft Word. If someone wants to transfer a document from home and work on it at school, he can't do it on a disk. He could do it via e-mail, but no, it's restricted.

This is simply ridiculous.

All this passed through my head instantaneously as I sat there watching these two scholars get their groove on. I wanted to broaden my knowledge base and get an assignment done.

The bile rose steadily in my throat, but once again, Nelly calmed me down. Thank God for Nelly. He is my savior.

Meanwhile, I had just killed ten minutes and still had nothing on the page.

How screwed up is that?

That's okay though because I have always found inspiration while listening to N'Sync.

# Crass television humor invades school

I don't understand the humor of other people.

Getting all bruised, breaking bones and eating animal body parts, is what the media is trying to pass as comedy.

It seems that by the standards of today's pop culture, something can't possibly be funny unless pain and indescribably sickening "food" is involved.

TV shows such as "Jackass" and "Fear Factor" prove my point precisely. Contestants on these shows do the most asinine and disgusting things just for a bit of attention and maybe some money.

This shocking trend is not limited to television, it has begun to invade Central as well.

Recently, I ran into a couple of people at school who must have been rejected from "Jackass" tryouts.

I was walking through the halls during passing period rushing to get to my class on time, while attempting to dodge the huddles of students strategically placed in the doorways.

I was trying to pass through the groups of students, but holding three books and wearing a backpack can make it a little difficult.

I turned a corner and saw a group of Johnny Knoxville wannabes headed in my direction.

I was minding my own business, thinking they would just pass me by without creating any scenes.

I was wrong. Suddenly a guy pushed his friend right into me. There was a domino effect of pain following this

boy.

Since I was walking quickly to make it on time, as he flew into me my foot kicked him in the leg.

This forced him to trip and stumble towards me. His body weight then stabbed my books into my stomach.

My reaction was quick. I pushed him away and he started his quick trip to the ground.

As he was falling, my hand, just as a defensive reaction, soared out and punched him in the mouth. Then the kid rolled to the floor smacked his head against the locker, while holding his injured mouth.

I looked around, to see his friends laughing and pointing. I looked back at him and his face was now flushed with red.

Everyone in the hallway was staring and laughing at this poor little kid.

I looked back at him and realized whatever he got, he deserved.

I stepped over that sad little child and continued on my way to class.

In retrospect, I am a little worried. If people are incorporating this show into school, "Fear Factor" will be next.

Personally I don't care to see any pigs' noses or cows' eyes in my lunch at school.

I just don't understand how events such as that one can be considered funny.

This kid injured and humiliated himself, yet the people at school laughed. I don't know what has

come over students in the past few years.

People are finding the worst things funny. It is sad.

People can't take each other seriously anymore. I recently heard some students joking with their friends, when one of them stumbled up the stairs.

One of the girls then said, "If you fell and hit every step on the way down I would laugh," to her injured companion.

If this cycle continues, people will be totally desensitized to violence.

When they see serious accidents, they won't worry at all about the people hurt.

Instead they will want to see the blood and the damage done to the car.

I can't understand how people have changed from caring about everyone to wanting to see blood and pain.

My little run-in with that guy made me realize how the thoughtlessness of others has increased.

I think the media is all to blame. If television shows or movies such as "Care Bears" still aired people would have the thoughts of "we care."

But no, these days a show called "Jackass" attempts to dominate the media.

A sad thing is younger kids watch these type of shows now, too. Hopefully there are enough "Care Bears" generation fans to make the world a little bit more understanding of pain and what one should do when it happens.

The only thing I can tell the media is a very sarcastic thank you, for pushing asinine ideas onto easily manipulated teens.



CHAOS MADE CLEAR  
Katie Backman

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# District would have to put money to better use

Bellevue Public School District is very fortunate to receive \$8.3 million to build the Lifelong Learning Center, but if Omaha Public Schools (OPS) had that much money for a new project, it should put it towards better use.

The center was made for students involved with sports at school. Adults of the community have the availability to use the building, but the teens get first priority. The adults who wish to use the facility must pay for usage.

Bellevue made a good decision with the building because it will benefit teens, kids and adults in the community.

Omaha's community is larger, and the OPS school district has more schools. So if the board wanted to follow in the footsteps it would have to create multiple buildings.

To build two of these buildings could cost roughly \$16 million. OPS just doesn't have the luxury to spend money on purchases of this nature.

Bellevue Public Schools did receive a portion of the \$8.3 million from grants and donations, but for Omaha Public Schools and its community, that would not be the first priority for grant money.

If the public does not see a need for a replica of the Lifelong Learning Center, they won't make any donations. If the OPS district feels the need for the facility, it will cut budgets, programs and after school activities to raise money.

That would not be right.

OPS' school board should not attempt to build a center because the negative effects would outweigh the positive ones.

The first items the decision-makers would cut could be from the sports departments. The center is specifically made for the students involved in athletics. So once sports were cut, the facility would be completely useless.

The most likely places for cuts to come from next would be electives, class availability and amount of teachers in the schools.

The district would get rid of teachers than realize there are classes without instructors to teach them. Before long, students' favorite electives would be gone.

Required classes would become overcrowded, making the teachers overwhelmed and stressed out.

Under current budget conditions, the list of negative effects would be endless if a training center was purchased.

In all actuality the plan to bring kids together at a center would fall through and end up being counterproductive because school district would not be able to have the activities that students enjoy.

This whole problem can be avoided if OPS district disregards any benefits possible from building a center like the one in Bellevue. The benefits are there, but so are the problems. Money is needed in the school district for learning, not to build a center for athletic training.

The district could receive profits if the people of the community attended, but the funds earned would not be enough to replace what was cut.

The center may not even help the district budget because all of its earnings would go to the useless center. There are gyms across Omaha, people just need to join them.

Students can simply use the schools' gyms for now.



# Patriotism fails to justify draft

The United States Selective Service Act was made to ensure that when the United States goes to war, there will be an adequate supply of troops to fight and protect the country and its interests.

The threat of war immediately brings the idea of a draft into the minds of many, especially high school males who may be registering for the draft in the near future, if they have not already.

But adopting the draft when public support is not for it can actually be counterproductive.

It can lead to public unrest, upheaval and widespread apathetic or malicious behavior towards the government.

That's why the draft should not be reenacted if the United States does decide to declare war on Iraq or starts an aggressive ground invasion.

Consider the most recent use of the draft and its consequences.

The last time the draft was enacted was during the Vietnam War and it was met with widespread protests. A similar reaction is sure to come if the draft is enacted now.

In reality, even if a war is declared, the threat of a draft is still relatively small and will not be coming for a while.

That does not change the fact that there is a deep divide running through the political arena of this country.

The idea of going to war brings out the impassioned side of politicians, soldiers, citizens, nearly everyone has a strong opinion on it.

The country as a whole has been very patriotic since Sept. 11, 2001, but there is nothing like a war to tear a seemingly unified country apart.

There are far too many unknown variables in this situation to say that bringing back the draft is a good idea.

Of the variables that we are aware of, there is no solid reasoning evident that would support reenacting the draft or even giving it serious consideration.

This would be the first real war of the century.

All of the old rules of war are out the window.

There are threats of bio-terrorism and major disease warfare that the nation has never really had to address to this degree before.

A war of this complexity requires specially trained soldiers, not fresh-faced high school kids right out of basic training.

Anyone and everyone can question the motivation of the government for potentially starting this war.

It is not really the question in this case.

There is simply no way that calling up a draft can be justified at this time.

The young people of this country have not expressed strong support by any measure and forcing them to fight in a war that many of them may not believe in will do no good in the long run.

The country must also realize that it should not disenfranchise its youth by essentially blocking its voice in governmental proceedings.

If the draft is reenacted against the majority wishes of those within the draft-age range, then America's young people will feel like their voices were not heard or were simply not important enough to really listen to.

There have been times in history where enacting the draft was the right decision to make.

But now is not one of them.

Now is a time of unknown enemies, potentially sophisticated warfare and, above all, heightened awareness among young people of what is going on in the world.

Someday, this awareness may cause public support to lean towards having the draft enacted.

That day is not today, it will not be tomorrow and unless something happens that causes drastic changes, it will not be anytime soon.

Just because this generation has lived through relatively peaceful times does not mean it has not learned from the trials and tribulations of history.

The absolute bloody brutality of war is apparent to all.

It is nothing that anyone wants to resort to.

Even if it is absolutely necessary in the eyes of the government, the country's young people should not be forced to go.

Enacting the draft may help the government win this war thousands of miles away, but will cause irreparable damage to the country at home.

## EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

# CLEANING THE SLATE

The structure of social studies classes has changed and it's about time. Now students are able to take classes in a more orderly and concise way.

Finally, the administration has wiped the slate clean and given students a fresher approach to their education.

For years, when students entered Central, they began a four-year track in the social studies department that started them with a year of world geography, then they moved onto a semester of American government, a year of American history and world history for the senior year.

While students learned a lot during these four years, the order was not always logical and some important things got left out along the way.

Which is why the curriculum change that began with last year's freshmen is such a smart idea.

Now students take U.S. History their freshman year, which makes a lot more sense because the Omaha Public Schools eighth grade social studies curriculum requires students to study American history through the Civil War.

So now freshmen are just picking up where they left off instead of waiting two years and learning something entirely different in the interim.

Then during sophomore year, students take a semester of economics and a semester of world geography.

This solves two major problems. First of all, a year of geography really is too much. Much of what is taught in world geography is repeated later on in history courses, so it really does lend itself to redundancy.

With only a semester, students can learn all they need to know without being taught anything they would have to be retaught the next year.

The second plus to this change is that students are finally being required to learn economics.

Economics has been an elective for years, but since it was never a core class, many students never took it.

Those students were missing out on quite a bit since so much of what students need to know to be good citizens and consumers is taught in economics.

The junior year requirement does not reflect much of a change in what is taught, just in the order it is taught in. By switching world history to junior year, senior year is left open for American government.

Teaching American government during senior year may be the smartest part of this plan.

By teaching students about the workings of government right before most of them turn 18 and get ready to enter the real world will make them better citizens who are more likely to be involved.

## EDITORIAL

The opinion of  
the Register staff

The social studies department has really wiped the slate clean with these changes. The old course track was good and students had the opportunity to learn a substantial amount, but now it just makes more sense.

This new system is more logical and has a more cohesive flow that will not only teach students more, but also build upon previous years' knowledge year by year so that they can construct a more comprehensive view of history and the world around them.

Some may be concerned about what will happen with the Advanced Placement and honors courses that were offered as alternatives to the regular version of the core classes.

The department has taken care of this too, planning honors and AP alternatives to all of the new courses.

So while some may be sad that this is the last year for AP American History or dread the idea of having to take economics, students who are in the new social studies track should realize that this is a great opportunity for them.

The classes of 2004 and beyond are being given a whole new set of opportunities for their education and they should take full advantage of it. After all, it is the best thing for all of their educations.

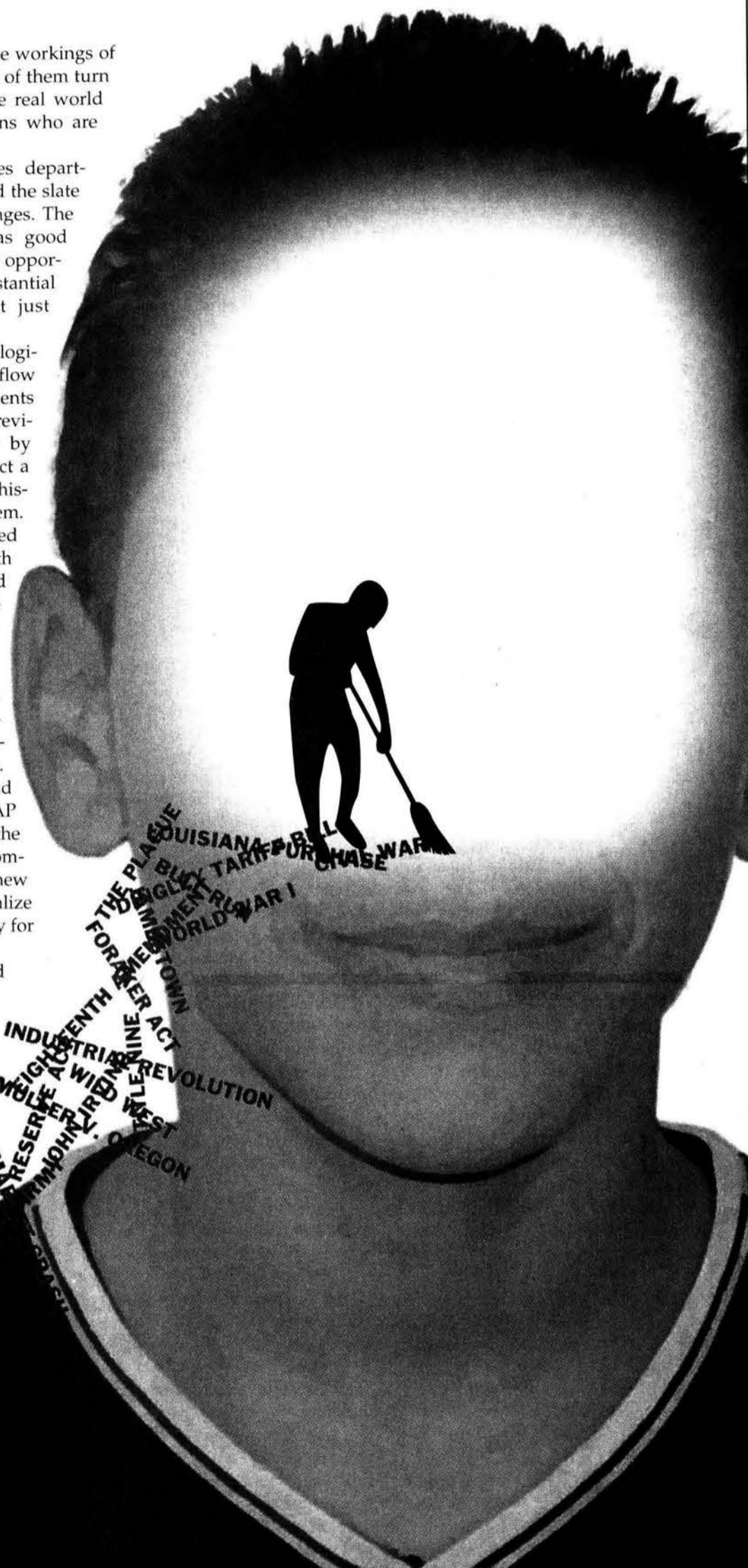


Illustration by  
PAULA SALHANY/  
THE REGISTER



LOOKING THROUGH  
YOU

Laura Diesing

## Injuries caused by formalities

The stabbing. The cuts. The burns. The horror...the horror.

Every year millions of corsage and boutonniere-related injuries taint what should be happy nights of dancing, dressing up and all round merriment.

The use of flowers in the prom or homecoming tradition has always struck me as odd. Prom and homecoming are expensive enough. Why would we want to pay for anything else?

We spend at least \$100 on a dress or a suit, \$40 on shoes, \$30 on hair and possibly more if you go somewhere to get your makeup done and \$10 on a delicate and fragrant torture device.

I have never requested a corsage nor have I had requests from my dates for a boutonniere. Most of the guys do not even know what to do with it when they get one.

When I went to homecoming this year, my date didn't even know that he was supposed to get me a corsage.

When he finally bought one he had to suffer the embarrassment of asking the people at the flower store what to do with it.

The only reason people buy these things is because they think they have to. It's the sense of obligation, not to mention the fact that no one wants to disrupt years of tradition.

Every year I get a tiny bundle of flowers stuffed inside some sort of puff ball thing to wear on my wrist even though it always ends up on my upper arm or on my purse.

I have received countless friction burns from the elastic band, multiple cuts from the metal thing that holds the flowers on and the occasional stab to the chest from my date's boutonniere. I would rather spare my skin the painful experience than you.

But who am I to argue with tradition? What would we do if we could not spend an hour pinning the boutonniere on our dates' shirts? Mom and Dad smile and take multiple rolls of pictures to capture the special moment while the girl struggles to get the tiny stem to stay pinned to the boy's collar.

After about ten minutes of pinning and re-pinning in vain, Mom takes over like we know, she will and finally it's out the door to eat. So the dance is now over and the good-byes have been said to everyone at the post-prom or post homecoming parties.

You have the whole corsage ordeal under control and you are going in for the hug or kiss, depending on the situation, and then "poke," the boutonniere has assaulted your chest. It is all simply a waste of time and money.

I propose that the entire expensive formality of buying your date's corsage or boutonniere should be deleted from the prom and homecoming traditions.

The girls already have to think about making their hair appointments on time and how they want it to look, getting their makeup perfect and making sure they will be almost done when their date arrives. Boys have to worry about dinner reservations, being on time and whether or not they should dance.

Why make this harder on ourselves?

## 'Nectar of the gods' steals soul of caffeine-addicted student

Hi, my name is Nikki and I am a caffeine-o-holic.

My last drink was roughly 15 minutes ago. Afterwards, I decided to never touch the stuff ever again.

Not only am I a member of Caffeine Addicts Anonymous, I am the president.

My love affair with caffeine began at a tender age. I remember when the very first drop of soda came from my bottle and touched my lips. It was love at first taste.

I bounced off the walls like a caged monkey for the rest of the day. My mother then ripped me from my love. I knew, even at the age of 2, caffeine and I were a match made in heaven and could not be separated for long.

As a teen, I have discovered the wondrous world of coffee. The bittersweet aroma gave me the ambition, or at least the energy, to take on the day. I started doing my homework in coffee shops, downing espresso after espresso until I found even trig homework palatable.

It is close to impossible to make it through high school without the habitual use of caffeinated beverages. I tried to live without the aid of caffeine last year and

needless to say, it did not work.

I tried quenching my thirst with every uncaffeinated beverage known to the world, ranging from apple juice to tonic water, but nothing seemed to work.

I wandered around, my eyes all squinty and my appendages flailing and twitching as if I was under some type of demonic spell. I was hypnotized by the powers of caffeine.

I gave up. Nothing made my eyes unsquint. Nothing seemed to make my tics subside.

Nothing could ever quench my thirst like a nice cold chug of a fizzy Mountain Dew. Now I am a slave to caffeine.

I have sold my soul to the nectar of the gods, that over time has become the devil. I will now have a hefty price to pay to get my soul back.

Having pumped every last nickel and dime into supporting my habit, countless coins going to waste in soda machines and begging my friends for dollar after dollar after dollar, I decided that enough was enough.

I went to my local library to research my long and hard road to recovery. I strolled over to the computer catalog and looked up "caffeine addiction," but to my

dismay, nothing came up.

To me this was an utter shock. The devil looming over my shoulder, sipping on a frappuccino, told me that the occasional pot of coffee in the morning or cube of Dew on a lonely Saturday night, doesn't constitute a real addiction.

Maybe being caffeine-crazed was not such a bad thing. At least I was not shooting up meth or snorting cocaine.

Then I realized that was just the withdrawal talking. Caffeine, America's most over-used, under-rated drug, had me firm in its Kung-fu death grip. Only the grace of God could save me now.

I wandered over to the self-help section and began to look. Almost like a message from the big guy himself, it hit me, literally. A book entitled, "The Twelve Steps to Recovery" fell from the top shelf and hit me straight on the head.

It did not specify what type of recovery it was for, so I decided this was my only hope.

The book claimed that I had already taken the first and hardest step of the twelve by admitting I had a problem. After living many years under the influence of caffeine, it is a little hard not to know you have a problem. What to do about it is the hardest part.

So I began down the long, hard road



THE FINE PRINT

Nichole Tyrey

November 19, 2002

JEA/NSPA Best of Show Publication

# THE EDGE

Omaha Central High School's Newsmagazine

124 N. 20th St. Omaha, NE 68102

Volume 2, Issue 1

## GANGS

An in-depth look at gang activity at Central and what officials are doing to prevent violence and other related problems

In the Voices section, Central students and teachers share their emotional journeys of dealing with diseases

Street racing is on the rise in Omaha and there does not appear to be an end in sight



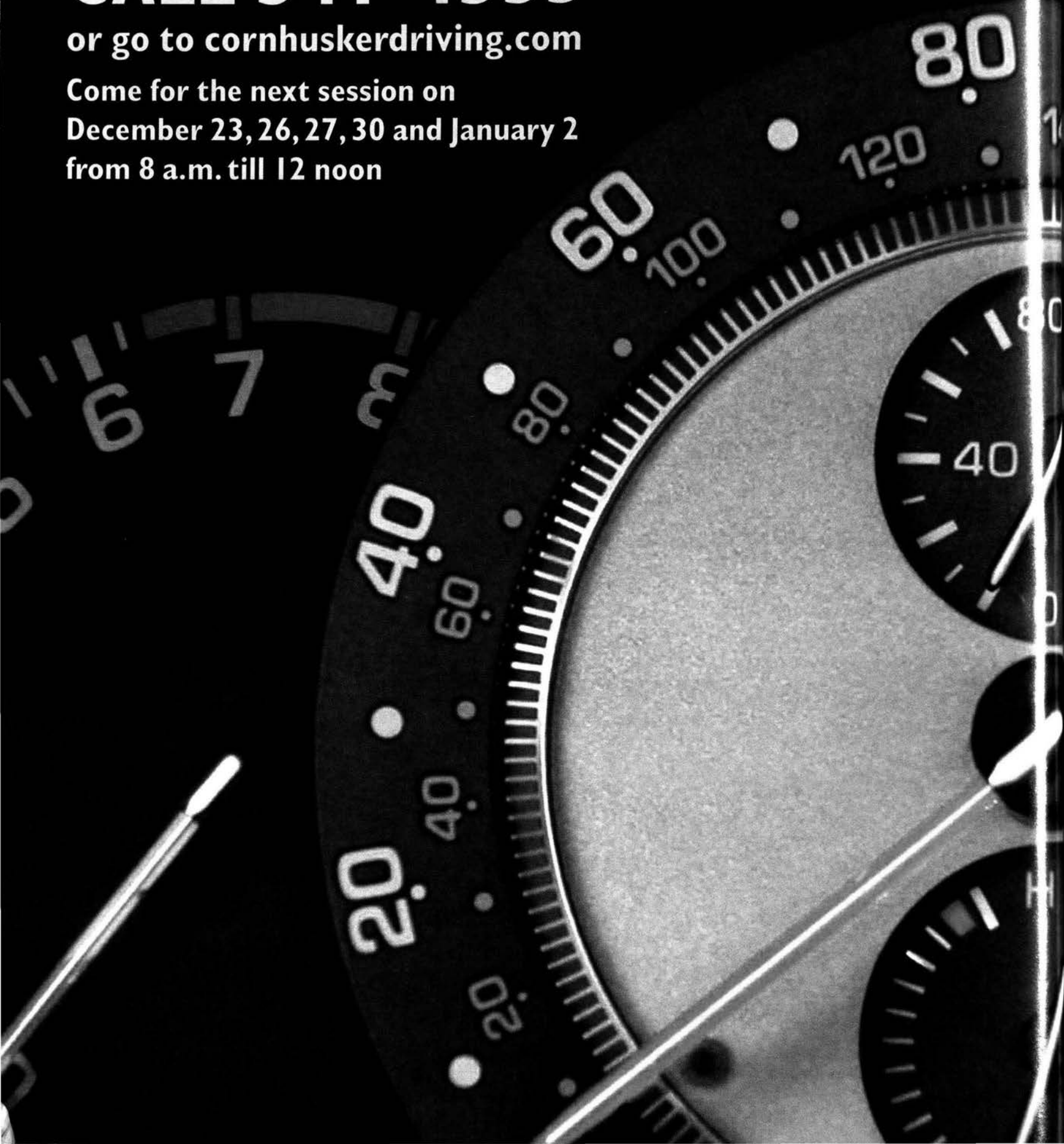
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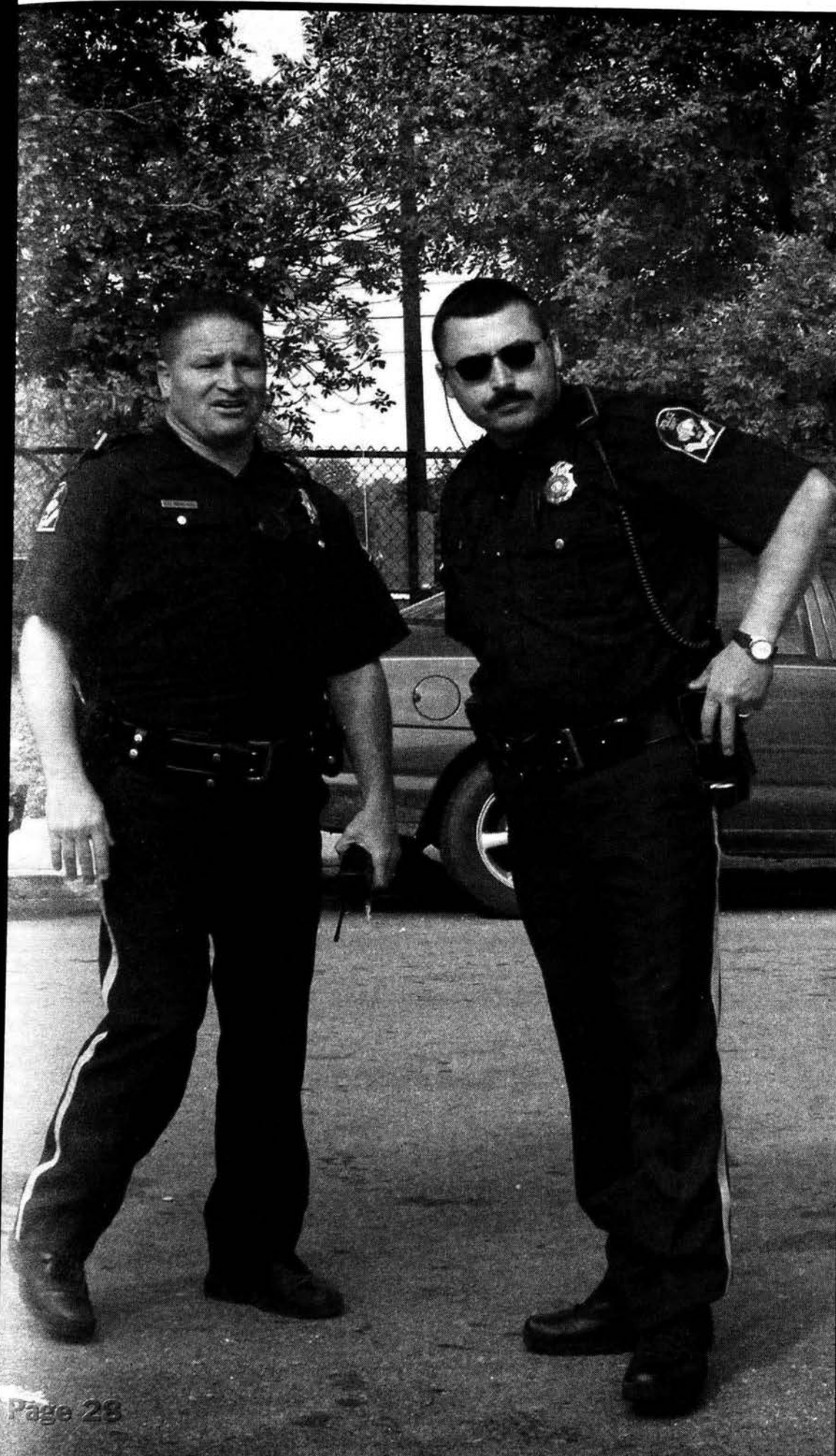
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Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

School Resource Officer Jess Randall (left) and Officer Ed Sinkovich watch Davenport Street during dismissal. Police presence is one way administrators are trying to deter gang activity after school.

## COVER STORY

### GANGS

Take a look at the series of stories on gang activity at Central High School and what police and school officials are doing about it. **Page 27**

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BY DOUG MEIGS

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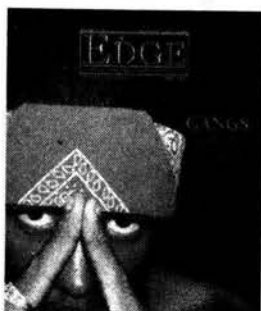
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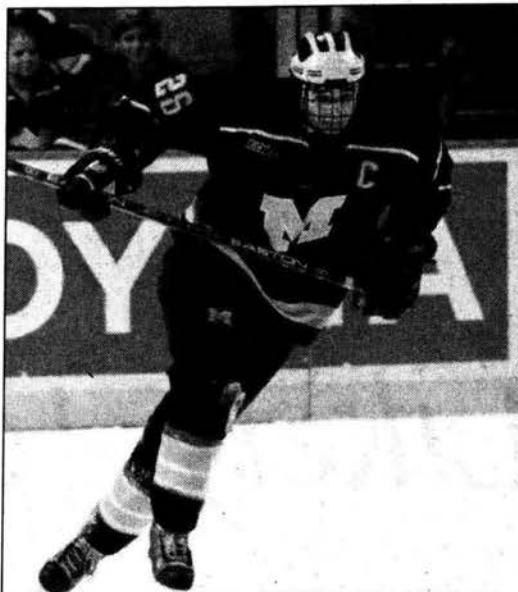
BY DEVON O'CONNELL

### Cover

Gang activity seems to be a growing trend in some of today's high schools. What does it mean to be in a gang at Central? What are school and police officials doing to combat this growing trend. Turn to page 25 for stories and illustrations on this heated topic.



Cover by ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE



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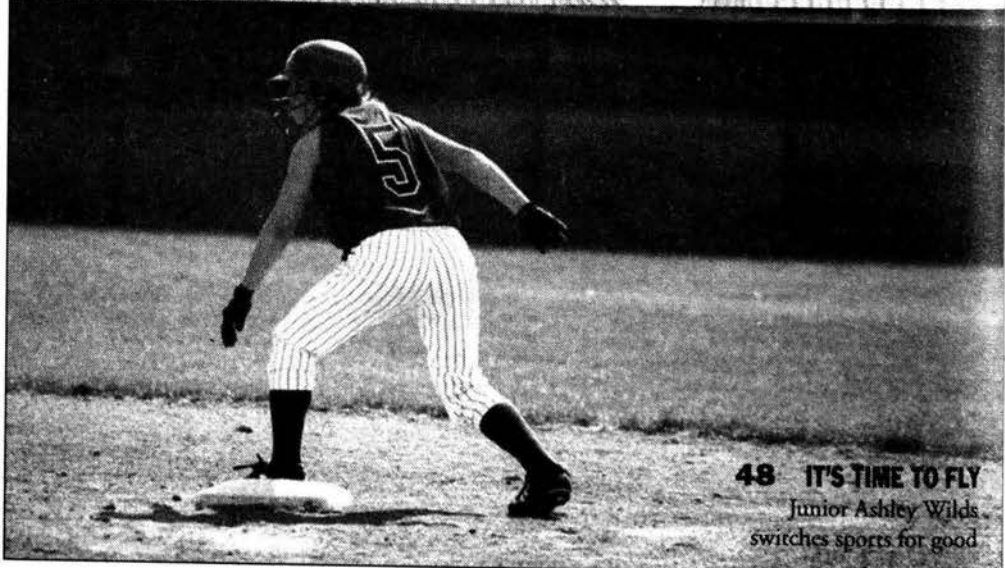
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Junior Ashley Wilds switches sports for good

By Paula Sainany

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November 19, 2002

# THE EDGE

Omaha Central High School's Newsmagazine

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Doug Meigs

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The Omaha Central High School EDGE seeks to inform readers accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance.

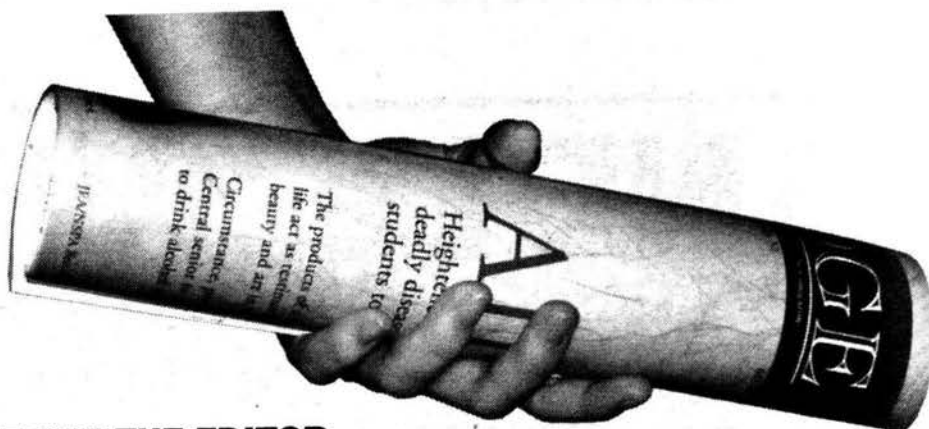
At the 2001 Fall JEA/NSPA National Convention, the EDGE won the Best of Show award for a specialty publication and the sixth place award for newsmagazines. At the spring convention, the EDGE won third in specialty publications and fourth in the newsmagazine category.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the EDGE staff and are not necessarily the opinions of Central High School or its faculty.

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone and do not reflect the opinion of Central High School or the EDGE staff.

Readers are encouraged to send letters to the editor in room 315. Letters must include the author's full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Letters may be edited for taste, clarity, accuracy and length. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be printed.

The EDGE is published by Central High School, 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE, 68102.



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

This is the very first issue of the 2002-2003 EDGE, Omaha Central High School's award-winning newsmagazine. Although this is only the second volume, the magazine is totally revamped this year.

The goal of the EDGE is to report the news in the school as well as keep up with the latest trends among students and faculty.

In our attempts to do hard-hitting and quality journalism, the staff strives for perfection and balance along with upholding journalistic ethics. The EDGE tries to swing for the fence and do the best possible journalism. That's why this issue is 60 pages. The staff strives to be fair and accurate in all its attempts.

This year's magazine has five different sections. **Focus** is the editorial section. It includes editorials which express the opinion of the EDGE staff and columns written by various staff members. One special column is featured outside of the Focus section because the staff thought it was so good and the subject matter was so strong that it deserved a special place in this magazine. Turn to page 60 to share this emotional experience.

One of the EDGE's special sections is **Voices**. Every issue, this section focuses on the lives of particular students and teachers. In this issue, two students and two teachers talk about how they are dealing with certain hardships, like illness and death.

The **news and features** section is the magazine's biggest and most important part. One part of this section is a series of stories on gangs at Central. Much of the activity goes unnoticed by students, but behind the scenes, the Omaha Police Department and school officials work to prevent gang violence from breaking out. Along with this, there are various stories about curriculum changes, the homeless situation around the school, birth control and much more.

Immediately following the news and features section is the **Lifestyles** section. This is the section that most newsmagazines call the entertainment section. The EDGE staff called it Lifestyles because the section deals with more aspects of life than just entertainment. This section's big story deals with street racing and its ever-increasing popularity.

The **Zone** is the EDGE's sports section. Athletic teams at Central are improving with every season. The Zone puts a different angle to the stories and features about athletes at this school. For example, there's a story about how a Central football player, who is originally from Sudan, keeps working hard to play a sport that is a big American pastime.

Another story is about George Davis who, after high school, went on to play football at Harvard. Davis told the EDGE about his success at one of the most prestigious schools in the United States.

Central is known for its diversity, so there are many stories to tell. As a result, stories in the EDGE are from one end of the spectrum to the other. It is important for people to be informed and educated. Therefore, the staff always welcomes tips and suggestions from its audience. Please feel free to write us letters to the editor or simply stop by room 315.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the EDGE.

Thank you,  
Paula Salhany, editor in chief

# HANDLE WITH CARE

Increased gang violence at school this year combined with having more police officers present at select times of the day, have caused a somewhat tense situation that must be taken care of delicately



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

## EDITORIAL

.....  
The opinion of  
the EDGE staff

Gang violence has a tendency to seem sort of far away, sort of unreal, one of those things that happens in other places, but never, ever here.

It only seems real when one is actually faced with dealing with it, which is exactly what Central must now do.

The resurgence of gang activity at school this year has left administrators and the police with a sticky situation.

This year has seen a high number of gang-related fights, clashes and incidents. Police presence outside the school has often been bulked up to protect students.

Similar measures have been taken at South High, where many of the rivals of Central's gang members attend school.

School administrators have to do something about the problem, that much is obvious. Their

top priority is, and always will be, ensuring the safety of all the students at Central.

But choosing a method in which to solve the problem may be the most difficult part of all.

If the stance the administration takes is too aggressive, it may actually end up being counterproductive.

When innocent students see the increased police presence, they begin to get nervous. This can develop into paranoia, which can lead to negative repercussions.

Once anyone begins to feel threatened in what is supposed to be a safe environment, human nature dictates that one may begin to act in ways that can be unpredictable.

Seemingly innocent, well-behaved kids may respond in irrational ways because they feel that the police presence meant to protect them is some-

how a threat or punishment for them.

Also, extra law enforcement officers make students feel less trusted by the school and its officials. This can ruin the trust built up over the past years between students, administrators and teachers in a single day.

But if administrators do not take a strong enough stance, the results could be catastrophic for the students, as well the administration.

The administration obviously cannot allow any sort of violence in schools. Nor can they just sit back while they know violence is occurring.

This is the kind of situation where there is no easy answer. It is not a black and white situation, nor is it a situation to be handled lightly.

There also is no way to tell those in charge what to do. It is all part of a process that will take a while to fully figure out. Unfortunately, it seems

## focus

like the school is in a situation where there is no time to spare and action may be needed at any time.

The solution to this problem lies with the students at Central who are involved with gangs and gang activities.

It is that simple.

If they can rectify their behaviors, there would be no need for all of the additional police presence.

But as everyone knows, human nature is the hardest thing in the world to change. So the apparent answer to the problem may not be easily attainable.

That is why the administration faces such a daunting task.

It is in a situation where the solution is seemingly simple, but frustratingly unattainable.

All that can be said for now is that the school officials, police officers and any other authority involved in fighting Central's gang problem is that your task is not enviable.

Gang violence can be sad, it can brutal and it can ruin seemingly bright futures.

It can tear apart families and turn childhood friends against each other, sometimes over some-

thing as insignificant as what color someone is wearing.

No matter who wins a gang fight, everyone loses something.

When combating gang violence, it is hard to walk away without losing anything either.

The police, FBI, school administrators, anyone who works to fight violence must know that the possibility of losing something, even when they supposedly have won the battle against gang violence, exists.

In the school's case, the variable that may be lost is students' lives, something far too precious to waste.

But the original question of how to protect them still remains.

Though administrators must carry out this job somehow, they must find the right approach to doing it or the problem could become even worse than it is right now.

"Handle with care" is a label usually reserved for delicate glassware or packages sent through the mail,

But in this case it is the best possible advice on how to deal with the school's problems with gangs and violence.

# GANG STATS

## Warning Signs

### Graffiti

Often found in dark areas, used to mark or protect gang's turf. It may be a declaration of loyalty to the gang, nickname of the member, threats against other members or details about illegal acts that gang members have performed.

### Jewelry

Many gang members wear large gaudy jewelry, large rings or chains. Jewelry may be expensive or cheap.

### Clothing

Gang members often wear baseball hats at an angle and/or baggy pants. Some gangs have particular brands that members wear and red and blue bandannas. Some gangs have begun to stop wearing their colors in an attempt to deceive law enforcement.

Information courtesy of the Los Angeles Police Department

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"IT'S A FIELD OF FORDS"

## INPUT

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, CARTOONS, POLLS

## Student's problem caused by flipping of lunch lines

Dear Editor,

Why exactly did the cafeteria staff decide to flip around the lunch line?

I walk into the cafeteria thinking, "Wow, there's like no line." But low and behold, the line is backwards.

Now, I'm a lazy guy. I intend to get my lunch and sit down and eat in a matter of seconds. I don't like having to walk around through cluttered pathways through tables.

Not to mention that this change makes cutting in line easier for those people whose clique has one guy in line, so their collective mind tells them to join in a pizza-worshipping congregation and make stupid jokes.

That's my cue to leave.

**Robert Montag, 11**

## Rock music remains one of student body's favorites

Dear Editor,

As is said on The Reel Big Fish CD, "You and I are mortal, but rock and roll will never die."

Rock is real music. It takes talent. I am sick of people and their rap "music." It doesn't take talent to put on some chains and rhyme.

As I say, you can't spell crap without rap.

**Mike Alfaro, 11**

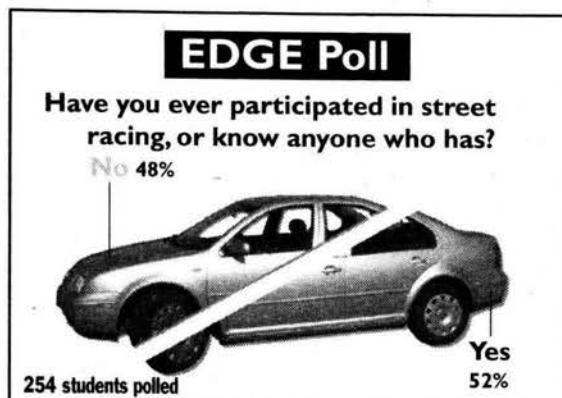


## Regulations still leave little chance for fun, go too far

Dear Editor,

I regret to inform the school of Central High that our ability to have fun has been terminated. Even when some people choose to have fun without involving others or putting others at risk, the fun is not allowed by the "rules."

Simple games, singing and even pounding on the table are forbidden. It's ridiculous that teachers, administrators and security guards surround our tables like vultures waiting to swoop down and put an end to our harmless games that put our minds at ease after all of the hard work we do in



class before lunch.

Would the teachers, administrators and security guards rather have things vandalized or maybe have a fight started?

I think not. It is outrageous to take students' only opportunity to have fun all day long, when it has no effect on the school's functions.

**James Boatright, 12, Colin Rinaker, 12, Marc Monbouquette, 11, Jim Schalles, 11, Jacob Holst, 11, Wes Brown, 10, Alex Driggs, 11**

## German exchange student feels comfortable at CHS

Dear Editor,

Here are my thoughts on Central as a German exchange student. For this summer vacation, I got a whole week to relax.

I arrived in America on Aug. 15. I had four days to fill before school started here.

When school started, I felt like I was in a big, hot oven which made the adjustment a bit exhausting.

However, students from the school integrated me very nicely, so that I felt very comfortable here after a while. Therefore, special thanks to my lunch table and to the members of the A Cappella choir, all of whom have welcomed me very wonderfully.

So far, the exchange has been a great success and I feel that life is kind of a big vacation.

Many German greetings to all who know me.

**Michael Kern, 12**

## Increased numbers help skateboard club, members

Dear Editor,

This is just to spread the word about skate club. More people in the club means better events.

We're thinking about having bands at this year's competition, depending on where it is.

Look for us.

Also, why was the skate club featured in the editorial about Student Activity Cards costing \$30? Was it someone in the club complaining that made us the best target?

**Nate Crook, 12**

## Police presence at end of school day brings concerns

Dear Editor,

The overwhelming number of police officers that are present after school should make me feel safe, but they are actually having the opposite effect on me.

Even though I don't know the cause of their presence, I know it has increased tremendously since last year.

This gives me reason to think that I am in some type of danger that I am not fully aware of. If I am, I think I have every right to know.

Maybe their presence is just a result of the fights last year.

If this is the reason, why weren't they brought in last year?

I think it would put both students and parents at ease if an announcement was made explaining their presence.

**Courtney Thomas, 10**

## EDGE missing from first Register of the school year

Dear Editor,

The EDGE is a great magazine. It is a shame that we did not have the EDGE in the last issue.

It has a very broad perspective of covering stories. I like how the EDGE is in magazine form because it makes it easier to read.

I wish the Register was in magazine form.

**Cody Payne, 10**

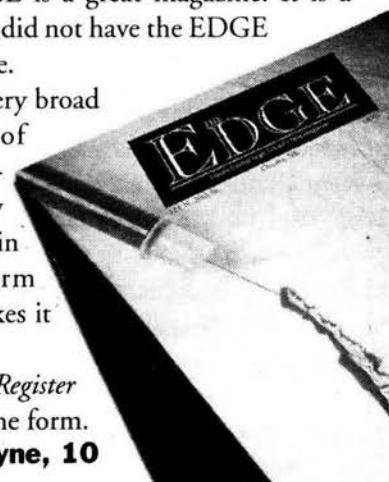




Illustration by CONNOR MEIGS/THE EDGE

## Arts district holds benefits for school

A recent proposal for the development of a downtown arts district has been touted as a great thing, a cultural achievement and a tourist draw for the city.

This is all well and good, but for the students at Central, there lies an even greater benefit. Students will benefit and love having access to the wide world of the arts on what is practically their school's front lawn.

The idea behind the arts district is to find a way to link all of the theaters and galleries in the Old Market, 16th Street and 20th Street. This encompasses the Rose Theater, the Orpheum, the Bemis Arts center, the Joslyn Art Museum and the Blue Barn Theater, among many others. It is not just limited to one branch of the arts or to traditional styles of art. Everything from performance

to modern, installation to opera can be found in the arts centers that will compose the district.

By making this area a real cultural district, it will draw more people into visit them. When more people come in, more money will be made and more people will be enriched with the arts. Once there is more money, the participating arts centers will have more resources to develop projects. And it will all be right next door for students to take advantage of.

Instead of just learning about theater in drama class, students will now have a chance to see it live more often. Instead of learning about painting techniques from books and slides, students will be able to take a ten-minute walk and be surrounded by places where they can see it close up.

The true genius of this proposal is how it maxi-

mizes on all Omaha currently has to offer. No part of this proposal calls for the creation of any new place. Rather, the focus is on taking what is there now and making something bigger and better out of it.

The money that it will cost to make the necessary changes to downtown to make it an obvious cultural district, will no doubt be returned once the district gets going. It is one of the wisest investments to come along in quite a while.

In a time when the threat of school budget cuts is always looming, it is nice to see some new educational opportunities spring up when they may be needed the most.

Students who are wise will take note of this proposal and take advantage of it when it is realized. It is a chance to have a true, hands-on learning experience.

### EDITORIAL

.....  
The opinion of  
the EDGE staff

## Bathroom fires show students' immaturity, waste money

Every year a few select students decide it would be a good idea to set things on fire.

They feel the need to impress their friends by setting off smoke rockets, lighting trash cans on fire or making toilet paper go up in flames. These students think it's humorous to disrupt class and make almost 2,600 students file out of the building.

They take a fancy to watching fire trucks race up to the school and having firefighters rush into the building, thinking that Central High School could be going up in flames.

In short, some students at Central are pyromaniacs. Not only does it disturb the school and cause school officials to frantically make sure ev-

eryone is out of the building, it costs the district a lot of money and prevents firefighters from putting out real and potentially life-threatening fires elsewhere. In the time the firefighters are at the school figuring out that some kid has set off a smoke rocket, they could be saving the life of someone who is in danger.

Not to mention the fact that one of these times, the bathroom fires are going to get out of hand and the school is going to go up into flames. All the expensive books, computers, calculators and other important things in the school will be gone. Students need to shape up and quit causing such horrific disturbances.

### EDITORIAL

.....  
The opinion of  
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# Statistics show sex education works

Sex education is working.

So schools should take a clue and not change it.

According to a study released by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over the last decade, the percentage of high school students who said they were virgins had risen considerably. Last year, 56

## EDITORIAL

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percent of students said they were virgins while 46 percent said they were not.

Among the students who did have intercourse, 57.9 percent said they used condoms, up from 46.2 percent last decade. There was also a decrease in those students who said they had four or more sexual partners. This decade 14.2 percent claimed this, whereas 18.4 percent did this in 1992.

A feasible reason for the change in statistics is that the information being taught in sex ed classes is seeping into the heads of students and staying there. Teens should be taught all the ramifications of sexual activity



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE EDGE

and ways to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and other things that go along with having sex. And currently, they are. If students are educated about all aspects of the subject at hand, they are more likely to make

wise decisions and abstain from having sex in high school. If schools only teach abstinence, teens are more likely to rebel and decide it is better for them to have sex than to listen to their sex ed teacher. Moreover, if the cur-

rent sex education curriculum is retained, they will be able to make educated decisions.

Teens have the ability to make educated decisions and the results of the CDC test corroborate that. **E**

## applause & boos

### Girls golf

Congratulations to the girls golf team for making it to the state competition for the first time ever. This talented team has many young players, setting it up for years of continued success. These ladies are representing themselves and Central very well and should be extremely proud of all of their victories and accomplishments.

### Latino Leaders

This club has been giving back to the community by tutoring at the Boy's and Girl's Club. With all of the talk about how teens never do anything but cause trouble, it is refreshing to see a group of young people who are representing themselves, their generations and their school so well. The group members also get to have the satisfaction of knowing they have truly helped someone else.

### Hawkins Construction workers

As the weather grows colder, students will see the construction workers less and less. But no one should forget all of the hard work they put in over the summer and into the school year to improve the school and for all of its students.

### After-school matinee

This year, the matinee performance of the fall musical has been moved to after school instead of during the day. This eliminates the long-standing tradition of the matinees, plus makes it impossible for students who have after school obligations to attend. The matinee has always been a treasured break in the school day for many students and it is too bad that is gone.

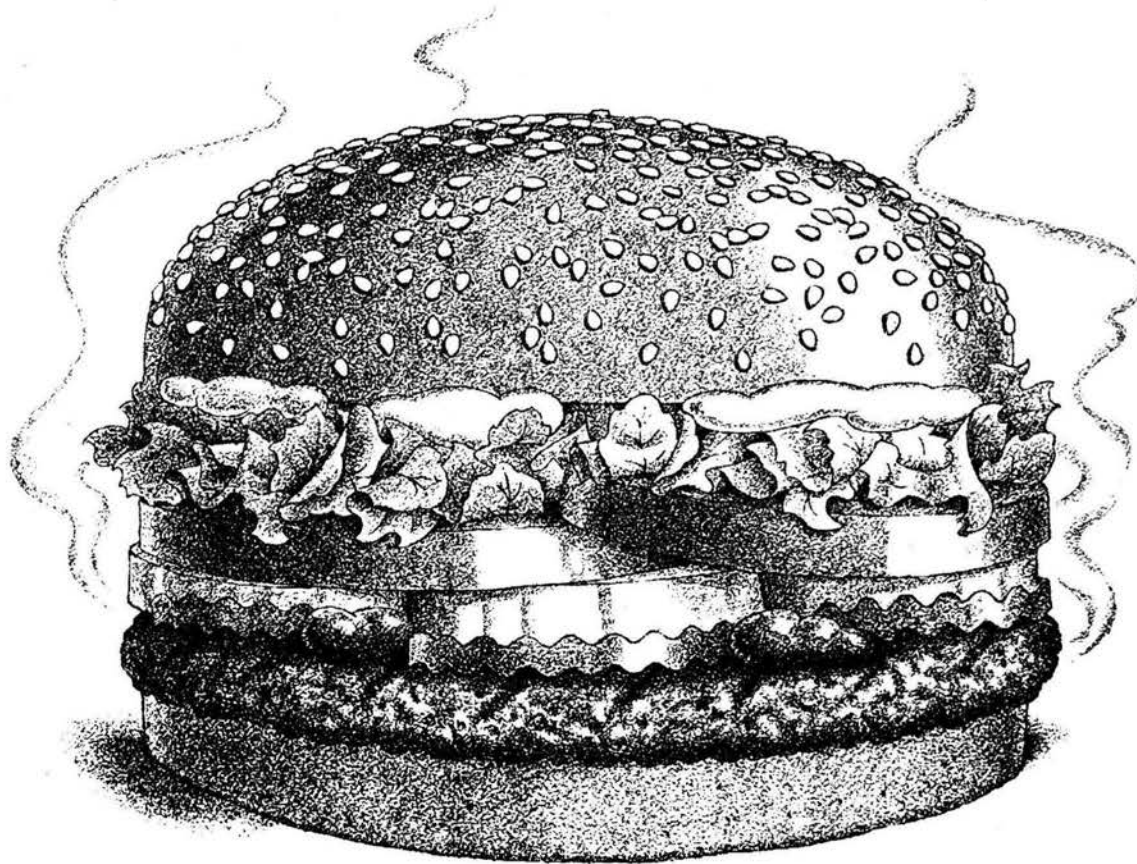
### Bathroom fires

Certain people trying to act "rebellious" or "cool" at the beginning of the year seemed to think that the way to express it was through setting fires or lighting smoke bombs in the school bathrooms. Not only are these a nuisance, but they sometimes lead to fire drills, which waste class time and district money.

### Standardized testing days

Once again, a half day has been chosen as the perfect opportunity to give underclassmen standardized tests and have seniors go on job shadows. Once again, it is a waste of time that bores students and does not really teach them anything. There are much more creative and productive things that could be done with these shortened days.

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### **You're Invited to a Special Event:**

***Tuesday, November 19, 2002***

Former National Transportation Safety Board member Greg Feith will speak to students about accident investigations and aviation safety. This lecture will be held on the campus of UNO in the Alumni Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is no need to RSVP.

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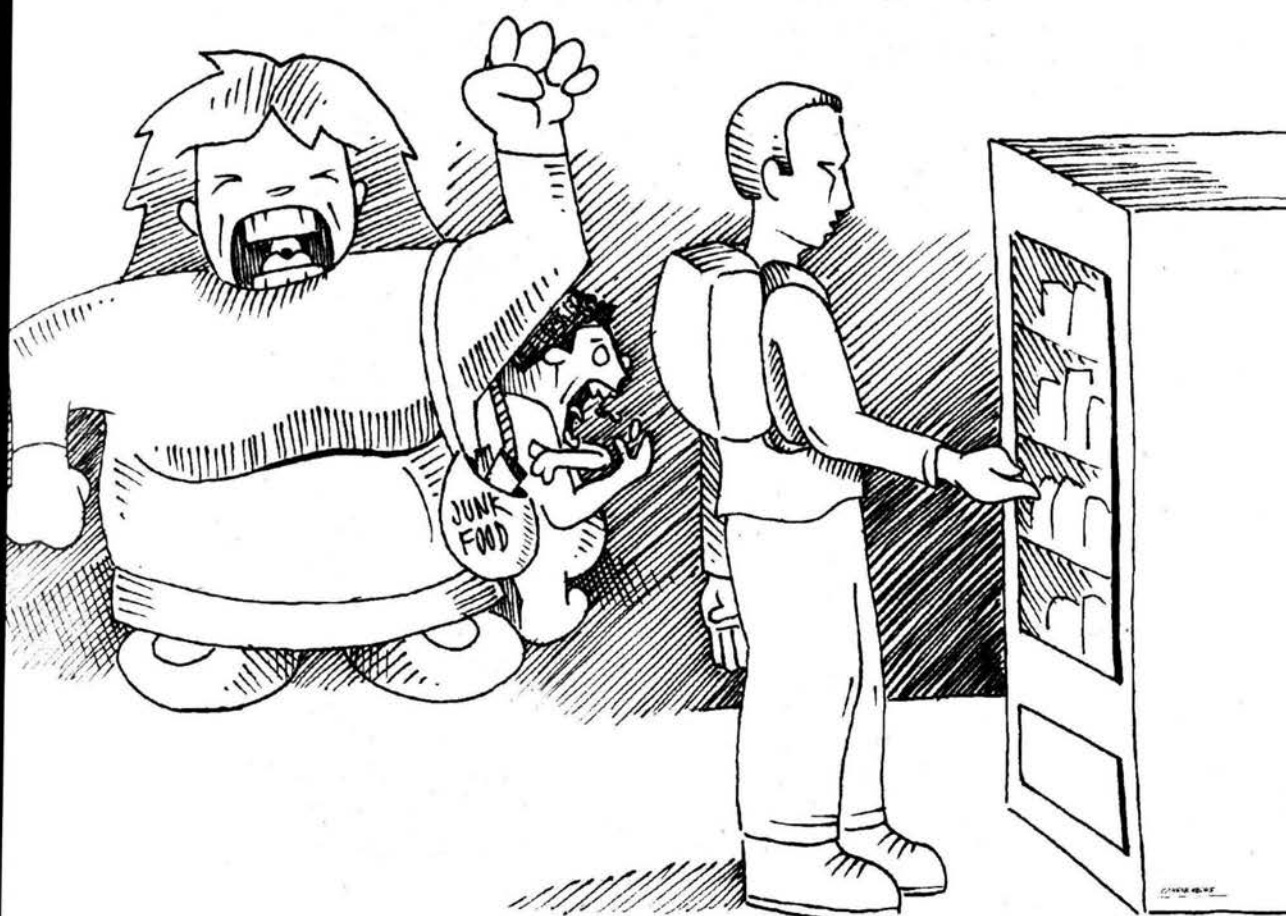
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# ARE VENDING MACHINES THE NUISANCE IN SCHOOL?



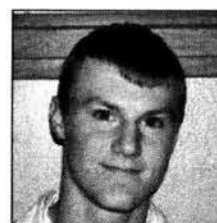
## From the **EDGE**

Should vending machines be allowed in schools?



"Yes. Some people think school food is nasty, so instead, they eat junk food. It should be an option."

Robert Yarbrough, 10



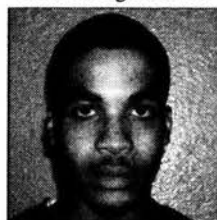
"Yeah, I think students are old enough to control their own diet. We're all old enough to make our own decisions."

Matt Brown, 12



"Yes, because I don't have a lunch period and get hungry after seventh period, so I eat junk food. I should be able to buy those foods."

Andrea Aguilar, 12



"Yes, because if we don't spend our money at school getting food, then we're going to spend it elsewhere getting the food anyway."

Mark Parchment, 12

## Students will make right choices

For many students, lunch isn't mean a chicken patty on a bun, orange juice, tater tots and chocolate milk anymore.

For some, it means a pack of junkies, a bottle of Coke and a bag of potato chips. Obviously this is not a well-balanced diet, but once students reach high school they should be trusted to make their own dietary decisions.

Which is why the vending machines in school should not have to be removed or replaced just because of the recent fuss over how unhealthy the items sold in them are. In schools around the country, proposals have been made to remove vending machines filled with high-fat foods and sugar-filled sodas.

Students should know better than to eat nothing but junk food all day long. By the time anyone has reached ninth grade, the difference between healthy food and sugary,

high-fat food is more than obvious.

All of the concerned parents out there should stop focusing the blame for their children's poor eating habits on the school and start thinking about how they can change eating habits at home.

If students are taught at home about eating properly, they will not go crazy when they step into school and see a vending machine.

They may get an after-school snack from one on occasion, but it will not become a habit to purchase all of their meals from the machine.

Concerned parents should also realize that many students purchase unhealthy items in the lunchroom.

Government regulations regarding free and reduced-price lunches require all vending machines to be turned off during the lunch hours so there is no sales competition.

So except for students who buy junk food earlier in the day and save

it for lunch, those who crave a bag of chips with their lunches must buy it in the cafeteria.

Healthy eating is very important for teenagers. They are going through a period in life where they experience most of their growth and development.

Teenage girls are especially in need of good eating habits, as they need a lot of calcium while they are young to protect them against osteoporosis.

But teenagers are also old enough to make their own decisions about what they put into their bodies.

They need to be trusted to make informed decisions about what to eat.

The vast majority of students do not eat exclusively out of vending machines. While their eating habits may not always be optimum, they have the right idea most of the time.

Give young people a little credit and in the end, they will make the right choice.

### EDITORIAL

.....  
The opinion of  
the EDGE staff



# Dance means wasted chance

High school is full of wasted opportunities. Homecoming is one of them.

Whether it's more of a waste to attend or not I guess I'll never know. I've never been to homecoming.

For the past four years I always told myself, "If I don't go this year, I'll go as a senior." Now I've missed my chance.

Maybe it says something about procrastination or maybe I'm just a dateless loser. Whatever the case, I may have missed an integral part of the "high school experience."

Nostalgia looms around the corner.

Thirty years from now, I see myself sitting at the bar in some downtown hellhole reflecting on how not going to homecoming ruined my life.

Never being able to magically dance the night away and then shack up before curfew will gnaw away at my soul. A broken shell of a human, my life will have become as black and empty as my alcohol-saturated liver.

Any remaining high school acquaintances will have long deserted me.

Ostracized from the community, I will turn into a recluse, shouting my woes from the street corner as I throw road kill at passing cars in a drunken stupor.

"Darn high school dances."

Hiccup.

"Ruinin' my life."

Hiccup and pause to fling a freshly mashed pile of raccoon.

"Why didn't I buy dat ticket?"

Hiccup.

"Why did I waste away my schooling?"

Another hiccup and fleshy projectile. A car swerves as the unidentifiable animal smears across the windshield. He swears something out the window along the lines of "Why don't you go to homecoming, loser?"

I have no idea how the person knew my predicament.

Over the years, my absence from the event must have mutated my physical appearance into a mass of hopeless dilapidation.

Why didn't I take advantage of DECA, or chess club or showerin' after gym class? Then again, maybe some opportunities were better avoided.

Regardless, I have no regrets. From all I've gathered, Central's homecoming is synonymous with boredom.

Anyone who says otherwise is a liar, or at least that's what I'll tell myself.

I didn't really want to go anyway.

Seeing as I would have un-

doubtedly been just another addition to the soming wallflowers, it doesn't seem like I m out on much.

If anything, my absence from the event provide an opportunity to glorify high school.

Looking back, my ignorance of the night allow for any and every wonderful scenarios to place that could have, but probably wouldn't have happened.

In my mind, I could have had the best of my life. I could have married a superman, saved the world, won homecoming king, achieved world peace and found a cure for AIDS.

All of this could have happened in one place in the a crepe paper covered gym, filled with waiting adolescents in overpriced dresses and uncomfortable dress shoes.

In this case, I saved \$12 and any possible rejection after making zero attempts to snag a date.

Dancing is like, not cool anyway.

Playing video games with any other homecoming-challenged male counterpart is much more fulfilling. Who needs social events any of that?

Besides, Nintendo doesn't expect correct etiquette or a corsage. Watch out Mario, you're new girlfriend.

Forget about contraception, I can score on my game console.

No more risk of STDs or the trouble of buying condoms.

I don't even have to bathe anymore.

Sitting on a lazy-boy coated in musk and watching old popcorn far out weighs the bothersome of dressing up.

Pants are optional.

Whatever the decision, it's all part of growing up.

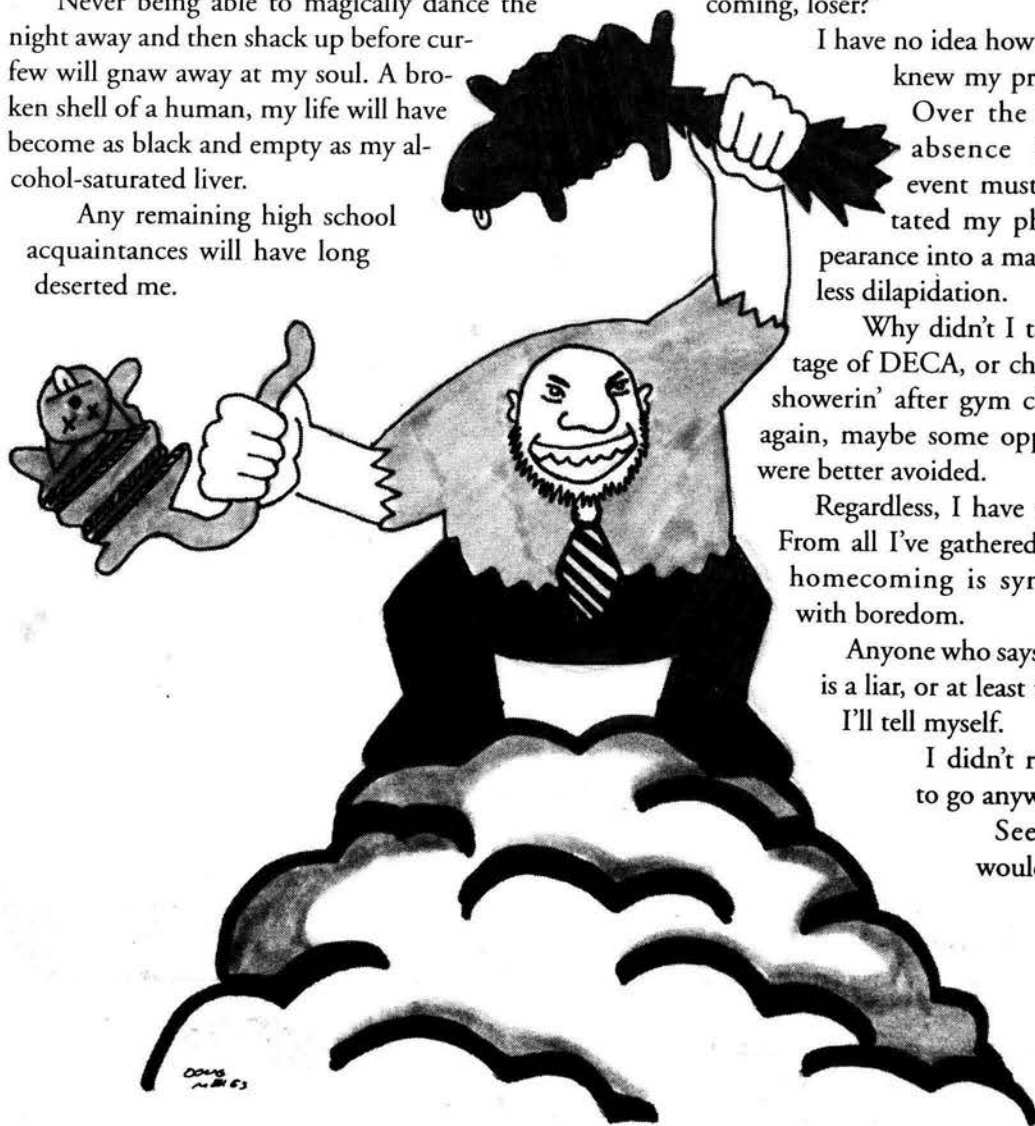
Everyone has four years of waiting from August to early June, making what counselors perpetually refer to as life-shaping decisions.

Not going to homecoming may not have affected my life in the slightest.

Or maybe it has. I'll just have to wait and see how my life unfolds.

It will all make sense in retrospect. Or maybe it won't.

After all, I never went.





## surprise me

A Column by Danielle Welty

# Children cause pain, irritation

I hate children with a passion. I could not be the person you would want to hire to baby-sit your children.

If you arrive at home and they're taped to the ceiling fan, it wasn't my fault. They wouldn't shut up.

I love nothing more than to hear a four year old ramble on about something that happened last night.

He tends to say the same thing over and over again, but gets absolutely nothing across.

For example, "My dog, my dog, my dog, and the carpet, blue carpet, my mommy, the door went 'errr', and she made a face like this."

The child then tries to imitate his mother by twisting his face until he looks constipated.

As the baby sitter, I try to pay

partial attention to him and infer that the dog did something to the carpet that made the mom angry.

The majority of the time I just refer to Plan B: smile, tell him that's nice and bribe him with the bag full of candy that one should have stashed away for just such an emergency.

Baby-sitting isn't so bad because you only have to put up with them for a few hours at a time, and then they go back to the overjoyed parents who are now shelling out \$50.

Choosing to have children of your own is a different story entirely.

The baby may look cute in the beginning. All the little clothes and tiny shoes you get to buy in preparation of the baby certainly seems fun at the time.

You see new parents crouched over their child with looks on their faces of delight. That's just the parents losing all sense of reality as a result of lack of sleep.

All of those sleepless nights become petty in comparison to what is to come further on down the road, those lovely adolescent years.

As the child grows up he will undoubtedly resent you, and all of the money you spent cleaning the chocolate stains out of that once white sofa, time running back and forth between school events and the effort you put into teaching him how to tie his shoes, is quickly forgotten.

Some parents attempt to fix this problem with a guilt trip.

To the adolescent, you sound like

one of the teachers off of "Charlie Brown." Then he decides to wander off, eat junk food and watch television for an average of four hours a day, doing a great job at being lazy.

Eventually he will move out. That may be the best day of your life.

If he is a successful young adult who plans on attending a college, leaving will occur after high school.

If he's anything like my uncle, he won't leave until the morning of his 27th birthday. Then it will only happen after all of his belongings have been tossed out onto the lawn and several apartments have been highlighted in the classifieds.

The world is overpopulated. So do it a favor, make the right decision and don't add to the problem. **E**



## chuckie's corner

A Column By Charlie Wence

# Voyage to gym class has treacherous pitfalls

I hate the boy's locker room.

The long journey I have all the way down nine flights of stairs, yeah I hate that, too.

The stench one encounters in the large, windowless room, where hundreds of sweaty guys who have just come from their gym classes where they have run the mile, played football or lifted weights, yeah I hate that smell as well.

The crowded rows of lockers where one must squeeze between other guys with the risk of bumping into one of them, interrupting their changing process and getting yelled at for it, I hate that.

The frequent graffiti that shows up on the walls inside the locker room advertising for Omaha's finest gangs, I guess you could say I hate that, too.

But don't get me wrong here, I love gym class. It's an easy grade and also provides a break in the hectic day of being a student.

Gym gives you a reprieve from the thought of how tough school is or how you're not prepared for a test next hour.

However, if it weren't for Omaha Public School requirements, I wouldn't be taking gym class and would get out of school at 2 p.m.

I guess you could say the only downside about gym is the journey to the locker room, changing, walking in and out of the crowded rooms, come back, changing and leaving on time.

Inside the locker room, the coach's office always makes me laugh. The gym teachers talk and watch film of last week's game in the enclosed office with their comfortable leather chairs with full view of all of us in the dirty, smelly locker room.

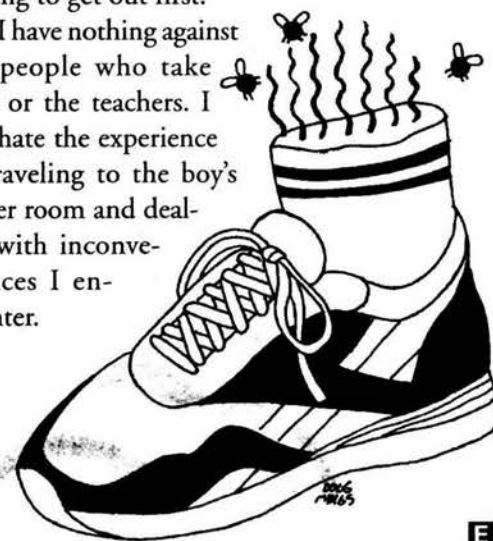
The rental lines where all the kids who forgot their gym shorts or their gym clothes are also quite unorganized. A line of 15 kids wait around for a teacher to take collateral and 50 cents in exchange for the privilege of wearing gym shorts.

There's a room where everyone puts their backpacks. Once the gym class is over, 50 guys rush into a room no larger than 30 square feet to claim their backpacks, then try to get out of the extremely

small room without being crushed, tripping over something or falling flat on their faces.

After claiming our belongings, we all head for the exit doors to return to our classes throughout the school. Every kid huddles close to the doors, hoping to get out first.

I have nothing against the people who take gym or the teachers. I just hate the experience of traveling to the boy's locker room and dealing with inconveniences I encounter.

**E**



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# Senior remembers her sister as being full of life, laughter



Photo courtesy of the Susman family

**Sarah Susman smiles in her stroller. Her older sister Katie used to take her for frequent walks in the park. Sarah died on April 18, 2002 from a fever that caused her to have seizures.**

**By Paula Salhany**

Senior Katie Susman still vividly remembers the day her sister died. Her mother called during school and told her that her 6-year-old sister had gone brain dead.

It started out with a simple ear infection. Sarah had been to the doctor and everything was okay. She just needed antibiotics. So her mom took her to the store to get the medicine, and when they returned to the car, she started to have seizures. An ambulance was called and she was rushed to the hospital.

"The doctors said the seizures began because her temperature rose to 104 degrees," Katie said. "But she had been in and out of the hospital so much that my mom told me it was not that big of a deal."

So Katie never again got to see the happy-go-lucky Sarah she had known for six years.

"The next time I saw her she was gone," she said. "It looked like she was sleeping, but I knew she wasn't. It was awful."

Sarah Susman died on April 18, 2002, about three days after being admitted into the hospital.

Katie is the eldest of three children. She had dealt with the death of two other siblings before. Sarah's twin sister Elizabeth died when she was 19 months old from a fungal infection in one of the tubes she was hooked up to. Because the twins were born premature, they were both born with major health problems. Before that, her baby brother, Michael, died at birth because his lungs were not developed enough.

"Michael's death made my mother want to have more children," Katie said. "She had to have in-vitro fertilization to have Sarah and Elizabeth."

She said each death was harder to deal with than the last because each time the child was a little older. Sarah, she said, was a part of the family's everyday life.

"With Michael it was hard because we lost a baby," she said. "But my mother didn't know him so it wasn't nearly as hard as when Elizabeth or Sarah died."

In some ways it brought the family together, in other ways it tore it apart. Katie said her parents got a divorce after Elizabeth's death and now, when the family is together, there is a noticeable piece missing.

But Sarah's death affected her mother the most.

"My mom made Sarah her life," she said. "She is a computer programmer, but she would leave work to be at her side in the hospital. She would do anything for her."

Many of Sarah's teachers commended her mother for being so supportive, especially when many parents of disabled children aren't as involved in their child's development, Katie said.

Thinking about Sarah still makes Katie cry. Whenever she thinks about her sister, she remembers how she was always happy. She remembers how she loved to be read to and how she loved to sing. Katie remembers one time when she was singing with Bel Canto at the Madrigal Dinner. She was supposed to read a Dr. Seuss book out loud to everyone and once she started, her sister got so excited she laughed and clapped throughout the whole story.

"Even though she was blind, she could still recognize my voice," she said. "She was just so happy."

Katie used to take her for walks in her stroller and read books. They would eat ice cream together and whenever Katie was having a bad day, all she had to do was play with Sarah for a while and everything would be better.

"Her room is still the same as it used to be, so I'll walk by it and look in and she won't be there," she said. "I don't realize that she's dead. It just seems like she's gone and she'll be coming back soon. But then it hits me."

Katie said she is just hoping to get through Sarah's birthday.

**E**

# Math teacher beats odds of rare ailment

By Paula Salhany

The feeling of paralysis still baffles Greg Sand. It started when he was watching the Arizona/Nebraska football game. His legs began to go stiff "like when you run for a long distance without stretching before hand," he said.

He said he thought it was only muscle soreness, but as the Saturday night turned into Sunday morning, it only got worse. He said he could hardly get up off the couch, but managed to do that, take a shower and try to put his socks on for church.

"It's amazing how hard it is to put on elastic socks when your legs don't work," he said.

From the time he got up off the couch, went to church and then went out for Thai food, he had collapsed four times.

When he tried to get out of the booth at the restaurant, he couldn't do it.

His legs and arms simply wouldn't work.

So a friend he was with and one of the waiters carried him out to the car and he was taken to the hospital.

"My friend pulled up to the emergency room and went to go get triage while I waited in the car," he said.

By this time his legs were completely useless and his arms were beginning to give out as well.

"But the nurse came out and told me to put my arms around his neck and he would put me in the wheelchair," he said. "I told him that I wasn't going to be able to do that."

Sand said the nurse didn't understand what he was talking about and tried to pull him up and into the chair. He fell onto the cement.

The paralysis progressed up both legs, both arms and down his left side.

But once in the hospital, Sand said the doctors couldn't seem to figure out what was wrong.

Doctor upon doctor came into his room asking him questions and making him tell the story of what had happened over and over again. They ran every type of test. They ran MRI's, blood tests, took 10 vials of blood and did a spinal tap.

The only thing they could come up with was a neurological disease called Guillon Beret. If this was the case and he didn't get any better, he would have to go on a ventilator and have a plasma transfusion.

"It was really pretty scary thinking about being hooked up to a vent," Sand said.

But when he was tested, everything came back negative.

So Sand was in a hospital bed, unable to move

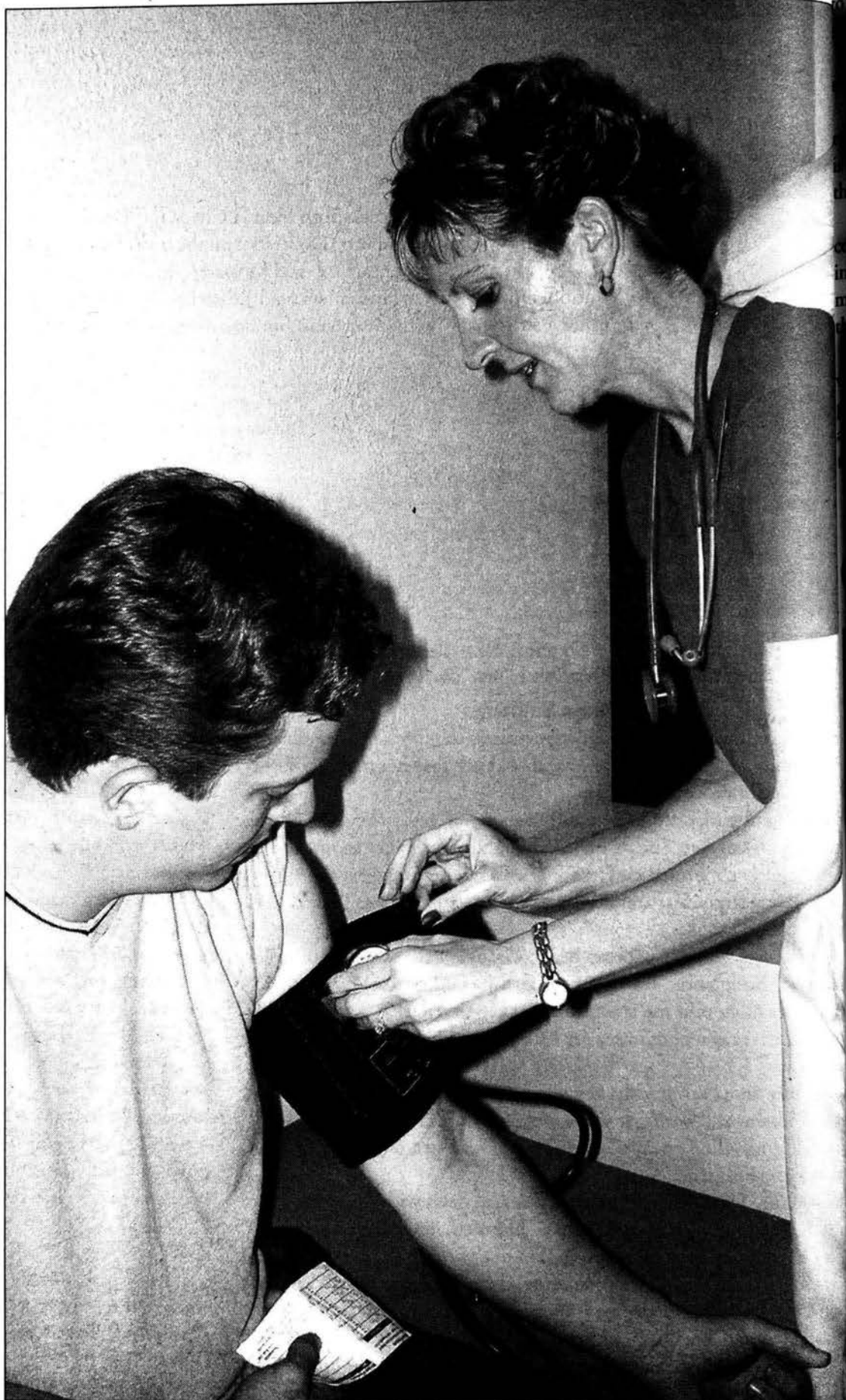


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE D

**Greg Sand gets his blood pressure taken by school nurse Jenny Conahan. Because of a hyperactive thyroid disease, he has to take his vitals twice a day.**

at for 24 hours.

"Finally, this neurologist came in to see me and within five minutes he said, 'It's Grave's disease,'" he said.

Graves disease is a type of thyroid disease.

According to the American Thyroid Association (ATA), this disease is a general over activity of the entire thyroid gland.

In Grave's disease, antibodies on the surface of the thyroid make the thyroid produce more hormones, which result in an overactive thyroid.

Once the doctors knew what was going on, they were able to give him potassium treatments and painkillers. Within 12 hours he was able to take small steps.

"It was really weird to go from

being fine to not being able to move and then being able to take a few small steps," he said.

The way the disease manifested itself was unusual, he said.

"Usually there are symptoms that manifest themselves in a shorter period of time with symptoms such as muscle soreness, weakness and weight loss," he said. "Being paralyzed almost never happens."

In fact, he said when doctors looked in the computers to find similar cases they could only find one case of a 41-year-old African-American male.

They could not find any cases involving a Caucasian male.

Because it took doctors so long to figure out what was really wrong with him, the effects of paralysis took

a toll on his body.

He said he became addicted to the pain medicine they gave him and because his blood pressure was so high for so long, doctors were concerned there may have been permanent damage done to his heart.

"While I was coming off the pain killers, I was told to drink as much water as possible," he said. "In one day I drank 10 pitchers of water."

The paralysis and the effects of the disease have taken a toll on Sand's life.

He used to be a very energetic person who slept little and was always doing something.

Now, his body is constantly tired and he sleeps more than he ever has.

He has to take radioactive iodine to get rid of his thyroid.

But this type of therapy, according to the ATA, works to cure the disease within three to six months.

In the mean time, he has to take his blood pressure twice a day, take multiple pills every day and has to go on a low iodine diet.

"Stress is now a much bigger concern in my life," he said. "My immune system is depressed and I have a hard time keeping up with my usual pace."

Though it is difficult, he said his teaching has not been impaired.

He said this is mainly because he has taught these classes before and is able to build on what he already knows.

"It (Grave's disease) is curable, though," he said. "That's the good thing." **E**

## Cancer survivor glad to be back in classroom



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

**Kelli Priebe quiets her clothing class after the bell. This is her first semester back after having skin cancer.**

**By Laura Diesing**

Kelli Priebe said she had always been very careful about wearing sunscreen, but she never thought to wear a hat.

Last year Priebe, a family and consumer science teacher, spent countless hours in a hospital receiving chemotherapy treatments, all because she overlooked one tiny detail. She never wore a hat when she went outside.

Because of this minor mistake, she now has to wear a hairpiece to hide the scars left behind from having a cancerous growth removed.

"They weren't sure how long I had it," she said. "I just noticed a growth on the back of my head."

She quickly went to see her doctor about it and had to have a biopsy done. On July 11, 2001, Priebe received a phone call from her doctor telling

her the tests had come back positive. She had malignant melanoma, the least common but most serious type of skin cancer. She said she was hardly ever sick and the news that she had skin cancer came as a total shock.

She remembers crying when she found out and when she told her family, they all cried together.

"They were pretty upset," Priebe said. "I think it was hardest on my husband and my son. My daughter did not see me at my worst because she was away at college."

Priebe had surgery to remove the cancer on July 20 at Immanuel Hospital. Doctors had to remove the tumor and do a skin graft because it was such a large area. Her family had to wait for three long hours until the surgery was finally over.

The surgery was a success, but Priebe had to undergo almost a year of chemotherapy treatments. The treatments killed any remnants of the tumor, but they also made her extremely sick.

"A lot of my hair fell out," she said. "I got really bad headaches all the time and it made me really tired. I had no energy."

Priebe said that at one point she was getting chemotherapy daily. A neighbor would take her to the hospital and her husband would leave early to pick her up. In the fall of 2001, she finally felt ready to go back to school. But that did not last long. She was still undergoing chemotherapy treatments and had not yet regained all of her strength.

"I tried to start the school year. I lasted one day and then took leave for the rest of the year," she said. "I was there the day the freshmen came and I had a treatment that day. My department head took one look at me and said she was calling a sub. I was a wreck."

Even though she is done with the chemotherapy and there is no evidence that the cancer spread, Priebe still has to go to see her doctor every four months for a checkup. She said she was lucky to have caught the tumor so early on. If she had not, there was a chance the cancer would have spread to her brain and many other places on her body. **E**

# Sophomore refuses to slow down because of disease

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Everyday Charita Brown follows a specific routine.

She gives herself four injections of insulin, after which she always has something to eat, and tests her blood sugar four times to make sure it is at the right level.

Brown said that since diagnosis of Type II diabetes at age 7, she has had to go through all of these steps to ensure that she stays healthy. Alice Jardee, a registered nurse and certified diabetes educator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said the number of people with Type II diabetes has been increasing steadily in recent years.

Brown said she has to check her blood sugar to make sure it is within the range that is best for her, between 70-150 milligrams per deciliter.

"I have to know whether it is too high or too low," she said.

Brown's mother is a diabetic as well, which Brown said made it easier to adjust after she received the news. She said she has a diabetic cousin and uncle as well. Jardee said Type II diabetes has a tendency to run in families.

To keep herself healthy, Brown also has to watch what she eats. She said she is supposed to take measures like drinking diet soda instead of regular to keep her sugar intake at an acceptable level.

"We're supposed to basically eat sugar-free candy," she said.

When she has been eating well for a while and her blood sugar is at a good level, Brown said she can occasionally treat herself to a bit of regular candy or something else with sugar.

If Brown does not eat right after injecting herself with insulin, she said she could have an insulin reaction. She said most of the times reactions happen, they come on as something resembling a seizure, but if the blood sugar gets too low, a coma is possible.

Brown said she remembered having an insulin reaction at church when she was younger. She was leaving the choir rafters after performing when the attack hit and said she did not remember anything after that until the time she woke up in her grandmother's car.

"Sometimes you can remember what's going on, other times you won't," she said.

When an attack hits during sleep, Brown said it can be hard to realize what exactly is happening to her.

"You won't really know if you are there or here," she said.

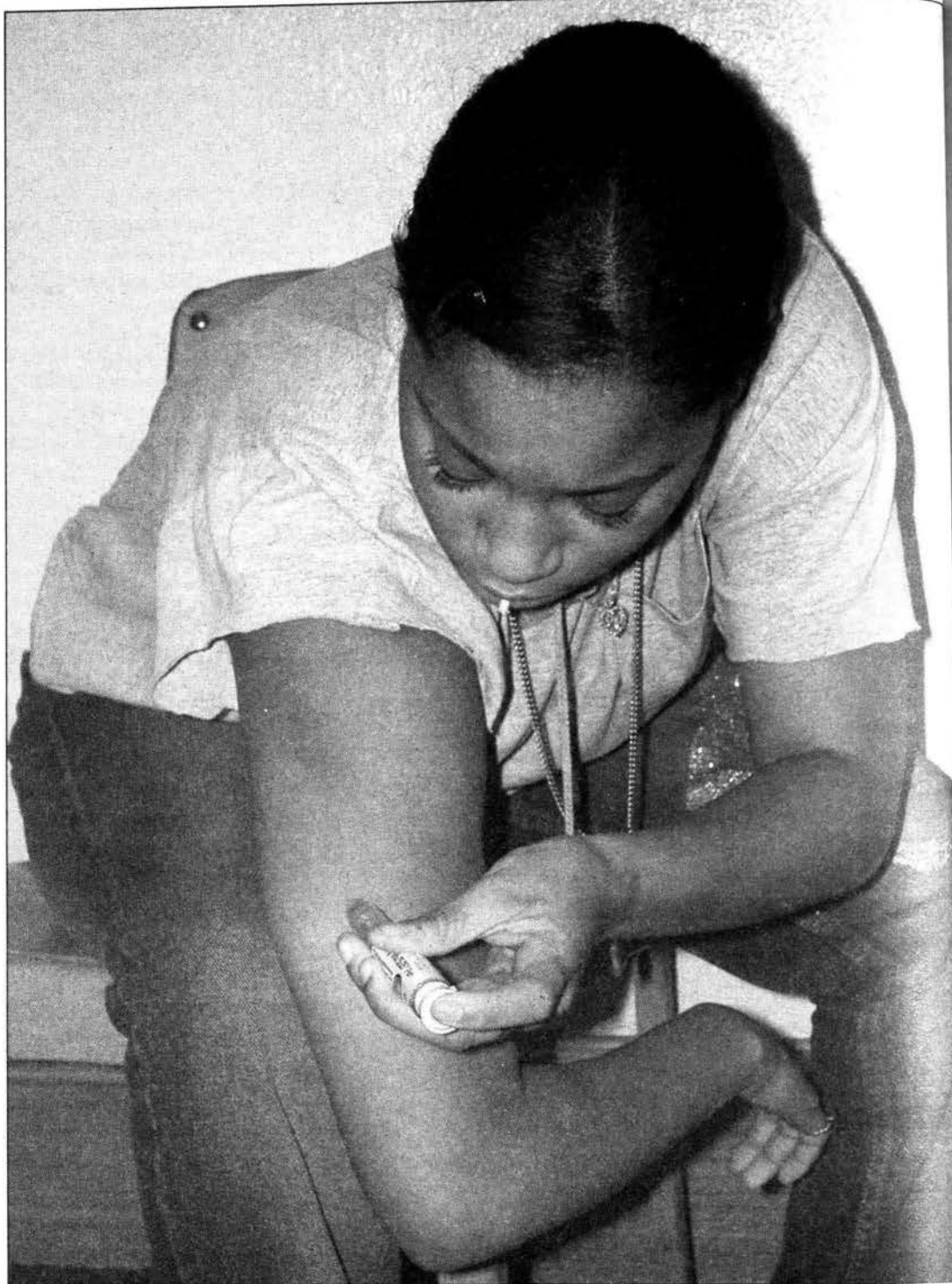


Photo By KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ

**Sophomore Charita Brown gives herself one of the four insulin injections that must have each day. Brown has to give herself the shots to keep her blood sugar at right level.**

During the actual school day, Brown only gives herself one of the four shots she takes daily. She said she just has to go to the nurse's office and give herself the injection.

She said she does not measure her life up to other students' lives who do not have to deal with medical issues.

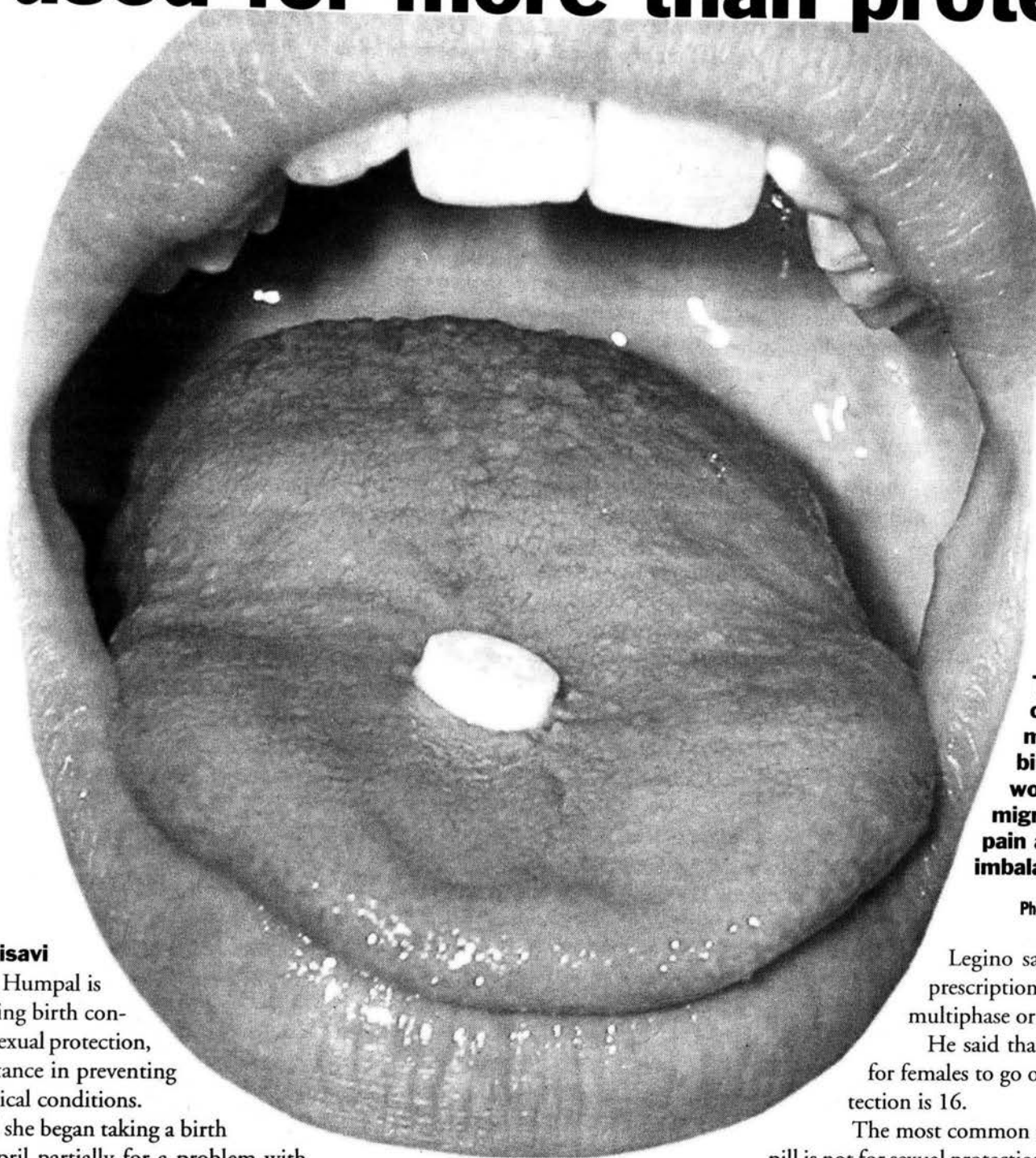
When she thinks about the future, Brown said she is optimistic about the prospect of finding a

cure for her type of diabetes, but she has not heard of any developments so far. Jardee said there has been extensive research on curing diabetes through harvesting insulin-producing cells.

"What they are hoping is that they can cure it by preventing it from happening," she said.

Brown said she does not see anyway that diabetes will interfere with any of her plans for the future.

# Pill used for more than protection



**The birth control pill can be used for much more than just birth control. Many women take it for migraines, menstrual pain and hormonal imbalances.**

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

**By Jillian Risavi**

Senior Abby Humpal is an example of using birth control not only for sexual protection, but also for assistance in preventing and treating medical conditions.

Humpal said she began taking a birth control pill in April partially for a problem with migraine headaches, a hormonal imbalance and for protection during sexual activity.

She said that she did not go talk to her mother first about going on the pill.

"I thought I was old enough to make the decision on my own," she said. Her mother's reaction, she said, was of shock at first. Humpal said she was concerned that her mother would think that she went on the pill because she was seriously dating someone at the time.

Humpal said that her mom understood since her mother didn't tell her either when she first began to take the pill.

Lonny Legino, M.D. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, said that there are multiple forms of birth control for females, some being contraceptive pills, patch and injections.

The contraceptive pill comes in different varieties of forms and dosages,

Legino said. He said usually the prescriptions are in a low dosage and multiphase or monophasic form.

He said that the most common age for females to go on the pill for sexual protection is 16.

The most common reason females go on the pill is not for sexual protection, but for control of their menstrual cycle, cramps and acne control, he said.

Legino said that the side-effects of the pill vary with the individual taking it.

He said that some of the effects may be fluid retention, weight gain or loss and on the emotional side, depression.

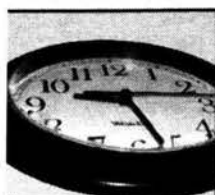
"There about 22 side-effects," Legino said.

One of the only effects Humpal said she had when she began taking the pill was a decrease in the pain and frequency of her headaches.

Humpal said that with the responsibility of having sex comes the responsibility of having a child. She said that people should wait until they are with someone they trust and know because after sex everything changes.

"With no protection, you're just asking to get pregnant," Humpal said. "I don't understand it, personally."

She said her friends who are sexually active take precautions like her to



BRIEF MOMENTS IN TIME

## New club strives for fair animal treatment

Central's newest addition to its collection of clubs, CHEETA, Central High Education for Ethical Treatment of Animals, is attracting members in and outside of the school walls.

CHEETA was started by Catherine Kennedy, an ESL teacher, in an effort to raise awareness of animal rights in students.

"I am a lifelong supporter of animal causes," Kennedy said.

The club is planning on taking trips to the zoo and horse stables, not to mention having a guest speaker talk at one of the meetings about the West Nile Virus and winter care for pets.

CHEETA is also hoping to have the former owner of a vegetarian restaurant teach the members how to cook vegetarian meals.

"One of the main reasons for the club is to show people a different point of view than what they would normally see in the Midwest," senior Adam Christensen said.

The group will be selling chocolate to help raise money for animal rights organizations. Right now it is working with the Humane Society, the zoo, local veterinarians, National Wildlife Autobahn Society and the Coalition for Animal Protection.

If the club keeps attracting people like it is now, Kennedy said she hopes that CHEETA will return next year.

## Pom Squad rises to last year's challenge

Pom Squad has a lot to live to up this year. Being in the shadow of a squad that had a bid to nationals under its belt is never easy.

Jennifer Yin and the squad's sponsor Tarah Jansen said that this year's squad will be just as good.

This summer, Pom Squad went home with a superior trophy, around 47 superior ribbons and two excellent ribbons.

Jansen said the squad is planning on competing in the State Spirit Spectacular in November.

"We've been invited to a few others, but we aren't sure," Jansen said.

be protected during sexual activity.

Humpal said that places like Planned Parenthood are a great idea for females who want to be more discrete.

A clinical assistant at Planned Parenthood said that they provide gynecological exams, sexually transmitted disease testing, pregnancy tests, counseling and birth control methods.

According to Planned Parenthood, birth control methods that are offered are the pill, two different shots, the Intra Uterine Device (IUD), diaphragm, condoms and foams.

A Planned Parenthood spokesperson said it provides almost the same gynecological exams that any regular physician would provide but it is more confidential and it provides counseling.

Senior Jessica Richart said she didn't want to get pregnant and so she didn't want to take the chance.

She said that she is emotionally not ready to have sex and that she is still too young to take that step.

The choice to not have sex is not only from her religious background, but also the way she was brought up, she said.

Richart said that she believes there is something magical in saying that she will only make

love to one person.

People who use birth control are being enough to not randomly take the chance of getting pregnant easier or catching a sexually transmitted disease, she said.

"It's a decision made by each and every individual," Richart said.

She said that contraceptives are good because she does not think anyone is ready to be a parent at this age.

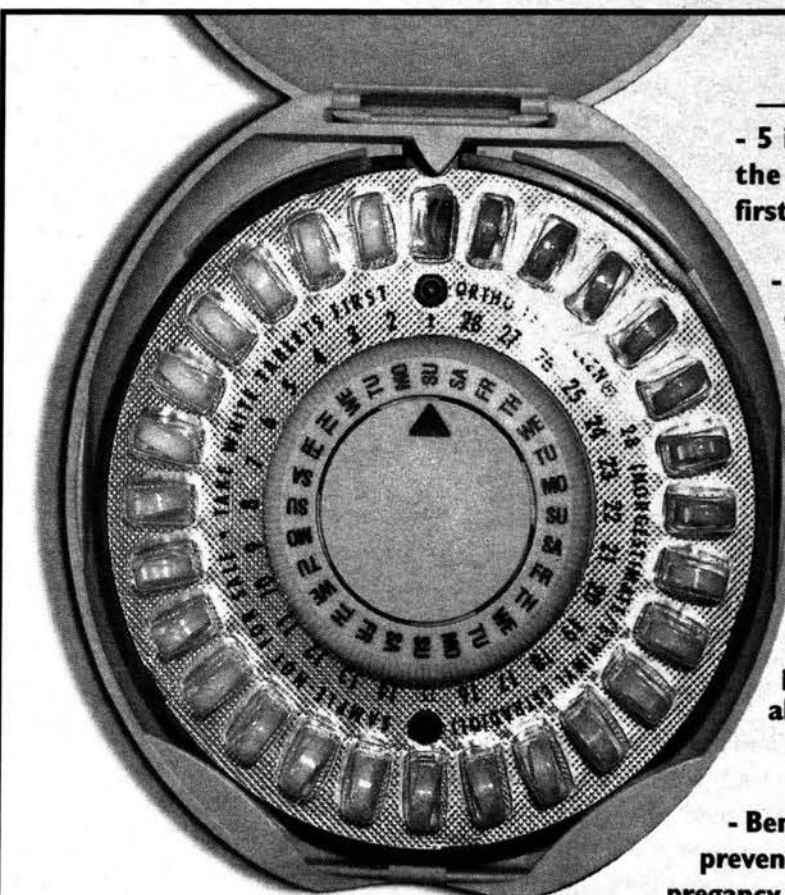
She said it depends on the situation, but asked she would recommend adoption to someone who is unsure what to do.

Legino said that he recommends patients make an appointment with their doctors.

He also said that if the person is under 18, she should come in with one of her parents to discuss the reasons for taking the pill and the effects of taking it.

Some of the benefits are treating medical conditions such as uterine and ovarian cancer, decrease blood loss in anemia and the decrease in sexual transmitted diseases.

"Birth control has improved over the years," Legino said. "Attention has gone to its side effects to make it conducive to the needs of the patient."



### Information on THE PILL

- 5 in 100 women who use the pill get pregnant the first year of use

- 1 in 1,000 women who use combination pills become pregnant with perfect use

- Cost of exam by private doctor may range from \$50 to \$150

- Depending on brand, a prescription can cost about \$20 to \$30 a month

- Benefits: Can prevent ectopic pregnancy, acne, excess body hair, cancer of the ovaries

- Risks: Weight gain or loss, nausea, vomiting, changes in mood, depression

Information courtesy of Planned Parenthood  
Graphic by ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE

# New guidelines result in new social studies classes

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

This year's sophomore class is the first one to go through the school's new set of required social studies classes, department head Carol Hipp said.

Changes in standards set by the state board of education prompted the new guidelines for the required social studies classes students take each year.

"The new organization of curriculum is not that much different," Hipp said. "We had to add economics."

Under the old curriculum, students took world geography as freshmen, a semester of government as sophomores, American history as juniors and world history as seniors.

There were honors options available for freshmen and sophomores, as well as the option for Advanced Placement American history for juniors and Advanced Placement European history for seniors.

However, Hipp said, under the new plan, freshmen take United States history, sophomores take one semester each of economics and geography, juniors will take world history and seniors will take government.

There are honors options for U.S. history, economics and geography.

There will be AP world history next year for juniors, which is a change from previous years when students took European history as the AP alternative to world.

"We had to change to (AP) world, where you get more of a global perspective," Hipp said.

Seniors who want to take AP government will have to take a full-year class, while those who do not will only have the class for a semester, she said.

Another new AP option for students is the possibility of AP geography. Hipp said she will be going into the current honors geography classes during second quarter to decide whether or not students will be ready for the AP curriculum.

Hipp said the course is college level and much more intensive than any of the school's regular courses.

"It will be more rigorous, more writing and analysis," Hipp said.

Sophomore Ellen Mickle is currently en-

rolled in honors Geography and is considering taking the AP test. However, Mickle said she has not received many details about how much preparation she will have to go through in order to take the test.

The department had been planning on making the requirement changes for the past four years or so, Hipp said, and implemented them with last year's freshmen.

She said that since geography and economics do not have actual textbooks, except for some in the honors classes, the department did not have to worry about purchasing new books for those classes.

With the new changes, certain classes, such as AP American history were left out of the new curriculum, but Hipp said there may be a way for students to still take the class should they have the interest.

"Maybe in the future it will be an elective," she said.

Junior Jonathan Albright is currently enrolled in AP American history and said it is a very useful class for his future.

"It's really challenging, it teaches you things that you need to know later for college," he said.

Albright said the option of AP geography seemed less important than AP American history.

"Geography is not as important. It is important, but it's not like you have to know," he said.

Hipp said the change addition of U.S. history to freshman curriculum makes sense because it helps build on what students learn in eighth grade.

"You start in eighth grade and you basically finish it ninth grade," Hipp said.

Albright said he thought taking geography in the ninth grade was smart because students could learn it earlier and then use the information they learned later on, in classes like AP European history.

"I think it's better the way that I had it," he said.

However, Mickle said both of the course tracks had good transitions between the different subjects.

"There's not much of a difference to me it seems," she said.

## BRIEF MOMENTS IN TIME



## Skateboarders soar to beginning of new year

The skateboarding club has some big things planned for its second year at Central.

"Last year was our test run," senior Donald Southard, the president of the club, said.

Members can look forward to more skate competitions, but this year there will be a few changes.

Last year the club held its competition at the Salvation Army Skate Park. Southard said that now it will be held somewhere else because the Salvation Army only allows Christian music at its park.

Southard said that a surprisingly large amount of people showed up to watch the 12 skateboarding club members compete. He said that there will be two or three competitions this year and hopes to see a large turnout again.

Christy Mills, the club's sponsor, said she was a part of the skate group when she was in high school and thinks that it is a positive outlet for kids to hang out at and meet new people.

"Skate club is a lot of fun," Southard said. "We hang out and watch skate videos. It's a good excuse to skate at school."

Mills said the club is always looking for new members as long as they are committed.

"As long as you want to have fun, come to skate club," Southard said.

## Students learn, have fun in new CHS club

The Tae Kwan Do club has only been around for one full semester, but sponsor Sgt. Sharon Cooper said she thinks it has been a success.

Cooper has taken Tae Kwan Do for many years from her instructor, Micheal Storm, who now instructs the club.

Storm, a fifth degree black belt, comes to Central for every club meeting, bringing along two other second degree black belt instructors.

The students are split up into smaller groups and get more one-on-one attention from the instructors to work on moves from their own skill levels.

Cooper said she has high hopes for the future of the club.

# Renovations scare homeless away

By Doug Meigs

As the school day begins, so does another day on the street.

Students see the homeless almost daily standing with written pleas for help on torn cardboard boxes as they drive to and from school past Turner Blvd. They may pass them on the street after school in the downtown area, or see them sitting outside the gas station a few blocks from Central.

If early enough, they may even be able to see one or two rise from the bushes beside the school with their blankets and belongings. Their outlines are barely noticeable in the dull morning light as they meander down Central's lawn to the street.

Any of Omaha's 2,100 homeless could be staying outside Central on any given night, Mike Saklar, executive director of the Siena Francis House said.

However, custodian, Frank DeGeorge said that the renovations began the summer before last seem to have scared most of them away from school. Before, the only thing to scare them away was the arrival of students in the morning, reprimands from janitorial staff and daylight.

Now, all the construction activity has made it difficult for them to sleep around the school. Their presence may have become less noticeable, but he said they are still around.

On any given night past 10, he said a homeless person might be found sleeping around the school.

Saklar said Central is in an area that has a high concentration of homeless individuals. He said the individuals congregate in camps along the river or around the Gene Leahy mall, 24th and Leavenworth Streets, the Old Market area, 24th and N Streets and within the area around the Siena Francis House around 28th and Nicholas Streets.

Central is right in the middle of those areas.

If they don't stay in the Siena Francis House or one of the other 10 Omaha/Council Bluffs shelters, he said many find vacant alleys, or abandoned cars. Many stay in their own cars because it is the last of their material possessions.

Some stay in empty or condemned buildings and houses. They have to find shelter one way or another, Saklar said he isn't the least bit surprised that some have used Central for such a purpose.

Lee Montoya is homeless and stays at the Siena Francis House. He made his way up from New Mexico where he said he used to have to sleep on the streets. Montoya said that Omaha along with the rest of America has a major homeless prob-

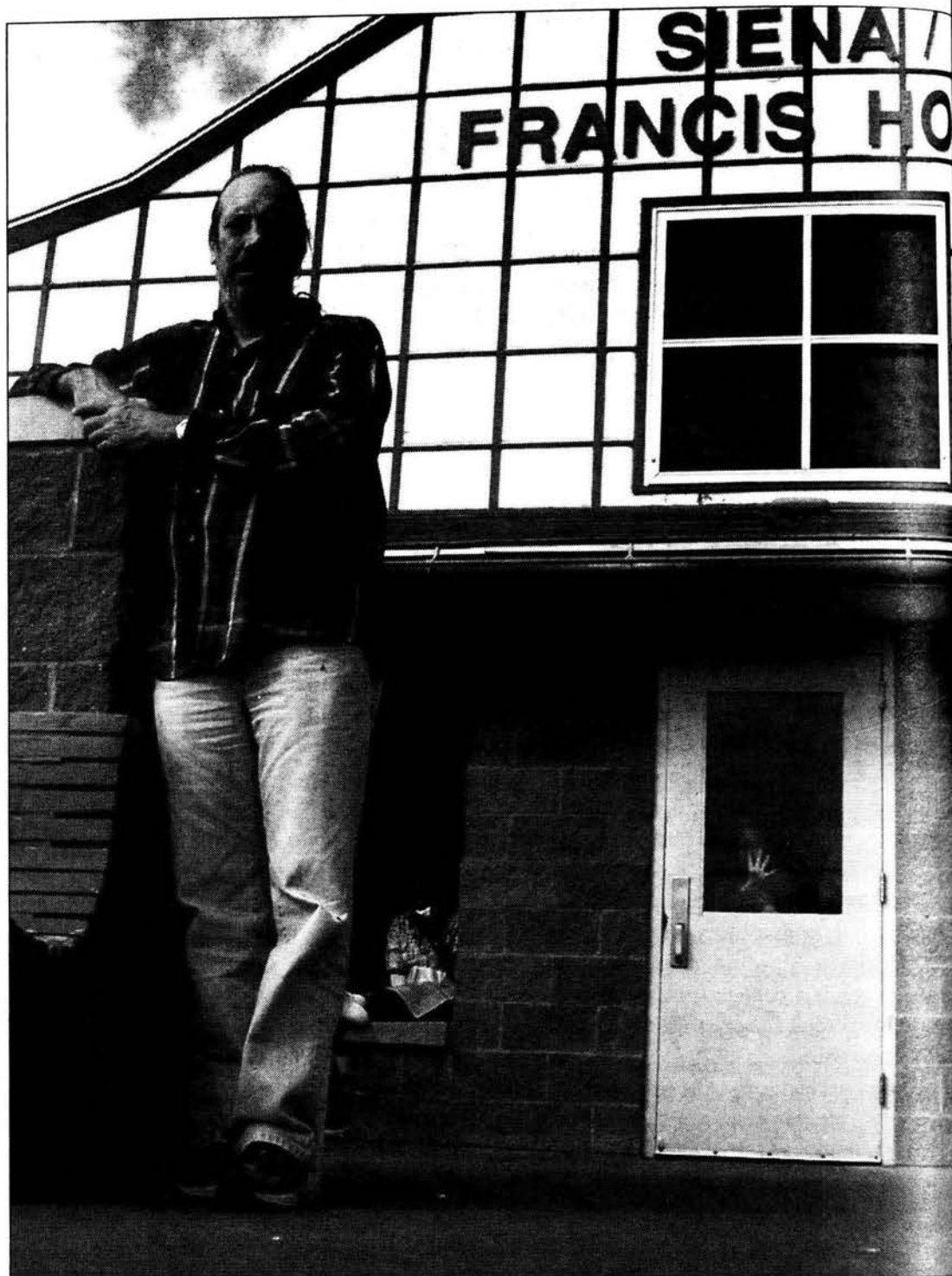


Photo by DOUG MEIGS THE  
**Mike Saklar, executive director of the Siena Francis House, stands outside the homeless shelter. The facility is Omaha's largest homeless shelter and is close to Central**

lem.

"It could be better. Look at all the money floating around Omaha," Dean Williams, another homeless individual at the shelter, said.

Lazaro Valdes, a homeless Cuban immigrant said he agreed with both Williams and Montoya.

Although Valdes could barely speak English, Montoya translated that he had to sleep on the street frequently since he arrived from Cuba. He

made his way from Florida to Grand Island before coming to Omaha.

He had stayed on the streets in the downtown and south Omaha area for about a month before coming to the Siena Francis House.

DeGeorge said that homeless individuals slept on the east side of the building as a windbreak.

He said he has found individuals or their belongings lying behind the columns up close to

In addition, he said the homeless stay on the east side of the building near rooms 020 and 021. Between the bushes is a crawl space where he said homeless individuals have often sought refuge.

Omaha has a problem, but it's addressed, Saklar said. "Omaha certainly doesn't compare to New York City or Washington DC, but the homeless who are out there in Omaha are pretty well taken care of."

The Siena Francis House (Omaha's largest shelter) houses around 250 people a night. He said the majority are Omaha natives, but they could come from anywhere.

The shelter offers a place to sleep, food and clothing to individuals in need.

Saklar said that the house caters to approximately 950 out of the total homeless population in Omaha in some way.

If the individuals don't receive shelter, they may receive aid in some other form such as clothing or food," he said.

However, Saklar said that about two thirds of the homeless who don't stay in Omaha shelters receive no help. They are out on their own panhandling, begging wherever they can, and eating whatever they can.

Some of them are constantly on the move and others utilize the Francis house on a daily basis.

DeGeorge has worked at Central for eight years. Over those years he has seen quite a bit of homeless activity on Central's grounds. It may not be noticeable, but from time to time the presence of the homeless is noticeable.

Back when DeGeorge worked around the east side of the building a few years ago, he said there was one individual who he would see regularly. He stayed in the bushes by the window, but eventually moved on.

Two summers ago there was a couple who was living right off of the east side of the building. He said he discovered them one day lying with all their stuff.

He said the man looked to be in his forties and the woman might not have even been 20.

DeGeorge said he tapped on the window, but they refused to move.

He didn't know how long they had been there. They stayed for about three days, before he said the former student resource officer Jerry Paul came and forced them off of the premises.

Around winter recess last year, there was a man on the east side again who had piles and piles of belongings stacked up. DeGeorge said he never saw him, but his stuff was all there, then it disappeared

a couple of days later.

He said the man must have moved on.

"He took them all with him (the blankets), it must have been all of his belongings."

George said there is probably more homeless activity around the school that he hasn't seen. Even though renovations have decreased the activity, former custodian Anthony Abraham said he has seen homeless staying around the school since then. A few weeks ago, he said he saw a man lying down on the east side around midnight.

"He had his little pee bottle with him so that he could go to the bathroom and a bunch of clothes and stuff," Abraham said.

He said he knocked on the window, but the man just looked up and waved then laid his head down and went back to sleep.

Saklar said that homeless will carry all their belongings with them. What they carry with them could range from clothes, to shoes, to an extra jacket, blanket, or maybe a photograph.

"You might notice that if they've been to a shelter and it has given them some help because they carry a toothbrush in their front pocket like a pen, most of them don't have much," Saklar said.

He said many of the individuals on the streets have addiction problems or are mentally ill.

He said most have become homeless due to extremely dysfunctional childhoods.

He said many don't know their fathers, mothers, or both.

"They weren't loved and cared for like most of us," he Saklar said. "Then as they developed their addictions, it became an escape mechanism. And many of the women that come to the program were victims of domestic violence."

Saklar said that the situation would be better if Omaha offered more addiction recovery centers.

The Siena Francis House is part homeless shelter and part rehab facility. However, he said they couldn't accommodate all of the individuals who need help.

"These people will never be productive members of society unless they break their addiction," he said. "Some of them I've befriended. I really care about them."

As a whole, Saklar said Omaha's homeless are fairly harmless, they just need help.

"They've never bothered us," DeGeorge said.

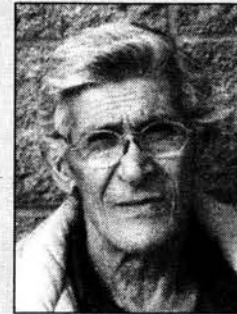
DeGeorge said he's never seen a homeless individual bother a staff member or student.

He said they've never done graffiti or harmed the building. In fact, they probably haven't been noticeable to most students and faculty, he said.

"I'm sure there is probably more than we know about, but they leave in the morning with the daylight," he said.



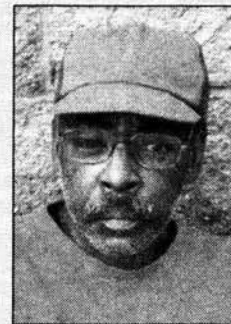
Three men staying at the Siena Francis House comment on homelessness in Omaha.



"Homelessness is a problem."

#### Lazaro Valdez- 8 months at Francis House

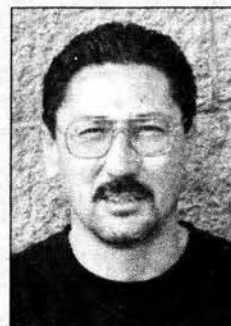
Valdez came to America from Cuba by boat. He made his way up from Florida to Grand Island before coming to Omaha. He had to sleep on the streets around downtown Omaha and south Omaha for a month before he began staying at the Siena Francis House.



"It could be better. Look at all the money floating around Omaha."

#### Dean Williams- 2 years at Francis House

Williams has medical problems that the Siena Francis House helps him with. He said they won't let him stay on the streets and is grateful for that.



"It's real."

#### Lee Montoya- 2 months at Francis House

Montoya came from New Mexico and is in the Siena Francis House's drug recovery program. He has seen the problems of homelessness first hand on the streets of New Mexico before coming to Omaha.

# Custodian content with fulfilling job

By Jillian Risavi

As the students file out of the school and the halls turn dark, night custodian Rufus Haynes sweeps through the halls beginning his workday.

He said his work consists of cleaning rooms on the first floor and the "high spots" such as the office and vocal room.

He said that the students, faculty and co-workers here are wonderful and couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

Haynes has worked at Central for the 17 years. He said he has seen three principals and four engineers during his time.

"I wouldn't want to work with another group of guys," Haynes said.

Since he began working for the district, he has never worked with a different group of co-workers and he likes it that way, he said.

"He's a fun guy to work around, there's never a dull moment," custodian Ernie Redding said.

He said that Haynes has a good rapport with everybody and that he's a hard guy not to like.

Redding said that things would definitely be quieter and a little duller if Haynes was not at Central.

Haynes said he hasn't had a problem with a student or teacher. He said he talks to them and jokes around with them all the time.

Senior Ashanti Weaver said that he is different than other custodians because he takes the time to sit down with the students and teachers and talk to them.

"He's interactive with us and he's really cool," she said.

Weaver said that she finds it funny when he jokes around with her and her boyfriend about stealing her away from him by saying that he is going to borrow her sometime.

She said that he's one of the friendliest people that she has ever met and that he's a part of her day.

"He's friendly and he can make you laugh," Weaver said.

She said that some students see him outside of school at church so he is able to form a friendship with the them.

Junior Austin Henley said that at school Haynes is funny and is always cracking jokes and talking to the students about their days.

He said that he thinks Haynes cares about the students, which is why he attempts to talk and kid around with them.

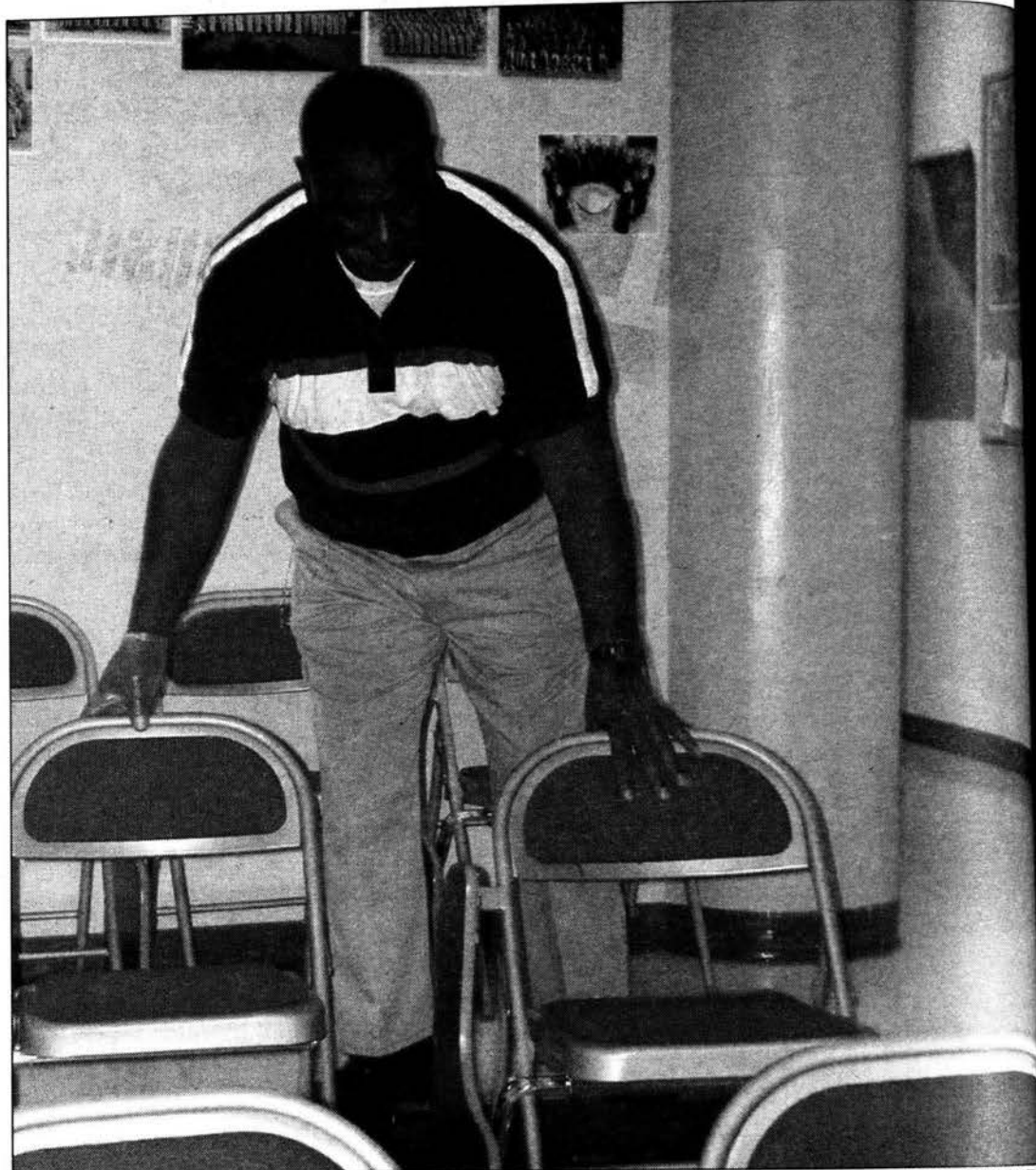


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE

**Night custodian Rufus Haynes straightens up the chairs in the music room on the first floor. Haynes cleans all rooms on the first floor including the main office and administrators rooms.**

Henley said that when he sees Haynes at church or at school he asks about his mom and how he and his family are doing.

At church, Haynes is always dressed well, has a nice persona and is really outgoing, he said.

"He wants to talk and communicate, there's something about him," Henley said.

Haynes said that he likes to get to school early to interact with the students and teachers.

"I get started at 3:30 p.m., but I get here at 3 p.m. to see the people," he said.

Throughout his years working at Central, one of the more unusual nights was about ten years ago while Haynes and the other custodial staff were

getting ready to go home, they caught a burglar in the receiving room.

"He hadn't taken nothing, but still he was in the building," Haynes said.

After he retires at the age of 62 in two years, he would like to become a security guard at Central because he said it would be something different to do with his time.

He said that he loves working at night because it allows the daytime to be free for his own use.

During the days he said he enjoys spending his time working around the house doing garden work and mowing his lawn along with the occasional trip to the casino.

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**GARAGE**

# Kenneth J. Backman

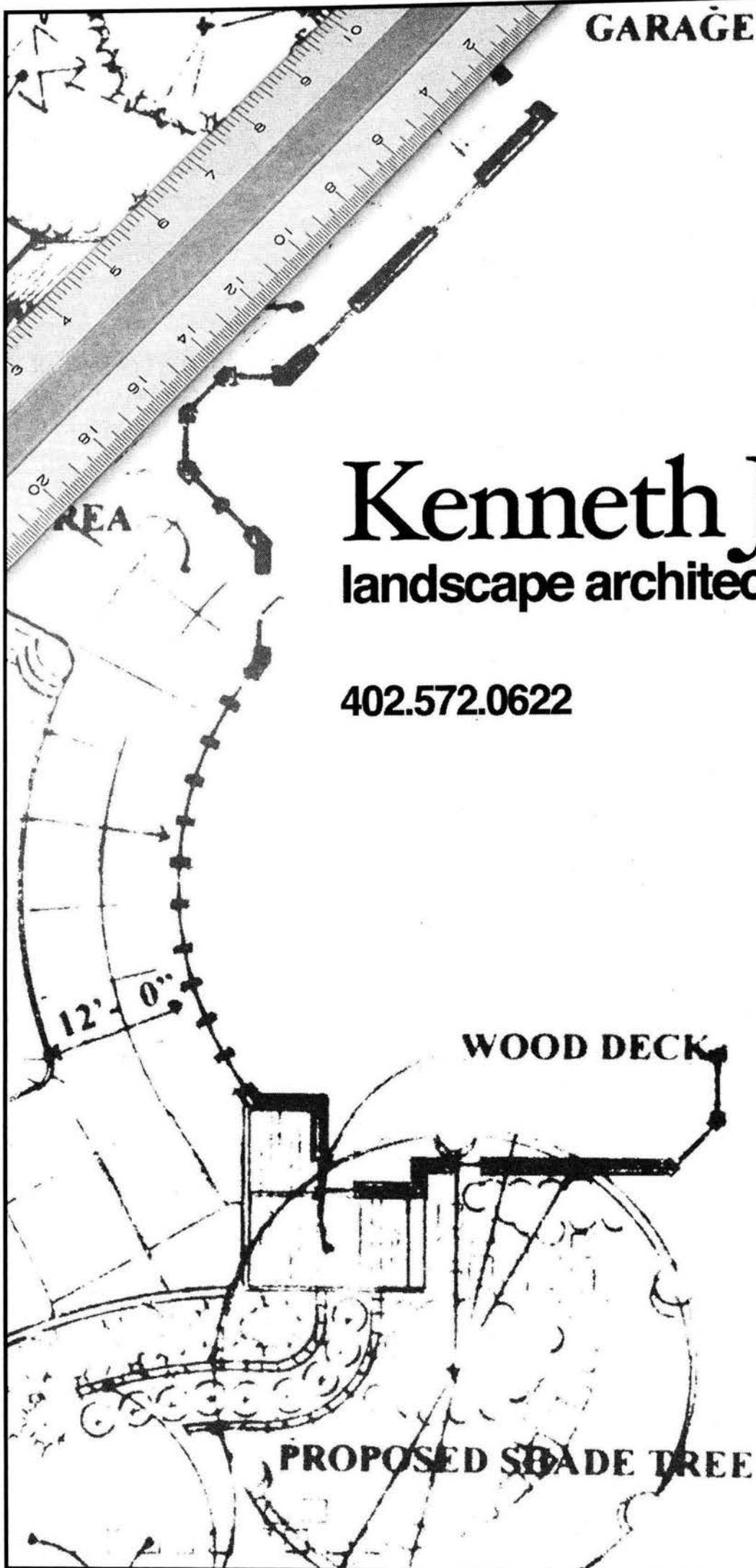
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**WOOD DECK**

**PROPOSED SHADE TREE**



# GANGS

Bloods, Crips, 24th Street Mafia, South Family Five Clicks and the Black Gang Disciples are just a few of the gangs at Central.

Red, blue, black, orange and gold. All are colors that signify gangs and all can be seen at this school.

Over the past two years, the number of fights at Central have gone up. More and more of these fights have been gang related.

Students say there is much more gang activity in the school than either administration or the police department realize.

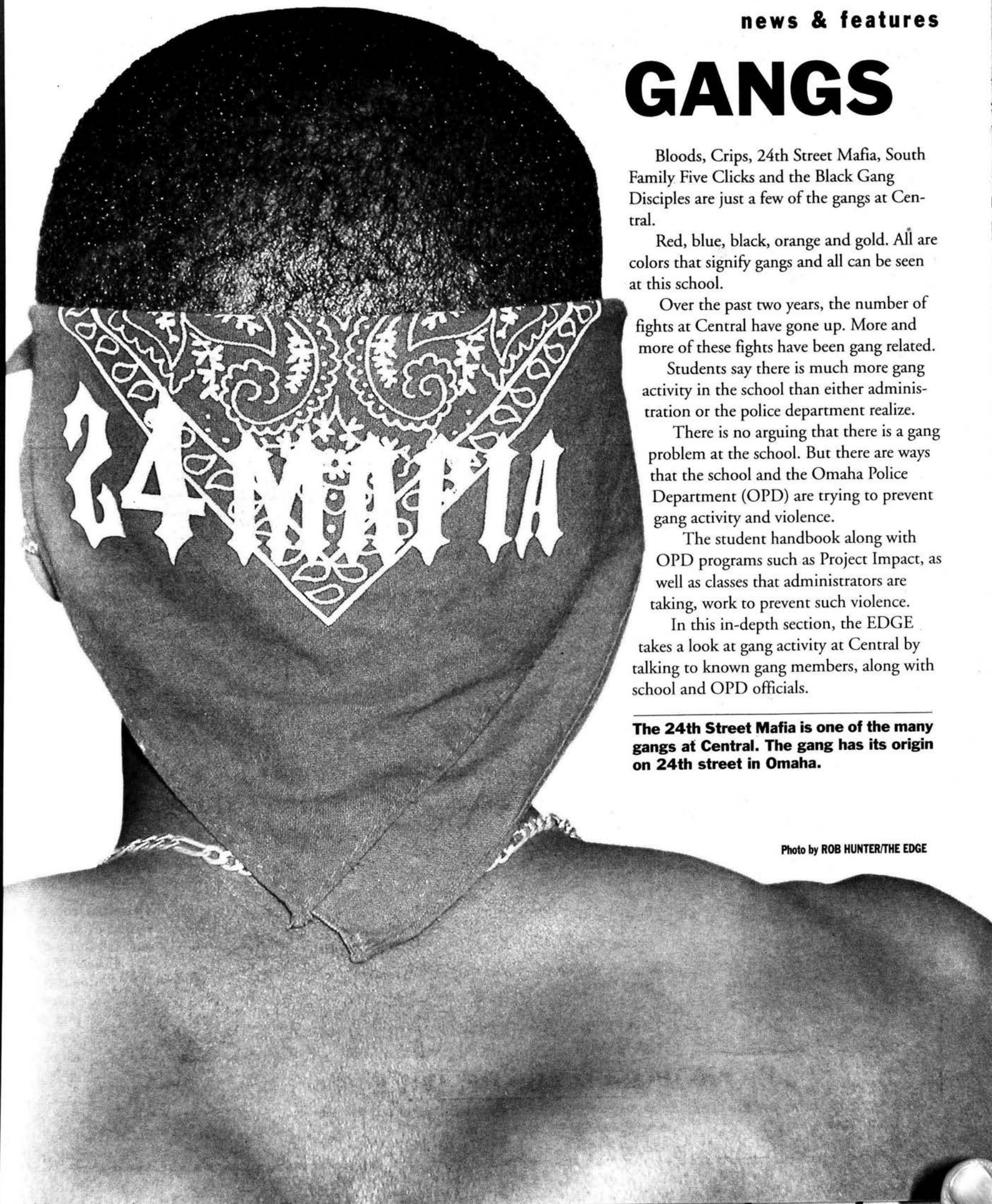
There is no arguing that there is a gang problem at the school. But there are ways that the school and the Omaha Police Department (OPD) are trying to prevent gang activity and violence.

The student handbook along with OPD programs such as Project Impact, as well as classes that administrators are taking, work to prevent such violence.

In this in-depth section, the EDGE takes a look at gang activity at Central by talking to known gang members, along with school and OPD officials.

**The 24th Street Mafia is one of the many gangs at Central. The gang has its origin on 24th street in Omaha.**

Photo by ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE



# When gangs enter school grounds

By Paula Salhany

For senior John Jones, being in a gang is not a big deal.

He said his gang is simply a group of close friends who stick together, hang out together and most importantly, they look out for one another.

Jones said he is in 24 Mafia, a gang whose base is on 24<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha.

He said he's been in the gang for four years, making him one of the more important members.

"A gang," he said, "is just a bunch of people who hang out together. The police is one big gang."

Jones said he has been in numerous fights, but he tries to keep his gang affiliation outside of the school.

He said, every once in a while, people "won't keep it out" and fights break out or incidents happen.

"That's when you get in trouble," he said.

However, Sgt. Kirby Warren from the Omaha police department (OPD) said being in a gang is not illegal.

The crimes that are associated with gangs are against the law. That is why there is a whole gang unit at the OPD.

Jones said he sees drug deals, graffiti and tagging and a lot of violence on the street.

Gang unit officer Mike Scott said it is important for the police to try and prevent as much violence as possible.

Scott said he has been called up to Central three or four times since the school year started.

He said there is no arguing that gang activity

exists at Central.

But having the school resource officer (SRO) in the building and having a whole section in the OPS code of conduct does not always deter students from fighting in school.

"There has been a lot of tension in the school," sophomore Brandon Brewer said in regards to gang activity.

Brewer said he is in the Black Gangster Disciples, otherwise known as BGD.

He said they are a very organized gang whose origin is not in Omaha.

"You know, organized, like Al Capone," he said.

Even though he said the BGDs are based in another city where their "king" is, each city has its own chapter with its own rankings.

BGs are the young ones, he said. YGs are just above them, they have some experience he said, but not a lot.

Then come the OGs, then the King. In order to move up in the ranks, he said members have to show their skills, win fights as well as show respect.

In order to get into a gang, usually members have to be jumped in, or beat up.

"You get punched in the face and legs and mouth and everywhere," he said. "You have to fight back in order to be accepted. You can't give up."

Jones said there are too many different gangs to count at Central.

He said they all have their own colors and ways of distinguishing themselves.

"Red is for Blood, blue is for Crip, red and orange are for South Family Blood, blue and black

are for the BGD," he said. "There are also smaller gangs who wear gold and yellow."

Jones said the 24 Mafia wears blue.

He said being in a gang has a lot to do with how you carry yourself.

He said since he is higher in the ranks he has more respect.

He also said he sees himself as an example for the younger gang members.

Jones said he tries to be respectful in school and he tries to give respect where it is needed.

Scott said sometimes it is hard to tell whether or not a person is actually in a gang, or whether she is just a wannabe.

Principal Jerry Bexten said if a student is in a gang and he acts respectfully in school, doesn't disrupt classes and is a good student, there is nothing the administration can do.

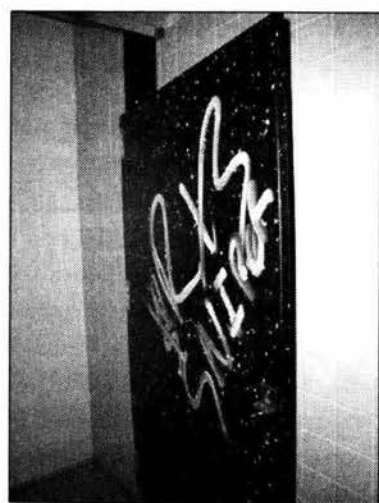
"The bottom line is, Central High School is a place for education, that's why the tax payers want students to come here and that's why students show up to the school every day," he said. "If a student disturbs the learning environment, they have to go."

He said while this may sound harsh, many of the students at Central are serious about their education and any disruption is unfair to them.

"No student has the right to interfere with the education of another student," he said.

Bexten said Central has a good reputation for education and the threat of gang violence is nothing to help with that reputation.

He said the school's administration tries to keep gang activity under control with the help of



An example of tagging at Central was found in the boys bathroom on the 1st floor, 2nd side.

## Criteria Students Recognized as Indicating Gang Presence in School

Indicator of Gang Presence	Percentage of Student Responses		
	Yes	No	Don't know
-Name	80%	9%	11%
-Recognize leader	33%	40%	27%
-Territory or turf	47%	33%	20%
-Tagging or marking turf with graffiti	50%	30%	14%
-Violence	56%	29%	21%
-Time spent with other gang members	71%	8%	12%
-Clothing or other identifying items	80%	21%	8%
-Tattoos	37%	38%	25%

Information courtesy of The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

This data, released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2000, is the most recent data indicating high school student perceptions of gangs in schools.



## news & features



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE EDGE

**Officer Frank DeGeorge cleans up after someone tagged the first floor boys bathroom. Officer Jess Randall said when a gang member tags property they usually write a street name along with the name of the gang they belong to. He said the school is tagged almost every day, but school officials along with himself continue to try and catch the graffiti artists.**

police. In the past there have been meetings to discuss what administrators should look for when dealing with gangs.

There is also talk of having classes for faculty, so they can understand what a gang sign is and the types of things they should be aware of.

This, he said, is mainly for the faculty's knowledge and so they can feel a little more confident when it comes to gangs.

In addition, there is a whole section in the OPS book explicitly stating rules against any gang activity in the school.

He said it is nice to have the SRO in the building even though there are such rules.

When tension gets high or when Officer Randall feels it would be beneficial to school, he can request for Project Impact to come to the school.

When he requests this, the gang unit comes to the school and monitors the activity along with him to diffuse some of the tension.

It was just such an occasion on Oct. 4, 2002, in a joint effort between South's SRO and Officer Randall, that through Project

Impact, the gang unit came up to Central and South high schools to make sure nothing else happened.

"There had been some activity," Randall said. "We thought it would be a good idea so we called them up to relieve some tension."

Jones said there are different neighborhoods that don't get along with others, but that South and Central have had conflicts for as long as he can remember.

He said he always sees gang members who go to South coming to Central to try and jump someone.

The gang unit police officers came into the school in plain cloths, which is not out of the ordinary.

Scott said he and the other gang unit officers like to lay low and blend into the background.

"If we were to come in all suited up, no gang member is going to come up to us and start talking to us," he said.

Project Impact is just one of the ways that the OPD along with OPS and a few other agencies are able to come together and help with gang violence prevention.

The gang unit does not only rely on the project to keep up with gang activity in schools.

Warren said the unit gets calls just like any other part of the police station.

They receive tips from citizens and teenagers who say they have information.

But a lot of the calls he gets are from School Resource Officers, he said.

Brewer said he does not like having the gang unit in the school.

He said it makes him a little uneasy. But on the other hand he said he does like having Randall in the school.

"He's a nice guy," he said. "But it's weird having a whole lot of them (police officers) in the building."

There are a number of gangs at Central and even though Jones may say a gang is just a group of people hanging out together, to Bexten when he hears the word gang, he said he thinks of young people involved in illegal activities.

His opinion can be corroborated with statistics gathered by OPD.

According to statistics from June 2002, there have been: three assault drive-bys; 13 drug possession/trafficking violations; 178 defacing property violations.

In June of 2001, there were four homicides; no assault drive-bys; 12 drug possession/trafficking violations; 107 defacing property violations.

Even though Warren said right now, gang activity is relatively low the numbers still show a rise in gang activity over the last year.

Also in a study released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2000, numbers indicated that gangs were very prevalent in schools in the year 1995.

This data showed that over one third of students reported gangs in their schools.

Then, in that same report, data showed that in 1998, gangs in schools were involved in a wide variety of offences such as violence, drug dealing and carrying guns.

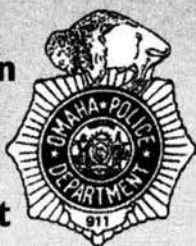
Scott said the activity goes in waves, but there is no particular time of the year when there is more activity than not. Jones said he usually sees more fights during the summer because there are more people outside, but it is by no means seasonal.

"At any time if one gang or gang member has a beef with someone else, they will fight," he said.

He said he usually doesn't fight in a big group, but more one-on-one and he said he always tries to keep it outside of the school.

"Gangs are just who you hang out with, and you look out for the people you hang out with," he said. "You could even say the Boy Scouts were a gang."

## General Information about gangs from the Omaha Police Department



### What is a gang?

A gang is a group of individuals who associate on a continual basis. Not all gangs are bad.

However, many gang members are involved in illegal activity. They identify with gang names, colors, gang language or hand signs and a common philosophy.

### Why do young people join gangs?

Peer pressure often plays a strong roll in one's decision to join a gang.

Gangs can offer a feeling of acceptance, protection and money. Money is most often made through the sale or distribution of drugs.

Also poor economic opportunities, high unemployment, a significant high school drop-out rate, and lack of family structure or support can aid the growth of gang activity.

### Does gang activity affect only the inner city?

Gang activity does not have any territorial or ethnic boundaries.

Criminal activity that accompanies some of the gangs can range from a territory as small as a single neighborhood block, to a highly mobile criminal operation that reaches to the coastal states.

Gangs may become criminally competitive with each other, and have a need to expand to new territories including suburban areas.

### Who are the leaders of gangs?

Most gangs are small and are formed in neighborhoods by local youth. Often there is no formally recognized leadership in gangs.

The oldest, or strongest, youth is usually the leader. Some neighborhood gangs make people join the gang or fight the members. Often a youth will gain a higher status in a gang by committing violent acts.

Information courtesy of Omaha Police Department. For more information about gangs go to [www.opd.ci.omaha.ne.us](http://www.opd.ci.omaha.ne.us)

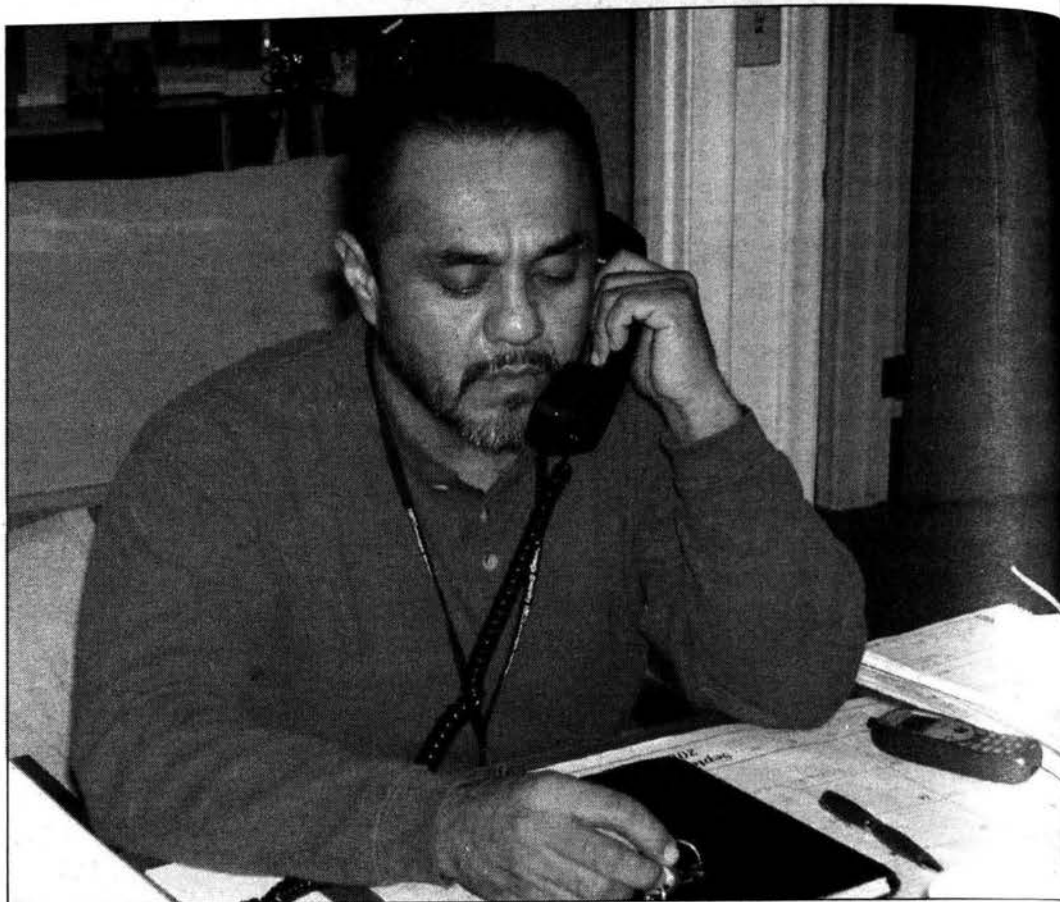


Photo by JILLIAN RISAVI

**Alberto Gonzales talks on the phone at the Chicano Awareness Center. He comes to the school every Thursday to discuss the effects of being in a gang with students.**

## Counselor tries to prevent gang activity

By Paula Salhany

Alberto Gonzales said he thinks of gangs like cancer.

"Cancer infects the body and can take it over very quickly," Gonzales said. "When a gang enters a neighborhood, that neighborhood can be consumed by that gang."

Gonzales, who is a gang prevention/intervention counselor from the Chicano Awareness Center, comes to Central every Thursday to talk to students about the disease he calls gangs.

He teaches one class called La Latina, which is for girls to talk about gang relationships or simply about being in a gang.

"Right now the ratio of men to women going to jail for gang violence is 1-4," Gonzales said. "The government is starting to have to build more jails just for women."

When he is at school, he also talks to students individually about their involvement in gangs and how they can turn their lives around.

He started working in the schools in 1986. He has been coming to Central since the mid '90s.

"Because of my history (with gangs) and chemical dependency, I decided to work with students to help them change," he said.

He said there is definitely a problem with gangs in the city and he sees it through the stu-

dents who he tries to help.

Gonzales said he has helped thousands of students over years. He said some have turned their lives around, while others have ended up in jail.

"I get satisfaction when years later someone will come up to me and tell me about their grees and how they have turned their lives around," he said.

He said he talks to students who come about the five steps of gangs.

The first step is early childhood, when a child is vulnerable and susceptible to gang influence.

The second is when they are a little older in elementary school.

This is a time when whatever they saw as a child is kindled.

The third and fourth steps are in junior high and the early years of high school, when members are either still wannabes or they are the fringes of the gangs, he said.

"The final step is what I call a 'hardcore member' who can be anywhere from the age of 16 to 70," Gonzales said.

He said his goal is to teach students about the effects of gangs in the community and try to help them to understand the negative repercussions of gang activity.

# project designed to stop gun violence

By Paula Salhany

The primary goal of Project Impact is to prevent gang violence with an emphasis on gun violence, project director Kevin Fasana said.

The program, which was launched in May 1999, was based off a program in Boston.

The Boston program was started in the early 1990s because the city had a considerably high juvenile shooting rate and city officials wanted those numbers to come down, Fasana said.

It focused on certain areas in the city where numbers of shooting were high. It tried to bring together the community and raise awareness about the effects of gun violence.

"That is exactly what Project Impact does in Omaha," Fasana said.

He said the program uses a data-driven approach so it knows it is targeting the correct areas of the city. He said statistics are gathered and certain areas of the city are marked as "hot spots."

Fasana said when the police who are associated with the Project Impact go into a "hot spot," it is by no means a raid.

"They are not there to bust the bad guys," he said. "We just want the violent behavior to be stopped."

Gang unit officers as well as parole and probation officers try to get the point across to those living in the area why gang violence is detrimental to the community. In some cases, the police will even gather a group of people in one of the areas and encourage them to get along.

Along with doing community activities, the project targets individuals. Many of the people who are talked to on a one on one basis are those on parole or probation, he said.

"One of the great things about this program is it is able to bring together agencies who otherwise may not be working together," he said.

Some of those agencies are parole, probation, the gang unit and OPS as well as other school districts.

"If a school feels there is a need for officers to be there (at the school) to ease tension, or to simply prevent an occurrence from happening, all they have to do is call up and request project impact," Fasana said.

This means if Central's SRO Officer Jess Randall feels there is a significant amount of gang activity at Central, and if he feels there will be fights, he can call in Project Impact and it will remain at the school until it is no longer needed, he said.

He said the project wants students as well as the community to know that being in a gang brings the potential for jail time or in the worst case scenario, death.

"The project sponsors community block parties and other events to bring together the people in those communities," he said.

Fasana said preliminary data shows that the program has been a success. Personally he said he thinks the program is a very good idea and hopes it will be as big a success as other programs. **E**

## OPS policy on youth gang apparel, possessions and behaviors

as seen on buff page 12 of the student handbook

For the safety and welfare of students and the continued maintenance of a positive and secure learning environment, the following rules relative to youth gang apparel, possessions and behaviors apply to all students on school grounds or at school activities:

**1. Dress as identified by the Omaha Public Schools as gang-related apparel is not allowed. Any item worn or carried to identify a person as a gang member is not allowed.**

**2. Bookbags, purses, pouches and similar items are subject to inspection when reasonable suspicion exists that these items contain objects prohibited on school grounds or at school functions.**

**3. Writing gang graffiti, possessing items containing gang graffiti, possessing pagers/beepers or the display of gang hand signs are and indication of gang involvement and are not allowed.**

Violations of the above will result in disciplinary actions.

On the first offense, students will be directed to change clothing, turn in possessions and/or discontinue behaviors related to youth gangs. In each instance, parents will be contacted and appropriate counseling options discussed.

If students do not follow directions, on the second offense, they will be placed in In-School Suspension, Saturday School Suspension or Suspension After School or suspended from school depending upon the disruption or potential disruption resulting in behavior(s). Subsequent offenses may result in re-assignment or expulsion.

**Most gangs associate themselves with a certain color.**

## Statistics from the Omaha Police Department Gang Unit

From year 2001 to 2002

	2001	2002
Homicide	5	2
Sexual Assault	0	2
Felony	0	4
Criminal Mischief		
Drive-by		
Assault Drive-by	3	12
All Other	8	68
Robbery	3	7
Burglary	6	7
Drug possession/traffic	76	71
Defacing property	937	972
Intimidation of witnesses	0	0
Other	166	205

In 2001, there were 1,761 suspected gang members. In 2002, there are 1,843

In 2001, there were 19 suspected gangs in Omaha. In 2002, there are 21.



# Alexander Payne

## Omaha director prepares for U.S. release of movie

By Paula Salhany

Native Omahan Alexander Payne's goal is to make quality movies.

"I grew up in Omaha in the '70s when you were guaranteed to see at least 10 to 15 good quality, well made movies," he said.

Many of today's movies are simply made for the money, he said.

"I don't want to make movies like 'The Banger Sisters,' or 'A Beautiful Mind,' where people who don't have taste in film would go out and say, 'yeah that's a good movie.'"

His newest movie, "About Schmidt," starring Jack Nicholson, follows in the footsteps of his two previous movies, "Election" and "Citizen Ruth," all of which were filmed in Omaha.

"Filming in Omaha is great," he said. "It's a very interesting place to be."

Even though "About Schmidt" has not yet been released in the United States, it has already made a name for itself in the film world. It was featured at the Cannes Film Festival in the South of France and more recently at the New York Film Festival.

"It was very interesting being at the festivals," he said. "In a way I almost felt detached from it all."

The movie, to be released Dec. 13, 2002 in select cities, is about a retired man, Warren Schmidt, played by Jack Nicholson, who was recently widowed.

It follows his life for a brief period of time in which everything he once knew quickly fades away. Payne said he had always wanted to make a comedic movie about a man who retires and is left lonely.

"As an analogy to the movie I would chose 'The Graduate' with Dustin Hoffman," he said.

The movie, will be in theaters across the country on Dec. 20.

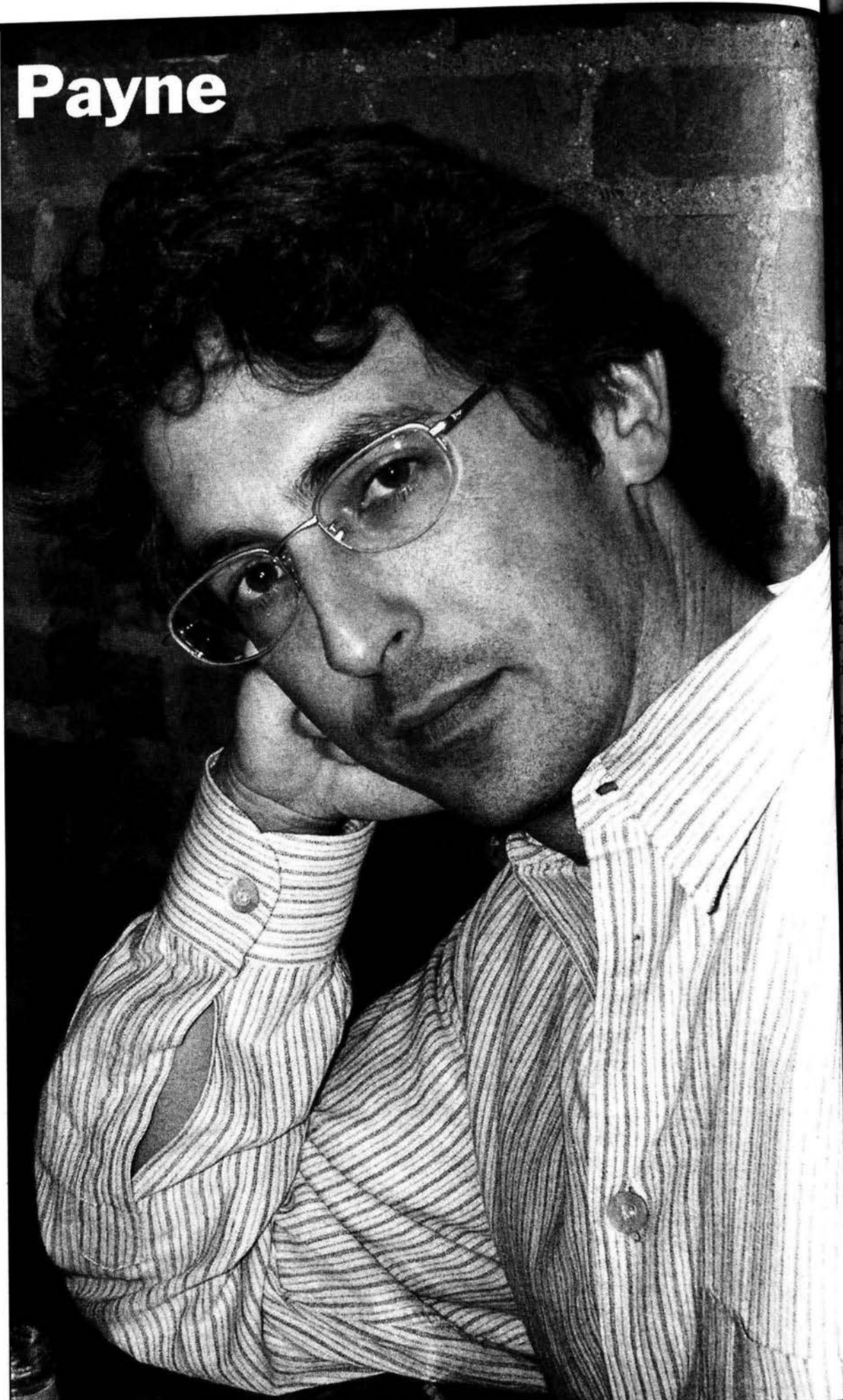


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

Payne said he enjoyed filming "About Schmidt," starring Jack Nicholson, in Omaha

# Musicians blend faith, music

By Laura Diesing

Hard guitar lines, screaming vocals and the Warped Tour.

Three things that rarely come to mind when you think of Christian music.

In the last three decades, Christian music has taken on new and more mainstream sounds.

Still, some people can not

get rid of thoughts of dusty or-

iginals and songs about repentance, while others are wary of the mix of religion and pop culture.

Vocally, Christian groups like MxPx, Audiotheatre, Adrenaline and dc Talk have been popping up all over the country and taking over the air waves.

Because of the religious music stereotypes, most fans do not realize that groups like the Warped Tour headliners MxPx and former student Blake Leavitt's band Miso Hungry, are actually part of a new generation of Christian music.

Leavitt, along with Miso Hungry's other members, Matt Bong, Josh Wigotow and Mand Nicolet, said he is working to show that one of the many new faces of Christian music.

"We like to show that Christians have a sense of humor and that God has a sense of humor, too," Leavitt said.

New styles of religious music, such as Christian metal, Christian rap and "Jesus rock" are attracting fans and bringing in money, but they are also creating controversy among a select few Christians and church officials who find it sinful to mix religion and music.

Dial-the-truth ministries started a website, part of which contains writings on how Christian rock is so popular because it is a gateway leading to more edgy, "immoral" types of rock mu-

Christian rock music has the opposite kind of effect on him.

"I don't think a certain mixture of sounds can be evil," he said. "Each person's interpretation can be different. A lot of it has a rebellious sound and that can mislead people."

Dittman and junior Joe Medeiros both said that they listen to Christian rock because the music has a purpose and meaning.

"I've probably come a little closer to God through music and meditation," Medeiros said.

Stacy Woitaszewski, a children's pastor at the Liberty Christian Center, said she feels that if the message of the music is about God, then it cannot be corrupt.

Woitaszewski is a 1977 graduate.

"I think that as long as there is a message of Jesus Christ and they are promoting the Gospel, then it is OK," she said. "Heaven isn't quite a place."

Not all students, religious or not, feel that Christian rock is a good thing or that spreading the message of Christianity should be done through the mainstream music charts.

Sophomore Tracina Avant said she feels like the media is shoving Christian rock into her face.

She said it doesn't work.

"Whoever is making that Christian rock music doesn't know what they are doing," Avant said.

"It's messing up the whole scene. Christian rock is putting a bunch of posers in it and tearing it apart. They are going to destroy the entire rock industry."

Junior Halley Taylor agreed with Avant's sentiments.

"Christian rock is a joke," Taylor said. "It's candy-coated religion. It made me feel like if I didn't agree with it that there was no hope for me."

Like many religious bands, the members of Miso Hungry said they are not trying to force their religion on anyone.

They said they chose to play

Christian rock because it gives them the freedom to be themselves and allows them to express their faith more easily.



Photo courtesy of Dreamworks Records

The members of Lifehouse are, from left, Sergio Andrade, Jason Wade and Rick Woolstenhulme

## Christian band goes beyond expectations

Review By John Owens-Ream

Thankfully, instead of trying to recapture the glory of its first album, Lifehouse has delved deeper into the sub-genre of alternative Christian rock and actually tried to find a sound of its own with its new release, "Stanley Climbfall."

The album carries a pervasive theme of climbing, falling and other metaphorical actions related to the soul searching that is obviously going on in this, its sophomore album.

Lifehouse's sophomore release builds on the success of "No Name Face" while still thankfully avoiding a fall into the trap of trying to relive the glory of its first album.

The album itself though is still, like any other album, one of successes and failures. "Just Another Name" comes across as just another song and "Wash" which boasts the lyrics, "Never meant to waste your time" very much does. When the songs lose, they only fall down to the level of mediocre alt-rock. While when songs succeed, they transcend into something which can claim validity in the current music world.

The album, filled with introspective and brooding music, has an ethereal feel to it. Some of the songs fall into a deep, other-worldly groove that the listener almost expects to be coming from some distant alien landscape, just by chance drifting onto America's air waves.

Instead of creating an album of would-be singles and disconnected sound-bytes, "Stanley Climbfall" is a stand-alone album in which songs build off each other to create a musical entity in their own right.

Graphic by ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE

# LET IT ALL OUT

Open-mic nights, at many locations around the city, provide opportunities for self-expression, fun for

**By John Owens-Ream**

Every night of the week in some coffee house, restaurant, church, book store or library, there is an open-mic night where creative people gather to express themselves or simply to listen to others do so.

Open-mic nights have caught on again, gaining new popularity with a new generation, said Scott Rhodes who MCs at the 13th Street Coffee on Tuesday nights in the Old Market.

"Live music is totally different from recorded music," he said. "There's something like sitting around a camp fire. There's a connection there that's missing in recorded music."

He said that while most crowds are dominated by college students, there are at least some high school students every week.

Sophomore Angela Friedman is one of those students.

She still remembers her first time at an open mic.

"When I was sitting there... I got to actually feel what they were playing," she said. "It makes you think about how much work it takes to write songs."

Rhodes said that because the creative song writing process can be so hard, a large number of people at open mics are simply musicians trying to experiment with different styles.

"It's a very comfortable environment...it's a place where someone can perfect their performance without feeling like they're being rejected," he said.

Katie Lenczowski, owner of the Latte Lounge which holds an open-mic night every Tuesday and Thursday, said that most of the people who show up are traveling the open-mic circuit away from their bands.

She said that they enjoy the chance to try out new songs on audiences and also enjoy the

chance to play acoustically.

Acoustic guitars, she pointed out, are a must for this type of venue. Electric guitars are seldom ever, allowed.

But musicians aren't the only ones at open-mic nights.

The 13th Street Coffee House boasts its night as "open mic for poetry, singing, storytelling and all performing arts."

Some open mics, like Latte Lounge's, are strictly for musicians.

But others, like "Open-Mic Poetry Night with Jazz Twist," at Jonesy's Cafe and Sports Lounge, are strictly for readings.

Creative writing teacher David Martin said that he often has students read their pieces at poetry "slams," which generally anyone can read, or at open mics as the one at Barnes and Noble at Oakview Mall every Wednesday.

At most of these poetry-oriented open-mic nights both college and high school students gather to read and critique each other's poetry.

At some, readers are allowed to present their favorite pieces of poetry by already famous authors. Another way that cover songs are often performed at music-oriented open mics.

In recent years, Lenczowski said musical open-mic nights have flourished while many poetry nights have floundered.

Her own store used to have an open poetry reading night, but people lost interest and eventually the night was cancelled, she said.

Other Omaha area poetry nights have died out because of a failing economy.

Shannon Peck, who helped coordinate a poetry night at the Barnes and Noble on 74th and Dodge St., said that her open mic was cancelled when the funding was cut. Despite these setbacks she, and many other coordinators of Omaha open-mic nights, said they felt that the state of Omaha's local creative community has never been better.

"A lot of music is alienated from the audience," Rhodes said, "but... (our music is) unique; it will never sound the same as it does tonight."

And because of that, he said, people will continue to play at open mics. As for the audience, he said that as long as musicians are playing, people will come to see them because they are searching for entertainment.

That's the whole point.

# Graduate remembers years on musical tour

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

During the years of World War II, many men started to work as part of the war effort. A few can claim to have the experiences of alumna Mary Lou Brunson.

Brunson spent several years in the '40s touring around the country with an all-female big band orchestra, performing in all sorts of places, from dances in tiny towns in Iowa to hotel balls.

Brunson, a 1944 graduate, said that during her years at Central, she was active in the orchestra as a piano player, as well as in plays.

But long before her graduation, Brunson, who was at that time Mary Lou Stevens, had been an all-around performer. She began her touring career in 1940 with "Jane Griffith and her All Girl Orchestra." A friend who knew of Griffith and the new orchestra she was starting recommended Brunson to Griffith.

Brunson said the 12-member band was composed of girls her age and slightly older. They played in all sorts of venues, she said, from Legion halls to hotels to army bases to VFW halls, most of the time for one-show engagements.

"We played one-night stands most of the time," she said.

Often times, she said, the band would play in very remote towns where the venue it played in would be very remote.

"They'd have a dancehall above a restaurant or something," she said.

The orchestra would play big band music, which was the most popular style at the time. Brunson said the band would buy prepared numbers written for orchestras of songs by artists like Glenn Miller and Henry James.

When Brunson began performing with the Jane Griffith Orchestra, she was a dancer in its show. Brunson said she had been trained in dancing since she was five years old.

But, she said, during one of the band's tours, one of the girls got stranded in a small Iowa town due to a snowstorm. While waiting out the storm at a restaurant, she began tapping out a rhythm on the counter.

She said Griffith heard her and asked her to step in as the new drummer, since the old one had just left the group.

When she returned home, Brunson said her parents bought her a second-hand pair of drums and she took one lesson before taking over as the full-time drummer.

"I could keep rhythm, so I played the drums," she said.

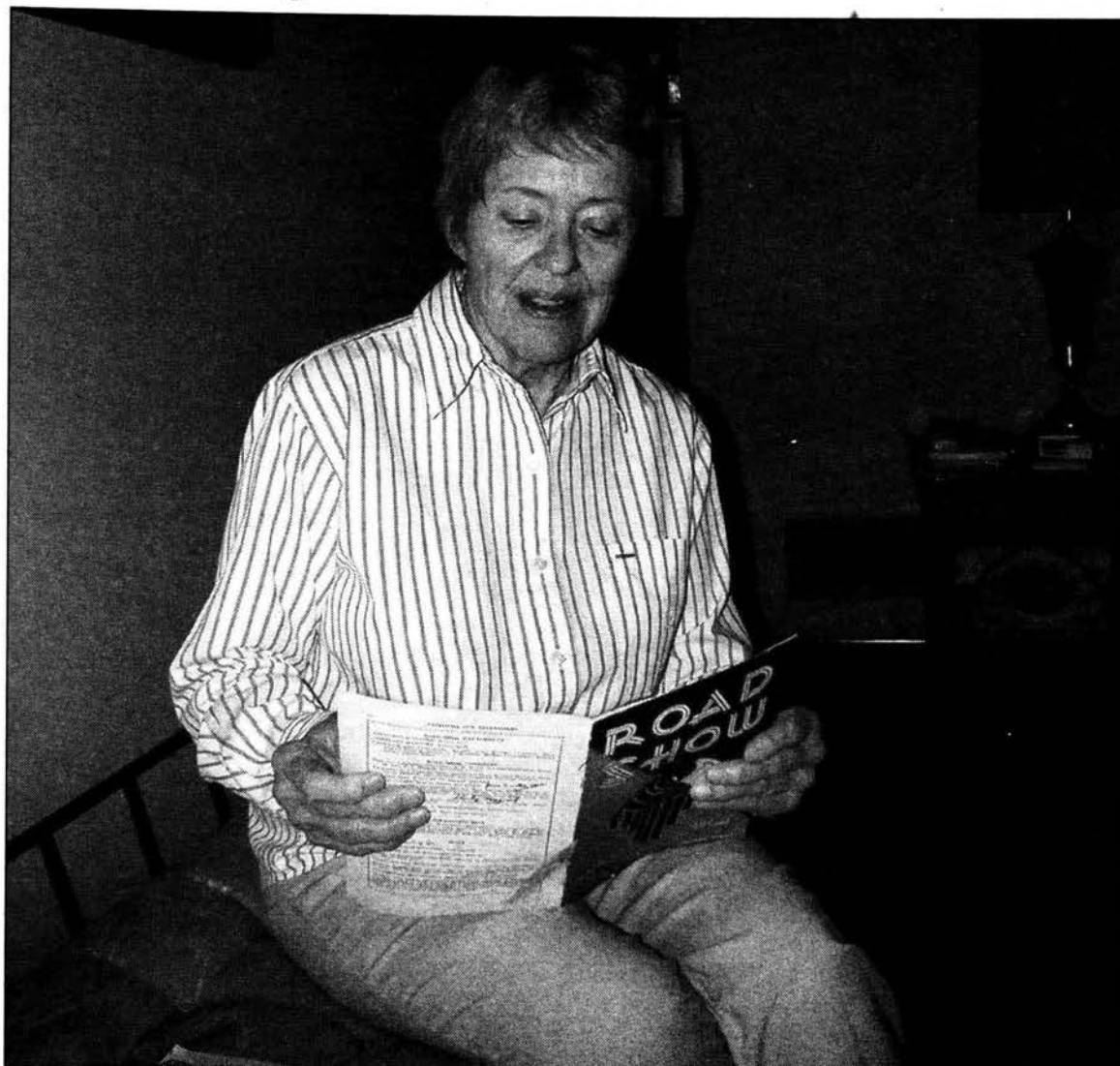


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE EDGE

**Mary Lou Brunson peruses a 1943 Road Show program. Brunson was in the Betty Bert's All Girl Orchestra, which was in the show, as well as in other performances.**

Brunson managed to balance school and the orchestra while she was performing. Whenever the band went on tour, she said Griffith's parents would go along as chaperones.

The Griffiths had purchased an old hearse that they added seats to so they could fit the entire orchestra. They also added a trailer to the back so that they could tow all of the girls' equipment.

Brunson said her parents would come along as well sometimes to drive her and any other girl who did not want to go in the hearse.

The Jane Griffith Orchestra disbanded after a tour down to Louisiana. Brunson then became a member of Betty Bert's All Girl Orchestra, started by 1943 graduate Betty Bertlshofer. This group stayed together for between a year and a half and two years, Brunson said.

In its time together, Betty Bert's Orchestra traveled to many of the same small towns that Brunson had gone to while part of the Jane

Griffith's Orchestra. It also was a performer in the 1943 Road Show.

Brunson continued to perform through her freshman year of college at the University of Omaha, but said her interest in being a musical performer had begun to wane.

"My last year in high school, I was more interested in acting than I was in playing with a band," she said.

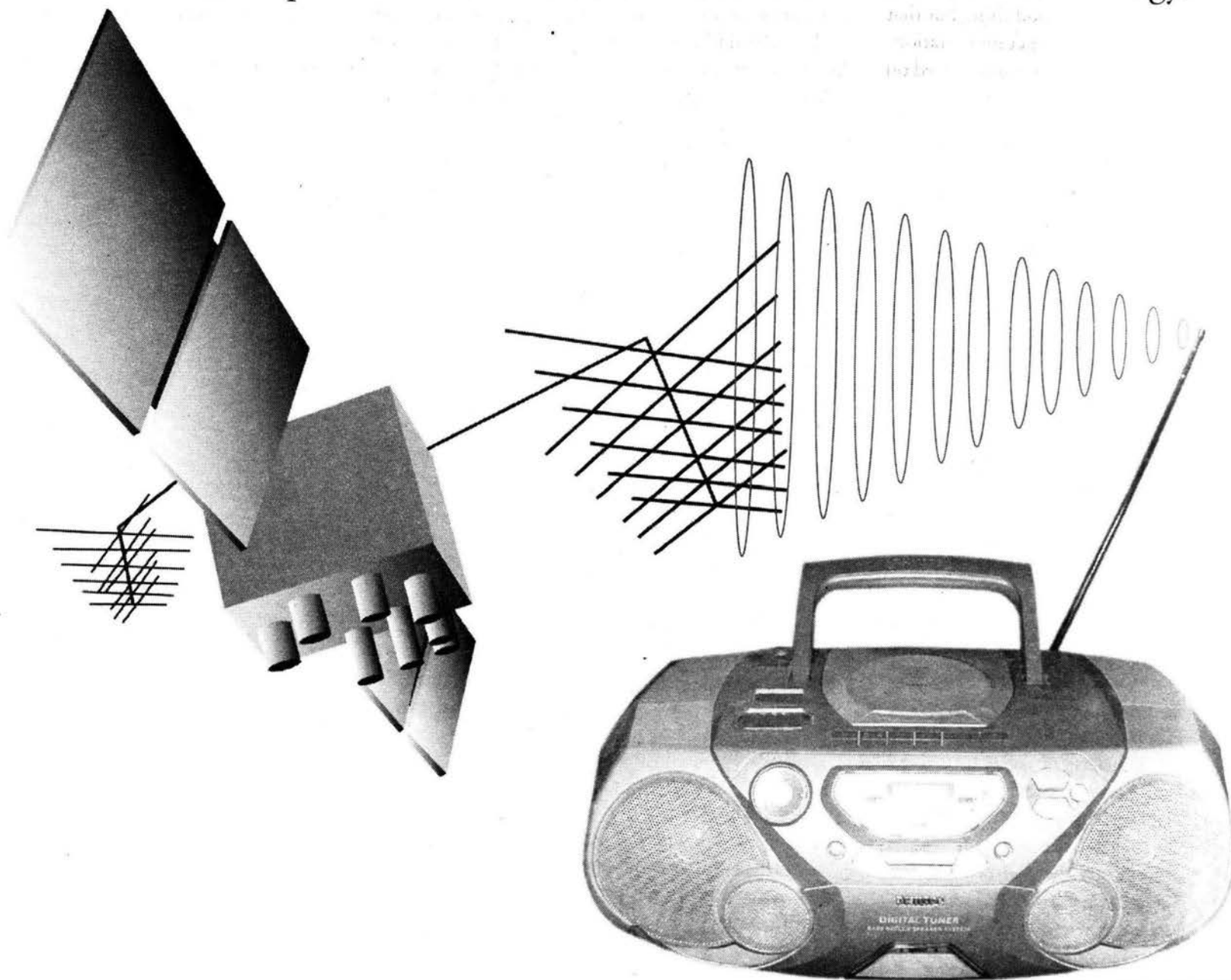
Brunson said she became an elementary school teacher after finishing college and that she taught elementary school for 35 years at Belle Ryan in Omaha. She said she lived in Omaha for her entire life, except for a few short years spent in Iowa when her children were young.

When she looks back on her touring years now, Brunson said she has many fond memories of her experiences.

"It was exciting and it was fun and we really had a good time together," she said. **E**

# RADIO REVOLUTION

Satellite radio provides an opportunity for listeners to listen to a hundred different stations, at any time, anywhere in the country, with near perfect reception. Students and experts have found out the benefits of this new technology.



Graphic by PAULA SALHANYTHE

**By Jillian Risavi**

Radio is headed towards a new revolution with the advancements in satellite radio from XM radio and Sirius radio.

Satellite radio is music that is distributed to cars, homes or anywhere with a stereo that has a special receiver.

The receiver allows people to listen to any programmed station on satellite radio anywhere, any-

time.

The satellites are placed strategically around the world which allows many different stations to be heard anywhere in America coast to coast.

Steve Fontaine a sales associate at Nebraska Furniture Mart said satellite radio is different from AM radio because anyone can listen to hundreds of radio channels anywhere in the country at any-

time. It is comparable to the music channels people can receive on their televisions if they have digital television, he said.

He said that someone doesn't even have to buy a new radio to receive all the channels. All that is necessary is an antenna and adapter for the listener's car. The antenna is what allows the signal to be strong, Fontaine said.

"It has a digital quality and sound any-

country," he said.  
 Junior Wes Brown said that he thinks that satellite music provides a wide variety of music so he can find something to listen to.  
 "You can pick your favorite music and sit all day and hear what you want to hear," he said.  
 He also said that the Internet provides a lot of sites for people to go to in order to listen to music.  
 He said he likes how he can download music well.  
 Brown said that it all is a good thing but that companies could attempt to get more stations added and expand the types of music played on stations.  
 The digital sound and the clear signal make satellite radio better, he said.  
 "You can go under tunnels without losing the sound you were listening to," Brown said.  
 He said that satellite radio makes music more personal to the listener because they are able to

pick out what they want to hear.

Senior Andrew Frizzell said he likes satellite radio because he has used it while travelling and he enjoyed how he could listen to the same station the whole time.

He said that there is more programming for satellite radio, which creates more to listen to.

He also said that he likes how he can listen to a different radio station such as one in London if he wants.

"You can listen to different types of music and see what's new for them over there," Frizzell said.

Frizzell said he would choose to listen to satellite radio because it has a better signal, which makes it easier to get connected to stations, which adds more options to listen to.

He said that he has listened to music before on the Internet and does not find the sound quality nearly as good as satellite radio.

He said that it is resourceful to find songs that someone maybe looking forever but overall is not

the best choice for listening to music.

Fontaine said some benefits from the satellite radio offered by Sirius are that there is 60 commercial-free music channels and 40 sports news and entertainment channels for a price of \$12.99 a month and it would be the more economical purchase.

He said that Sirius has a better bandwidth and technologically has a better sound quality.

XM Radio offers 70 music channels, 30 news channels and 100 basic channels, with some stations having commercials, for \$9.99 a month, he said.

He said that people could not only receive satellite radio in their cars but also in their homes as well.

Satellite radio could replace AM/FM radios in new models of cars, Fontaine said.

People are able to listen to satellite radio for themselves by getting on the Internet and going to the XM's or Sirius' sites, he said. **E**

## Satellite Radio Vital Information

### The Stations

**MTV Radio-** All of the hits from MTV and MTV Two, plus songs from MTV original shows like "The Real World"

**Sunny-** Easy listening and instrumental songs

**The Heart-** All love songs, all the time including Boys II Men, Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Phil Collins and Michael Bolton

**Oh Broadway-** Broadway showtunes from the original cast or more recent cast recordings, includes "Mamma Mia," "The Lion King," "Oklahoma" and "The Producers"

**Cinemagic-** Hits from movies and movie soundtracks, includes recent hits and classics, as well as features, sound clips and features on movies and actors

### The Hits

"The Last DJ"

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

"You Know You're Right"

Nirvana

"I Am Mine"

Pearl Jam

"A New Day of Midnight"

David Gray

"Under Tha Influence"

DJ Quik

"Paradise"

Kenny G

"Not 4 Sale"

Sammy Hagar

"Quidditch Ball Wizard"

Steve Goodie

### The Categories

Classical

Kids

Country

News

Sports

Comedy

Talk

Premium

Dance

Latin

Jazz and Blues

Christian

Rock

Urban

World

The '40s

The '50s

The '60s

The '70s

The '80s

The '90s



Photo courtesy of Saddle Creek Records

The members of Desaparecidos are all from the Omaha area, but the band has been touring around the nation. Former Central student Denver Dalley, center, is the bands' guitarist. Landon Hedges, at far right, has left the band.

## Former student's band acclaimed by nation

By Doug Meigs

Former Central student Denver Dalley has taken the national spotlight for his role in the Omaha-based indie rock group Desaparecidos.

Dalley described the band's sound as loud, spastic, melodic and cynical. The group is composed of fellow Omaha natives Conor Oberst (vo-

cals/ guitar), Casey Scott (bass), Ian McElroy (keyboards) and Matt Baum (drums).

The group came together last winter and soon afterwards came out with the band's debut album, "Read Music, Speak Spanish" which was released along with a single off of the recording.

Dalley said that he organizes the band's musi-

cal ideas, while fellow band member Oberst writes the lyrics. However, he said the entire process is a group effort and the political stances are decided before Oberst writes them.

The name of the album, "Read Music, Speak Spanish," was decided on a somewhat spur of the moment basis. He said the majority of the album

about self-improvement. He said the title reflects that theme.

Although Dalley said that he can't speak Spanish and doesn't really like to read music, they are labels that he considers self-improving.

"Read Music, Speak Spanish," is predominantly an album about Omaha and our immediate surroundings," he said. "We chose Omaha because we all grew up there, but it could be applied anywhere in the U.S. It's about reevaluating those surroundings and expanding horizons. It's social commentary."

Such opinion is made evident through tracks like "Mall of America," and "Greater Omaha," where the group members relate to both their Omaha roots and the world around them.

"When we talk about people and the masses, we definitely include ourselves," he said. "In no way are we trying to point fingers or try to sound preachy. We are just commenting on how we as Americans are living our lives."

The band's name, Desaparecidos, literally translates to "the disappeared."

He said the term comes from a political suppression in Argentina during the '70s and '80s. Dalley said that thousands of citizens suddenly disappeared. It is believed that many were pushed out of airplanes into the ocean.

That's where Dalley said the band took the inspiration for the graphic on its t-shirts.

"It blew us all away because we didn't know anything about it," he said. "It also relates to the theme of self-help found in the record."

Although Dalley spends much of his time in Omaha, he has a second residence in Nashville, Tenn. He moved to Tennessee the summer before his senior year.

While finishing the school year in Nashville, he said he kept in touch with his current band members.

Then, after graduation, he returned to Omaha to enroll at Creighton and finally came together with the current Desaparecidos members as an official group.

"I felt like I got cut short from my experience at Central," he said. "I really wished I could have graduated with my friends."

He was involved in the Road Show as well as a band with some other Central and Westside students which played at local venues like the Cog Factory.

While in Tennessee, Dalley said he played in a local band, but he said it wasn't like he was making music. It was more like being a studio performer. He said that performing has always been a key part to his musical enjoyment.

Dalley said that he has always had a love for

musical performance ever since he watched footage of the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show as a youth.

"I was amazed that they could keep an audience that amazed just by singing and moving their hands," he said. "One of the biggest compliments a person can give is to come and watch you play. I think I'm the happiest one on tour."

Desaparecidos has been on three national tours, the most recent of which was spent along with Jimmy Eat World. Regardless, Dalley said that Omaha will always be his home.

"It was kind of fun going from our own shows with about 400 people to the shows with them (Jimmy Eat World) with about 4,000 people. It was a completely different experience," he said.

Dalley described some of the press Desaparecidos has received as outrageous.

The group has been featured in numerous outlets of the national press and musical magazines, including a near perfect rating from Spin and a "You Hear it First," interview on MTV.

Dalley was particularly shocked by a feature in Time magazine because it is not even a music magazine.

However, he said that some of the group's fans have responded negatively to the evolving fan base. He said that some seem to think the group is selling out.

The group is somewhat used to such press due to acclaim received by Oberst's other band, Bright Eyes. Dalley said that he has known Oberst since he was in the fourth grade.

He said that the bands on Saddle Creek and Saddle Creek as a label have been working very hard. As a result, it is showing off in the band's success.

However, when he mentions all the bands working hard, he takes into consideration Bright Eyes, and how Oberst's work between both bands splits the amount of time he can devote to Desaparecidos.

Oberst is currently touring with Bright Eyes. As a result, he said that Desaparecidos won't be able to work on anything together for some time. He said he hopes they will be able to regroup some time next year.

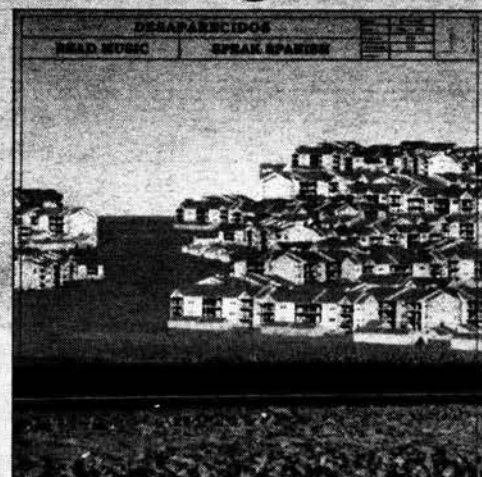
"It can be annoying," he said. "We all want to work right now. But we understand."

Meanwhile, Dalley has formed another group along with some other members for Desaparecidos called Nathan.

Although the band has only produced a few songs together, they said they hope to have some studio time arranged sometime in December.

"As soon as we can all agree, we'll start that," he said. "Playing shows is the ultimate goal." **E**

## View of town life rings true



Courtesy of Saddle Creek Records

### Review By Doug Meigs

Read music, speak Spanish and listen to Desaparecidos' debut release.

The album, "Read Music, Speak Spanish" ("RMSP") is a mix of despair and nihilistic ecstasy wrapped up in social commentary.

Lyrics are often negative or depressing, yet they always hold a sense of progress that pulsates forward through each track.

The group includes former student Denver Dalley (guitars) and Conor Oberst of Bright Eyes (vocals) with other locals.

Short, but sweet the album includes nine tracks and lasts 37 minutes.

"RMSP" proves to be locally relevant while still universally profound. It relinquishes the cloak of teen angst that was a given on Bright Eyes' albums like "Fevers and Mirrors" and pounds back at listeners and public perception with a resounding right hook of manic social expression.

Desaparecidos sounds like progress. "RMSP" is refreshing. It oozes nostalgia, but in an introspective manner that seems to be a doorway to the future rather than just a window to the past.

In "Man and Wife, the Latter (damaged goods)," Oberst relates a failing marriage by referring to the past and passing present. However there is a definite allusion to future change for better or worse.

The album may make you feel a little better while its tracks are fresh in your mind.

Listen to it because complaints of selling out be damned, it is quite enjoyable to do so. **E**

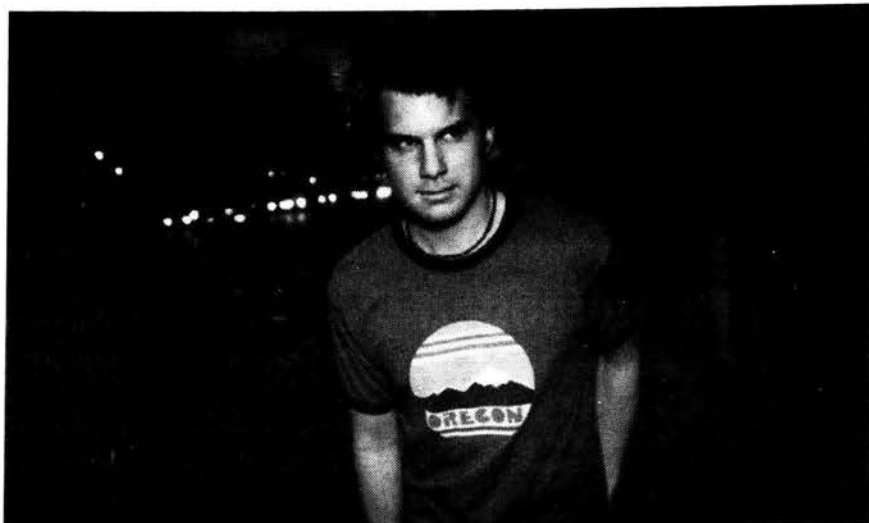


Photo Courtesy of Epic Records

**Singer/songwriter Howie Day's new album "Australia" is a collection of heartfelt songs, most of them about women.**

## Album displays Day's soft side

**Review By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz**

"Australia," the debut release from ingenue singer/songwriter Howie Day would make the perfect soundtrack to the lives of all of the kids on "Dawson's Creek."

An earnest, honest cocktail of David Gray, Jeff Buckley, John Mayer and Dave Matthews, Day's music has the perfect soaring pop hooks and dreamy, yet edgy vocals would provide the perfect background music to some emotional breakup or that first kiss down by the docks.

That exact same feeling is what makes this album a bit of a guilty pleasure.

For every time the listener may think that something is sappy, or hackneyed, a memory will come back and any harsh thought will be melted away in a wave of nostalgia.

"Australia" is first and foremost a love album. Nearly every song is clearly about some woman who he loves or is misunderstood, but beautiful or some other situation that has been done by a thousand other singer/songwriters.

The other thing Day has going for him is his looks. With his big doe eyes and mussed blond hair, Day is sure to attract legions of swooning young teens who think he's singing just for them.

The cocky edge that rises from Day's voice shows that he knows exactly that he is doing it.

The album opens and ends on its highest points, which was a smart move on the part of the producers, who probably knew that the eight tracks in between were nothing exceptional, but good enough to keep people listening.

**E**

## Punk band takes new direction

**Review By Bryan Swotek**

With liberty spikes and everything nice, Good Charlotte released its second album, "The Young and the Hopeless."

Establishing a pop-punk-rap style was a hard task on its first release, but with the sophomore release, the band ditched some of the punk roots and brought in a little pop-rock.

This was a good idea.

Songs written during the hard times of the band's years together show that it continues to

map out its own course.

With '80s inspired tracks like the song, "Day that I Die," blending Social Distortion's "Bad Religion" Chain," listeners get a new view into the music started it all for the band.

At the same time, it becomes clear that the band has taken a different other direction.

Again, this is a good thing.

The title track "The Young and the Hopeless" gives a new outlook of striving to succeed despite the myth of the sophomore jinx.



Epic Records

## Beck album shows broken heart

**Review By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz**

Beck is trying to break some hearts.

The genre-hopping one-man wonder has done everything from AM-tinged folk ("Mellow Gold") to social irony-pop ("Odelay"), to alt-country ("One Foot in the Grave") to sexed-up neo-disco ("Midnite Vultures") and probably everything in between.

But with his new album "Sea Change," Beck is going in a new direction once again.

On the new album, every song is somehow related to a heartache,

not just any heartache, but a really bad kind.

Everything is maudlin, painstaking and absolutely beautiful.

For the first time, Beck sounds tired. His voice sounds not like before.

He is older, more mature, and very definitely changed.

The music on "Sea Change" is very low key, no loud horns or obscure samples. It's time acoustic guitar and sparse backing parts reign.

"Sea Change" is gorgeous. It is pure and it is bound to be the hearts of all listeners.



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# Raunchy show good for shocks

Review By Bryan Swotek

It was flashy, trashy and no, it was not Las Vegas. It was the one and only "Rocky Horror Show" and it was performed at the Millennium Theater.

Audience members entered the theater through a blacklit hallway, painted with glow-in-the-dark paint and techno music blaring in the background.

While sitting in the seats, chorus members located all over the theater floor took turns groping and rubbing each other. And that was just a prelude to one of the raunchiest shows ever.

A slow melodic piano introduced audience members to the theme song, "Late Night Double Feature Picture Show." The show started.

The cocky Brad Majors proposed marriage to the naive Janet Weiss, but as they started to drive home, they unexpectedly blew a tire.

That is where the whole mess began. Riff Raff, the hunchback doorman of the secluded castle, allowed the couple to come in from the rain.

Dr. Frankenfurter, the castle owner, tried to show the couple alternatives to heterosexual sex. Brad and Janet explored many other things not formally practiced in straightlaced households.

Unlike the original show, which allowed audience members to hurl props like toilet paper, confetti and rice, this production did not. However, a bag of some of the vital Rocky Horror props was offered at the door.

The show had some problems, however. The theater was not that big, and there was enough fog in there to fill the Sistine Chapel.

The sound coordinator did not think about the size of the theater. The floor was rigged with



Photo Courtesy of Jerry Ditter

**A few of the creatures of the night from the Millennium Theater's production of "The Rocky Horror Show" displayed their gruesome sides. This production is always a crowdpleaser, especially around Halloween time.**

enough microphones for a KISS concert.

Hopefully, this gave prospective viewers the push to give themselves over to absolute pleasure and to see this play when it comes back next year. It was well worth the \$15 per ticket.

Although the majority of the audience was adults, that did not keep the younger generation

of Rocky fans away. Younger kids who did not get some of the jokes still thoroughly enjoyed the musical.

For those who missed it, the movie version is just as good. Stages of Omaha brought this play to life and if Omaha is lucky, it will be on again next year. **E**

## 'Tadpole' provides offbeat humor, talented actors

Review By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

A film that epitomizes the term short and sweet," Gary Winick's "Tadpole" manages to put a charming twist on taboo sex, French literature and an almost Oedipal love story. The roughly 80-minute movie tells the story of Oscar, a 15-year-old too smart for his own good. Described numerous times throughout the movie as a "40-year-old trapped in a 15-year-old's body, Oscar, played by Aaron Stanford, harbors a passion

for Voltaire and his stepmother Eve, portrayed by Sigourney Weaver.

A brooding Holden Caulfield-esque teen, Oscar is wanted by all of the girls at his school.

His habit of carrying around a copy of "Candide" and quoting Voltaire incessantly only makes him more attractive to all of his teenybopper classmates.

While on Thanksgiving break from his private prep boarding school, Oscar returns to his swanky New York City home and makes up

his mind to confess his love to Eve, even though she is seemingly happily married to his father, a history professor at Columbia University played by John Ritter.

Of course, Oscar's plan does not get executed as he would like it and through a twisted chain of events and drunken miscalculations, he ends up sleeping with Eve's best friend, the sultry Diane, masterfully realized by Bebe Neuwirth.

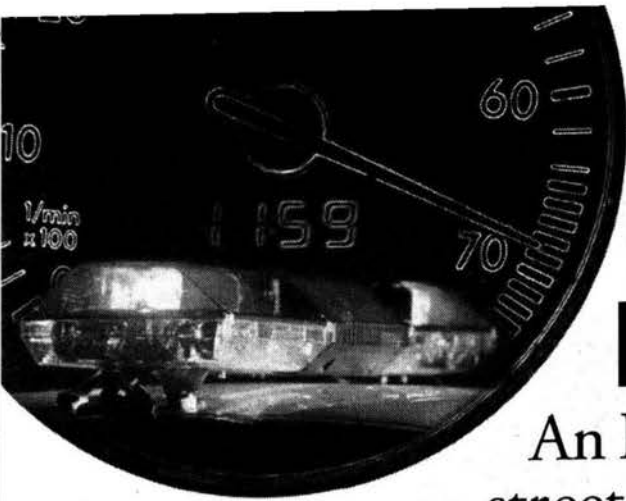
The story spirals off from there, covering Oscar's attempts to woo Eve

and cover up his affair.

The story may sound strange, but the earnest and honest portrayals by all of the actors make the film click. Stanford proves to be a very fine actor and Neuwirth plays her neo-Mrs. Robinson role to a tee.

Winick opens each chapter of the film with a different quote from Voltaire, showing his intelligence and knowledge of literature.

"Tadpole" shows that even a story of a boy's love for his stepmother can be heartwarming. **E**



A street racer's tachometer redlines while evading police and curfew.  
Graphic by ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE

# FAST AND FURIOUS

An EDGE reporter rides along with a Central street racer for a night of racing, speed and police

**By Doug Meigs**

Yellow lights and street lamps flash past in a wash of darting fluorescence.

The bass blasts as we weave in and out of traffic. The only red lights seem to be those careening past on the tail of each passing car.

From the passenger seat I watch the world fly by. Every so often I glance over to see the driver gripping the wheel. But my focus is directed at the atmosphere hurtling under the lightweight metal frame.

This is his first time racing his new car. It's my first time racing, period. The car still has the in-transit paper on the front windshield.

Just seconds ago, I was sitting in my 1990 pile-of-an-Oldsmobile, when the sparkling Neon pulled up.

The driver, who is a student at Central but wishes to remain unnamed, along with one of his racing buddies in the back seat, were literally revved up and ready to go.

"This is extremely illegal," he says as he turns on his radar detector and sets it on the dash for a precaution against police.

It's 10:30 on a Sunday night. The driver says that gives us an hour and a half to race, because he's 16 and has a provisional operators permit (in turn a driving curfew as well) and street racing is against the law.

He doesn't want to risk having an even more expensive ticket.

Yellow and white street lines zip and merge like a lighting-fast string ripping the road out from beneath the car's wheels.

"Oh man, it doesn't seem like we were going 90," the person in the back seat says as we plummet down

the parkway.

"I know man, this car is so much quieter than my other one," the driver says, but the stereo drowns his voice out.

The road beckons while the driver's lead foot is more than willing.

He told me earlier he's only been out racing specifically to race twice before. Usually it just happens. He said he'd be driving around with friends after a movie and ended up spending the rest of the night racing.

Tonight is just messing around. If he wanted to get serious, the other passenger and I would wait outside the car while he raced. At this point, we are about 350 pounds of extra weight to drag.

"Speeding is one thing, racing is another," he says. There are specific laws against racing.

At this point we're searching for a partner.

Once we find someone who looks like they will race, the driver says he'll rev his engine and if they are interested they will come.

"If you see their car is moded (modified), they either think their car is fast and will race, or actually are fast and will race," he says. "If they're willing to spend \$3,000 on a looks and a body kit, they've got to be willing to put something in the engine."

Sundays are perfect for racing because the driver says the cops aren't out. The only problem is finding other racers.

Tonight should be OK because Omaha Public Schools (OPS) doesn't have classes the next day because of a teacher in-service.

It takes about four minutes to

cover 100 blocks going through residential streets, side streets and main roads. As we continue to go west, the streets get wider and emptier.

We are headed to AMC (a movie theater complex), the driver tells me a lot of street racers can be found around that area after movies start to get out.

Although all the movies are still on, we look to find any cars with exhausts or enhancements. There are a couple, but the drivers may not be coming out for a while so we go to 144th Street to scope out the strip for any police presence.

As we fly down the relatively open 144th Street strip, we see three cars turning off of the road. They might be racing soon, so we follow. We are near a spot where the driver says he had raced a week ago.

We floor it over to the area, but the cars are gone. The driver says he saw people racing there last night as well.

We continue on the gas-guzzling cruise on 144th Street. A cop drives past. We slow to watch where he is headed. He turns, so we stay straight.

"I don't really like to race, just someone to drive fast with," he says as the car takes off.

As we top the crest of a hill, a 2001 Mustang with dual exhaust appears in front of the car. We pull up and rev the engine before cutting in front of the car. He starts to approach, then guns it.

"He's coming, yeah he is," the driver says.

"Hit it, hit it, hit it," the other passenger shouts as the Mustang levels out with us at 100 mph. The

sound of the intakes resonates proportionally to the engine's rpm.

Two cars driving the speed limit block the road ahead.

There is a small gap between them. The Mustang pulls ahead and barely squeezes through it at about 110mph. We are forced to drop about 60 mph within the next two seconds before the hole reopens. We push through and try to keep up.

The driver is going about 110 mph and the Mustang is pulling away. I would be on the edge of my seat if I wasn't buried so far in the back of it. "That guy is crazy," the passenger screams from the back seat.

The speedometer keeps going past the last notch, then the engine cuts out as we redline in fifth gear. We are coasting at 120 mph, while he continues on. He vanishes over the next hillcrest.

"He's gone, holy sh\*\*," he's gone the passenger says. "He had to have been going at least 160 (mph)."

The fuel begins to flow again, but the Mustang is no where to be found.

"That's the fastest I've ever gone in a period," the driver says. "He had a supercharger."

We make a U-turn and continue the circuit. The car still throbs with adrenaline and we look for another racer. We rev our engine at a BMW but he's not interested. The driver says that a lot of people with nice cars won't race, but a racer never knows.

Scenery blurs past as we see a Civic cruising along on the opposite side of the divided road.

Then there's a cop.

As soon as we approach, the sensor begins to beep feverishly.

We turn around to make sure

# Dollars VS Horse-power

Whether a driver is racing on the street or the track, Stereowest employee Jesse Hirschman said the winning car will almost always be the one

that has the most invested in it. He explains the relationship between purchasing power and horsepower in the following photos.

he cop is leaving. He does, but so does the Civic.

On another occasion, the driver told me about when he had been up racing all night. He said he had seen another racer go by him on the other side of the street. The driver pulled a U-turn on a red light, not realizing a cop car had pulled up behind him. He gunned it and the cop turned on his lights and began to follow.

"I pulled into a parking lot, parked, turned my lights off and listened to music for a while. We sat there for like 10 minutes. I was so scared."

No cops seem to be around anymore, so we keep going full throttle down the street.

"Look at this stretch of road, it just screams 120 (mph), doesn't it," he says, then floors it once again.

Streetlights continue to reflect off of the asphalt and gleam in the polished windshield. We wait for the reflection of halogen lights. The driver tells me that racers often have halogen lights.

We pass a number of cars and rev our engine. None seem to be interested so we head back to AMC. We've been out for half an hour. A Corvette turns onto a side street.

We would have followed, but the driver doesn't want to go on a street he hasn't scoped out yet. Halogen approaches from behind. It's a Ford Taurus with dual exhaust.

He revs his engine and we begin to go. But he backs down and turns into a parking lot. The driver said that turning on fog lights will let other drivers know you want to race. It's like fishing.

Another cop appears. He heads straight on 144th Street. We follow again to make sure he leaves the street. He does and we make another U-turn.

A Camaro turns off of the street, but there is an Eclipse heading up from behind.

He pulls up beside us at the light. Then another Mustang pulls up. Both appear interested in racing. The driver in the Mustang right next to us revs his engine and grins.

The other car backs down, but

we both take off as the light changes. Wheels squeal as the tires peel out. We sail ahead up through second gear, then he pulls in front. We catch up for a moment, then he loses us in fifth. We've lost every race so far. It doesn't matter.

"If you can find one good race, that's a pretty successful night," he says. "It doesn't really matter if you win or lose. I just like to go fast."

Mustangs are the perfect cars to race. He tells me they usually act as a cover because they almost always win. He said he has raced a number of Mustangs, but has only beaten one.

"We need to find one that we have an even chance against," the driver says.

Racing isn't too good on Sunday nights. He tells me it's non-stop racing on Fridays. On Fridays they will meet at Sonic before going out to race.

We pass another Civic and rev our engine. He's not interested, but this time the person has a reason. A police cruiser is parked on the side of the road watching us. He didn't have his radar on or the detector would have gone. But he heard the engine rev.

"I'm done for tonight," the driver says as he turns to make another U-turn while looking over his shoulder to make sure the cop doesn't decide to follow. We head to Wendy's to pick up some food and check the engine to make sure everything is all right.

He pops the hood and looks over the still sparkling new engine.

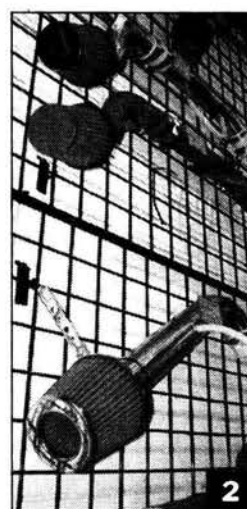
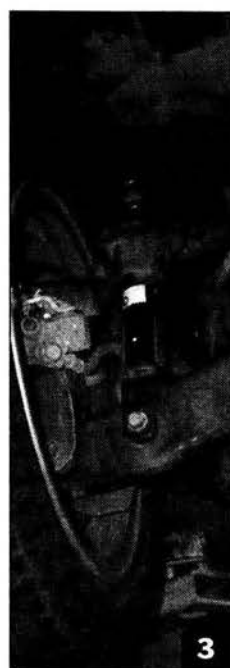
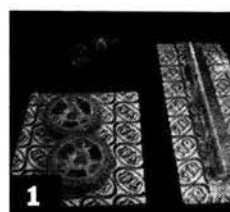
The intake he had just installed two days earlier is still cool.

A few weeks before he had messed up his old car's brakes doing a bunch of 100-0 mph stopping. Everything seems OK.

The car is 50 miles older and a fourth of a tank lighter, but that's nothing. One night, the driver said he put on 120 miles and used a whole tank, all in the period of an hour or so.

Within seconds I'm standing by my car. Six minutes before the driver's curfew.

"It was a successful night," he says and then drives away.

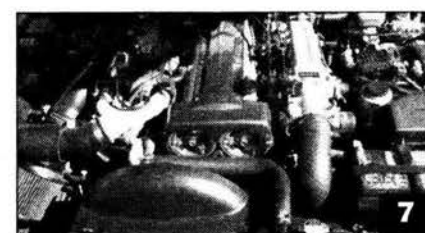
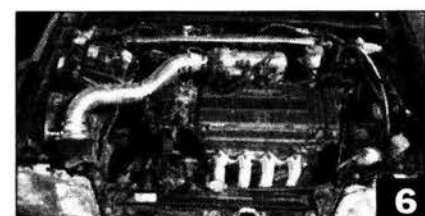


**(1) Enhanced cam gears, fuel dial and fuel pressure regulator offer a combined 18 horsepower for the label price of \$730.**

**(2) Cold air intakes as displayed on the wall of the Stereowest show room offer five additional horsepower for \$150.**

**(3) Enhancing a car's suspension coils as pictured allows a car to adjust between street and track conditions.**

**(4) Lighter rims and stickier tires allow the car to roll smoother with less excess weight. Hirschman said they help more than anything else and cost around \$2,000.**



**(5) Stereowest employee Matt Welch installs a cold air intake.**

**(6) The engine swap displayed in Hirschman's car adds 170 horsepower for about \$3,000.**

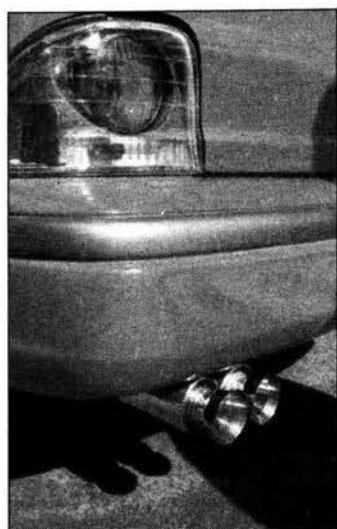
**(7) The Toyota Supra engine contains a twin turbo.**

All Photos by DOUG MEIGS/ THE EDGE

## lifestyle

(Right) Kyles stands by the car he races in the senior parking lot.

(Below) Robert Kyles installed a dual exhaust in his car to achieve greater performance



All Photos by DOUG MEIGS/ THE EDGE



(Above) Although Kyles removed the nitros from his car, he still has the switch.

(Left) The tap on Kyles' car shows where the nitro system hooked up.

# Streetracers transform Omaha

By Doug Meigs

Street racing is illegal. But for senior Robert Kyles, it's just good fun.

Weekend nights, Kyles can be found roaring down secluded streets while racing along side whoever's willing. He's not consciously breaking the law. He's just out to have a good time.

Officer Robert Vondrasek of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) said that street racing has become a major problem for law enforcement in the Omaha area and is growing worse by the week.

From Friday through Sunday every week, Vondrasek said that OPD has to spend around 16 to 20 man hours just to keep street racing somewhat under control.

Back in the '80s, he said street racing was a problem along the Abbot Drive area. It had since diminished after Vondrasek said Omaha Public Schools (OPD) put its foot down and arrested 142 individuals. However, over the past three years, the issue has sky-rocketed.

Besides being illegal, Vondrasek said street racing is extremely dangerous. He said individuals often race along major streets where there is the risk of a pedestrian crossing the street or a car turning into the midst of a race where drivers could be traveling around 150 mph.

Kyles on the other hand said he believes street racing is relatively safe. In races he has been

involved in, Kyles said they were on abandoned industrial roads or areas that had been checked out previously. The primary concern is avoiding police.

"Road conditions are the biggest danger," he said.

Kyles has been racing by himself and with his car club (Psychotic Design) ever since he bought his Neon last year. Other members of Psychotic Design include some former Central students along with other individuals spread across the Omaha area.

Sometimes he bets on the races, but not often. He said the most that's ever put on the line is \$30 at a time and has made more money than he's lost.

Much of the perception of street racing has been distorted. Kyles said that movies like the "Fast and the Furious," are completely unrealistic. He said the ways cars are constructed and how races take place couldn't happen in real life.

However, racing is still very competitive across Omaha. He said some drivers take the races pretty seriously and there is a lot of trash talking involved.

"A lot of people will see a car and say it's rice or slow or has no style," he said.

After investing about \$3,000 in labor and parts, Kyles said he is very insulted by such criticism.

"Rice" means a car looks fast, but is actually really slow. For example, he said a car could have a

body kit and spoiler, but nothing under the hood.

"It made me pretty mad, but like I said bring it to the street," he said. "I'm not one to talk about anyone's car, just race."

Kyles record is about 25 -12. But the one race Kyles said he should have lost was against a Mustang. His first challenge was from another student at Central.

"It's all about the adrenaline," he said. "The first race is going to be the biggest adrenaline rush you will ever get, especially if you win it."

Kyles won the race and said he's been hooked ever since.

He and the other driver are still good friends but he said they have become rivals as well.

Kyles said that Omaha is extremely diverse as far as car clubs. Dragon Imports, Lethal Creation, Wicked Imports, Lurking Shadows, 7 Deadly Sin are just a few of the countless groups that race along with Kyles every weekend.

Vondrasek said that he has no problem with car clubs. The problem arises when clubs join together in large groups.

He said one can often run into congregations of more than 200 racers and hundreds of spectators.

Although high school students make up a portion of Omaha's street racers, he said that there are also a number of college students and graduates

race. OPD tries to minimize the racing, but it's difficult to do. He said they will often send marked cars out to see them to identify racers or send additional officers. But, the racers are often times able to escape. Many of the cars contain illegal equipment such as nitrous oxide systems or police scanners, which he said allows them to evade notice.

Kyles remembers one occasion his first year racing with a friend where they were part of a group of about 200 racers far out past Sarpy county and police showed up.

There were two cruisers with one officer in each. The other racers were using a strip that had been cut off into a dirt road. About a third of the racers went down the dirt road. Another third stayed on the strip, while the rest went up it. Kyles was one of the first cars that went up the strip. That's where the cops were waiting. However, because there were just two officers and so many racers and people, he said the police couldn't really do anything.

Since the police weren't actually there during the racing, he said the only thing they could charge the racers with was loitering. In the end, he said everyone was just told to leave.

"That was the only time I've ever been caught," he said.

Vondrasek said the penalty for the first offense is a \$100 fine. Other penalties could range from 30 days in jail, to a revocation of driver's license, to a \$1,000 fine to a confiscation of one's automobile. Depending on the offense, it could be all four.

Omaha has a specific law against street racing. It states that "exhibition of speed," in any form is illegal. Vondrasek said that means a person could be charged with street racing for racing against other cars, by one self, or just by burning his tires. "It doesn't have to be cars side by side," he said. "You're still violating the statute."

In an ideal situation, Kyles said all of the challenges and racing areas would have been pre-arranged. He said they will also change locations several times throughout the night to prevent drawing police attention as well as use lookouts and walkie-talkies.

"Sometimes you can stay at spots longer, but you don't want to stay in one spot too long," he said. "Many racers are getting police scanners now. You can get in trouble for them, but they sell them at Radio Shack."

After everyone arrives, everyone who isn't racing is either a spectator or a lookout. Earlier in the year he was at a large parking lot that was filled with hundreds of racers and spectators. Kyles was on a hill overlooking the area with a friend. He

said they saw police coming from miles away and were able to notify everyone before they arrived. He said the police thought it was a false alarm. A few hours later, he and the rest of the drivers returned to race some more.

Most of the cars that he said racers are driving are imports. Kyles' Neon is an import.

Stereowest employee Jesse Hirschman said that imports are the smaller, less expensive, yet more efficient cars. He said the term really refers to sport compacts. Both Honda Civics and Dodge Neons are imports. Domestic cars on the other hand, are the power cars. He said Mustangs are a prime example.

Hirschman said he races almost every week with his friends, but doesn't support street racing.

"Street racing is dangerous," he said. "That's why it's called racing its meant to be on a track."

Nevertheless, Kyles said that many individuals go to stores such as Stereowest, Sublime Motor sports or Modern Garage to enhance their cars for racing. Possible enhancements include superchargers (which provide the engine with more air) as well as cold air intake (which allow the engine to run more efficiently as well as providing more air).

"It's all about air flow," he said.

In addition, some street racers install nitrous even though they are illegal.

"Nitrous can damage your car, but only if you install them wrong, otherwise they are the cheapest horsepower for your dollar," he said.

Kyles used to have nitrous in his car, but had it removed because it was interfering with the motor.

The switch is still located on the passenger side of his gearshift. It's somewhat hidden so that its not very noticeable.

"I've always been in the cars, but I didn't have a car to race, I really got into racing this year," he said.

He has been racing with ever since he was 11. Ever since Kyles can remember, he said he has been around automobiles.

"I was with my dad and we were in our '79 Caprice Classic. I was maybe 6 and this Mustang pulls up and gives him a rev, and we both just took off," he said.

Kyles' father currently fixes cars up and sells them. Right now he has three cars, but when Kyles was younger, he said his father had around six.

"He (Kyles' father) is more of a muscle car person, I'm into imports. He rides Camaros and Mustangs and big body Chevrolets," he said. "I plan on putting a turbo in it and getting a port and polish (that opens up head and allows for more air flow). I'm into sleepers. I want my car to look stock."

Kyles said his father knows he races and doesn't really like it. But that's not to say the two don't get along. In fact Kyles said he learned almost everything he knows about cars from his father. In turn, Kyles has been able to make most of the additions to his car by himself. After graduation he wants to become an automobile mechanic and own his own high-performance shop as well as race professionally.

Until then, he'll continue to race on the street.

Brian Stickel, drag strip director of the Mid American Motorplex (MAM), is less complacent concerning Kyles' choice to race.

"You have this hobby and no one is against your hobby, but it needs to be in a safe environment," he said.

Aaron Johnson, general manager of MAM, said that 1,000 die every year street racing while thousands more die who aren't even involved in the races.

MAM's goal is to bring racing off the streets and onto its new course and soon-to-be-opened drag strip. Every other week the track holds open races for a \$5 admittance or a \$10 racing fee to accomplish that goal.

So far he said they have seen tremendous results. At the opening he said there were almost 1,000 drivers racing and 1,500 people in the stands.

"Street racing is dangerous. This is controlled. There are no pedestrians or cars, its all fenced in," he said. "It's virtually 100 percent safe opposed to street racing and that's beside the illegality and police factor."

Johnson said he had street raced all across the nation, so he has first-hand knowledge of the devastation it can bring.

If a street racer is caught, he said the penalties could ruin a young person's credit for years.

"I've seen people get hurt in accidents, and I've listened to buddies after they've got their cars repossessed," he said.

A few years ago, one of Johnson's friends was caught street racing in his new '99 Mustang with supercharger.

It was his second time getting caught, so the police took it and converted it into an undercover car.

"We (MAM) are about more than racing," he said. "We want to do a service to the community."

He said he is interested in proposing a program used on the West Coast to cut down on street racing called National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) street legal.

Stickler, who was the former pacific director of the NHRA, said that under the program, police would issue free passes to local tracks rather than writing tickets to street racers.

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# Captain catapults into successful senior year

By Aaron Maurice

Central graduate Jed Ortmeyer knows how to win. He played with the Omaha Lancers while attending Central, and now he is leading the University of Michigan Wolverines into the current season as team captain.

Ortmeyer led the Wolverines as their captain this past year to a regular season national championship. The team's season ended without a NCAA championship because they failed to win the CCHA Frozen Four, in which the top four teams compete for the title.

Michigan head coach Red Berenson kept Ortmeyer as the captain for this season because he was impressed with his leadership and success. Ortmeyer now joins an elite group of seven Michigan players who have been captains for more than one season.

Ortmeyer's success comes out of an underrepresented city in the hockey world—Omaha. Most of the top players come from the northern United States or Canada, while others come from other countries such as Russia and the Czech Republic.

His career began when he took up hockey at the age of three. He was playing with his older brother then while his father coached him.

"He (Ortmeyer's father) didn't know everything about hockey, but he knew enough to give us a good start," Ortmeyer said.

He played under his father's guidance until he turned nine and joined the select leagues. He prospered while playing for the Junior Lancers Travel Team while attending Central.

After he graduated, Ortmeyer played for the Omaha Lancers. Michigan took an interest in him and offered him a scholarship to play there.

He said he hopes to join his

brother playing in the NHL at the conclusion of his senior year.

Ortmeyer attributes a large portion of his success to his father, who pushed him to succeed at an early age. He knew that if he was going to be successful, it would take determination and hard work.

He was used to practicing two hours a day, six or seven days a week. This grueling schedule developed his fitness as well as talent, shaping him into the player he is today.

At Michigan last year, Ortmeyer scored a career high 16 goals and 23 assists for a total of 36 points, ranking third in team scoring.

As a captain for the upcoming year, Ortmeyer said he faces many challenges. He must keep the team functioning like a well-trained squad without the help of two players who decided to play professionally last summer. This means that he will have to support the team more than ever if it hopes to continue its success.

Ortmeyer said he hopes to have a career playing hockey after college. Several professional teams have talked with him, but he cannot make any decisions until after the college season. He said that if professional hockey is not right for him, he will still have his degree at Michigan to fall back on.

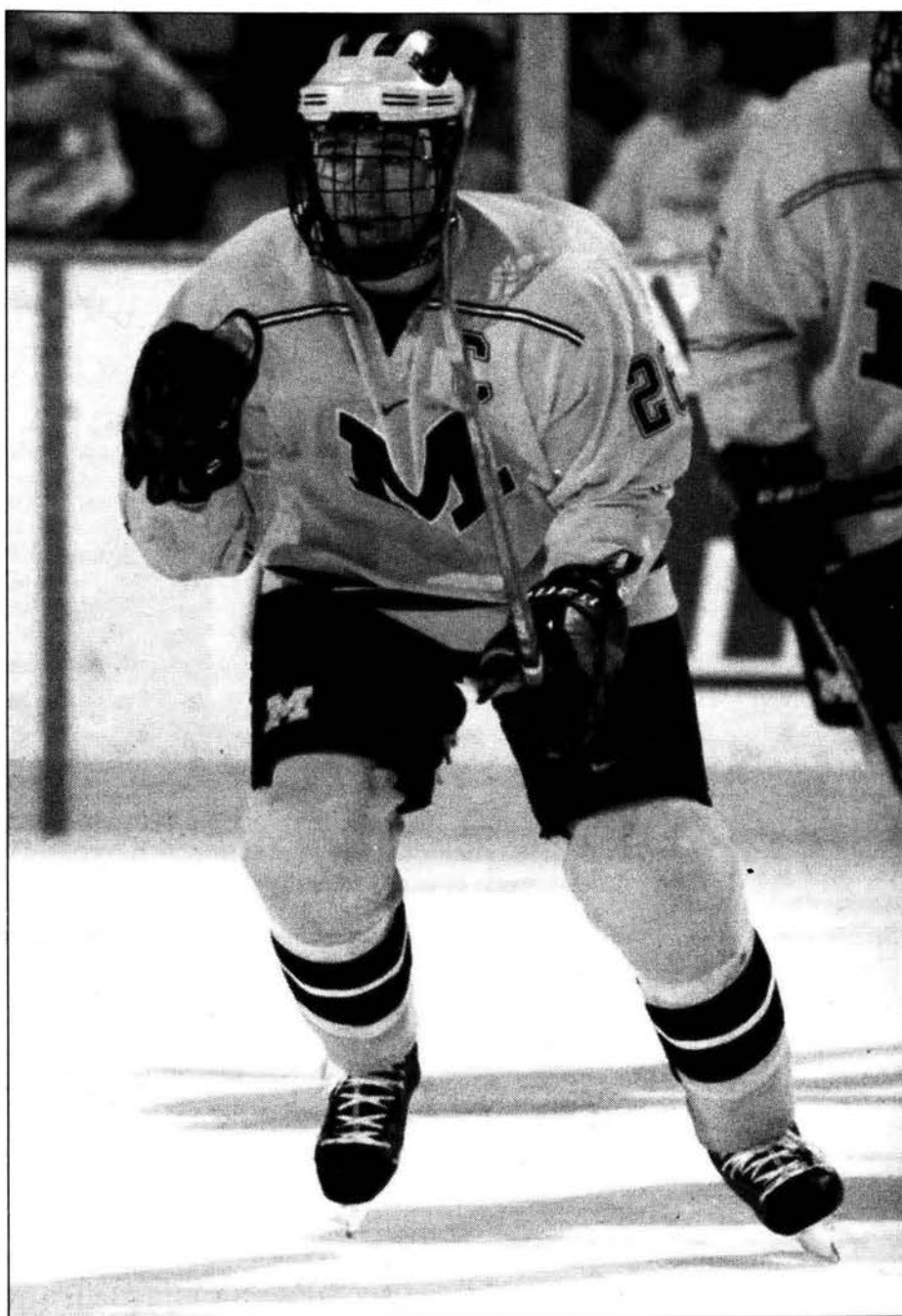
Ortmeyer has also given a significant amount of his time back into the community.

He joins the team when they host training camps for younger players or visit children in hospitals.

He said the challenge of playing hockey at this level of high expectations is difficult.

His advice for young players is simple.

"If you work hard, you will succeed. It worked for me," Ortmeyer said.



(ABOVE) Ortmeyer rushes down the ice along with a Michigan teammate. He is a senior and second year captain of the team.



(LEFT) Ortmeyer makes a break for a play as one of Michigan's top players. He experienced similar success with the Omaha Jr. Lancers in high school and the former Omaha Lancers.

Photos courtesy of UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SPORTS INFORMATION



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE B

Junior Ashley Wilds (right) talks strategy with head coach Kerri Murtaugh and sophomore Alison Hess during district play against Lincoln East. She switched from softball to volleyball last year and switched back this season.

# Junior jumps sports for last time

By Doug Meigs

Choosing softball over volleyball was a difficult decision for junior Ashley Wilds. After switching sports already after her freshman year, this time it is final.

While playing in a national tournament over the summer, Wilds said the coach of her club team told her there were college scouts in the audience watching her.

The coach couldn't tell her which colleges were interested in her play due to NCAA regulation. However, the information made Wilds reevaluate the importance of playing volleyball this year.

She said the coach mentioned that she may have a better opportunity going to college on a scholarship if she devoted her time entirely to softball rather than how she had divided her time the year before.

"I just like both sports, so it was

hard to decide," she said.

Wilds said even though she will miss playing volleyball, she is most likely done with the sport all together.

She began playing softball when she was 10 years old and has been playing club ball every summer since that time. Wilds began playing volleyball when she was 14, so she has a longer history with softball.

Then as a freshman, she was selected Second Team All-State for hitting. That means she had one of the highest batting averages in the state as a first year high school player.

She used to play softball in the summer and volleyball in the winter. Now, the two sports are in competition for her time.

She had the choice of playing volleyball and softball, or playing only softball during the summer as well as fall. Because Wilds said she liked both sports, she wanted to prevent being overloaded in one. So she chose both.

Because she felt comfortable with the coaches and players on each team, she said the move from fall softball to volleyball was relatively smooth.

"I would be happy with whatever I'm doing. There is no hard feelings," she said. "I'm having a great time, but if I was playing volleyball, I'd be having a great time also. It's a win-win situation."

Then when she decided to switch back. It went equally well.

"I told her (volleyball coach Jodi Dierks) I wasn't going to play and I think she understood," she said. "They worked well together, and without me they will still work well together."

Wilds said that one person doesn't make a team. She enjoyed having the opportunity to play on Central's second volleyball team to ever make it to state, but there are enough strong returning players that she doesn't feel guilty about the move.

The move seems to have been a positive choice given the softball team's successful season.

She said that she had to sign up for the clearinghouse so that colleges could begin looking at her before her senior year. Otherwise she would have had to wait, just like with the scouts last summer.

She said that Nebraska has strong softball competition at both the high school and college level.

Where she ends up going depends on what type of scholarships they offer.

However, she said her preference is always going to be to stay in the state.

UNO and Creighton are on the top of her list.

If an out-of-state college offered Wilds a full ride, she said that she would go.

However, she would still prefer an in-state college if it offered only a partial scholarship.

## Football

# Offense rolls in win over Millard West

By Aaron Maurice

Central's diverse offense led the team to a 36-29 win over Millard West by mixing up its game play, scoring three touchdowns through the air and running for two more.

The change showed the dynamic ability of Central's offensive talent, head coach Joe McMenamin said.

Junior Cortney Grixby came out of his passing slump with a strong performance throwing three touchdowns and running for another. He ended the game with a total of 344 yards.

Millard West's Jake Duggar led the Wildcat attack with 43 carries for 236 yards and three touchdowns. Millard West was unable, however, to establish its passing game. Quarterback Marcus Richardson had no completions on four attempts including a game-ending interception.

Millard West scored first with a drive that was concluded with Duggar's 38-yard touchdown run.

Grixby responded with a 70-yard run to score his only rushing touchdown of the game. On Central's next possession, Grixby threw a 65-yard pass to senior Alex Tyson.

The Eagles then scored a two-point conversion after a successful pass from junior John Friend to junior Brandon Gunn.

Millard West gave up the

ball again, still in the first quarter, which led to Central's third touchdown off a 65-yard pass to Gunn.

Millard West came out strong in the second quarter. Druggar led the team to two touchdowns in the second. Central responded with a drive that concluded with a 3-yard touchdown pass to senior Chris LeFlore.

The teams played evenly in the second half. Central scored first with a 1-yard run by Gunn. Millard West then drove back to score a touchdown off of a 14-yard run, and then completed the two-point conversion to put them within seven.

The fourth quarter went back and forth with neither side scoring. Millard was forced to pass with less than 2 minutes left and Gunn caught his game-ending interception.

Both defenses struggled while the offenses shined. Both teams combined for almost 800 yards of offense and 65 points.

Central's defense struggled to stop the run, McMenamin said.

Central made adjustments at half time moving a safety to a linebacker to more effectively stop the run, he said.

Gunn said that he did not play his personal best game, but the team played great as a whole.

"We are on a roll now," he said.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE EDGE

Senior Jenny Miller pitches the Eagles into second place in the Millard South Invitational after entering the tournament ranked fifth.

## Eagles soar to top of tournament

By Devon O'Connell

Strong defensive play and excellent pitching helped Central find a way to win the Millard South Invitational.

Throughout the season, the softball team had been looking for another tournament championship. The only one the Eagles won before this tournament was the South Invitational, their first tournament of the year. Besides a loss to Burke, Central was undefeated in non-tournament play. The team's only losses came in tournaments, and usually in the championship games. The fifth ranked Eagles came in seeded second out of five teams competing.

Central's first game against Millard South was a pitching battle between the hard throwing senior Jenny Miller and Millard South ace, Maria Negrete.

"I thought I did very well," Miller said. "I got a little tired, and I wasn't throwing as fast, but I picked up my speed in the

next innings."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, sophomore Kelsey Ratigan had a lead off single to send courtesy runner junior Maria Negrete to third base. Junior Ashley Wilds followed up with a single to right field to send Negrete home. Junior Emily Muskin then hit a single to send Wilds home.

Central came out strong in the first inning against Lincoln East when sophomore Darcy Rutherford had a lead off single. Junior Emily Muskin sent Rutherford to second. Senior Liz Davis followed up with a single to send Rutherford home.

In the top of the eighth, courtesy runner Darcy Rutherford scored again off of singles from Davis and Miller. Wilds then sent Davis home for another score to win the tournament. Miller had a total of 17 strikeouts in the tournament.

"It felt pretty good just to finally win one instead of placing second," assistant coach Scott Wilson said.

E

# Running with a purpose

By Doug Meigs

It used to be that senior Ryan Shaw ran cross-country for the pure enjoyment of the sport.

This year he had a new motivation.

His father was diagnosed with Lymphomic cancer over the summer.

However, he was still at the State meet on Oct. 25 pushing Shaw on. Shaw finished 26th at the meet after coming off an underdog fourth place finish at Districts.

The conditions were muddy and the hills took a painstaking toll on Shaw's injured back, but it was his last high school race and he wanted to end strong.

"I just had to fight through the pain. I gave it my all," he said.

Part of what kept him going was the thought of his father.

His father told Shaw of the cancer after returning from a family vacation to the Caribbean.

He had waited till coming back to Omaha to have it checked out before he told him. Shaw said his father didn't tell either his younger brother or sister right away because he wanted to make sure everything was going to be all right through the first treatment.

So far it seems that it will.

Since he was diagnosed three months ago, Shaw's father has gone through three chemotherapy treatments.

The doctors said that if the cancer was caught and treated early (which it was) he would have a 90 percent chance of surviving.

"It makes me want to try and make something of myself, now that my dad has cancer," he said. "It's hard to remember the fact that my dad has cancer."

Shaw's cross-country coach, Trent Lodge, said that he is a gifted athlete and a strong runner, but more than that he has a great personality.

"He's someone who I can depend on," Lodge said.

Lodge, who has worked with Shaw for the past two years, said he hasn't talked to Shaw about his father's cancer.

But, he doesn't let on that anything happened.

"He's very quiet and reserved," he said. "He really hasn't said anything about it. He's a quiet leader."

Regardless, he said that Shaw's parents are great supporters of cross-country.

"He's always been there at every track meet if



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE

**Senior Ryan Shaw runs from Elmwood Park to Memorial Park during a cross-country practice prior to Districts. He said his father's cancer keeps him motivated.**

it was possible," Shaw said. "He even gets out of work."

But, with his father being one of the top liver surgeons in the nation, he said it isn't always that easy. \*

His schedule has been jam packed for as long as Shaw can remember. When he was younger, he said he didn't get to spend as much time with him as he would have liked.

Nevertheless, he said they have grown close over the years. Lodge said despite everything that has happened, Shaw has improved a great deal as a runner.

"I know he didn't do as well as he had hoped his sophomore year," he said. "I think he really wants to do well his senior year. He has improved each of his races since last year."

Shaw said his cross-country career at Central began somewhat slowly.

He began because he had run in middle school and many of his friends were running. He said he didn't expect much from it.

Then he made it to state during his sophomore year and realized that he could make something out of it.

After deciding to dedicate himself more to running, he decided to run track as well. He placed 7th in the class of Metro meet, which sets all the

runners in the metro area against other runners the same grade.

That is up from 11th the year before, during his sophomore year and 13th during freshman year.

"I finally broke the streak and track helped," he said.

It would almost seem as if nothing occurred with his father. That's how Shaw said his father is going through life, so he tries to do the same. He still goes to work every day. He keeps up bicycling.

Shaw said his dad is a biking enthusiast and tries to bike at least twenty miles every day.

"He's going through life like nothing is going on," he said.

Shaw said it was strange at first when his father's hair started coming out.

He said he had a lot of hair so it was very noticeable. Then he shaved it, and Shaw said he became used to it pretty quickly.

He said his father's positive outlook and attitude have reflected on the family.

He said they are all handling it surprisingly well.

"I try to act similarly towards him because I know everything is going to be all right," Shaw said.

# Graduate gravitates away from football career

By Devon O'Connell

Former Central quarterback George Davis surprised many when he chose to attend Harvard University rather than a Division I football powerhouse.

But then again Davis was different from the average football player. He had a 4.3 GPA.

At Central, Davis was a three-year letterman at quarterback and captained the squad as a senior.

He holds the state record for completions in a game (24) as well as school records for passing yards in a game (303), touchdown's in a game (3) and passing yards in a career (1,878).

He was All-District, All-Metro, All-State and Academic All-State in 1990. He was a member of the National Honor Society, DECA and the Priority Scholars Program. Davis was accepted to Harvard on an academic scholarship, not an athletic

"Harvard is a nice fit for me," Davis said. "I can play with a great football program and get an education from one of the best universities in the country."

Davis said he had a successful freshman year at Harvard. The team won the Ivy League conference, and finished with a 9-0 undefeated season for the first time in 88 years. Davis said the greatest moment of the season for him occurred when he caught a 76-yard touchdown reception against Yale.

"It was pretty crazy," he said, "I was scoring as a freshman."

This semester, Davis decided to take a break from Harvard.

He said that most students usually take a semester break, and he needed some time off.

"It's difficult switching schools, and the curriculum is definitely different," he said. "I thought it would be good to take a break after a really high year."

Davis said he isn't too sure what he plans to do after graduation, but

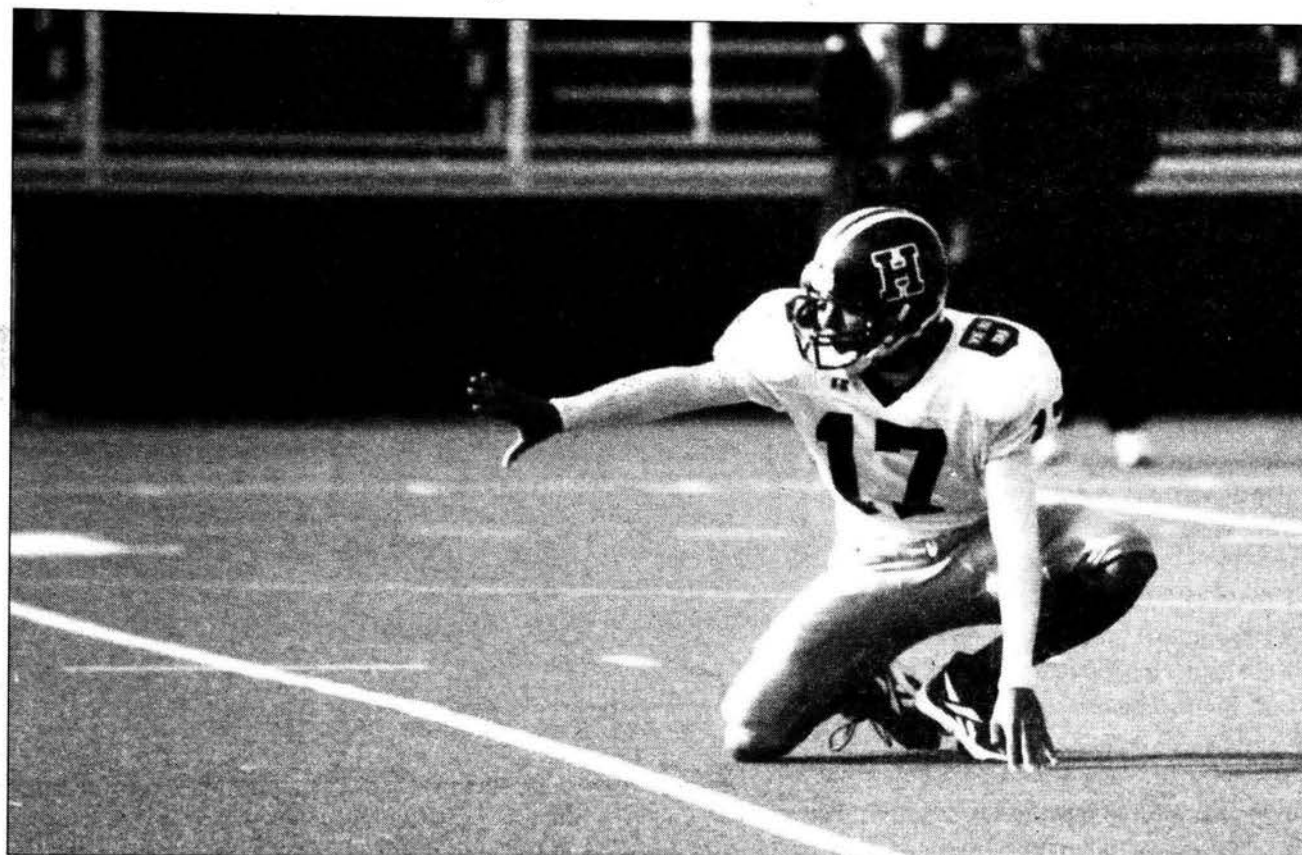


Photo courtesy of HARVARD ATHLETIC SERVICES

**George Davis prepares a snap for the kicker. He was wide receiver and played back-up quarterback. Although he isn't playing this year, he plans to return to football next year.**

he said it would probably have something to do with business. One thing he said for sure though, was that he won't be playing football after college.

"My major is in economics, and I'm probably going to specialize in some area of finance," he said.

Counselor Richard Servis helped Davis prepare for Harvard.

"He was hands down one of the nicest people I've ever met," Servis said. "He was always just a real pleasure to be around."

At Central, Davis was involved in DECA, where he was a two-time state champion and national award winner.

Marketing teacher Harry Gaylor, one of Davis' DECA advisors, said it was always a pleasure to have Davis in class.

"He was always very conscientious, and a leader who led by example," Gaylor said. "He always prepared very well and was very organized. He was a great written test

taker and excellent at thinking on his feet, which helped him in tournaments and in the classroom, as well as on the football field."

Gaylor said he could easily see Davis heading into the business world.

"His father is a very experienced business man," he said, "and George is just one of the most polite people you will ever meet."

Head football coach Joe McMnamin said he believed that Davis was one of the finest student athletes to pass through this school.

"It's difficult to find someone that has everything together like he did," McMnamin said.

He said Davis had leadership, athletic ability and intelligence to back it all up.

McMnamin was also instrumental in getting Davis into Harvard. He said he was the first to contact the school and tell them about Davis as a very promising student athlete.

McMnamin said Davis is a good example of how rigorous courses can help an athlete in the long run.

"Sometimes they do better with rigorous schedules, once they get home they start working, because they don't have time to procrastinate," he said.

Davis' position at Harvard was wide receiver. McMnamin said he thinks that Davis would like to play quarterback in his heart, but recognizes that by playing at receiver, he has a chance to get on the field.

"Davis was a really nice, polite, intelligent ball player," McMnamin said.

He said when Davis played, it was like having another coach on the field. This year, Davis said he is looking forward to watching his old football team play.

"I was a little worried after the Millard North game," he said. "But I think the team is back on track, and they should do well this season." ■

the zone

# FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

## Sudanese native perseveres despite sitting the bench

By Doug Meigs

Although he was born in a nation torn by civil war, senior Domach Gatluak was raised in America with an inborn love for the game of football.

Gatluak said he can't remember life in Sudan.

The nation was caught in the a deadly struggle between the oppressive northern government and southern rebels.

The killing has continued for the past two decades.

He moved to the United States right before his second grade year. He said his parents persevered through the hard times.

Gatluak said many of his family members were killed and his parents may have been caught up in the chaos as well.

"My dad wanted a better environment as far as education," he said. "Where I was living (in the city), it wasn't as bad, but he still wanted a better place for us to grow and learn. Back there, life was hard."

So the family of seven uprooted, with the exception of Gatluak's oldest sister who stayed in Sudan.

They moved to Fort Worth, TX. Then over the next seven years, he and his family continued to move every so often.

They moved to Memphis, Tenn., to Des Moines, IA, then back to Texas for Gatluak to finish middle school.

Coach Jeff McCune said that Gatluak's unique background and experience are a major part of Gatluak's drive.

He said it's Gatluak's heart that has allowed him to stay motivated. As a result, he's playing varsity despite not playing his freshman year and a recurring knee injury.

The competition is extremely tight.

McCune said he'll receive some good varsity time this year, but it will



Photo by DOUG MEIGS

**Senior Domach Gatluak receives a grade sheet after practice a few days before the game against Millard West. He said he attends practice nearly every day and works hard so he can have a chance on the field.**

be difficult to receive much.

Central has 14 receivers on varsity ranging from sophomores to seniors. The three players rotating for the starting spots are seniors Brandon Torry, E.J. Falkner and Chris LeFlore. McCune said Gatluak is right behind them, but so are seniors Chae Glass, Jesse Williams and Jacob Adams, not to mention the seven other players.

McCune said Gatluak's major drawback is his size. Gatluak agrees.

Gatluak doesn't look like a football player.

He isn't particularly tall. His frame appears light and limbs lanky.

"It's hard being a little guy, I try my hardest to put on a few pounds to get to that level of competition," he said. "Being a little guy, you could be stronger than another guy, but their appearance gives them an advantage. But I give it my all."

Senior Tarrell Burrell said he has been good friends with Gatluak since freshman year and has never seen him down on himself.

He said he is often disappointed with how his football career seems to be going, but he always stays motivated.

"Heart is probably the most important part of the game," Gatluak said. "Without heart you wouldn't be out there punishing your body like that. Being a little guy I've got to have heart, if it wasn't for heart I might have hung it up along time ago."

Burrell said he's very dedicated and stays positive the whole time.

He even worked out with him, lifting weights during the off season. Even though he's a smaller player, Burrell said Gatluak always maintains his motivation.

Gatluak said he might be

knocked down about 85 percent of the time. Nevertheless, McCune said he always stays happy and is always a team player.

"Whatever Domach needs, he does," McCune said.

Whether it is striving for success on the field or other aspects of life, Gatluak keeps his head up.

It even relates back to overcoming the turmoil of his early childhood in Sudan.

Gatluak said that his dad had to explain it before.

He said he understands what went on, but it's so complicated since he doesn't remember life in Sudan.

He said he doesn't have a complete appreciation of the difficulties that went on as his parents fled Sudan.

America is Gatluak's home. He said this is where he

ised so he is an American.

He said that if he could have two homes, he would definitely consider Sudan to be his homeland as well. After all that is where he was born and where much of his family still lives.

Both his parents want to return Sudan to visit sometime in the near future. He said they both want to see their own parents as well as Gatluak's older sister who is just about to be married. Gatluak said he hopes to go well to see the country and his family.

"I don't really know their faces who they are," he said.

But it will have to wait till after he graduates college. He plans on getting a job in the field of athletics and saving up enough money for the trip. Right now he's looking at Peru State and Wayne State.

Although Gatluak said he won't be receiving any scholarships to play college football, but he hopes to have some sort of walk on role wherever he ends up attending.

"I enjoy the game of football, but I'm not a quitter and I'll play for the simple love of the game. Maybe I'll play in college, maybe not," he said.

McCune said that having a walk on role is always a possibility. If Gatluak became bigger McCune said it would be a definite possibility.

"I want to be in a field that deals with sports because I'm a big sports fanatic," he said.

Gatluak said he's looking into sports medicine and is interested in being maybe an agent or scout of some sort.

This year he is a wide receiver and free safety. However Gatluak said he has met varied success with his football career.

So far he described the past years as disappointing. He said the peak to his career was in eighth grade on his team back in Texas.

"I felt like one of the stars on the team," he said. "My football career has kind of been on a downfall from there."

He started playing football in the fourth grade. He said he remembers

seeing students at his elementary school playing outside and was immediately fascinated. He asked the coach if he could play, and has been playing ever since.

Gatluak said he read every book in the school's library to research the game because he didn't know much about it at the time. He said he wanted to teach himself the rules before he started to play.

"I think football was the first sport I ever played and actually liked," he said.

He said he has played soccer, baseball over the years, but nothing compared to football. It is what he loves.

With graduation approaching steadily, he said he still feels like he can play the game. He said he wished his football career had taken a different route and he may not have received all the recognition he felt he deserved.

Regardless, he still comes to practice everyday and works as hard as he can. McCune said that work ethic has been evident on the practice turf since he started playing JV his sophomore year. He would have been on the team all four years at Central, but was prevented due to injury.

"I wanted to play, but I didn't know when the season started, I found out a week late and I went to talk to the freshman coach Josh Montzingo, and he said I could start coming to practices," he said.

But before that could happen he damaged his knee while preparing for the season with a group of friends playing football on a basketball course.

He said he was playing corner back and was covering a friend who was slightly ahead of him. As he turned to catch up, he said he heard a pop in his knee and it swelled up right away.

He went to get x-rays at St. Joseph hospital as soon as possible and began icing it right away. He said the doctors said there wasn't a break, but he wouldn't be able to play that year.

As soon as he was able, he said he became involved in Central's foot-

ball by taking part in the summer Outback camp.

"I think it (not playing freshman year) may have hurt me a bit as far as position on the team," he said.

He played quarterback his sophomore year. McCune said he had good arms for the position, but he switched during his junior year to receiver where he said he was met with more success.

Much of the difficulty he initially had with his sophomore year was due to not knowing the plays all the other players had been used to since the previous year.

As a quarterback, he said he had to know every play. He had to memorize all the plays and catch up as soon as possible, but it was difficult.

Despite the stiff competition, he said he has been happy with the switch to receiver.

"I think it's a better position for me since that's where I had experience before," he said.

Last year he said he received a fair amount of time on JV.

So far this year he's been able to take some field time. The first time was in the Bellevue East game.

Gatluak said he didn't get to hit anyone, and all the throws went to

the other side, but he said he had his guy guarded and thought he did all right.

The year seems to be looking up for Gatluak. However, the injury received as a freshman is still plaguing him. This year he went back and received a MRI and it showed torn cartilage in his knee.

The doctors said that if it didn't hurt too badly, he would be able to play through the season.

After the season Gatluak said he has considered having the knee scoped after the season and having the damaged cartilage cleaned out and fixed

However, his first concern has always been graduation.

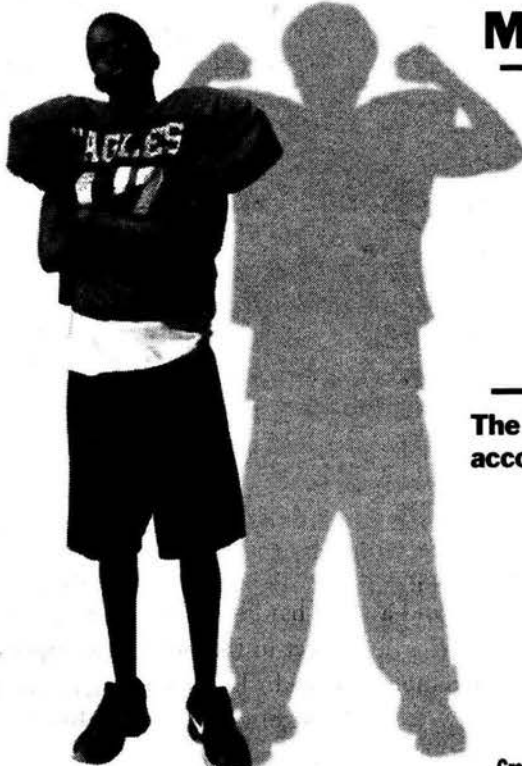
"My dad wants to see me walk across the stage," he said. "I just want to make them happy."

He said he wanted to see the smiles on the faces of his family members.

The thought motivates him to work hard in school and football.

He said he wants to succeed because he knows that will make his family happy.

Gatluak said they sacrificed a lot by coming to America. He just wants to give something back. **E**



## Measuring up

**Gatluak's profile**

**Height:**  
**6'**

**Weight:**  
**145 lb.**

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**The ideal receiver profile according to Gatluak**

**Height:**  
**5'10**

**Weight:**  
**165 lb.**

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/ THE EDGE



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE EDGE

Senior James Sechser (top) practices submission moves at Prairie Life Center with his trainer Brad Metzger on a Thursday night practice. Sechser attempts to pin Metzger in preparation for his first Ultimate Fighting match.

## Senior fights for 'Ultimate' enjoyment

By Devon O'Connell

Senior James Sechser hits the punching mitt, then ducks as his trainer swings for his head. He continues the drill, picking up speed each time. Sechser's sport is a little odd, to say the least.

He describes it as a mix of different forms of martial arts, including wrestling, Karate, Tae Kwon Do, and several others. It's called Ultimate Fighting, and it is one of the newest sensations to hit the sports scene in some time.

The sport first started in Japan, and soon spread all over the globe. In the United States, it has faced some controversy. As of last year, only

six states had regulated Ultimate Fighting (not including Nebraska), and last January Nebraska State Senator Paul Hartnett introduced a bill which would ban the sport due to its violent nature. The bill originally came to him from the Athletic Commission, who had it proposed because it was unregulated. Although the bill never made it out of committee, Hartnett said he eventually changed his mind about the sport.

"There were a few complaints against banning it (Ultimate Fighting), and after a while, I didn't really see it as a problem if it's regulated," Hartnett said.

A few months later, there was a court case in Lincoln to ban Ultimate Fighting. The District Court eventually ruled that the Athletic Commission has the jurisdiction to regulate the sport.

State Athletic Commissioner Wally Jernigan said he believes that the original argument stemmed from the state statute, which didn't have a provision for Ultimate Fighting when it was drafted.

"The Athletic Commission only regulates boxing and wrestling," Jernigan said, "so an outcome is kind of tricky."

Jernigan said he doesn't see a problem with the sport as long as it is regulated. He does have

a problem with unlicensed Ultimate Fighting in bars, which was where most of these fights take place.

"If two guys want to get in a ring and beat the heck out of each other, hey, more power to them, just get some regulation," Jernigan said.

He said the main priority though, is to settle the dispute.

"It needs to just reach a conclusion," he said. "It's dragged on for too long."

The District Court's ruling was eventually repealed, and the case is still pending in the State Supreme Court. Paul Anderson, owner of the Pit Boxing Club in Omaha, said he doesn't think too highly of Ultimate Fighting.

"To me it's just slap fighting," he said, "It's all about who can choke the other guy out first. There is no technique involved; it is glorified wrestling."

Anderson's boxing club prohibits Ultimate Fighting, and he said that wouldn't change any time soon. He said the majority of his younger fighters don't usually express any interest in the sport.

"I hear a few guys, but they don't talk about it for too long," he said. "We are pretty adamant about keeping it down."

The sport may seem violent, but it's actually not as dangerous as one might think. In fact, it is quite safe. Not a single fatality has been recorded in the entire history of the sport. In the eight years of competitions in the United States, injuries have been limited to minor cuts and broken bones, (wrist, nose, finger etc.) There has only been one concussion.

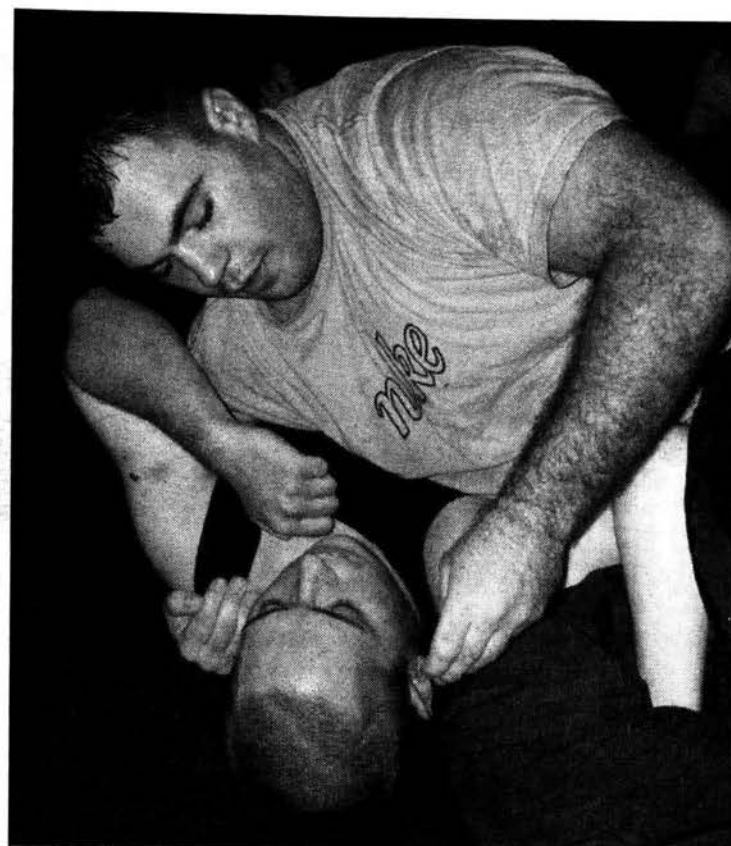
Sechser has been training for his first Ultimate Fighting match for a little over a year, but has been interested in the sport for nearly two. He said he originally wanted to be a pro wrestler, but because it would require too much traveling around, he decided against it. After that, he said he got into Ultimate Fighting. At the beginning of his sophomore year, Sechser said his weight was over 300 pounds. This was the first year he took weight training.

"It was Coach Mac (McMenamin) and all those guys that actually got me into lifting," he said. "I went from about 300 pounds, and kept working, lifting, and training, and now I'm down to about 180."

During the summer, Sechser practices about five times a week, as opposed to in the school year, when it's only three. Sechser said he tries hard to keep a balance between school and fighting, and not let training get in the way of his schoolwork.

"Every professional fighter I've talked to has said to me that the most important thing for me right now is to graduate high school," he said.

After high school, Sechser said he plans to keep



(Above) Senior Blake Marcum practices with Sescher. The practice was Marcum's first session of ultimate fighting.



(Top Left) Metzger demonstrates proper technique to Sescher and Marcum. Although they are just practicing form, the lessons learned will be applied in the ring once they participate in an ultimate fight.

(Left) Marcum practices using his leg to force Sescher to tap out. A fighter can lose a fight through tapping out due to pain or he can lose by being pinned.

Photos by PAULA SALHANY/ THE EDGE

up his training and fighting, and to attend college, probably at UNO for athletic training.

"I started thinking about a career that would keep me close to fighting, which is when I got the idea to go into athletic training," he said. "That way I can stay close to the sport and get an education at the same time."

Sechser said that his family worries about him all the time, especially his mother, who pays the bills for his training.

"My mom is always very protective, and she doesn't want me doing it, but she wants me to follow my dreams and to see me succeed," he said.

Sechser said his first chance to prove himself in the Ultimate Fighting ring would be sometime within the next few months. Once he gets a first

fight, it should be easy to get more.

It's my dream to become a professional fighter," he said, "I'm always really determined, because fighting is the only thing that really makes me happy."

Sechser has attracted another Central student to Ultimate Fighting. Senior Blake Marcum just started taking the same class with Sechser.

"I've always watched some of the stuff on Pay-Per-View," he said, "I like sports that are really rough like that."

Marcum said he isn't as devoted to the sport as Sechser is, but he would like to get into it.

"If I ever had the chance, or the chance came to me, I would definitely fight in a match," he said.

E

# Eagles hatch Bulldog offense

By Doug Meigs

Central has been a key to Burke's success this year even though the two teams never played during the regular season.

Raised under the wings of Eagle football, three former Central players now constitute a major portion of the 2001 Bulldogs' strength after transferring over the past two years.

Burke coach Jack Ohlendt said that seniors Jermaine Hickey, Mitch Runco and Jon Lathan came into the program in positions where the team had been lacking.

Whereas coach Joe McMenemy said the three players probably wouldn't be starting if they stayed at Central, their move has allowed all three to flourish.

Both Hickey and Runco are second year starters, and Lathan (the most recent transfer) is receiving significant field time rotating with Hickey at the I-back position.

When they arrived, the players that had the spots before were either shifted around or ended up quitting.

Following last year's 0-9 season, the team seems to have turned over a new leaf with a much-improved season this year.

"This year the chemistry is better," Ohlendt said. "A lot of times you can add one guy or take one guy away and it makes a huge difference."

Based on what McMenemy said he saw during their respective stays at Central, he said each would have been receiving varsity time.

But none of the three would have had starting positions.

That's not to say McMenemy didn't see their talent.

Central just has had a lot of tough competition in their positions (Hickey and Lathan are running backs, Runco is a receiver).

Both Hickey and Runco were sandwiched between last year's senior and current UNL I-back David Horne and the up-and-coming senior Brandon Gunn.

Meanwhile, Runco was stuck between the current three-player starting rotation of E.J. Falkner, Chris Leflore and Brandon Torry.

Supposing they had stayed, McMenemy said the three would probably be receiving decent time on defense.

Ironically enough, Runco and Hickey don't play any defense at Burke. They said they barely come off the field on offense.

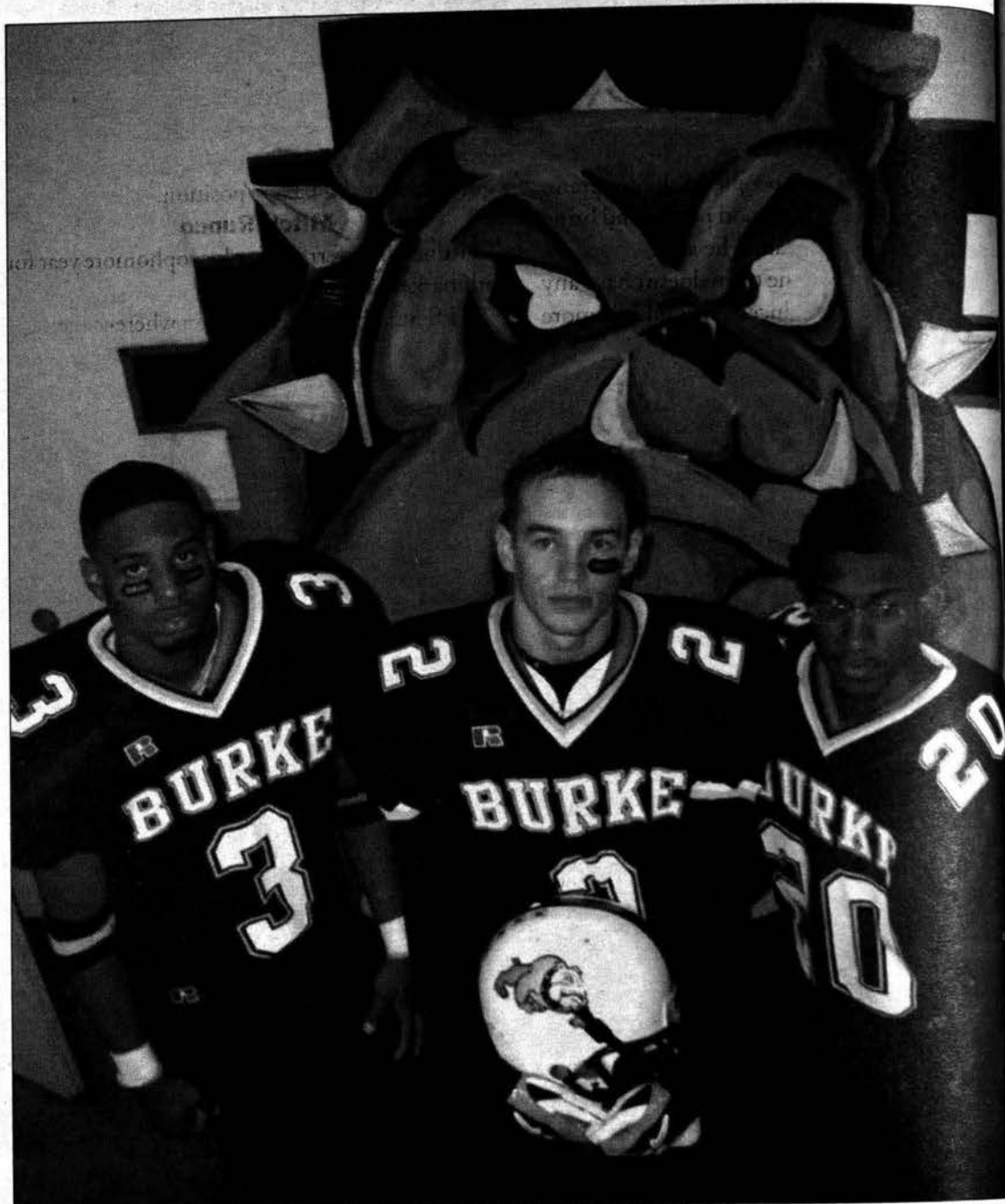


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/ THE EDGE

**Jermaine Hickey, Mitch Runco and Jon Lathan stand in front of Burke's mascot (Bulldogs) outside their locker room. Although they did not play Central in the regular season, they all said they hoped to meet up with the Eagles in the state playoff.**

McMenemy said he is glad the three are having success, but he would have preferred to see them stay at Central and try to work their way up the team.

"I hate to see a kid transfer because of competition. I'd rather see a guy try to improve," he said. "That's life, you're going to be coming up against competition in every thing you do."

Ohlendt agreed with McMenemy in that players should not transfer due to competition. However, after growing up in a military family, he

said that he understands how a new school could provide a chance to start over.

"They have an opportunity to make up for some opportunities they may have otherwise missed at Central," he said.

Whatever they were missing out on at Central, Burke seems to have provided.

Likewise, they have provided Burke what Ohlendt said the team would have otherwise been missing.

"We didn't have a lot of speed and these guys

have a lot of speed," he said.

In addition, they add an element of maturity to an otherwise young team. He said the program has around 15 seniors this year with Runco, Hickey and Lathan. The average is usually 18.

Ohlendt said there are a few talented tenth graders below the three that would have had their positions, but otherwise the team would have been lacking in depth.

"They've made a very positive addition in that respect, but even more as people in the program, not just as athletes. They are good people and bring a lot of character to the team," he said.

Because Hickey said the team doesn't have any stand out stars or big producers, he said it is more unified. Whereas all three said that Central is more of an assemblage of individuals.

"Burke is a family, whatever happens to one person happens to all of us," Lathan said.

Lathan described the difference between the schools as an issue of perceptions. He said it would appear as if Burke rotates its players more and allows for a more open competition.

Nevertheless, Runco said that Central will always have a strong team. He said it seems as if there are always a handful of graduates that make it to Division I colleges, yet they never seem to be able to win the state playoff.

Each player had a different reason for leaving Central. However, all three have found success at their transplanted home. All three plan on pursuing careers in football and have been receiving college letters over the past year.

### Jermaine Hickey

Hickey transferred at the semester of his sophomore year following a disappointing season.

He said he made the move because he wanted to play college football and didn't think he would be able to unless he had two years starting.

"If I had waited, I would just now be starting at Central," he said.

Then again, competition would have been tight between himself and Gunn and he may have had to split the field time.

He said it's not in his nature as a running back to want to share the field.

Right now he said Burke uses him for multiple functions in the offense. He takes passes as well as makes runs.

"I use my speed," he said. "I hit the corners and juke people."

In turn, as of week five of the season, he was leading Burke in touchdowns, rushing yards, and was third for the team's receiving. The main thing he said he will miss out on since he transferred is McMnamin's college recruiting ability. Runco agreed that McMnamin is a "recruiting master-

mind."

"If I could call coach Mac up to do my recruiting for me, I would. Just his name alone seem to get kids into college. He has a lot of connections and colleges know he graduates talented players," Runco said.

Right now, Hickey said he is looking at going to the University of Arizona or Colorado State. After having a chance to look at Colorado over the summer at a training camp, he said should have a good shot at the I-back position.

### Mitch Runco

Runco transferred after his sophomore year for both basketball and football

"I figure there's competition wherever you go, so go somewhere where you're going to play and have fun," he said. "I will never regret this decision."

He made the decision to transfer after watching the state basketball tournament his last year at Central.

He saw seniors sitting the bench and didn't want to be in that position if he didn't have to be.

"The worst that could happen was that I'd be doing the same thing I was at Central, which was sitting the bench, which I'm not doing," he said.

He had attended middle school at Beveridge so he already had a lot of friends attending Burke. He said they had been trying to convince him to transfer for a while.

As it turned out, he introduced Hickey to those friends and they helped convince him to make the move.

"If it wasn't for me, he (Hickey) wouldn't be at Burke and if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be at Burke," he said.

Now as a second year starter, he has moved from the bench to sixth in the state for average yards per game for receiving, and tied with teammate Damone Gilmore for most receptions on Burke's depth chart.

"I like basketball a little better, but I think I'm better at football," Runco said.

He said he'd like to play basketball in college but thinks he has a better chance with football. Some schools he has been looking into include Northwest Missouri State as well as a possible walk on role at Kansas.

McMnamin's son is currently the quarterback at Northwest Missouri State. McMnamin said they have a strong throwing program and it would be a good school for a receiver like Runco

### Jon Lathan

Lathan transferred mid second semester of his junior year. Unlike Hickey and Runco, he did not go for athletic reasons.

He said administrators found out that he had

marijuana in his possession at school, but they knew it wasn't his. He said administrator Dionne Kirksey gave him the option of telling who it belonged to or being suspended for 19 days. Since the track season was just starting, he said suspension wasn't an option. Although he said he liked Central, his mother forced him to make the transfer for fear of retaliation.

"But that didn't help either," he said.

Before the end of the school year, he said two Central students involved in the situation jumped him outside of a gas station.

"It turned out for the better I like Burke a lot. It was messed up what happened, but it worked out for the best," he said.

While at Central, he was receiving 4's in most of his classes. Now he said he's making all 1's and 2's, and that's not even mentioning his athletic success.

"I've already gotten more time at Burke than I did at Central for two years," he said.

Lathan is still in competition for the running back spot behind Hickey. While both he and Hickey were at Central, he said there was a bit of animosity between them.

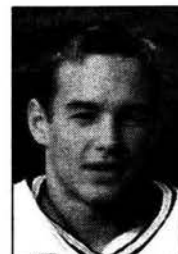
However, now that they are both at Burke, he said any previous disputes were petty and the two are now friends.

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## Player Bios



**Name: Jermaine Hickey**  
**Height: 5'10**  
**Weight: 175 lb.**  
**Seasons at Burke: 2**  
**Forty time: 4.4 sec.**



**Name: Mitch Runco**  
**Height: 5'9**  
**Weight: 165 lb.**  
**Seasons at Burke: 2**  
**Forty time: 4.49 sec.**



**Name: Jon Lathan**  
**Height: 5'9**  
**Weight: 160 lb.**  
**Seasons at Burke: 1**  
**Forty time: 4.5 sec.**

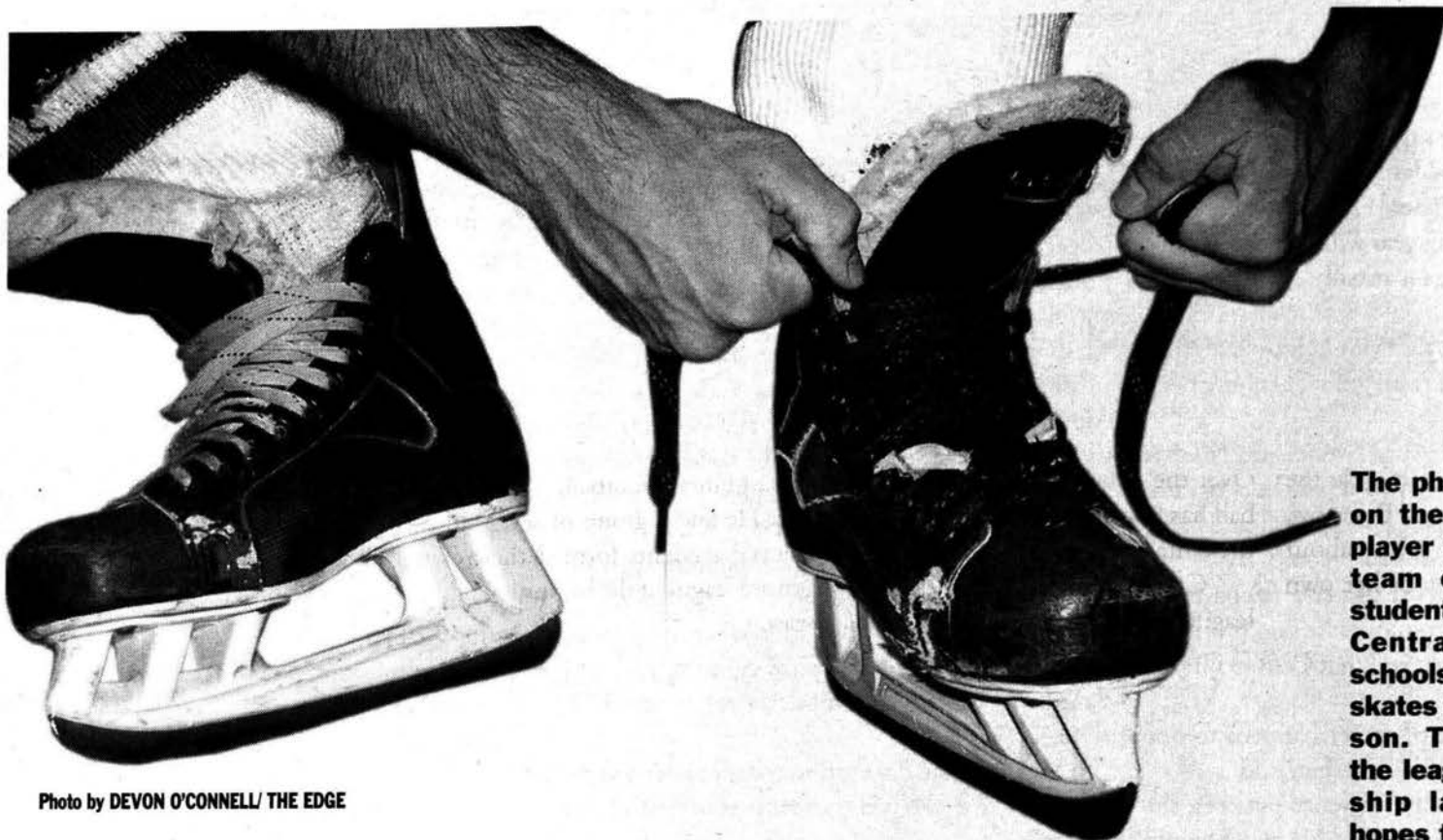


Photo by DEVON O'CONNELL/ THE EDGE

The photo illustration on the left shows a player on the Metro team consisting of students from North, Central and other schools lacing up his skates for a new season. The team won the league championship last year and hopes to repeat.

# Metro team laces up a new season

By Steve Packard

Central's unofficial hockey team is looking to a strong offense and defense this year, as it shoots for its second consecutive division title, coach John Thomas said.

Thomas and the team beat Creighton Prep last year for the first division title of the recently revised Omaha Metropolitan Amateur Hockey Association (OMAHA).

This year, OMAHA's great success allowed it to expand from six teams to 11.

Thomas is excited and said that the expansion will make up for more competition and a more interesting season this year.

The Metro North team, originally made up of multiple metropolitan schools that were generally north of Dodge St., including Central, dropped South High and Council Bluffs high school players in favor of expansion.

The remaining schools on the Metro North team are Central, North, Benson, Roncalli, Northwest, Bennington, and Woodbine High in Iowa.

Although Thomas has lost some players, he maintains that team is even better this.

"Individually, the offensive players aren't a great force, but our total offense is better this year," he said.

Thomas named North junior Jeffrey Thomas, Central freshman Keenan Page and Bennington junior Brett Nelson as few key players to watch for on offense this year.



Bierman

North alumnus Shawn Boomsma, a key to the Metro North's offense last year, left to play college hockey in Minnesota this year, a powerhouse state for hockey.

Thomas said he isn't worried about his loss, though.

The players seem somewhat convinced, but will need time to know how the offense will turn out.

"I've seen better, but we've only had a couple practices," Page said. "We have really good skaters. We have to get a feeling for where we are on the ice."

Despite his shaky analysis of the offense, Page remains optimistic.

"They did a really great job last

year," Page said. "I think if we get our legs under us for the season, I think we can do a pretty great job."

Defense, on the other hand, couldn't be better, Thomas said.

"We possibly have the best defense in the league," he said. "We're really quite strong there."

Central seniors Neil Bierman, and Doug Meigs will compromise the solid defense.

Although expansion has excited many coaches in OMAHA, Thomas said it hasn't come

about without its fair share of controversy.

Originally, Thomas said he and the coaches of OMAHA came together out of a desire to divide teams between high schools to increase fan attendance.

However, the new league has turned out to be more than just a bid for more fans.

Many of the veteran players on the selective travel teams have dropped the travel teams for the more local and much less-demanding

OMAHA teams, including Metro North.

Bierman said that while travel hockey is good, it can definitely be rather demanding.

"I think they want to have a special life this year," Bierman said. "The (house league) takes less time and is less expensive."

In turn, travel hockey coaches have begun to complain, Thomas said.

"It (travel hockey) is good hockey, but no one comes to the games, except maybe mom and dad," Thomas said. "In OMAHA hockey we've been able to fill rinks with high school fans."

Thomas said that travel hockey is good for players, but part of the appeal of OMAHA hockey is that they can be the number one player on the team.

Former travel players will play a major role on the team this year, Thomas said.

It comes down to one point, Thomas, though.

"When we (the coaches) developed this league, that's what the skaters wanted," he said. "Life's a little easier (for the players)."

# What dreams are made of...

## Students, faculty participate in fantasy football leagues for fun

By Devon O'Connell

It used to be that the closest the average person could get to professional sports was to settle down and watch a game on television, or at the most, be in the stands. But now, thanks to the Internet, just about anyone can manage his or her own fantasy team.

The brand of statistical game-playing has become extremely popular among fans who love to pore over hits, runs, tackles and playing time in baseball, football, basketball, golf and hockey.

It all began with small fantasy baseball teams called rotisserie leagues.

Coaches (fantasy players) could make up their own teams from different real life players from around the country. For instance, one could have a catcher

from New York, a shortstop from St. Louis, a pitcher from Boston, etc. It soon spread to football, basketball, hockey, golf and several other sports. Over the past couple of years, football has become the most popular of the fantasy sports.

Coaches can form a private league consisting of just a group of friends or colleagues, or enter a public league with players from around the country.

At the beginning of the season, coaches can participate in different types of drafts in order to fill up their rosters. In addition to drafts, coaches can trade players and take advantage of free agency. The goal is to have the best team on the field each

week, since the better the players perform in real-life games, the more value they bring to a fantasy team.

Senior John DeMott is in his first year of fantasy football.

He and a group of seven other Central students formed their own private league at the beginning of the season.

"I would say the best thing about it is that it's all free, and it gives you a chance to really get involved in the game," DeMott said.

DeMott is one of the few players who participates in both public and private leagues.

"I'm ranked first in my private league, which is good, but I'm ranked 78,667 in the public league," he said.

In addition to becoming more involved in the game, DeMott said fantasy football just gives him something interesting to talk about with his friends.

"Before, I wasn't really into football that much, but after I got a team going, I started to pay attention to the game a lot more," DeMott said.

Senior Shawn O'Banion is in the same private league as DeMott. O'Banion said he also started playing to have something to talk about with his friends and family.

"I usually only spend about 30 minutes a week with it, managing trades and stuff, which is good because I have a lot of fun with it," he said.

Several members of the coaching staff and physical education department also have formed their own private league.

Head baseball coach Scott Hodges is involved with the group, nicknamed the Central Fantasy Football League.

"Well my favorite part about it is to come into the office and tell all

the other coaches they suck," Hodges said.

Hodges used to compete in a baseball league as well. He said he believes that football has taken its place because it is a much easier sport to follow.

"Well, it was difficult to follow my team, and it's difficult to follow any baseball team," he said. "There are 162 games in a baseball season, and there are only 16 in football."

Hodges said that fantasy football is a good way to stay closer to the game than just watching it on television.

Head basketball coach Eric Behrens used to partially own a fantasy sports league, called Big League Sports.

Overall, he said they had about 2,000 football teams from around the world, along with several other baseball, basketball, and hockey teams. He and about four of his friends would put in often 70 hour weeks reporting statistics, mailing statistics and answering customer's questions, among other things.

Behrens said that 70 hours a week isn't rare among those who own leagues, it is actually pretty typical.

"It was pretty stressful," Behrens said, "stuffing boxes with mail-outs usually took a couple days, and that's all you would do. We would try and get all the mail-outs from a Monday game sent by about Tuesday or Thursday at the latest, that way people could be ready for the next week."

After a couple of years, Behrens quit Big League Sports. The closest he gets to fantasy sports now is the Central Fantasy Football League. Behrens also said that he gets closer to the game with fantasy football.

"Everyone down here, all the coaches, all have a real good time with it," Hodges said. "If you get in with the right group of guys, it can be really fun."

E



**Fantasy football offers sports fans the option of participating along side their favorite teams from the comfort of their own homes**

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/ THE EDGE



## where is my mind

A Column By Jillian Risavi

## Senior shares pain in dealing with mom's disease, death

People die everyday in their sleep, from heart failure, old age, AIDS, freak accidents, cancer and many other things.

It's never easy to deal with, especially when someone dear to you passes away.

A dedicated wife and mother of incredible stature, brilliance and ambition, after what was supposed to be a hospital evaluation over her bronchitis, was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in January 2001.

Her name is Patricia Risavi and she is my mother.

What must have been running through her mind when she found out she had lung cancer cannot even be comprehended.

The way that she had to explain to her husband of 24 years, children, parents, and other family that she had cancer was mind-boggling.

The doctors explained to her after she was diagnosed that she would more than likely not be able to go home again.

The thoughts of never being at home with her family, seeing her children and grandchildren grow up, coaching volleyball, volunteering, being a friend, a daughter and working woman began to settle into her mind.

All of these thoughts gave her motivation to fight and return home.

After two months in the hospital, she came home. But she did not stop fighting there.

She continued to build her strength up at home and within two weeks of being at home she was back at work.

Her busy schedule between work, family and doctors' appointments diminished her energy level a great deal.

She spent the majority of the summer at home, or out of town visiting friends and family. Through out the days I would stay home and take care of her. I would make her food, read to her, play games with her and just hang out with my mom.

I realized that this time was critical. I didn't know how much time I had and so I had to make every moment count.

I didn't want her to just be my mom anymore. I needed her to be my friend. I wanted her to get to know me and I wanted to know who she was and her perspective on things.

As time went on and the months passed, her cancer began to stabilize until October 2001 when she began to have massive headaches.

As the headaches grew worse, the doctors soon found out they were due to the cancer spreading into her bones and brain. She shortly after began to lose her sight and ability to concentrate all the time.

This was the beginning of the end.

My mom loved the holidays. She loved to get together with all of the family and eat food, play cards and just sit around and talk.

As Thanksgiving came and went, she grew too ill to celebrate the holiday. On Christmas Eve she came home only to go back into the hospital early Christmas morning.

New Year's Eve she came home and spent what would come to be her last days at home.

With her sight and mind dwindling she still remained the same vibrant, spiritual and loving woman she always was.

Feb. 4, 2002 is a day that will never be forgotten. I recall going to school and leaving early with a close friend with the permission from a counselor and my father.

I went out to lunch then to see my mom, who was not coherent due to previous strokes and being ill.

Everyone knew this was it; there would be no more.

My dad called me and told me to come back

**A "Remember bear" was made and given to the columnist to ease the pain during a very difficult time.**

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE EDGE

to the hospital to say "good-bye" to my mother.

I went back to the hospital saw my dad, sisters, grandparents, friends and family.

My dad led me into my mother's room and left me there alone where I sat down prayed with her and spoke to her telling her how much I loved her, how proud I would make her and just anything that came to mind.

At that moment when I was saying "good-bye," everything in the world seemed surreal.

I quickly left the hospital and went back to my friend's house seeming overwhelmed by the amount of people there.

On my way to my friend's house, one of my sisters called me telling me that my mom had passed away.

All I could do was cry. I didn't know what to say how to act or what to feel.

I went back to hospital where my dad led me back into my mother's room and left me to see her one last time.

I continued to believe that she would come home and ask to brush my hair, ride in the car with me and hold my hand counting my fingers and saying that she loves me, or the Sunday mornings when she would come in my room singing and climbing into bed with me.

I found it difficult to go and see her in so much pain. I wanted to remember her the way I wanted too, which was at home with me.

I would write her letters everyday, which she would read and if she couldn't then a friend or family member would read them to her and we would always talk on the phone until I made her too tired.

These memories and so many more are all that I now have of my mother to hold onto.

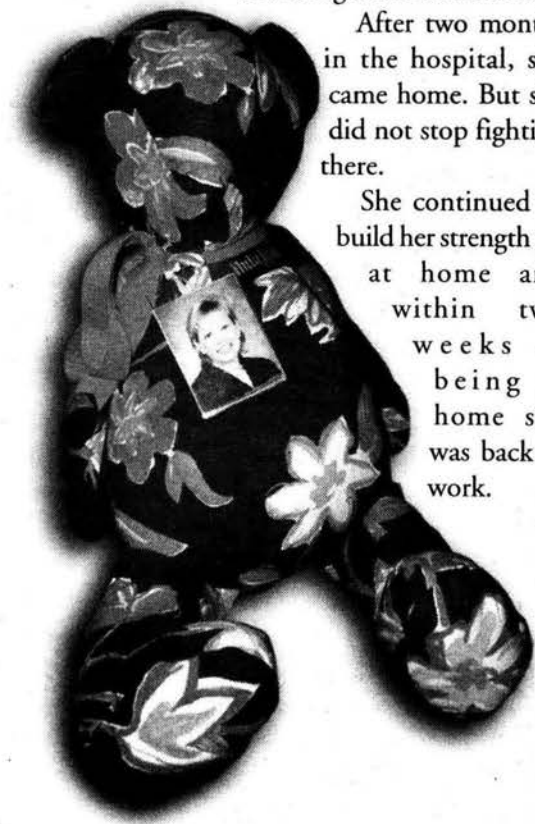
I had a conversation with her before she died. She told me she no longer feared death.

She said she was ready to be with God and she knew she would soon be with him.

She explained that it wasn't anything to be afraid of and that she realized that things just happen to people sometimes even when it hurts the most.

She told me not to be angry because she would always be with me in my heart and in my dreams.

Though she is no longer in pain, I still have a hard time understanding how someone so extraordinary as she would be taken away from such a horrific disease at the age of 42.



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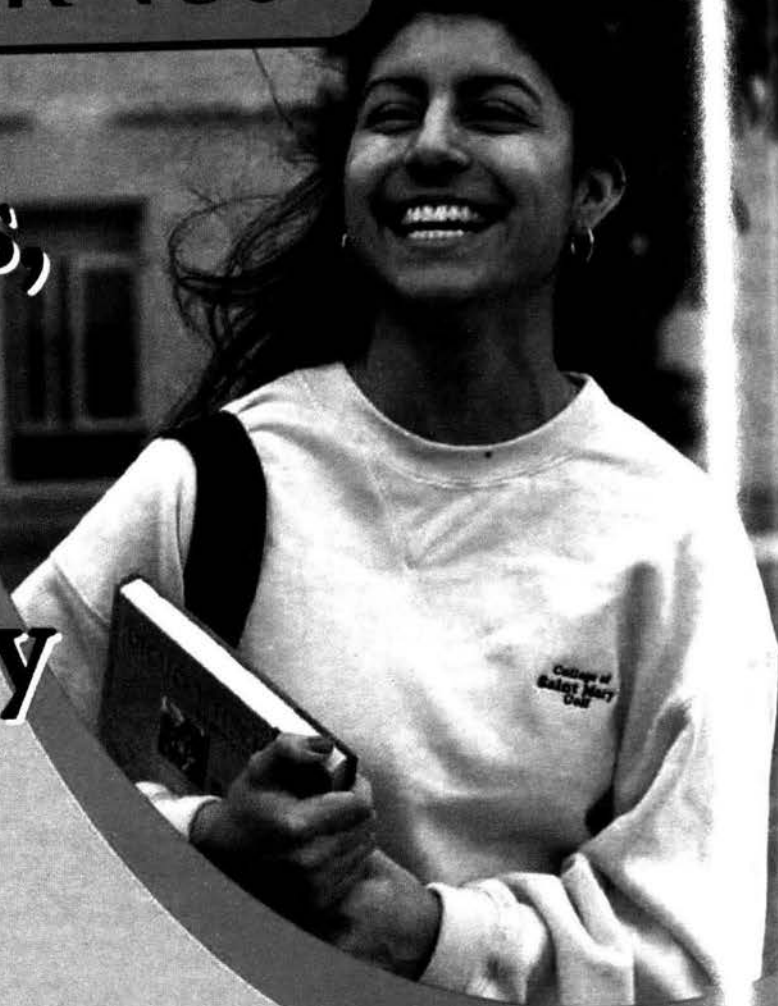
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## Review

Black Heart Procession comes together and produces yet another spectacular album.

Page 29

## A&amp;E

Monday, November 18, 2002



Page 21  
The Register

## Bands remain 'indie' despite fame, listeners

By Paula Salhany

Joel Petersen and his band the Faint have decided to stay exactly where they are, signed to their original independent record label.

After countless phone calls and expensive dinners thrown by all the major record labels, he said that's just not where the band wants to be.

Petersen remembers one dinner in particular, thrown by a label, where they were taken to a very expensive restaurant and treated to pricey entrées and bottle after bottle of the most extravagant wines.

"We were spending hundreds of dollars without even blinking," he said. "That was when we knew it just wasn't for us."

The Faint is just one of a growing number of popular independent bands.

These independent bands are sometimes given the choice to jump from their smaller labels where they are more in control of their music, to a corporate label where the label essentially owns the band and what they produce, says Masahiro Whitehurst, A&R director for Universal Records said.

"Lesser-known independent bands are surfacing while the explosion of pop artists like Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys are dying out," Whitehurst said.

Universal is always looking for new talent, he said. Where it looks depends on new bands consumers find, whether or not the band performs and if the label thinks it could write a hit song.

Senior Shelby Beck said unlike many of the followers of underground music, she has no problem with bands going from independent labels to major labels.

"It's (the music industry) a tough business, I have a lot of respect for artists who are able to make it," she said.

Courtney Proffitt, executive director of the Association for Independent Music said fans are able to find more new bands due to the advent of satellite radio and the Internet or file sharing apparatuses. This medium gives bands more exposure.

She said radio stations are given playlists from the major recording companies such as Atlantic, Sony, Columbia and Universal. The radio stations play the songs given to them.

"This makes it very hard to break into mainstream for new bands, even if they are great."

The Faint is one of those independent bands.

# RETRO REVIVAL

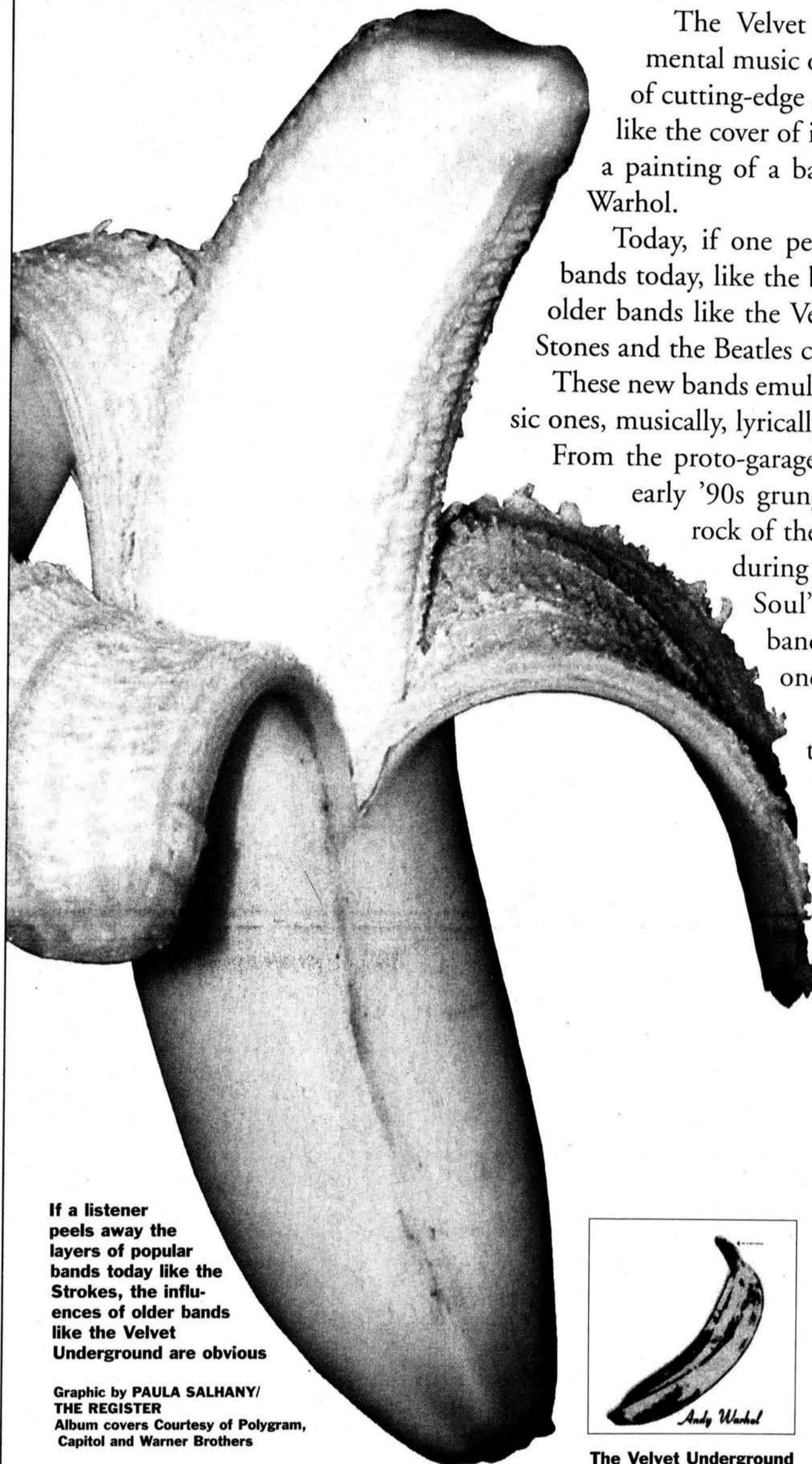
The Velvet Underground defined experimental music of the '60s and '70s with its mix of cutting-edge musical and cultural influences, like the cover of its debut album, which featured a painting of a banana by pop art master Andy Warhol.

Today, if one peels away the layers of popular bands today, like the banana at left, the influences of older bands like the Velvet Underground, the Rolling Stones and the Beatles can be seen.

These new bands emulate the best qualities of the classic ones, musically, lyrically and even stylistically.

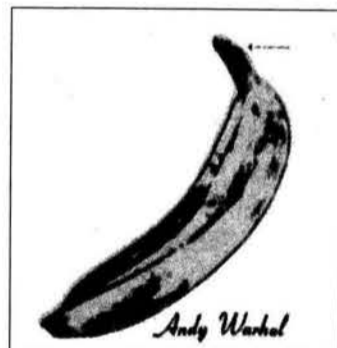
From the proto-garage of the Hives, taken from the early '90s grunge of Nirvana, to the melodic rock of the Vines, taken from the Beatles during the semi-experimental "Rubber Soul" era, the parallels between bands of the past and the popular ones of today are obvious.

For a look at the bands of today, like the Hives and the Vines (below) and how they stack up to the classics, like the Velvet Underground (below) turn to pages 24 and 25 for staff opinions on how it all stacks up.



If a listener peels away the layers of popular bands today like the Strokes, the influences of older bands like the Velvet Underground are obvious

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/  
THE REGISTER  
Album covers Courtesy of Polygram,  
Capitol and Warner Brothers



The Velvet Underground



The Vines



The Hives

## Mexican restaurant serves sizzling hot, delicious cuisine

By Nichole Tyrey

For a casual environment and an exquisite menu straight out of San Antonio on a fast-food budget, Fernando's is the perfect choice.

This restaurant, located on 75th and Pacific Streets, offers fine Mexican cuisine without the over-expensive price tag of other diners.

The service is above average. There is never a line to be seated and meal orders are taken immediately.

The friendly staff checks in occasionally to ensure every condiment desired is available and to make sure the meal goes as smoothly as possible.

The environment is casual.

The booths are housed under villa inspired archways, making the atmosphere more personal and great for a first date. Larger tables are also available for bigger crowds.

A typical meal at Fernando's begins with nachos that are said to be the best in town.

They come in an assortment of styles, including "El Kitchen Sinko" with every-

thing on it. All of the food is served sizzling hot from the oven.

The hot temperature of the plate is definitely topped by the jalapeños and hot sauce.

These optional toppings can be eliminated from the plate so the diner can save his taste buds for the rest of the meal.

As for entrées, Fernando's has a variety of items to choose from. Specializing in Sonoran cuisine, they offer meals ranging from the traditional bean and cheese burrito, to the more exotic Orange Roughy baked in Salsa Verde Sauce.

For diners who are not in the mood for Mexican, they also offer American cuisine on the "For the Gringos" section of the menu. This part of the menu includes hamburgers, steaks, fries and many other traditional American foods.

This restaurant also offers vegetarian friendly and other heart healthy

foods. It is, however, hard to find a meal without the Mexican

staple of beans and cheese, making it a double-whammy for lactose intolerant diners.

The dessert menu consists of many modern American interpretations of traditional Mexican desserts, including Oreocream puffs and the more authentic sapodillas.

Every meal is finished off with a Tootsie-Pop from the waitress, free of charge.

Even then appetizers come in generous portions, providing enough "take home" for an additional meal or two for those who missed out on the Fernando's dining experience.

For great service, a casual atmosphere and hot Mexican food that does not burn a hole in the diner's wallet, Fernando's is a "Mex-cellent" choice.

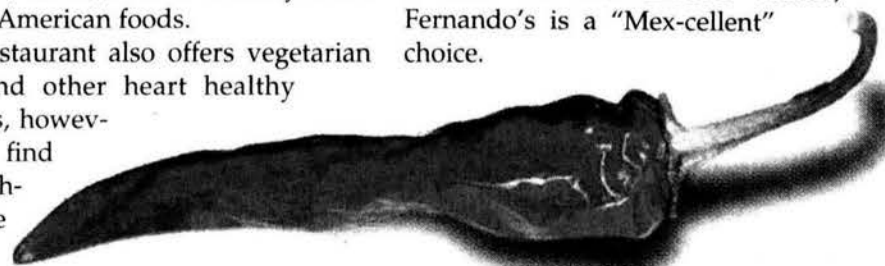


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Sombreros and jalapeños are often associated with fine Mexican and southwestern dining.

## Reviews

## Family movie lacks pace to keep interest

By Katie Backman

"Tuck Everlasting" is a slow-paced Disney movie about a family with everlasting life.

The movie starts in the middle of 1800s with the story of the Tuck family traveling to find a place to settle.

## MOVIE REVIEW

"Tuck Everlasting"

of 5

Starring: Johnathan Jackson, Alexis Bledel  
Rated: PG

On their journey, they stop to have a drink of water.

The family stays where it stops and within a couple years, the Tucks realize they drank from a fountain of immortality.

The movie then moves nearly a hundred years into the future and concentrates on Winifred Foster, the daughter of the richest family in the Tree Gap community that the Tucks live outside of.

Her family owns the woods and the secret fountain of eternal life.

Winifred, also known as Winnie, feels the need to rebel against her family and run away.

She escapes into the deepest parts of the woods that her family owns.

Soon enough Winnie gets lost in the woods, and bumps into Jesse Tuck.

Jesse Tuck claims to be 104 years old, but is in the body of teenager. Inevitably, Winnie and Jesse fall in love within days of their meeting.

As Winnie is off frolicking in the meadows, lakes and forest, time is moving very slowly for her.

She can't tell if she has been with the Tucks for a month or a matter of days.

The confusion sets in as she delves deeper into the puppy love she has with Jesse and the Tucks' way of life.

The Tucks take their time with everything, and go through life without any cares of time running short.

Finally, after more than half of the movie is over, the key problem surfaces.

The pressing question is if Winnie should drink the sacred water and live for eternity loving Jesse, or remain mortal and die.

The story idea seems to work, but the slow introduction that lasts for half the movie can put the audience to sleep.

The younger viewers may enjoy the movie for the young main characters.

"Tuck Everlasting" is for any age, all of the love scenes between Jesse and Winnie are kept at a PG level, a few kisses here and there.

If the viewers have read the hit children's book that the movie is based on, it can be enjoyable to see the characters come to life.

But the old saying is true, books are always better than the movies.

## Jurassic Five returns with innovative beats

By Doug Meigs

Street poetry aficionados will rejoice as Jurassic Five continues to unify hip-hop sub styles under its urban current of synthesized disco/funk/rock undertones.

## ALBUM REVIEW

Jurassic Five

"Power in Numbers"

of 5

"Power in Numbers" is the second full-length album from the group since it hit the mainstream with its self-titled 1997 EP and serves as another powerful contribution to Jurassic Five's increasingly prolific career.

Lyrical flow washes over the old school stylings woven across Jurassic Five's tapestry of intricate bass drops.

The album further cements the freestyle fundamentals set in stone by the 2000 release, "Quality Control."

Chali 2NA's mellow tones accent Zaakir, Akil and Marc 7's high energy rap blast wrapped in verbal stew.

Rhyming constructions resound through the album's dictionary dump of expert vocabulary arrangements.

From references to furnaces, epidermis and flannel pajamas, the group's unique lyrical approach is evident.

The album begins with the jazzy "This Is," and continues strong through the record to its conclusion.

Jurassic Five continues to hold true to its retrospective assemblages with the adrenaline pumping "A Day at the Races" and "What's Golden."

"Power in Numbers" takes a more mainstream stance as its break beat form evolves into a further polished approach.

As with "Hey," the tracks sometimes slip into song rather than straight rapping.

For better or worse, Jurassic Five may be moving off of the street and into the studio.

However, the group still offers their renowned vocal freestyle flow as with Kool Keith's battle-eseque track, "Ddt."

The group's persona pulses through each track.

Each rapper serves as a foil to the others, making for a well-balanced recording.

Although the album as a whole is not as innovative or ground-breaking as "Quality Control," it is still proves to anything but Jurassic.

## Calendar



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

Astrid (Alison Lohman) visits with her mother Ingrid (Michelle Pfeiffer) in prison in the family drama "White Oleander." The mother-daughter movie features strong performances from all the leads.

## Mother's love turns sour in film

By Nichole Tyrey

White oleanders are beautiful, tough-as-nails flowers that thrive only where nothing else can survive, in the hot sun of the desert.

The flower, though beautiful and fragrant, can kill a person just like a man-made poison.

Mothers are beautiful, tough-as-nails people who can survive just about every thing the world throws at them.

Sometimes, however, a mother's controlling love can be just as deadly as a poison.

"White Oleander," based on Janet Fitch's bestselling novel, parallels some of the true stories heard on TV talk shows, where people reveal the most awful and intimate secrets about themselves and their loved ones.

Both the movie and the novel are almost surreal.

The acting in the movie and the writing in the book add to the depth of

the plot.

Whether fact or fiction, the movie proves that knowing the darker side of human nature can often be an enlightening, yet uncomfortable, experience.

Watching this film can be uncomfortable at times primarily because the vivid performances bring life to the characters.

At times, it feels as if it is a real-life documentary that is hard to separate fact from fiction.

Young Alison Lohman stunningly and very convincingly portrays Astrid, the only daughter of Ingrid, an unconventional, and at times methodical, artist played by Michelle Pfeiffer.

After her mother's imprisonment for murdering her boyfriend, one tragedy after another wreaks havoc on Astrid's life throughout the course of the film.

The superb acting and convincing

dialogue between characters outweighs the, at times, over dramatic movie-of-the-week story line.

The supporting cast includes Robin Wright Penn, Renee Zellweger, Patrick Fugit and Noah Wyle.

"White Oleander" is advertised as a chick flick and that label is probably true in several ways.

With few male characters and none that are portrayed in a positive light, there is little reason for a guy to see this movie without being dragged by a girlfriend.

However, this film hits close to home for any person who is trying to find his or her way in the world.

With these performances, it's a movie that should be seen by everyone, male or female, who takes his/her movies seriously.

Just about everyone can find something to like about this movie — if not, than just be thankful it is not a made-for-television movie.

## Album Releases

November All CD release dates are on Tuesdays.



## 19 George Harrison "Brainwashed"

The late "quiet" Beatle's posthumous album will be released on this day. "Brainwashed" was the result of a collaboration between Harrison and his son Dhani. Harrison is best known for penning some of the Beatles' hits including "Here Comes the Sun," as well as a significant body of solo work, like the album "All Things Must Pass" and the single "My Sweet Lord."

## 19 Toni Braxton "More Than a Woman"

The sassy R&B songstress best known for hits such as "You're Making Me High" returns with a new album. Braxton is an award-winning artist who has been on chart-topper since the mid-nineties.

## 19 Craig David "Slicker than Your Average"

British trip-hop-esque singer Craig David returns with the follow-up to his smash debut album. The single from that album "Fill Me In" was a verifiable hit at the time of its release. This album may be what separates David from legions of other young R&B wannabe singers.

## 19 Smashing Pumpkins "Earphoria Live"

The late, great Smashing Pumpkins, led by the always charismatic and enigmatic Billy Corgan release a live album, over a year after the band's official demise. This live recording is sure to please those who have been in withdrawal since the band broke up, or since it took a decidedly different turn at the end of its commercial career. The band's early albums, such as "Siamese Dream" and "Melon Collie and the Infinite Sadness" defined alternative rock of the '90s.

## 26 Snoop Dogg "Paid tha Cost to Be da Boss" (enhanced version)

Snoop Dogg's "Paid tha Cost to Be da Boss" will be released with some extra features to enhance fans' enjoyment of the album. The sometimes controversial rapper, who recently announced that he had given up both marijuana and alcohol, is best known for albums like "Doggystyle."

## 26 Various Artists "String Quartet: A Tribute to John Lennon"

The works of the another late Beatle, the legendary John Lennon, will be reworked by string quartets on this album that nearly coincides with the 22nd anniversary of his death. Lennon was become a cultural icon for his works in the musical, artistic and political fields. His widow, Yoko Ono, has been actively trying to keep his memory alive since his death, as well as pursuing her own artistic endeavors.

## December

## 3 Guided By Voices "Box Set"

This five album box set from the old school indie rockers of Guided By Voices combines releases from the band's origins back in the late '80s and chronicles the band's progression to its current state. This is a must-have album for anyone who is interested in the beginnings of the current popularity of independent music.

## 17 Dashboard Confessional "MTV Unplugged"

The one-man band Dashboard Confessional releases a collection of live acoustic songs performed for a MTV crowd. Since Dashboard has such a cult-like following, especially among college students, expect the crowd to be singing along with every song of heartbreak and isolation on this album.

## Movie Releases

## November

- 22 "Die Another Day"  
"Friday After Next"  
"The Emperor's Club"  
"Personal Velocity"  
27 "Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights"  
"Extreme Ops"  
"Treasure Planet"  
"Solaris"

## December

- 6 "Adaption"  
"Analyze That"  
"Equilibrium"  
"The Hot Chick"  
"Star Trek: Nemesis"  
13 "Maid in Manhattan"  
18 "The Lord of the Rings: the Two Towers"  
20 "About Schmidt"  
"The Gangs of New York"  
"Two Weeks Notice"  
"The Wild Thornberrys"

## Concerts

## November

- 21 The Swords, Project, Race for Titles and the Gloria Record at Sokol Underground  
22 John Mellancamp at the Mid-America Recreation and Convention Center, Council Bluffs  
22 JV Allstars, the Floaters, the Choke and Eponymous at RNS Skateboard Shop  
23 Lorie Line at the Civic Auditorium  
26 The Righteous Brothers at the Lied Center, Lincoln  
28 Grasshopper Takeover at the Music Box  
29 M.O. Caius, Noizewave, Swing By Seven and Analog at the Junction  
30 Lennon at the Ranch Bowl  
30 Blue October at the Music Box

## December

- 1 Madcap, One Man Army, the Explosion at Farnam Street  
3 James Taylor at the Pershing Auditorium, Lincoln  
14 Hey Mercedes and The Get Up Kids at Sokol Auditorium  
20 Faceage at Sokol Auditorium

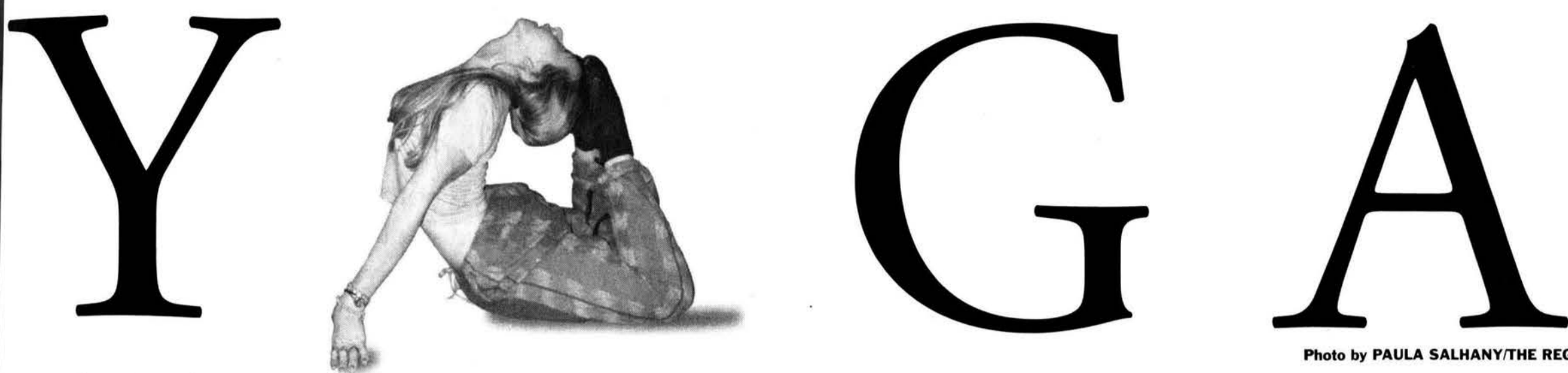


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

From the triangle pose to the downward facing dog, the centuries-old practice of meditation and exercise is becoming increasingly popular among young people. Students and teachers sound off about the benefits and downsides of yoga.

#### By Katie Backman

Crane, tree, boat, downward facing dog and peacock are a few of the common yoga poses that Central students are beginning to practice.

Yoga is becoming increasingly popular among students, physical education instructor Kris Chavez said.

She said yoga is not just about bending the body into awkward poses, but it has many benefits for those who practice it, in the short and long term.

Chavez said there are a few benefits of yoga that make her think yoga should be added to the physical education curriculum.

"Yoga concentrates on flexibility, balance and inner core strength," Chavez said.

Chavez teaches sections of yoga in her aerobics classes. She has two videotapes and poses she has learned through workshops she has taken.

She said self-awareness is the number one reason to practice yoga.

Students get tuned with their

inner-selves while practicing yoga, she said. She said she believes that when students are aware of themselves, they begin important preparations for being members of society.

Sophomore Anna Vacha said the yoga sessions during aerobics help her ballet performance and flexibility.

She said ballet goes along with yoga, and wishes yoga could be incorporated more in the aerobics curriculum.

"The class practice (of yoga) is a nice break from school," she said.

Vacha said she gets the ability to achieve self-awareness with quiet, soft music and mental visuals while practicing yoga exercises, providing her with a relaxing break in her day.

Senior Kristen Carroll said yoga is extremely therapeutic and can definitely relax students.

"I had it ninth hour last year," Carroll said. "I left the day more relaxed and yoga motivated me to go home and start my homework."

Chavez said yoga instructors

use visuals to benefit the physical and mental points of practice.

"Visualization is used in football, track and diving; when a diver can picture the dive formation, that is visualization," she said. "This must be used in yoga and forms of meditation."

Chavez said the students really get into yoga, and bring personal thoughts to their sessions. People have read personal poems and haikus during the relaxation workouts.

She said out of all of her classes, about 75 percent really enjoy yoga, 10 percent don't like it because they enjoy more active workouts and 10 to 15 percent could take it or leave it.

"I am surprised by the number of students who expressed true feelings for yoga," Chavez said.

Vacha said she thinks differently about the amount of student interest.

She doesn't think the students in her aerobic class truly enjoy yoga.

Carroll said she wouldn't recommend yoga to everyone. She

said people should definitely try it, and see how it can make the body feel.

"Try yoga before you say you hate it. If you don't try it, you won't know," Carroll said.

Junior Odeth Gomez said she doesn't like yoga, but would still tell others to try it and see if it was right for them.

Vacha said she doesn't think the other kids are aware of the true benefits of yoga and just take it for granted.

She said yoga and other exercise such as Pilates build upper strength and should be taken seriously.

"Benefits are you become aware of your body," Vacha said. "Every single muscle in your body you didn't know you have, you can feel it when you do yoga."

Carroll said yoga could teach participants how to have a very healthy lifestyle.

She said that is another something many students don't achieve successfully.

Gomez said she would rather do steps or some other sport involving more activity.

"Other sports have to be better than just sitting there," Gomez said. "Maybe I didn't enjoy it because too many people were around me in the room also. It was really loud because the weight lifting class."

Chavez said there are some tools she wishes she could purchase for the students, but having their own aerobics room in the near future is good enough.

She said she would love to have yoga bars, blocks, music, a good sound system, a lighting system that can be adjusted and yoga mats.

These accessories would just improve the yoga experience, but are not necessities, she said.

"Very little is needed with yoga," Chavez said, "it takes you back to the simpler times."

Chavez said flexibility and strength, the two main benefits of yoga, must be maintained and are the most important physical aspects in life.

She said a person could continue to build muscle and gain flexibility until the day she dies, so she should not stop once age

takes over.

Yoga plays a drastic role in flexibility, and if practiced three to four times a week it will help when a person is older, Chavez said.

"You can maintain balance when you are older," she said. "Flexibility is revealed when you are older, not 70 to 80 but 40 to 50 years old."

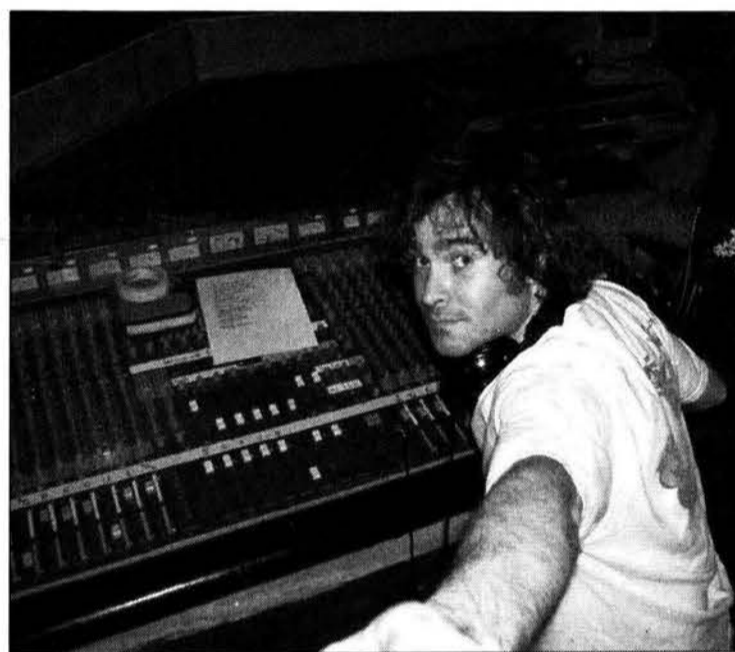
She said yoga and flexibility give participants confidence in the way they live their lives and how they receive the ability to move and to bend. Chavez said yoga could make it easier to escape danger.

"Yoga helps appearance and those who don't do it don't know it is good for you," Vacha said. "The feeling of moving your body a certain way soothes the body."

Chavez said she just tries to give her students a taste of yoga now.

She said she believes when they are older they can remember if they enjoyed it or not.

Then during adult years, she said, they can decide if they would want to go into the art of yoga.



Photos by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

The Samples performed at the Music Box on Oct. 30 as part of its tour to support its new album "Anthology in Motion." At left is Sean Kelly, lead singer of the band and at right another member Tom Askin.

## Samples collection reflects years of greatness

#### By Charlie Wence

When The Samples released "Anthology in Motion, Volume One," fans were astonished with the array of new songs, from never-before-heard tracks to classic songs with a whole new sound.

Released in August, "Anthology in Motion" consists of three discs that span over 217 minutes.

There are 46 tracks on all three discs combined, containing songs as far back as 1982 as well as favorites heard on other discs, but this time in different styles.

Throughout the album, the Samples show the band's beliefs through the lyrics. "Radio Song," for example, is about despising the way popular music is marketed. The band has always depended on listeners to spread the word about its

music.

The Samples come from the liberal city of Boulder, Colo., where the conservation of green space is a high priority. Inside of the album, numerous references

can be related to the environment and its preservation, especially on the track "African Ivory."

With "Anthology in Motion" containing songs from 20 years ago, one can hear how much younger lead singer Sean Kelley sounded.

The difference can be noticed in tracks "Ocean of War," "Little Silver Ring," "Could It Be Another Change," all from 1982 or 1983 when the band was just starting.

The album also offers demos from when songs were fresh out of the studio. The demo version of "Nature of the

Beast" gives the listener an original taste of this track, which tells the tale of the band touring across the country by bus almost year round.

The acoustic tracks provide an altered version of already incredible songs. "Little Silver Ring" is an excellent song from original album versions, but when it was recorded acoustically, it brought out the guitar more than on the album version and, if possible, sounded better.

The Samples throw a curve at fans by including a rap version of "Feel Us Shaking."

If one was familiar with The Samples and heard this song for the first time, it would be impossible to tell that band member Andy Sheldon was singing.

"Anthology in Motion" is called Volume One because the Samples said it is almost certain that there will be a Volume Two sometime in the future.

## New game system allows for play around country

#### By Aaron Maurice

Video games are evolving.

In NFL Fever for Microsoft's X-Box, an exclusive football game, a player can see expressions on the players' faces, notice individual styles and even see individual blades of grass.

Playing the game creates a feeling that users are running the team and making the plays. The player can even hear his opponent shouting at his team from across the country as he breaks a run for 80 yards and six points.

This experience is only possible through Microsoft's new service called X-Box Live. Players can join the service and play games over the Internet in real time, creating an experience never before achieved in gaming.

The service itself is quite simple. A gamer buys the \$50 start-up kit that includes the software, headset and a year of service. The gamer can then play any Live enabled game against people all over the world, all from the comfort of his living room.

Previous attempts have been made to put counsel video games online with the attempts of Sega's Dreamcast and Sony's Playstation Two. The Dreamcast is no longer being sold, and the Playstation Two has shown little support for its online efforts, although its system is up and running. Nintendo will join the crowd in the winter or spring with the release of Phantasy Star Online.

Playing online with X-Box Live is as easy as playing against a friend.

Gamers connect their X-Boxes to a broadband connection while the counsel configures the users' Internet. Most players can be online and playing in less than five minutes.

Rankings are updated in real time giving the gamer a chance to see how his skills in a specific game compare to the rest of the world.

The ability to talk with opponents makes the system worth getting. Never before has it been so easy to find people all over the country that share a common interest.

The games generally have very little lag or delays due to the time it takes for packets to be sent over the Internet from box to box.

After going public on Nov. 15, a total of eight games were available to be played at launch, with more coming out over the next several months.

The overall experience made video games much more enjoyable, as playing alone quickly gets boring. Chances are that whenever a player wants to play, someone else in the world wants to play as well.

The service will only be successful if people adopt it, however. It is not fun waiting 30 minutes to play a game. The potential is huge, but so are the risks.

Whether or not X-Box Live becomes the standard of video games is yet to be determined. Right now gamers will have to settle trying the next phase of counsel evolution, but it certainly looks promising.

#### GAME REVIEW

X-Box Live

3.5 of 5

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# RETRO REVIVAL

From the catchy guitar licks to the melodic backing parts, everything that defined rock of the '60s, '70s (and even early '90s) is becoming popular among the musicians of today. The *Register* staff held some of the bright new stars of today up against the classic artists that they emulate to see where the similarities start and end. We compared the neo-garage Swedish punks of the Hives to grunge originals Nirvana, the melodic Australian rockers the Vines to the classic Beatles, the new-wave rock revivalists of the Strokes to the first real experimental band, the Velvet Underground and the ultimate set of rock stars, the Rolling Stones to the reworked blues-rock of the White Stripes.

## Nirvana vs. The Hives

**Band:** Nirvana

**Album:** "MTV Unplugged in New York"

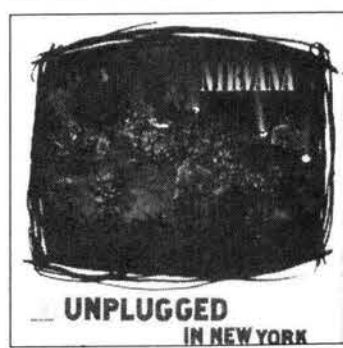
**The Sound:** Grunge

**The Era:** Early '90s

**The Look:** Flannel shirts, Goodwill sweaters

**The Highlight:** Kurt Cobain's passionate lyrics

**The Lowlight:** Lack of coordination in band



Courtesy of Geffen Records

### REVIEW

Wearing a sweater that Goodwill would not take, Kurt Cobain along with bassist Krist Novoselic and drummer David Grohl (now frontman for the Foo Fighters) relive all their greatest hits in person on the live recording, "MTV Unplugged in New York."

The recording is a masterpiece. It is raw and lets all of the band members' pure talent shine through, though there are some rough edges.

Hearing it live dispels the myth of godliness that has been wrapped around the trio.

Even hearing them live, it is hard to believe that before they were legends, before they were icons, they were simply musicians holding their instruments and trying to get by.

On this record Cobain, Novoselic and Grohl do not seem like rock stars. Instead they seem like the earnest young musicians that they once were.

There is a spontaneity that can only be found in live albums; it permeates the record.

At one point Cobain spontaneously plays a song solo and in a different key than he usually would for no apparent reason.

Grohl, the drummer, periodically asks what song is next, or for a reminder of how such and such a song goes.

The covers of old songs, which fit like a glove into Cobain's asymmetrical lyrics, and harp-like guitar styling add a third dimension to the record.

From start to finish it is in a league of its own.

-John Owens-Ream

**Band:** The Hives

**Album:** "Veni Vidi Vicious"

**The Sound:** Neo-garage rock

**The Era:** Today

**The Look:** Matching suits

**The Highlight:** Pauses between songs

**The Lowlight:** Every song after track six



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

### REVIEW

Loud shrieks and tuxedos, that is the Swedish band the Hives in a nutshell.

Overpowering guitar licks and radio friendly songs give the album, "Veni Vidi Vicious," the extra push that the band needs to keep fans attracted to the music.

"Veni Vidi Vicious" is the type of album that should be listened to only under close supervision. Some of the songs are more novelty than anything else.

The first song, "Declare Guerre Nucleaire," talks about eating atomic boar in the year 2004.

This album is really good until track number six rolls around.

That is when the screaming can only get the

band so far and some listeners may want to throw the CD at the wall.

The album can evoke the most angry angsty moods and personas in a kid that should not be released.

Though the band channels an early '90s grunge sound, it is far less concerned with angst, emotion or heavily political issues, making the album more of a fun listen.

The Hives is the best example of '60s Swedish garage punk that the year 2002 has to offer.

If the sudden uprise in retro rock keeps going the Swedish boys should be with us for awhile.

Calm down, take a breather. "Veni Vidi Vicious" makes even East Coast riot punk seem tame.

-Bryan Swotek

## The Beatles vs. The Vines

**Band:** The Beatles

**Album:** "Rubber Soul"

**The Sound:** '60s rock with worldly influences

**The Era:** the '60s

**The Look:** Shaggy bowl cuts

**The Highlight:** Hints of straying from the norm

**The Lowlight:** None



Courtesy of Apple Records

### REVIEW

The British are coming! The British are coming!

And they're armed with tambourines!

From psychedelic guitars to dream inducing lyrics, the Beatles' "Rubber Soul" has it all.

This sometimes under-appreciated album is the stepping stone between the two major parts in the Beatles' career.

"Rubber Soul" began the band's era of experimentation. It pulled away from the mainstream bubble gum pop sound of songs like "Love Me Do" on its debut album "Please, Please Me."

The birth of the Beatles' new sound sticks out like a sore thumb in this album.

Listeners can't help but catch the rhythm of the contagious beats and fall into fits of swaying and finger tapping.

Melodic tracks such as "Norwegian Wood," "Nowhere Man" and the breathy vocals of "Girl" make listeners forget their surroundings and fall

into a clouded, euphoric state of mind.

Soft, soothing vocals like those of Lennon in "Norwegian Wood" can inspire vivid water-colored dreams in even in the most unimaginative of minds.

Other songs like "I'm Looking Through You" and "Run For Your Life" are a complete flashback to the Beatles's heyday, taking listeners back to the time of love-ins and cross-country trips in a Volkswagen bus.

The bouncy instrumentals are straight out of a Goldie Hawn party scene in the '60s variety show, "Laugh In."

The Beatles' transformation from pop teen idols in *Tiger Beat* to the hippie free love style took a decade, but it changed music forever.

Child of nature, pull out some go-go boots, a lava lamp, light up some incense and escape the normal hum-drummery of everyday life with this album.

-Laura Diesing

**Band:** The Vines

**Album:** "Highly Evolved"

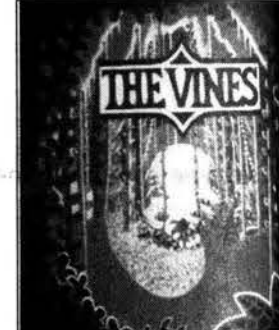
**The Sound:** Grunge rock meets the '60s

**The Era:** Today

**The Look:** Shaggy indie boys

**The Highlight:** "Homesick"

**The Lowlight:** Incoherent live performances



Courtesy of Capitol Records

### REVIEW

If a pinch of Nirvana, a dash of Pink Floyd and six pounds of the Beatles are mixed together, it would be the recipe for The Vines' debut album, "Highly Evolved."

With songs such as "Highly Evolved," "Autumn Shade" and "Factory," the Vines created an album with a mix of grunge rock and '60s psychedelia.

The album opens with "Highly Evolved" which oozes Nirvana-like vocals.

The lead singer, Craig Nicholls' voice mimics Kurt Cobain's angst-ridden voice smashingly.

This is not surprising since Nicholls, and the bass player, Patrick Mathews, have admitted to being completely obsessed with Nirvana at the time that the band was formed.

Other songs on the album like "Homesick," with its slow, fluid-like rhythms, are a far cry from The Vines' hit single, "Get Free."

The lyrics in "Get Free" just beg to be screamed at the top of your lungs in the solitude of your car

after a long day of taking orders from your crusty uptight boss.

But this craziness does not always carry over well to the group's live performances. On a recent David Letterman appearance, Nicholls smashed his mike stand against the stage while screaming nonsense.

The most noticeable influence in the songs is definitely the Beatles.

In "Country Yard" the band mingles breezy vocals, similar to those of John Lennon on "White Album's" "I'm So Tired," with dreamy, psychedelic instrumentals.

This album will go hand-in-hand with the record collection of any Beatles fan.

There isn't really a continuous theme on the album, but that does not really matter. As cliché as this sounds, it makes listeners want to get up from their seats and start swaying to the mesmerizing beat.

-Laura Diesing

## The Velvet Underground vs. The Strokes

**Band:** The Velvet Underground

**Album:** "The Velvet Underground and Nico"

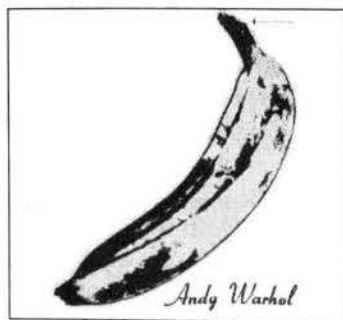
**The Sound:** Psychedelic, pre-indie rock

**The Era:** late '60s-early '70s

**The Look:** Heroin chic

**The Highlight:** "Heroin"

**The Lowlight:** Good, but not as good as "The Velvet Underground"



Courtesy of Polygram

### REVIEW

The Velvet Underground's debut album, "The Velvet Underground and Nico," is a classic cocktail of drugs, sex, mystery, addiction, desperation, love, coolness and all of the other fun things in life.

Not only do Lou Reed and the gang have the perfect formula for all of that, but they also have the style to pull it off in a totally out-there way (with a little help from pop-art god Andy Warhol) that still sounds as fresh and innovative today as it did in the '60s.

From the opening track, the soft-spoken sing-along "Sunday Morning" to the trippy closing "European Son," the album takes the listener on a roller coaster ride that goes from the heights of ecstasy down to the depths of addiction, with a few stops in the dark side of New York along the way.

All of the tracks are accented by Nico's throaty

moan, Reed's deep, disaffected growls, Maureen Tucker's drumming that always fits whatever weird base Reed lays down for her and the backing melodic parts of John Cale and Sterling Morrison.

The album's standout track is the nearly seven-minute opus "Heroin," a chronicle of Reed's addiction, love affair and battle with the deadly drug. The song is dark, dirty and completely gorgeous.

From sadomasochism to scenester duties, "The Velvet Underground and Nico" covers everything considered hip from the era.

Thousands of today's rock bands are led by skinny indie boys trying their best to have as much cool in their entire bodies as Reed did in his little finger.

For a history lesson in rock music or a refresher course in cool, this album is a must-have text.

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

**Band:** The Strokes

**Concert:** Oct. 15, Sokol Auditorium

**The Sound:** '70s rock meets '90s indie

**The Era:** Today

**The Look:** Skinny ties, leather jackets, ankle length jeans

**The Highlight:** Albert Hammond Jr.'s dancing

**The Lowlight:** Band didn't speak between songs



Courtesy of RCA

### REVIEW

A sea of bobbing heads. People back-floating their way closer and closer to the ultimate concertgoer's goal, being on stage with a musical idol.

The sold-out Strokes concert had the Sokol Auditorium bursting at the seams with music-hungry fans. Nearly 1,400 people were bouncing in time with the beat.

Dressed in the band's signature style of ankle-length jeans and leather jackets, the Strokes looked as though it had come straight from a party at Andy Warhol's "factory."

Everything that one would find at a stadium concert was right there, up close and personal.

Mini stadium lights shone down on the amazed crowd, while a blown-up giraffe kept watch.

The concert was opened up by a touring band Rooney and the all-girl neo-punk act the Donnas.

Julian Casablancas's scratchy, yet calming, kicked off the set with "New York City Cops." Albert Hammond Jr. played his guitar with frenetic excitement, while dancing around the stage to the delight of audience members.

The background lights created a silhouette effect on the boys from New York as they turned the crowd into putty.

Nikolai Fraiture's hair-hidden face was expressionless and the only part of his body that had noticeable movement the entire show were the fingers he used to pluck his bass guitar.

Though Hammond and Casablancas dominated the stage, Fab Moretti attracted attention, playing the drums like it was his last night with arms.

With an air of style, The Strokes controlled the room and owned Sokol Auditorium for one amazing evening.

-Laura Diesing

# The Rolling Stones vs. The White Stripes

**Band:** The Rolling Stones

**Album:** "Forty Licks"

**The Sound:** Classic rock and roll

**The Era:** From the '60s to today

**The Look:** Rock star glamour

**The Highlight:** All the hits—"Satisfaction," "Ruby Tuesday"

**The Lowlight:** None

## REVIEW

If you are ever stranded on a desert island, make sure to have the Rolling Stones' "Forty Licks" among the list of necessities.

The two CD set may be one of the best purchases any music fan can ever make.

There are over 30 Stones hits, four new tracks and over 40 years of rock and roll history compiled into a double CD set.

What else could a fan possibly ask for?

Songs like "Satisfaction," "Jumpin' Jack Flash" and "Ruby Tuesday" are a few of the more recognizable tracks on the first disc.

These tracks should be required listening for Rock and Roll 101, if there were ever such a course.

However the other songs are just as memorable as well.

To some "Forty Licks" may just be a novelty greatest hits CD.

But for those who actually care about music, this is a Bible of sorts.

A Bible for bad boys and girls of all ages.

To all garage bands out there, buy this album and take close note, the best collection of classic rock and roll in the world is about to flood the speakers of the stereo.

Even the younger generation of fans can appreciate this album.

The songs helped shape modern rock and pop culture.

Who needs a better example of what pop culture should be than the younger kids?

The world still has much to learn from the most dynamic frontman ever, Mick Jagger, and the undoubted king of all things cool, Keith Richards.

There are many who have tried to imitate these enigmatic men, but none have ever succeeded. The classics, the ballads, they are all here.

Everything that a rock band could want to leave behind has been forever turned onto an album by the best rock band in music history.

It is easy to see how legendary the Rolling Stones have become.

How many other bands can be defined by a simple symbol?

A mouth has forever defined the Rolling Stones with the tongue protruding out in the trashy yet elegant way that only The Rolling Stones can pull off.

This album is simply a must buy.

The fast forward button on the CD player is nonexistent when "Forty Licks" is being played.

For any listeners who can honestly say that they do not like the Rolling Stones, they are apparently not one for great music.

In all honesty, this is the greatest band ever.

The band has been around forever and could write novels on its history. Mick Jagger may be the most electric frontman out there.

Even if he only sat in a chair while performing in concert, the audience would still love it.

But he would be nothing if it weren't for the band that backs him and has been there one hundred percent of the way along what has been a tumultuous road.

Bands today can't measure up to what the Rolling Stones have left behind.

Bands work too hard to come up with the songs that they work too hard on.

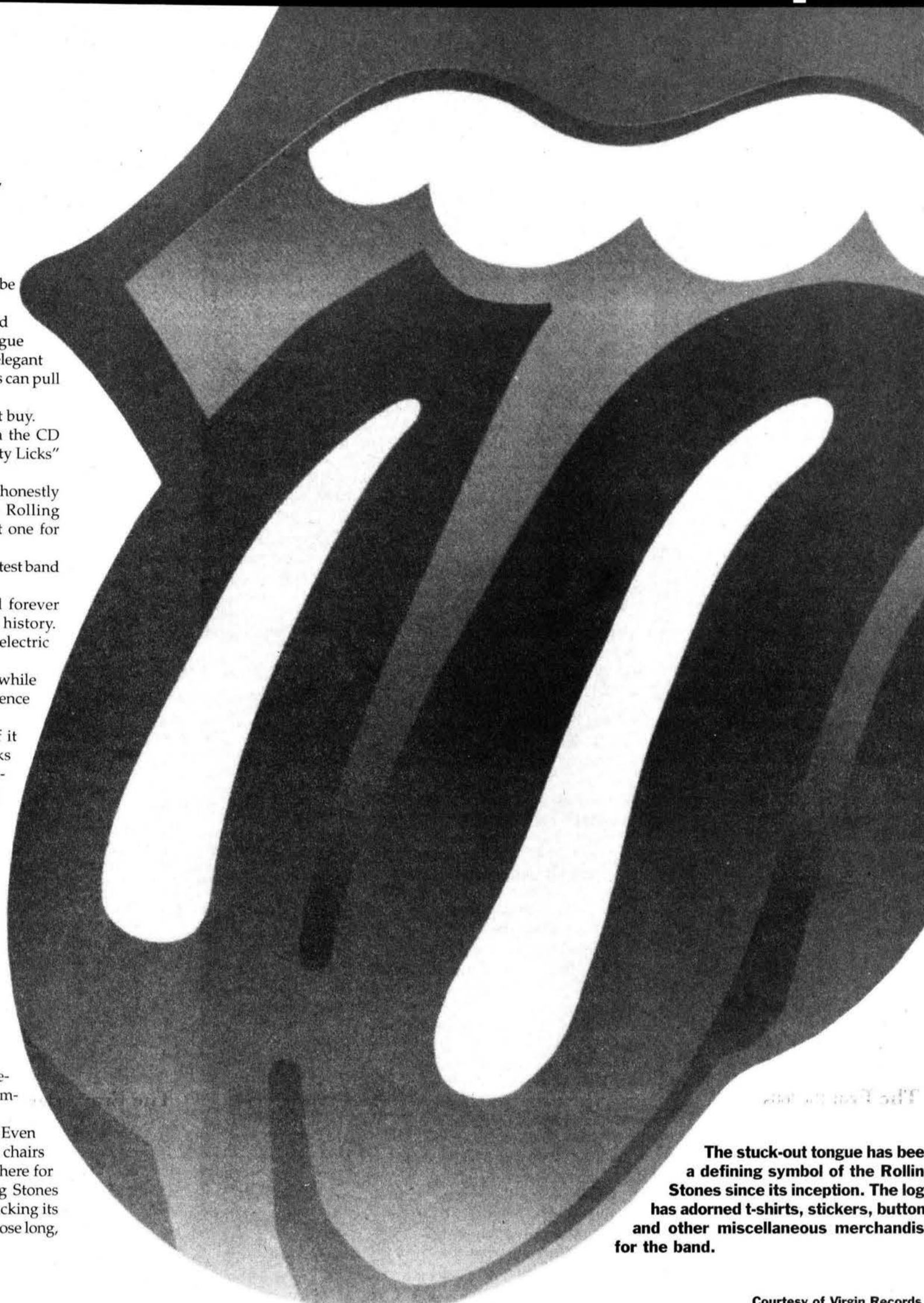
The Rolling Stones achieved this with ease.

This album can't be rushed, and the songs just have to play before they can be shut off or played again.

This is an impressive double-disc album from one of the most impressive bands ever.

Keep rocking Rolling Stones. Even if you have to come out in wheel chairs with air machines, fans will be there for support. If anything the Rolling Stones should at least be thanked for sticking its innovative tongue out for all of those long, yet successful years.

**-Bryan Swotek**



The stuck-out tongue has been a defining symbol of the Rolling Stones since its inception. The logo has adorned t-shirts, stickers, buttons and other miscellaneous merchandise for the band.

Courtesy of Virgin Records

**Band:** The White Stripes

**Album:** "White Blood Cells"

**The Sound:** Howlin' blues guitar and hyper-kid drumming

**The Era:** Today

**The Look:** Candy cane chic, strictly red and white

**The Highlight:** "Fell in Love With a Girl"

**The Lowlight:** There can be too much of a good thing

## REVIEW

The White Stripes may be one of the most mysterious bands out there.

Shrouded in mystery, it entices fans into its web of twisted lyrics and somehow still wins them over every time.

The members, who go professionally by Meg and Jack White, claim to be brother and sister, but they are not.

They are actually an ex-couple whose divorce was finalized in 2000.

Their history has clearly played a role in the lyric writing on "White Blood Cells."

When Jack and Meg released the album, it caused a splash among fans of the underground rock scene, as well as among critics and the music media.

The album offers a combination of different styles of rock and replaces the traditional bass guitar with a piano on some tracks.

Meg plays the drums like a hyper little kid and Jack channels the great guitar gods that came before him when he plays.

This two-person band shows off talent which was picked up in Detroit, the band's home town, home of countless classic rock and roll bands.

The band released the single "Fell in Love With a Girl" earlier this year and that gave the world a taste of the Stripes.

The song won the band an MTV Music Award for the best new artist, a seeming shock for an "indie" band.

With the release of "White Blood Cells" the band got more recognition.

All of this fame made it an MTV favorite and increased its fanbase, one which has been waiting for a great new band like the White Stripes to come along.

The CD is a great work of music. It mixes indie rock with seventies era blues and Jack's howling vocals.

The loud guitar driven songs like "Fell in Love With a Girl" are highlights of the album.

However, they are only complemented by the softer songs such as "I Can Tell That We are Going to be Friends" and folk-sounding songs like "Hotel Yorba."

This CD is good for bad days and moods.

It channels the emotions of the listeners perfectly and is totally identifiable for anyone who has ever been through a really horrid time.

Whenever the White Stripes sing about heartbreak it makes the listener realize that whatever they are going through is not that bad, which is what makes this album so good.

But the latest release was the album that got the band noticed and showcased the best music.

The two person band performs all of the music on the album, successfully combining just a select few instruments

Its power rock with a piano and matching outfits to spare, what could be better?

It is hard to find a rock band that can show and display emotion in an original way.

The band pulls it off successfully, while still keeping itself radio friendly.

Jack and Meg seem to have found a way to rock how they want to, get famous doing it and still remain under the radar enough so that they have not alienated many of the band's "indie" fans from its first beginnings.

It is obvious that the band does not hold anything back while performing. This sets the band apart from others, and although it's appearance is enough to do that, the performance adds more to the package.

In a nutshell, The White Stripes is a great rock band that can express everything in a way that only the most mysterious band in the world can do.

**-Bryan Swotek**



Photo Courtesy of V2 Records  
Illustration by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

# BEST BETS FOR THRIFT

To find out where the cheapest thrift stores with the best variety are, the *Register* sent out six staff members to various thrift stores all around town with \$5 each to see what they could get. Here are the reporters' opinions, the stores they went to, the selections they found and the items they bought.

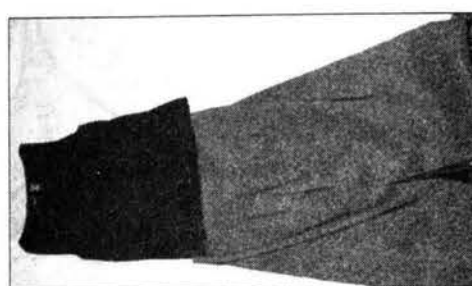
## The Results

### The Goods



#### Kaitlin Jessing-Butz American Thrift Store

**What was bought:** Boy Scout shirt, Stravinsky record, Russian for children record, child's soccer shirt and a shirt reading "The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune"



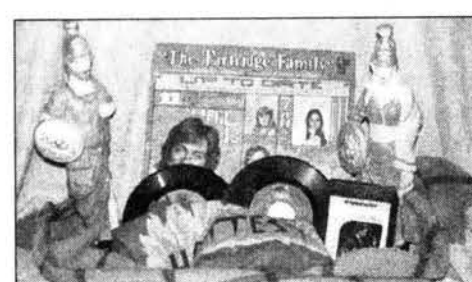
#### Nichole Tyrey Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store

**What was bought:** Fringed leopard print skirt and matching black tank top



#### Danielle Welty Goodwill

**What was bought:** Red and white polka dot sundress and black and white pumps



#### Bryan Swotek Community Thrift Store

**What was bought:** Two 45 rpm records, Partridge Family record, Johnny Cash eight-track, plaid scarf, two gladiator statues and a Central High Class of 2001 t-shirt



#### Katie Backman Salvation Army

**What was bought:** Votive candle and stand, lipstick case, Deep Blue Something CD, sound effects tape and a dashboard mirror



#### Laura Diesing Thrift World

**What was bought:** Cub Scout shirt and matching neckerchief

### Salvation Army

The Salvation Army on 26<sup>th</sup> and Dodge is one of the top ten thrift stores in the area. It has everything from couches to jewelry.

If consumers want to find appealing clothes, they will have to be in the mood to search. The clothing's price range goes from cheap \$2 t-shirts to winter coats around \$12.

The entertainment objects, such as books, tapes, eight tracks, CDs and videotapes, are in fair condition, but most the tapes don't have the cases or the right covers to match.

Salvation Army has a huge supply of random ceramic objects and small electronic appliances. An entire wall of shelves is devoted to knick-knacks, including candleholders, coffee mugs, accessories for a car, pottery and silly ceramics.

The most expensive items are the electronic devices priced at \$15. The cheapest ceramics are priced at \$0.75. Candleholders that are \$10 at a retail store are \$1. Most of the jewelry is \$1, but the most expensive pieces are \$8.

Salvation Army should be the place new thrift store shoppers should check out. It will give the buyer a great idea of what a thrift store has in supply and the price ranges of numerous items.

**-Katie Backman**

### Disabled American Veterans

The Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store, located on 24<sup>th</sup> Street, is a place to find a variety of merchandise at a reasonable price and help a good cause at the same time.

The large store, the largest found on 24<sup>th</sup> street, is almost entirely filled with racks of clothing, ranging from t-shirts to ball gowns.

The store also has a used furniture and appliance section.

Most items have a few good years left in them and are a cheap alternative to buying new ones for a college bound student.

The clothing, though mostly pieces not even the most adventurous person would dare to wear, are all reasonably priced and in fair condition. Every once and a while, a diamond can be found in the rough.

The interesting atmosphere is friendly and the staff will happily bargain for a cheaper price.

This store also has sales that change according to season, much like department stores.

The Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store, though not the most high class of thrift stores, is worth anyone's time on a lazy Saturday afternoon.

**-Nichole Tyrey**

### Community Thrift Store

Omaha offers a lot of thrift shops and second-hand stores. But the Community Thrift Store located on south 24<sup>th</sup> street has one of the better selections and prices.

Thrifting in Omaha is one of the more fun things to do. It is something that can be done without a lot of money, but the talent has to be there. However, walking the aisles of Community Thrift Shop makes thrifting easy.

When first entering, shoppers are greeted by porcelain statues and

various other toys. Then they proceed to the clothing section, where clothes for all ages and sizes are available. Strolling the aisles, shoppers are blindsided by maternity clothes and shoes. That is when they move on to children's clothes.

Halloween costumes, coats and winter wear end the aisle. T-shirts start the second aisle. Most are adult sizes, but still, the options are many.

For \$5, eight items were purchased. A shirt, scarf, music and statues were among the items acquired on a 10-minute mini shopping spree.

The building it divided into two rooms. One for clothing, and the other for home appliances. In the home appliances section, there are microwaves, televisions and computers. Well, parts of computers at least. There were also cabinets and shelves.

This store has a great selection and great prices, even for a thrift shop.

**-Bryan Swotek**

### American Thrift Store

When one is looking for a wide variety of secondhand goods or just a good place to waste away an afternoon, the American Thrift Store in Florence is worth a shot.

The huge store is filled with clothes of all sizes, old records, furniture, cloth, knick-knacks, every-

thing a good thrift store should have.

The best thing about this store is

the prices. Nearly all of the children's clothes are \$0.77 each and very few things went above \$3. The most expensive item of clothing to be found was a wedding dress for \$10.

The clothes are only the beginning. One could spend hours sifting through the stacks of records, trying to find a working appliance among all of the apparent junk and finding the perfect useless little bric-a-brac items to give any room character.

The store is located on the far north end of 30<sup>th</sup> street, so it may be a bit of a drive for many.

But if one does dare to make the trek, the results will not be disappointing.

**-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz**

### Goodwill

When searching for thrift shops that have great service and a wide variety of men's suits, children's clothes and dresses from the late '80s, Goodwill on 84<sup>th</sup> would be the place to go.

Though the clothes weren't too trendy, and there was an abundance of old lady blouses with shoulder pads, the prices were right.

If shoppers search for long enough, they may even be able to find something worthwhile, like a cute retro dress or some charming accessories.

Every Monday, Goodwill begins a \$0.99 sale on clothes that are labeled with the color tag chosen for that week, except for those that are specially labeled, such as wedding dresses and coats.

There is also a fairly wide selection of household goods, electronics and useless bric-a-brac.

This thrift store would be perfect for one who is in need of a costume or another one time use item.

**-Danielle Welty**

### Thrift World

Do not let the name be deceptive. Thrift World may be second hand, but judging by its prices it would be impossible to tell.

Sure there is a huge selection. There were three rows for pants alone and anyone looking for a boy's tee shirt would be in heaven. That is until he looked at the prices.

A person could find the same prices at Old Navy or any end of the season sale.

Just stop at the Westroads after Christmas and there are better bargains than those that can be found at Thrift World.

Two week's savings of five dollars was spent and it was only enough to buy two things. A Boy Scout uniform shirt and a Cub Scout bandana still cost almost more than \$5.

It was insanity.

Normally someone would be able to purchase five shirts or two pairs of pants for that much money.

That defies the laws of thrift stores. All prices aside there was still an excellent selection. Not only does Thrift World have clothing, but there is also a wide selection of CD's, tapes and videos. There were also toys galore!

If going to Thrift World, there shouldn't have that much trouble finding something that will please anyone and everyone, but be sure to bring more than \$5 or most likely you will walk out empty handed.

**-Laura Diesing**

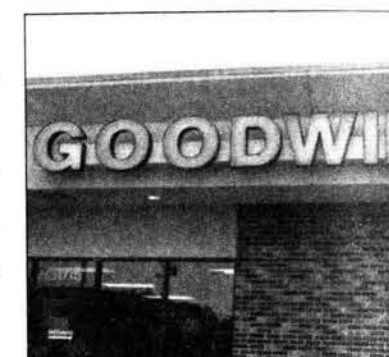
## The Places



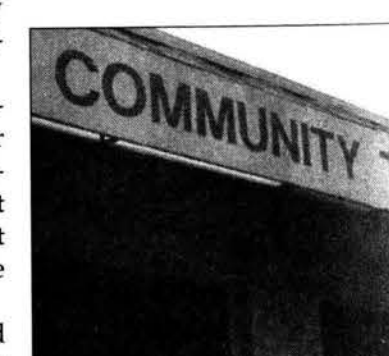
**American Thrift Store**  
Location: 7419 N. 30th St.



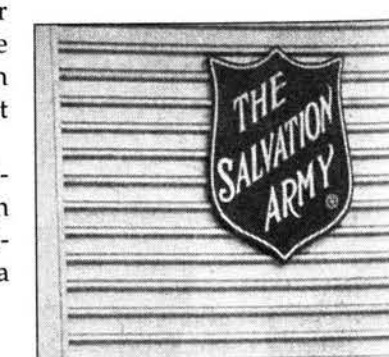
**Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store**  
Location: 5125 S. 24th St.



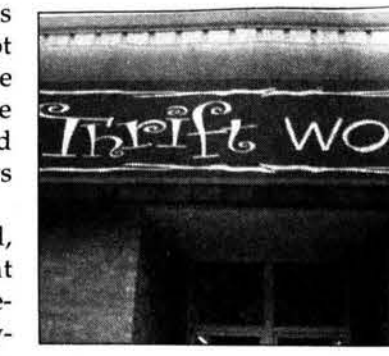
**Goodwill**  
Location: 8320 Spring Plaza, off 84th and Center



**Community Thrift Store**  
Location: 5116 S. 24th St.



**Salvation Army**  
Location: 2525 Dodge St.



**Thrift World**  
Location: 5128 S. 24th St.

All photos by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

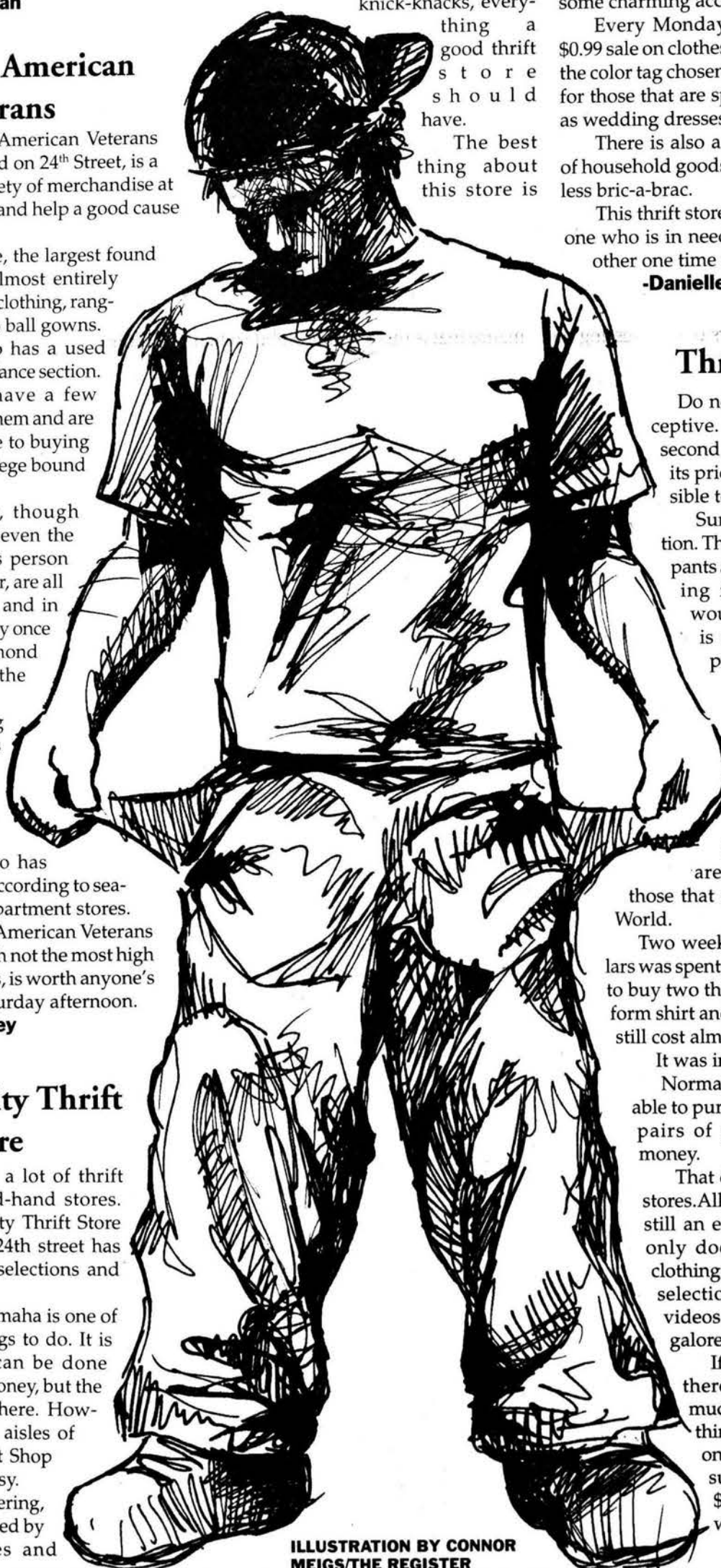


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# Suspenseful 'Ring' thrills, lacks realism

**By Katie Backman**

"In seven days you're going to die."

"The Ring" is a good, well-developed thriller/mystery, with a very original plot. It is about a journalist, Rachel Keller, (Naomi Watts) who is trying to discover how a videotape can have a curse of death.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**"The Ring"**

★★★★ of 5

Starring: Naomi Watts

Rated: PG-13

Her niece, Katie, watched this cursed video with four of her friends. Seven days later each of them died mysteriously and at the same exact time. Rachel uses her investigative skills and personal connections to locate the creator of the tape and the truth behind the curse.

"The Ring" drags the viewers through Rachel's efforts to connect the dots. The frightening scenes in "The Ring" will successfully scare most viewers.

The same old horror movie tactics, such as thrilling music, gruesome dead bodies and rapid camera motion are present in "The Ring" and make it a little original.

Rachel is so busy trying to solve the mystery, that she often leaves her son, Aidan, alone at home. The deadly tape at her house and he eventually watches

Aidan's character is one of the most interesting people in the movie. His chilling scenes and hints of depression add to the eerie atmosphere of an unsure ending.

His drawings predicted the future death of his cousin Katie. He receives the unwanted hints from a young girl, Samara, who is seen in the fatal video.

Rachel now becomes more determined to stop the curse to save her young son's life. The story becomes more concerned with time when Samara begins to hunt her dreams and real life. She finds out the facts of the confusing mystery of the tape. The sun shines through in the middle of the movie making the audience guess the psycho flick is near its end.

But this is a false alarm, "The Ring" and Samara still have to obtain more victims.

The movie is fast-paced, possibly too fast. "The Ring" is a type of movie that makes the viewer want to rewind or just see it all over again.

The concept of a deadly video is a little farfetched. The build up to the climax was well done, but the contrived ending may not justify the price of a movie ticket.



Barry Egan (Adam Sandler) carries away a display of Healthy Choice pudding as part of plan to get free frequent flyer miles in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love." The out-of-focus background is one of the techniques that director Paul Thomas Anderson uses in the film.

# 'Punch-Drunk Love' hits target

**By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz**

Adam Sandler fans beware: the patron saint of gross-out slapstick has moved onto greener pastures.

In Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love," Sandler tones down his signature style and turns in an excellent low-key performance that proves there is real talent lying beneath his smirking exterior.

"Punch-Drunk Love" is an offbeat tale, as is to be expected from Anderson ("Boogie Nights," "Magnolia").

Sandler plays Barry Egan, the owner of a novelty plumbing fixture supply company.

Barry was raised in a family with seven nitpicking, verbally abusive sisters. As a result, he is totally meek and sheltered in most aspects of his day-to-day life.

However, years of suppressing his anger have left Barry with a tendency to fly off into a rage at any given moment.

During these episodes, the normally mild-mannered guy is prone to smashing windows, trashing bathrooms and

beating people with tire irons.

Barry seems doomed to spend his life being a coupon-collecting loser when he meets Lena (Emily Watson) a young British co-worker of one of his sisters.

A subplot involving the corrupt operators of an adult chat line, a scam to collect frequent flyer miles by buying thousands of dollars worth of Healthy Choice pudding and an impromptu getaway to Hawaii spice up the film's love story and make it anything but ordinary or typical.

All of the performances in the movie are outstanding.

Sandler manages to transcend his previous roles that mainly involved saying things like, "Are you looking at me swan?"

Now he is able to give a performance that is nuanced and subtle when it needs to be, while still humorous and even affable, despite his fits of rage.

Watson is always a sure bet for a stellar performance. Her Lena is quirky, but likable, simple, but not shallow and most of all, the perfect complement to

Barry.

Phillip Seymour Hoffman (the film buff's Jack Black) is a scene-stealer as the greasy owner of the chat line. Though he is only in a few scenes, he makes himself a memorable character in the movie.

Anderson shot the movie in a very interesting way.

In many scenes, especially a few early ones where Barry is the only character that has been introduced, he shoots the entire frame out of focus, or only focuses a very small part in a small corner of the screen.

This provides an interesting effect, but may give some viewers, especially those seated in the first few rows, a splitting headache.

Anderson also uses flowing, psychedelic color screens as transitions between film scenes.

While this too seems odd at first, it ultimately only adds to the film's lovingly bizarre feel.

The ending is no big surprise, but that is not really a weakness.

In a movie like this, it is not the final result that matters, but the journey the story takes to get there.

# Film performances are Oscar-worthy

**By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz**

Painfully realistic, darkly comic and beautifully sublime, "Moonlight Mile" is a sometimes gut-wrenching trip through love and loss.

The comic-tinged drama set in the early '70s, chronicles the life of Joe (Jake Gyllenhaal) after the death of his fiancée, Diana.

Joe moves in with her parents Jo-Jo, (Susan Sarandon) a sarcastic writer who uses cynicism as a tool to deal with the loss of her daughter, and Ben, (Dustin Hoffman) a control freak who tries to replace Diana with Joe by making him part of the family business.

As Joe struggles to get by in a nearly surreal world where people he does not know are constantly offering him their phony sympathies, he meets Bertie, a sassy postal worker and part time bartender who still is holding a candle for her boyfriend that went MIA during the Vietnam War.

Joe has to learn to come to terms with Diana's death and the secretive circumstances that surrounded it, as well as figure out a way to break away from Diana's family so he can move on with his life and they can move on with theirs.

Director Brad Silberling wrote the script for "Moonlight Mile" after the 1989 murder of his fiancée.

Though the movie is not based on her death, it is obvious that the subject is very close to his heart and that the care that he put into creating this film and its characters is impeccable.

This movie has some of the most realistic depictions of human behavior to be shown on film in a long time.

Jo-Jo and Ben's grief is not shown as sappy or drawn-out, but raw and real.

The three leads all put in Oscar-worthy performances. Gyllenhaal is brutally real as a portrait of someone who is totally lost and aimless.

Sarandon puts on a great tough shell, but at the times when she shows the softer time, her performance is absolutely heart-breaking.

Hoffman is perfect as a control freak that builds up illusions around himself in hopes that he will forget about his residual grief.

"Moonlight Mile" is a lovingly crafted, honest film that manages to be heartbreaking without being depressing, sad without being sappy and ultimately uplifting without being corny.

# Ghostly tale scares some, fails to otherwise impress audiences

**By Nichole Tyrey**

"Ghost Ship" manages to keep the audience interested through a series of minor scares and innovative computer animation, however it lets viewers down by being illogical and irrational.

The movie takes place out in the middle of the Bering Sea.

The crew of a salvage ship, the Arctic Warrior, comes across the remains of a vessel thought to be lost and floating adrift for more than 40 years.

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"Ghost Ship" is just another spin on the tried-and-true haunted vessel tale and is similar to the science fiction scare "Event Horizon."

"Ghost Ship" navigates through the murky waters of the horror genre without running into many needless clichés, of course there are a few hapless ghosts.

But what is a haunted ship without the ghosts?

The director managed to stay away from a cheesy and predictable plot.

There were no love affairs between the ghosts and crew members; there were no floating sheets or any other overused clichés.

The movie also had a lot of twists and turns. Once the audience thinks it has got the plot figured out, it thickens.

However, it seemed that at times the director did not quite know what was going to happen next either, making some of the story line contradict itself.

In many parts, the ghosts could be touched and could hold objects.

However, in others they were translucent and items would fall straight through their hands.

Another example is that even though the movie is set in the Bering Sea, where, believe it or not, the water is wet, the actors, after taking a dip in the frigid ocean, were neither wet nor cold.

The acting and special effects are the only things that keep this movie afloat.

When it comes out on video, it will probably sink to the bottom of the clearance bin.

Overall, "Ghost Ship" is good for a few jumps, a few laughs and that's about it.



One of the mysterious ghosts in "Ghost Ship" does her best to seduce a member of the salvage team.

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# Band Aid



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER, All photos by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

From left, Douglas Hageman of Nextweus, Myranda Hageman of Implisti, John Raftery of Implisti and Charles Serfass of Nextweus, all of the bands performed at the Oct. 18 Band Aid concert.

## Concert raises funds for musical, gets students involved

By Nichole Tyrey

Price of a costume rental: \$75.  
Total price of scripts and music scores: \$975.  
Price of the standing ovation received at the end of an afternoon performance: priceless.

Altogether, this year's musical will cost somewhere between \$6,000-\$7,000, drama department head John Gibson said.

Even though this is not much more than prior years, due to the new fees policy, the usual afternoon matinees can no longer be performed for profit, Gibson said.

"Prices for things keep going up and the decision to no longer have matinees has forced us to explore other alternatives," Gibson said.

It was after this that junior Nick Goding got the idea to have a concert to benefit the drama department.

Goding, who also played a main role in "The Mikado," knew that the musical was going to need to do a lot of funds in order to be a success.

"I knew there was a lot of bands with members who go to Central. I talked to a few other musicians and we all thought it would be really cool for all of us to get together and have a concert at Central," Goding said.

So Goding put two and two together and decided to have a concert to raise funds for the drama department and also

get the word out about the many student bands at Central.

The concert was called Band Aid and it worked.

"I was really excited for the concert to take place," Sharon Smith, music teacher and cosponsor, said. "We have never had a rock concert before."

Four bands, Nextweus, John Owens and the Reamers, the Castoffs and Implisti, volunteered their time for the concert.

Gibson said that in addition to the musicians volunteering their time, some computer graphics students volunteered to make tickets and flyers for the event.

"I think it was great for the students to step forward and help be a part of the solution," Smith said.

Josh Koterba, the lead singer of the band the Castoffs, saw Band Aid as an opportunity to get the word out about his band.

"I am in it to help both the drama department and my band," Koterba said. "I can help support the musical while getting publicity for my band. It's a win-win situation."

The tickets cost \$5 and were sold before school. Over 200 tickets were sold, making more than \$1,000 in profit.

"The concert went very well," Gibson said. "Everyone seemed to have a good time."

Both Smith and Gibson said they are looking at this as a potential annual event to raise additional funds for the drama department.

"It would be cool if they held another concert next year," Koterba said. "We will probably have different sound by then."

The musicians who volunteered their time to help the drama department were all really excited for the concert to take place.

"The concert was really successful. Many people, both students and adults, had a lot of good things to say about it," Goding said.

Many students said they were excited to attend and had a lot of positive feedback.

"I love the Castoffs," senior Mara Martinez said. "They are awesome. I hadn't heard much of the other bands. It was cool to hear what bands Central has."

Those in the musical had an added incentive to attend the concert.

"I am in the musical so I went to support that," sophomore Hannah Wunsch said. "The show was awesome and I would have probably gone even if it was not going to benefit the drama department. I think it is cool that these guys are getting out there. That's something to be supportive about."

Many bands wanted to play for student just as much as they wanted to make money for "The Mikado."

"It was be really cool," Matt Schrad, the bassist for Nextweus, said. "It is fun to play, it was a good audience and we got to help the school."

**Band Aid**  
**Held Oct. 18, 2002 in the auditorium**  
**Raised over \$1,000 for the drama department**  
**Performers were John Owens and the Reamers, Nextweus, Implisti and the Castoffs**

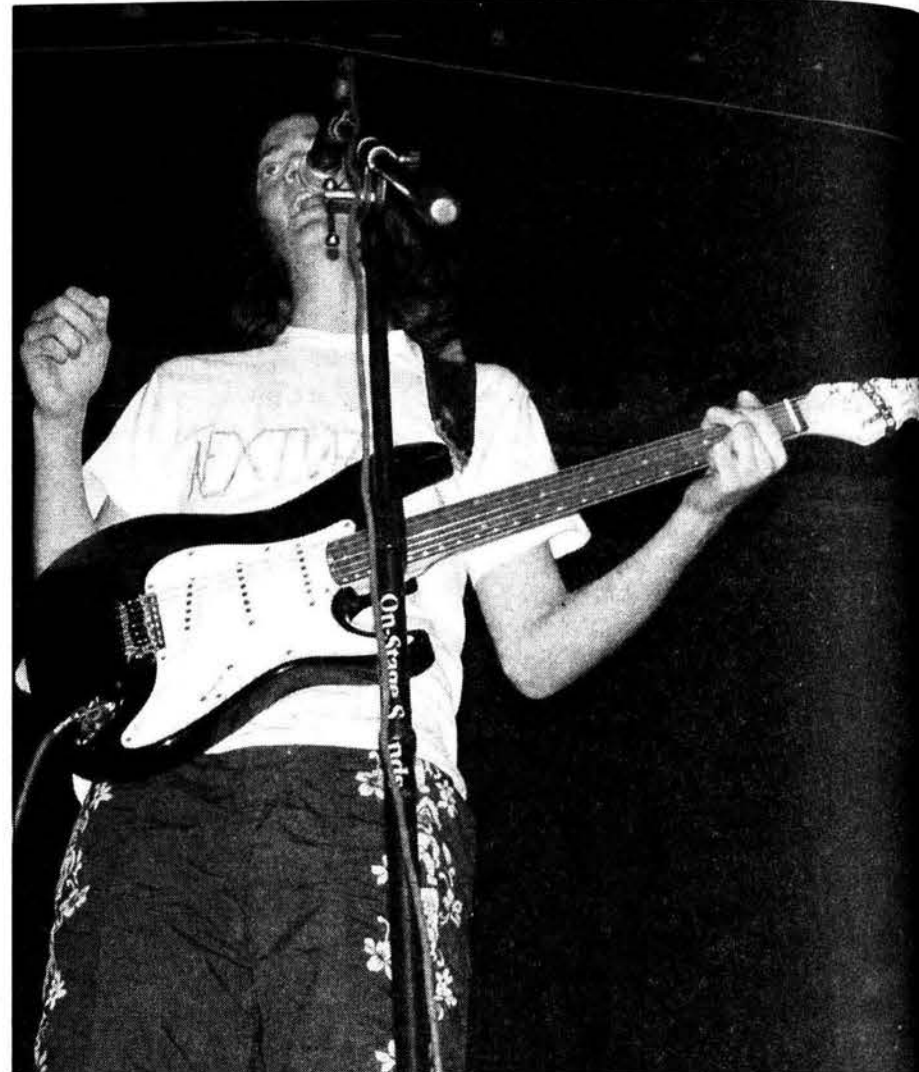


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Junior Charles Serfass sings and plays guitar for the band Nextweus at the Band Aid concert on Oct. 18. Nextweus, one of the night's four performers, played a mix of original songs and covers, such as Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower."



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Junior Josh Koterba, guitarist and lead singer for the Castoffs, slows down the pace a little with a more mellow song during the group's Band Aid set that was packed with high-energy punk tunes. The band has released a small number of demo CDs for fans to enjoy.

## Demo album from student band shows promise

By Nichole Tyrey

The Castoffs' debut demo, which does not have a title, is poorly recorded and does not capture the energetic stage presence of the band, but the band's talent makes it an exceptional effort anyway.

The Castoffs are a young band with a lot of energy, talent and a great live show. This album is full of the melodic and refreshing lyrics of junior Josh Koterba and the demo album is a good first effort for a band that has been together for less than a year.

In addition to the lyrics, the music, similar to that of an early Simple Plan or New Found Glory,

is wonderfully written and sets an upbeat mood.

The recording, however, does not fully capture the energy of the band's live performance.

To be fair, it is hard to contain the Castoffs' spastic bassist, flailing drummer and a jumping singer/guitarist in audio format. A band like the Castoffs must be seen to be truly experienced.

The band is not only full of energy, they are also full of talent. The members coordinate with each other very well and get the messages across both vocally and musically.

A stand out song on the al-

bum is "Always True," a typical teenage love ballad with a booming bass, revving guitar riffs and catchy, heartfelt lyrics.

Anyone who has ever had a crush can relate to this track's lyrics about a budding romance.

It would not be surprising if a single off the Castoffs' demo washes up on the shores of The River's Planet O sometime in the near future.

Until that time, this demo record, available through the band members, will have to please fans in between live shows.

The Castoffs have a bright future ahead of them. Though the album does not compare to a live show, it is sure to be a hit among those who are already fans.

## Implisti finds keeping bassists in band not as simple as it may seem

By Danielle Welty

Many high school bands go through changes, a change in name or possibly members. Implisti is no exception.

In the beginning Implisti, then called Strangely Simplistic, was started because juniors Abe Farhat, Johnny Raftery and Nick Goding wanted to try out for Roadshow during their freshman year.

During the audition for Roadshow, Implisti had the first of many bassists it would go through, Goding said.

Myranda Hageman, a Westside freshman, is the current bass player. Raftery plays drums; Goding provides vocals and has written the groups' five songs, while sharing guitar roles with Farhat.

Before Hageman, senior Gavin Jensen and sophomore Rob Piskac were the two previous Implisti bass players.

Jensen was there in the beginning as the group's name changed from Strangely Simplistic to Simplistic. It eventually dropped the first and last letters of the name to make Implisti.

Implisti then recorded "Hooked on Her," one of the band's five original songs, with Jensen after deciding to enter a national song writing contest, Goding said.

Goding said Implisti plays around 15 cover songs, in addition to its five originals.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Junior Nick Goding practices one of the roughly 15 cover songs that he and his band Implisti cover. Over its short life span, Implisti has had three different bassists.

Soon after recording the band's first demo, Jensen left to form his own band and recommended Piskac as the next bass player.

Goding said the band stayed together because of Jensen's influences.

Piskac joined the band as a freshman.

He only played one show with Implisti before leaving to form his own band.

Besides playing one show with Implisti, Goding said Piskac also recorded three

demos, including "Unattainable Girl" and "Something in Your Life" at a friend's home studio with the band.

Implisti plans on re-recording the demo for better quality in the near future.

This "extensive hobby" Goding called Implisti, caused it to be involved as one of the groups to perform at Band Aid.

"The audience was very supportive and receptive to the Band Aid performers and I think it was an overall success," Goding said.

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The Black Heart Procession's new album "Amore del Tropico" adds onto the group's legacy as a innovative, highly instrumental, almost gothic-esque musical collection. The band's songs often focus on grief, loss, love and other sad topics, but on the new album, many tracks have a less mournful feel.

## Band experiments, stays original

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

After three albums full of songs about pain, loss, desperation and heartache, the Black Heart Procession has returned with its new record, "Amore Del Tropico," a release that strays from the tried-and-true formula in a few places, but still retains what endeared the group to its fans in the first place.

**ALBUM REVIEW**  
**The Black Heart Procession**  
**"Amore del Tropico"**  
★★★★★ of 5

staccato-like beats and mariachi-influenced melodies.

From that point on, the album wavers between several points.

Some songs sound totally new, while others sound like an older song played with the fast-forward button and others sound like they could have been off of one of the first three albums.

Whatever directions the songs may take, none of them fall flat. There is no low point to this album, each and every track has a unique way of working itself into the listener's brain.

On many of the tracks, especially "Did You Wonder," the Black Heart Procession's style sounds like it has been bulked up a little.

The band has added a third member to the regular line-up, one to the touring band, plus a plentiful handful of guest vocalists and instrumentalists who add fullness to all of the tracks that they appear on.

Some might wonder whether or not these new additions would change the fundamental essence of the band.

Those who are concerned should rest assured that the extra

performers only add onto the music, they do not alter the quality of the music.

If anything new members blend in perfectly, making the sound richer.

The vocal backing parts are at their best on "The Invitation." This absolutely creepy part starts out like one of the band's older songs, but soon the sinister vocal chorus pipes in and the result in bone chilling.

The song is horror movie-esque and when the back-up singers sing, "You will find us in the shadows, we hide" many listeners may be tempted to check their closets for some evil monster.

The beauty of the Black Heart Procession has always been how it could do something that sounds so cheesy on paper, like the Gothic waltz music that filled its first album, and make it come to life.

This time around, the band takes on mariachi and manages to pull it off without sounding like the house band that walks around Mexican restaurants singing to couples at different tables.

"Amore Del Tropico" will leave long-time fans satisfied, but still wondering about what happened to the band in the years since its last album, "Three" came out.

Overall, this record has more instruments and the closest thing to a traditional rock set-up or sound.

However, it is obvious to fans that they will not ever see the Black Heart Procession opening for mainstream rock bands like Nickelback or Creed.

Long-time fans will also appreciate "The Waiter #4," part of a series of songs that have been on the Black Heart Procession's previous albums.

It is slightly similar to the previous three with its barely audible vocals and plinking, repetitive percussion, but it is distinctive enough that no one will ever confuse it with any of the other three versions.

Listeners who buy the album on vinyl are in for a treat.

The album is recorded on two separate LPs.

The first one has music on both sides, while the second one has music on one side and an etched design of the band's name and logos on the other.

For longtime fans and newly interested one alike, "Amore Del Tropico" is a sultry trip through some exotic island jungle, perfect for those dreading the prospects of another dreary Nebraska winter.

## New Coldplay album mixes mellow sounds

By Nichole Tyrey

Coldplay took a lifetime to make its wonderful, yet whiny debut "Parachutes," however it took less than two years for the mellow British quartet to deliver "A Rush of Blood to the Head," a masterpiece of an album.

**ALBUM REVIEW**

**Coldplay**  
**"A Rush of Blood to the Head"**  
★★★★★ of 5

chords give off the vibe of distress, and singer Chris Martin pleads for listeners to "Open up your eyes..."

Another eye-opening track on this album is "Green Eyes." This track is imbedded with a country twang making it stand out from the other songs

This album, full of piano playing that would make Beethoven roll over in his grave, is packed with powerful lyrics paired with Coldplay's somber, moody tone.

This combination makes for an interesting contrast to the usual screams and wails found on most modern rock albums.

This British band has a similar sound to many of the other British bands heard in the States. Coldplay's sound, which is like U2, Pink Floyd and the Verve put in a blender, may not be ground-breaking, but its sublime lyrics are.

"A Rush of Blood to the Head" takes the listener on a heart-felt and exhilarating journey by exploring a different side of alternative rock.

This voyage begins with the track "Politik" which, like other parts of the album contains a beautiful, yet pointed message about the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

The choppy, dramatic piano

on the album. This is one of the few love songs that talk about loss without practically screaming "I am desperate."

Instead of putting listeners off by whining, Coldplay uses imagination and emotional pull to make this track highly listenable and relatable.

Think of it as Johnny Cash meets Radiohead.

Though Coldplay missed the whiny progressive rock era by a few years, this album's powerful messages and lyrics are sure to strike a chord with many emo fans.

The hushed and soothing tone of this album makes it perfect to de-stress or do homework to.

The lyrics are at times abstract, but they give the listener something to think about.

This album will probably never be a pop hit. However, it would be foolish to pass up such a wonderful band just because it is not on MTV.

## Live recording invokes anger with blend of old, new music

By Nichole Tyrey

The ever-innovative and over-offensive Mindless Self Indulgence has released its long-awaited live album, "Alienating Our Audience."

The album was recorded live during Mindless Self Indulgence's tour with fellow rockers System of a Down earlier this year.

"Alienating Our Audience" is a collection of the some of the band's hard to find early releases off of its first release "Tight" as well as six new songs from Mindless Self Indulgence's long deliberated, and unreleased, new album.

"Alienating Our Audience" is a characteristic mix of Mindless Self Indulgence's punk rock energy, street savvy hip-hop, electronic wizardry of late '80s video game soundtracks and

tongue in cheek ability to annoy nearly any audience member.

This album blends these elements into an explosive catastrophe of music that is so over the top that listeners have to enjoy it.

The live format also allows the guitar, bass and drums to shine over the often dominant techno dubs.

With the handful of

absurdly interesting new tracks, lead singer Urine's more than colorful commentary and rare early releases also on hand, "Alienating Our Audience" is an impeccably solid live recording.

The group's music will anger just as many people as it excites, but that is the genius of it all. This release has the ability to win over anyone who wants a little something different from the norm.

## Female-fronted California indie rock group amazes crowd at Sokol Underground show

By Laura Diesing

Rilo Kiley's set started with a bang... and a hole right through the snare drum.

The band put on phenomenal show at the Sokol Underground on Oct. 19 during which drummer Jason Bosel put so much energy into his drumming that he punched a hole through his snare drum after the first song.

The drum mishap was just the first of many problems to come during the show, but this did not kill the crowd's excitement.

Opening acts, Kind of Like Spitting and Arlo did a fabulous job of keeping everyone's spirits high, supplying music for the crowd to dance to as they awaited

the main attraction.

Rilo Kiley's members Blake Sennet, Pierre de Reeder, Bosel and Jenny Lewis kept their fans entertained with jokes and stories from the road while the instruments were replaced and the microphones were being fixed.

The band is originally from California, but it has signed with Omaha-based record label Saddle Creek.

The band has played quite a few shows in Omaha with other local bands since signing with the label.

Rilo Kiley toured with Arlo, who performed with it at the Sokol show, to promote its new album, "The Execution of All Things," until November when indie

duo Rainer Maria joined up with them.

The use of Christmas lights over a black background gave the show a feeling of being outdoors and set a peaceful mood for the emotional lyrics like the ones in "Wires and Waves" and "Science vs. Romance."

The small gathering of fans included some big names from the local scene, like Todd Baechle, the lead singer of the Faint, and former Desaparecidos member, Landon Hedges.

The rest of the lesser-known fans broke out into small clusters of dancers under the heavy blanket of cigarette smoke.

But (almost) famous or not, all of the crowd members seemed to have a great time during Rilo Kiley's set.

They could not help but allow them-

selves to be sucked into the free and mellow mood that permeated the entire show.

Towards the middle of the set, Lewis asked members of Arlo and Kind of Like Spitting to join her on-stage and sing a song that apparently meant a great deal to the talented group of friends.

Rilo Kiley ended its set with magnificent performances of "Go Ahead" and "Plane Crash in C."

Every single person in the crowd was singing along like it was just a group of people getting together to watch their friends play.

The chirping of crickets, provided by Sennet, signified the end of the show and left the crowd with a wonderful feeling of having witnessed the beginning of something great.



Photo by LAURA DIESING/THE REGISTER  
Jenny Lewis of Rilo Kiley plays her guitar during the band's Oct. 19 show at Sokol Underground

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# Junior mixes things up with hobby

By Nichole Tyrey

Logan Dumaine is a musician but he is not in orchestra or a band and he does not write his own music.

Dumaine is a DJ, he mixes other people's music and makes it sound completely different.

DJing, also called spinning or mixing, is the art of blending different songs, from different records to make one song, he said.

"DJing is a very simple concept that is kind of hard to learn," Dumaine said, "I have never taken lessons, I just watch other DJs and teach myself."

Dumaine said he became interested in DJing about two years ago after the first time he attended a rave.

"I had a group of friends who were really involved in the rave scene. They were always going to parties with live DJs. They soon got turntables so I messed around with theirs, then bought one of my own," Dumaine said.

There are hardships in the process of learning to DJ, he said.

The struggles include buying the expensive equipment and records and living where DJing is not recognized as a form of art, Dumaine said.

"I went to New York and it was like another world. In New York, they have raves with live DJs practically every night and there are also a lot of record stores," Dumaine said.

Dumaine left New York with a new appreciation for DJs and a bag full of used records from a music store called Sonic Groove.

Dumaine also said he orders records off of the Internet or is given records from fellow DJs.

"Keeping up with the new records that come out is one of the hardest parts of DJing. New ones come out everyday and it is hard to figure out which ones to spend my money on," Dumaine said.

Another hardship he said he found in DJing is that not many people know about it or consider it a form of music.

"It is weird to me that some people do not know what raves are. It is like second nature to me. I guess it is because I have been around raves for a while," Dumaine said.

He also finds it frustrating when people think that all electronic music is techno.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Junior Logan Dumaine practices DJing at a friend's apartment. Dumaine has been interested in DJing since attending a rave two years ago and was inspired by a trip to New York where he saw a lively DJ subculture.

"There is a lot of different styles of DJing," Dumaine said. "There is industrial, hardcore, happy hardcore, the list goes on and on. Each one sounds different, but people just don't understand."

Dumaine said he also believes that most people underestimate the influence of electronic music on pop music and culture in general.

"I do not really want electronic music to become popular though," he said.

"I do not want everyone to want to be a DJ."

Dumaine is influenced by local DJ Malski and national artists Ben Sims and Half-Cent.

At this time, Dumaine does not know if he should consider DJing as a future career.

"I really enjoy it. I love mixing the music. I love raves," Dumaine said. "Whatever happens, happens and only time will tell."

# Musico hopes to expand following around nation

By Katie Backman

Local band Musico strives to gain recognition nationwide by touring, while still keeping its rock and roll lifestyle alive.

Drummer Mark Hinrichs, bassist Brad Underwood and guitarist Darren Keen make up Musico's lineup. Hinrichs and Underwood have been together for three years. Keen was added to the lineup 16 months ago.

Hinrichs said he would classify the band's music as a type of rock and roll and that it is very similar to the Who and Queen.

He said Musico could be compared to those bands because its songs are like anthems, yet some critics have called them mock rock.

"I would describe our music as anthemic, if that's a real word," Hinrichs said.

Musico's lyrics are very light-hearted and are not about stereotypical topics such as relationships. Hinrichs said its lyrics deal with rock and roll topics and the lifestyles that follow it.

"Music is fun and people should have fun with it," Hinrichs said.

Musico does the traditional type of touring because it plays the coast and Midwest cities.

Its audience size changes depending on what type of a concert it is performing at.

"Everything with our shows depends on word of mouth," Hinrichs said. "We can have 70 or 500 people and still put on an awesome rock and roll show."

In late August it performed as the opening act for comedian Andy Dick, host of the Andy Dick Show.

The owner of the Redemption Recording Co., which signed Musico and Andy Dick, decided he needed Musico to open for Andy Dick's band, Hinrichs said.

Hinrichs said the show was phenomenal. It was at the Key Club on Sunset Strip.

He said the audience was really close to the capacity of 400 people.

"When we got on stage, everyone was sitting down, but when we left everyone was standing," Hinrichs said.

"We rocked their socks off."

He said Musico was scheduled to do this one show, but after that night it was signed to play three more concerts.

Musico doesn't have any plans to leave Omaha for the Los Angeles dream of being signed to a major record label. Hinrichs said that if a record label had a reasonable offer, the band members would take it.

Omaha is near so many other market places, Hinrichs said, such as Chicago, Phoenix and Minneapolis, that it is easy to tour. But Musico also has as many memorable moments from playing in its hometown.

Musico played the last show at the Cog Factory, except it wasn't scheduled to be the last.

The venue had to shut down early because of tax problems, but left the legacy of the last performance with the members of Musico.

Musico performs every show as if it would be its last with insane stunts, Hinrichs said.

Keen once tried to jump on an amp and push himself off it with the wall. His foot got stuck and he hit his back on the amp, but he just rolled over and played on.

"I love to perform," Hinrichs said. "It's the biggest rush and very fulfilling. I do it for selfish reasons, to click musically with my buddies and see the crowd get into it."

Sokol Underground is one of the venues Musico enjoys performing at. Hinrichs said Sokol crowds are full of kids that like to get up and dance unlike the 21 and over shows, where Hinrich said the audience tends to sit down and enjoy the music at the bar.

Hinrichs said Musico has a great time on tour and it is its favorite thing to do. But when the members come back to home, they have to put their rock and roll lifestyles aside to attend their other jobs.

"We would love to do music everyday," Hinrichs said. "We all do have some stinky little jobs, but we are only rock stars."

The road to stardom is long, but Musico plans to stay on Omaha stages for a long time.

# Senior hopes to find sponsorship through self-produced skateboarding videos

By Katie Backman

A group of elite south Omaha skateboarders is filming its skating techniques in attempts to get the best deal of the members' lives.

Senior Don Southard is on the verge of being sponsored by a local skateboarding store called the Next Generation Skateboarding Shop. In the videos he makes to attract potential sponsors, he uses different camera angles to record the skaters.

"It's all about the skating, recording the tricks is just fun," Southard said. "But I don't want to go into film career."

Southard said the group of skateboarders he calls the "Rough Ryders" go all over Omaha. He said the name isn't a club name, it's just a title he and his friends use when they are talking about it.

When other skaters watch the videos, Southard said he thinks they will look at some of the locations and consider skating there.

Southard has two videos in process, one with just his friends

with some music in the background. The other is the one he hopes the Next Generation Skateboarding Shop will invest in.

He said the video the store will buy would get distributed between frequent shoppers.

The one with his friends and the music can't be sold because of the music copyright laws.

Senior Nate Crook said if the group were to get sponsored, the doors of a film career would be opened. Crook said if he were to do something he loves and have a career of it, it would be a guaranteed good time.

"All I want to do is try to do it all with skating," Crook said.

Southard defiantly tried to do it all when he is skating. He said once he stacked up eight chairs up to shoulder height. He jumped over the stack of chairs successfully, but he said the slightest thing, such as uneven weight distribution, could severely injure him.

Out of all of Southard's stunts he said he has never broken a bone skateboarding, but his attempts to

snowboard are another story. He said when a person skates they can't really count the number of tricks or classify something as a certain trick.

"Skateboarding is not like a Playstation game," Southard said. "You can't press 'X' and do a trick."

Southard said playing the Playstation games are fun, but he would rather be outside and skate himself.

He said he likes to play Tony Hawk and see the tricks he can do. Then he likes to go outside and try to do it himself.

Southard and Crook get together every other Thursday to skateboard and try to do more tricks.

They meet up with about nine other guys all of whom are involved in the Skateboarding Club at school.

The club isn't like most clubs; the guys hang out watch skating videos and skateboard around Omaha, Southard said.

Some of the people that hang out with them don't attend Cen-

tral, but their schools don't have a specific club for skateboarding.

Unfortunately, there are no girls on the skateboarding club. Crook said there may not be any female skaters at school, but there are plenty of professional women skaters.

"Some teachers skip our announcements," Crook said. "They just assume girls don't skate."

Last year the club had a competition between the members and fellow students. Southard won and tied in different areas of the competition.

Members said they hope to have another competition this year and possibly have local bands perform while they skate.

Southard said he has been skating since his freshman year so he won't let a possible competition stop him.

He said he was just looking for something new to do. A few of his friends introduced him to skateboarding.

"I am just killing time while we still have time to kill," Southard said.

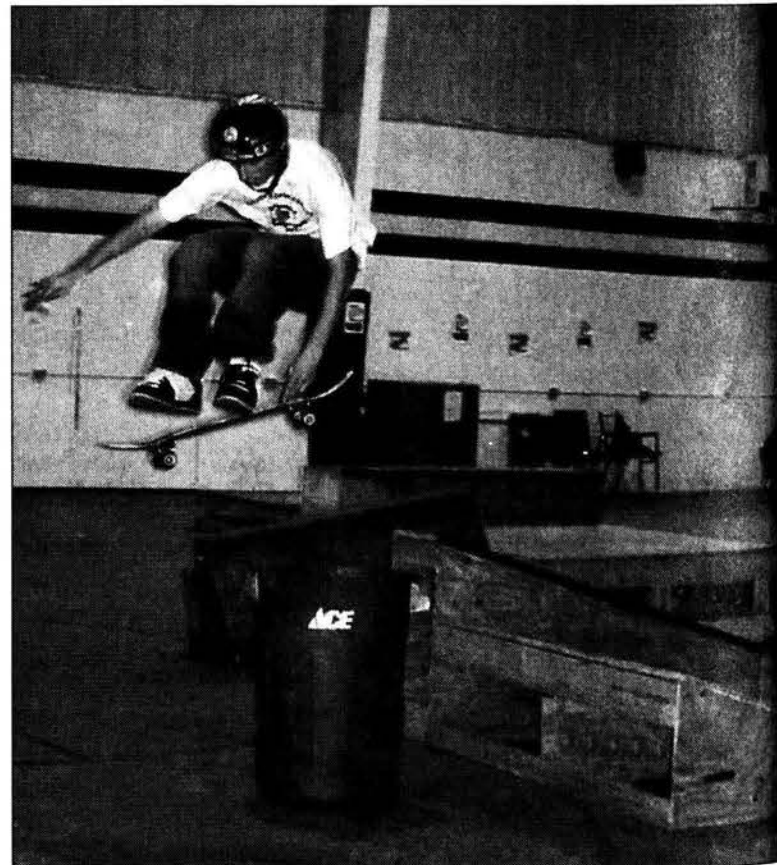


Photo by HALLIE BIBER/THE REGISTER

Senior Don Southard practices jumping off of a ramp at the Salvation Army skate park near 41st and Harrison Streets. Southard is the president of Skate Club.

What do I know about me?

I know I'm informed.

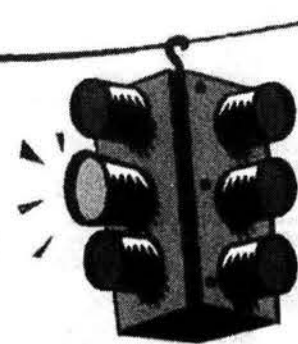
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# Graduate takes over airwaves

By Jillian Risavi  
Listen up and tune in radio  
eners to graduate Jason  
meier's radio show, the Friday  
t Buzz on 89.7 The River.  
Niemeier said he is studying  
o production at Iowa Western  
munity College where he  
works for the school's radio  
on, 89.7 The River.  
Niemeier's show, the Friday  
t Buzz, was created last year,  
since the two original hosts  
uated it became his, he said.  
He said he applied for the  
tion along with 15 other ap-  
ants and after he completed  
audiotape, interview and  
ame, he got the job.  
Niemeier said his profes-  
al name, Spicoli, came from  
NO fraternity brothers, who  
he looked like the character  
coli off of "Fast Times at  
gemont High."  
Friday Night Buzz co-host  
ey Kruiise said that with  
oli, everything is so energetic  
spontaneous that he never  
ws what is going on.



Photo by JILLIAN RISAVI/THE REGISTER

**Graduate Jason Niemeier, who goes by the name Spicoli when he's on air, works in the studio during a recent taping of his radio show, the Friday Night Buzz. Niemeier's show is on every Friday night from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m.**

He said that he receives numerous calls during his show about whether or not the tips he gives males on how to pick up women work.  
"Every male that's single, get a puppy, all women like snuggly things," Niemeier said. "It works trust me."  
Niemeier said that the Friday Night Buzz recently gained a stunt boy who goes out with a task given by Niemeier during the show to find listeners who are able to answer the task at hand.  
Niemeier's sister, senior Valerie Niemeier said that she finds her brother's show to be different then other shows.  
She said that she thinks he is good at what he does and she finds him to be funny.  
"He has so much energy and

he loves what he is doing," she said. "He's going to find an excellent job in the future."  
She said that he is creative, has a lot of ideas and people love his show.  
"His phone lines are crazy, people are always calling in," she said.  
He said that the times and shows people get depend on the skills and performances of the person during their practices.  
"Develop a voice, you're going to move up," he said. "If you're interested in music or radio check out Iowa Western."  
Niemeier said when he first started out on the air, his shift was from 3-6 a.m.  
He said the hours were difficult, but it built his confidence for when he would have to work a

noon to 3 p.m. shift three weeks later.  
In the future he said he wants to not only continue having local acts on the show he is hoping to get national acts such as Pomeroy and Blue October on the Friday Night Buzz.  
Niemeier said that anyone who is interested in music and radio should definitely check out Iowa Western's broadcasting program.  
He said working at The River has been a great experience for him and that he hopes to work as a disc jockey after he graduates in May.  
He said he could be heard on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., and on the Friday Night Buzz from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## from INDIE, page 21 Appreciation continues to grow for indie rock

pendent bands that have been looked at heavily. Its music combines an eclectic mix of synthesizers, computerized drum tracks and guitar with eerie vocals. Some of its popular songs include "Worked Up So Sexual," "Casual Sex," and "Sex is Personal."  
The band started back in 1995 at Saddle Creek records (at the time called Lumberjack Records) in Omaha.  
Right now the band consists of five members, including the original three, Todd Baechle, Clark Baechle, Joel Petersen, Dapose and Jason Thiele. Over the years, they have gone from doing local concerts to touring nationally and internationally.  
While it has become more popular, Petersen said if it ever came to the point where it was creating music just to make money, it would be time to stop. While it does make a sufficient profit, he said the band is more concerned with the quality of music it creates than the money it makes.  
Whitehurst said some bands just don't want to take their music to the next level. Universal tries to negotiate with bands to make sure they are clear on the way the label works and make sure the band will be happy.  
Robb Nansel, creator of the Faint's label, said it was a comfort to know that they didn't sign. The Faint was one of the first bands on Saddle Creek Records, now there are about 14 bands. Band members and Nansel grew up together, making working together easy.  
There is a fine line between becoming too commercial and doing what the bands love, Nansel said. The Faint wants people to hear its music and

the members want to have a good fan base, but they also want to have a sense on animosity.  
Beck said she admires the Faint for sticking to its roots and staying in Omaha. Especially when other popular bands like 311 didn't acknowledge the fact that it was from Omaha.  
"The Faint were one of the bands that helped Saddle Creek become big," she said. "It's great that they stay with it."  
But just because a band goes commercial, doesn't mean they will make it big, Whitehurst said.  
A band only gets paid by how much money they make on an album. They will get more promotion and exposure but not everyone makes it as big as N\*SYNC, he said.  
Petersen said band members live very frugally. As they began touring more, more money started to come in.  
Proffitt, who came to the Independent Music Association after working on the corporate side for 11 years, said once a band goes corporate, it is hard to become popular and money is still scarce. Being on an independent label makes it even more difficult.  
Part of the explosion of popular independent music is because the indie labels are becoming stronger, Proffitt said.  
"It's pretty obvious that over the last two years the indie rock movement has become more popular," Beck said.  
She said she thinks it is similar to the grunge movement. People started catching on to it and it became popular.  
Petersen said the best part about the band is the live concerts. He and his band members enjoy watching the fans dance.  
"We just want to be able to control our creative license and make enjoyable music, not necessarily money," he said.

## franks, angering the audience, enable theatergoer to enjoy movie, make ticket price worth it

To me, the movie-going experience  
ans finding a seat amongst many  
angers and trying to make them mad.  
Sitting in a cold  
vie theater, loudly  
ping a \$4 soda and  
owing anything I  
get my hands on is  
idea of a night out.  
The admittance  
s movies is ridicu-  
s. Five dollars for  
mittance and another \$5 for food and  
if you are with another person.  
ong all of the discomfort and wallet-

thinning food, we are forced to make it  
fun. This is where I like to come in. Burp-  
ing, talking and setting the alarm on my  
phone to go off somewhere dur-  
ing the duration of the movie,  
this makes it all worth it. It just  
adds a little something.  
Things that I have found  
that anger the masses include  
shaking empty cups and letting  
the ice rattle all over the place.  
Chewing food with your mouth  
open is always a plus too, especially with  
smuggled food. The theater workers love  
it when you do that.

Sometimes, taking into consideration  
that people are actually there to see the  
movie, I tone it down a little bit.  
I have been asked why I am so in-  
considerate in the theater. I usually come  
back by asking that person why she is not  
inconsiderate.  
We all know that the movie will be  
available to rent in a month and a half.  
So why not give rudeness a shot?  
Why would anybody want to sit in a  
room and be quiet for two hours?  
That's boring.  
I am just trying to make \$5 go a long  
way.

Just think of all of the people besides  
me who do not care to stop the antics. I  
have even heard of people in college  
towns throwing half-melted Milk Duds  
at the screen, just for kicks. Can you imag-  
ine watching, "The Bridges of Madison  
County."  
I do not know why you would be  
watching it, but just imagine. Okay, so  
Meryl Streep makes her dramatic en-  
trance with a chocolate smear running  
down her face.  
Now I do not go quite that far, but I  
am the one to shout obscenities in silent  
scenes or making cheesy scary movies

seem really scary by yelling at the part  
which may get a chuckle.  
Where did I get all of this? Where did  
I get the drive to tick people off? I am still  
trying to find out and that is one of the  
factors that keeps me going.  
I would like to invite all of you to try  
something I have found quite enjoyable.  
The best times to go are between the  
hours of 4 and 6 p.m. That way there are  
plenty of people there, but not as many  
as a primetime flick.  
All I have to say is have fun. Just  
make sure that security is nowhere to be  
seen.



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## Fantasy games more popular among teens

By Nichole Tyrey

Ogres and goblins and wizards, oh my!

Many students at Central have started to take interest in fantasy games, such as Dungeons and Dragons and Magic the Gathering.

Both Dungeons and Dragons, which is played using rule books and dice, and Magic the Gathering, played with cards, are classified as role-playing games, junior Justin Higgerson said.

"They are called role-playing games because you have to act like the character," he said.

Higgerson and junior Nate Horrell played Magic the Gathering in study hall during their freshman year.

"We both would get bored in study hall so we'd play," Horrell said. "I bought some cards and then got into it."

Higgerson was introduced to both games through a friend.

"Freshman year, I met a guy in Kansas City who was a Dungeon Master," Higgerson said. "I started playing with the campaign he had and went on to play Magic (the Gathering) from there."

Junior Jeff O'Brien has played Magic the Gathering since he was in grade school.

"I had never seen a card game like it before," O'Brien said. "I started playing before Pokemon and all those other card games came out, so it was still an interesting concept."

Junior Jay Searson, who plays Dungeons and Dragons, has also found this lack of interest and commitment a problem.

"One of the things about fantasy is you need a lot of people and they must meet regularly," Searson said. "And it is kind of a hard thing to do."

He said he has found other alternatives to playing in a traditional group. Instead of meeting daily with his fellow students, he plays online with people across the world.

Searson said that online the games make more sense.

"The DMs (Dungeon Masters) are more experienced and they make the game more balanced," he said. "The more balanced the game is, the more fun and interesting it is. Most inexperienced DMs do not make the game balanced."

Searson said card games do not have as much potential as Dungeons and Dragons and will probably not last as long.

Horrell said people who play Magic the Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons must have a certain personality.

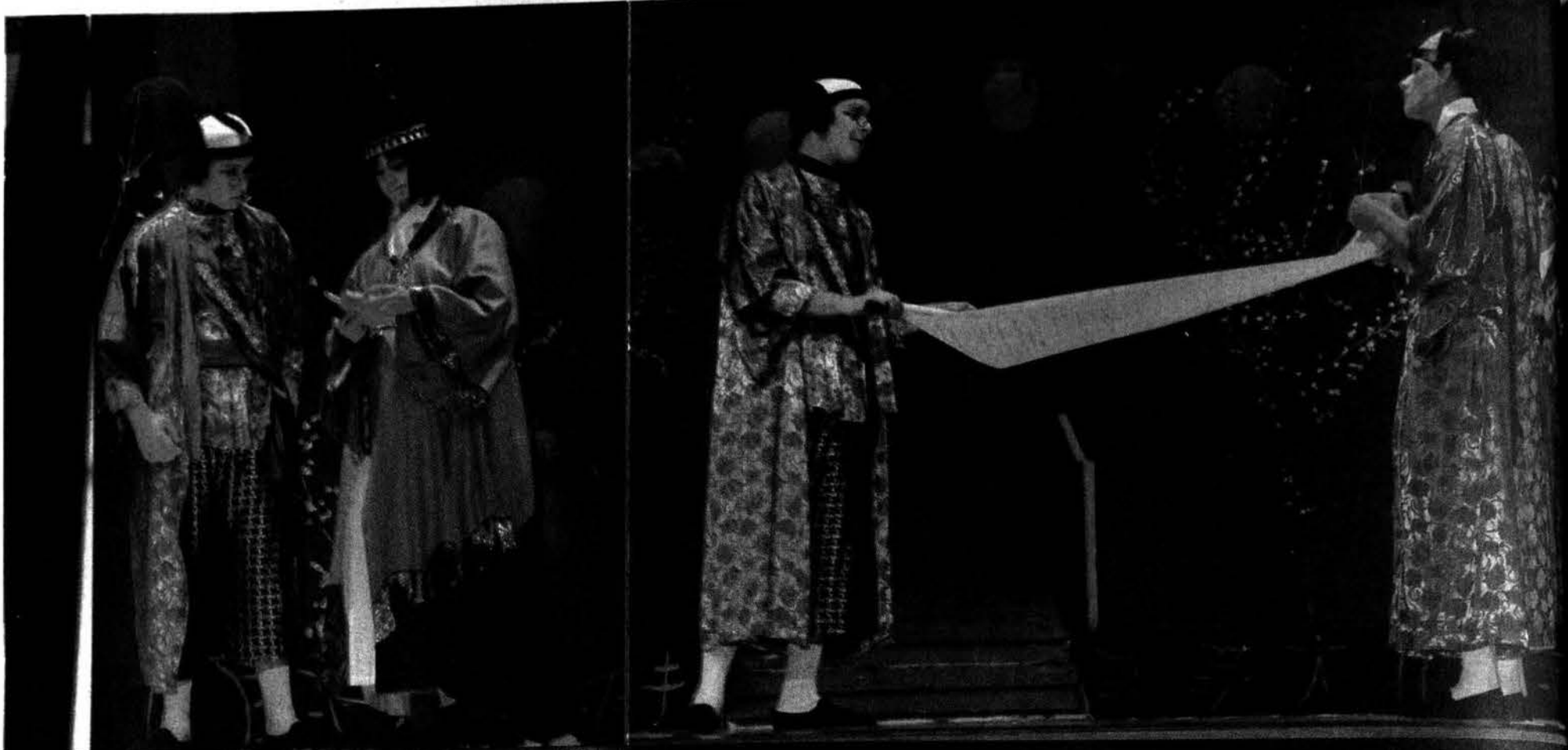
"They have to be someone who does not care about what other people think," Horrell said. "A good imagination is key to get the story going."

Higgerson said card games are becoming more popular because they are becoming more accepted into popular culture.

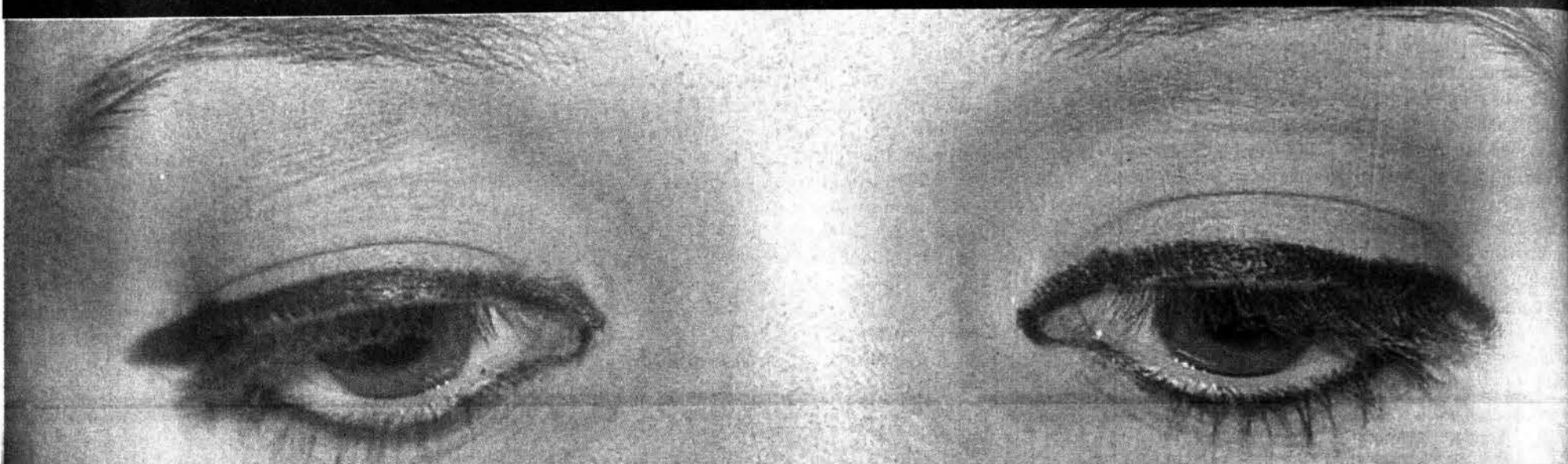
"I do not think that Dungeons and Dragons will ever get as popular as card games," he said. "But that has nothing to do with the quality of the game. It has a lot to do with what is considered cool and what isn't."

Don Braedic of Ground Zero Comics said that the sale of Dungeons and Dragons books has gone up slightly because of recent revisions of the rules.

"Both Dungeons and Dragons and Magic have been around for awhile," Braedic said. "They have both been popular sellers in the 15 years Ground Zero has been in business."



## 'THE MIKADO'



Photos by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

(Top left) Senior Brian Fahey and senior Michael Kern recite their lines in Central's production of "The Mikado." This is the first time the students have performed this play. (Top right) Fahey and junior Jason Nehrig unrolls a scroll during the play. Productions usually cost about \$6,000. (Bottom) Performers wore heavy make-up to capture the ethnic authenticity of the musical.

## Musical a change of pace for drama department

By Jillian Risavi

The Japanese-American operetta "The Mikado," performed in early November, was a change of style compared to the usual musical performed in previous years.

Director John Gibson said that today a musical is more modern and doesn't necessarily need traditional singing voices.

He said some of the strengths of the actors in "The Mikado" were their voices.

"The voices are all perfectly fit for the show," Gibson said.

He said that an operetta still relies on the grand style of opera with its complicated music and plot lines.

The memorization of lines, the songs and the need to rewrite the musical to make it more contemporary, while still keeping the rhythm of the music, was a challenge, Gibson said.

"The leads were serious about their memorization of their lines," he said.

He said that the difficulty of the lines and vocals could have caused problems for the audience to understand "The Mikado," but if the actors were dedicated, it would not be a problem.

Even though the musical's style was different, it should have been understood if the audience read the synopsis before it began, he said.

Senior Katie Musick, one of the main characters, said the talent of the leads and chorus were showcased.

She said the operetta style was good because it opened things up and got off the usual Broadway hits path and gave people a chance to see shows that are not so well known.

"It's nice to have a variety," Musick said.

She said that an operetta was not as confusing as most people would think, but the music was a lot harder to learn and sing.

"Jennifer Castello has a voice to knock your socks off and Katie Musick has a beautiful voice," Gibson said.

He said that adding dancers to an operetta are uncommon, but added a burst of energy to it in order to grab the audience's attention.

Gibson said that building budding trees and ramps took a considerable amount of prep time for the show.

Musick said having a cast of around 50 people was challenging.

She said that she learned how to work with people

better and noticed different talents that people had. Musick said that Gibson did a really good job with such a large cast.

She said he wisely put everyone together so that they knew what to do.

Everyone needed to be dedicated to the work and put in a lot of hours of preparation, she said.

Junior Nick Goding said that the cast got its work done when needed, but at times lacked in organization. He said that people were told when to come to rehearsal and either wouldn't show up or would end up wasting time.

He said that as the weeks went by, everyone wanted the musical to be good and began to learn their parts.

Goding said that he had never been in a musical before this year, but didn't find the music to be that much different than what he does in A Cappella.

There were more leads this year and, plus jugglers, dancers and people on stilts, Goding said.

He said that he saw many of the members of the chorus taking leadership roles, which helped get everyone prepared.

"I made some new friends and improved my vocal techniques with the teachers," he said.

## New student fee policy hurts school's play

By Bryan Swotek

This year has brought a lot of changes to Central as a result of the student fee lawsuit.

Even the drama department has been affected by the ruling and has had to change the way it operates, drama teacher and production director John Gibson said.

One stipulation of the settlement was that matinees of dramatic productions could no longer be held during school.

Matinees brought the drama department an average of \$6,000 a year, but with the changes made, that money is no longer available.

"This year, with the help of advertising and Band Aid, we brought in around \$4,000. That made up a lot for the money we lost for the matinees," Gibson said.

That money went to cover some of

the costumes and props that go into productions.

Each student costs \$150 once all costumes and props are acquired. That money covers make-up, costumes, and scripts for the large cast of "The Mikado."

"This year's fall production had 53 students not including the backstage technical crew," Gibson said.

Since the morning student matinees had been thrown out, Gibson tried some new things to try and get people to see the show.

A Sunday matinee and a brunch were added to this year's play times as well as an after school performance that was held on Halloween.

"We were not sure what to think," Gibson said. "It could have been our treat

and it could have been our trick."

Senior Katherine Musick has been performing in Central's productions since before former director Pegi Georgeson retired.

"Before the lawsuit, those who were performing had to pay a fee which covered costumes and everything. That was usually around \$30," Musick said. "We had to fundraise it all and donations helped pay for it."

Gibson said he owed thanks to the great fundraising abilities of music teacher Sharon Smith.

She helped organize Band Aid and has helped with all of the other fundraising this year and said she hopes she can help with other projects.

"Without her it would have been really hard to raise some of the money that

we earned," Gibson said.

Gibson said he hopes to see more opportunities to help the school and drama department.

"If we keep getting good talent, we have nothing to worry about," Gibson said. "The talent has always been good."

Junior Nick Delman has performed in seven Central productions including "The Mikado."

"I have been in several productions outside of Central, but Central ones are good," Delman said.

Despite the success of fundraising, Delman said he did not think it was a good idea.

"Luckily, it was good, but I do not think it very much, Delman said. "I think it's better to just pay a production fee and let it all over with."

**Softball**

Take a look at what it took for the softball team to go so far this season

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## SPORTS

Monday, November 18, 2002

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The Register

rule created to prevent sport-related transfers

By Aaron Maurice

Last year the Nebraska schools and Activities Association (NSAA) adopted a rule that prevented students from transferring or option rolling to other schools for athletic reasons. The rule stated that any player who switches schools must sit out a mandatory 90 school days after transferring. This may all change.

Maxwell Public Schools, a school district in a town of less than 300, more than 250 miles from Omaha, has challenged the rule in court.

Senior athlete E. J. Falkner said he thinks that the rule change could potentially benefit high school athletics.

Falkner wanted to transfer out of Central at one point, but didn't because he would have had to sit out a season. This would have been unacceptable to him because he plays multiple varsity sports.

"If someone transfers, and they are better, they would take our spot," Falkner said. "The better person plays."

Maxwell's case centers on a clause in the Nebraska constitution that guarantees all students have an equal right to education. The case is currently in recess until January, leaving time for the State Board of Education to make a decision.

The Maxwell case is surprising because just last year about 90 percent of NSAA member schools voted to pass this rule, NSAA representative Debra Alder said.

Maxwell Superintendent Chuck Hervert said that under the law all public schools are required to give all students an equal opportunity, which includes activities and athletics.

Hervert said that Maxwell must allow all students to have the opportunity to participate in any activity or sport, or they would be breaking the law. He said that their school could be held responsible if they did not allow all students the same chance at sports, regardless of their transfer status.

"We have a responsibility and a legal responsibility to educate students," he said. "If we don't live up to it, we can be sued."

If the school board is unable to determine a solution, Maxwell's case against the NSAA will determine if a school-sponsored activity or sport is a privilege or a right. Historically, Supreme Court decisions have allowed any activity that is not required for graduation as a privilege.

When the rule was initially

See TRANSFERS page 40

## THE RED SHIRT

Central alumnus manages to make a name for himself on the Husker team even though he is only a freshman

By Doug Meigs

David Horne didn't just skip the red-shirt process at UNL, he burned it to the ground.

With a scorching 81-yard rushing game during his first time on the field against McNeese State on Oct. 5, he proceeded to blaze a smoldering trail of yardage that continued in a series of spectacular performances through the rest of his true freshman season.

"It was a surprise," Horne said. "I never thought they'd ask me that soon. I took it upon myself to do what I could and make the team better."

Overnight, he jumped from sixth to second on the depth charts.

And as he continued to produce, he moved up to the co-number one spot with senior Dahrran Diedrick.

Dave Gillespie, running back coach, said that the Huskers were in a slump and were looking for someone to spark the offense.



HORNE

He said Horne provided the catalyst that ignited the running game.

His breakout performance against McNeese State could have been a fluke. Then with Missouri, he came out again with a second 80 plus yard game as the day's MVP, proving his worth against a more recognized team.

The team lost the next week against Oklahoma State, yet Horne continued to shine with another 80 plus yard game, putting him above Diedrick in terms of performance (6.8 yards compared to 4.5 yards average per carry), but not officially on the depth chart.

Then came Texas A&M.

The "wrecking crew" stood ahead of the Husker's blossoming offense, in particular the veteran defense stood to possibly put Horne back into a true freshman mentality. This was obviously not the case with Horne contributing a third of the team's 381 yards.

Up through the next week's loss to Texas, Horne led the Husker running backs with 86.6 yards per game (that's over 20 yards per game more than Diedrick).

"It's fully obvious that he's been producing and made some things happen because of his ability," Gillespie said.

He said that most of the time if the coaches put a freshman in a position like Horne is in, it's because he has shown an enormous degree of talent or they have very strong faith in him.

"You just don't put a freshman in that situation very often," he said. "So usually if they do, they do very well. I think he's gotten better every game he has played. Hopefully, that will just continue."

Horne said that every time he steps onto the field he learns more, obtains more experience and has more fun. He said he was really tense against McNeese, but has gotten used to the pressure.

"You get into playing and you forget about the crowd," he said. "Each game I've gotten a lot better."

McMenamin said that Horne appeared a little nervous against McNeese, but that's more than understandable considering it was his first time playing in front of Memorial Stadium's sold out crowd.

"College is a big change," Horne said. "Everybody's as good as you and they're trying to get jobs out there and giving it their all. High school was more of a fun thing. It (college football) is more of a business thing. A&M was a crowd of 80,000. It's the real thing."

McMenamin said he didn't expect Horne to burn his red-shirt this year.

"I was surprised," he said. "I knew he was talented and he had the talent to do it, but they have a lot of other strong running backs."

McMenamin said that just weeks before, it seemed like UNL's coaching staff was definitely going to red-shirt Horne. He also said Horne had

See HORNE page 40



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

## New computer program helps enhance Eagle football strategies

By Connor Meigs

Greg Wilson's computer program, the Perfect Game, has added another weapon to Central football's arsenal.

Wilson worked for General Dynamics developing image analysis systems in the Air Force for ten years, but now he is using his technological expertise to revolutionize digital imagery in sports programs.

The Perfect Game is a digital video management system for football play analysis.

In the program, each football play can be digitally downloaded to a hard drive.

The system grids over 20 different statistics and is digitally instantaneous, Wilson said.

The system is based on new proprietary technology offering good resolution and compression, he said.

"It (the Perfect Game) is the most sophisticated system in Nebraska, other

than the University of Nebraska at Lincoln's program," he said.

There are many football programs he said, but where his program differs from others is in its ability to utilize a statistical database that links directly into video.

Players and coaches can watch game footage of plays on a large suspended video screen at the same time that they watch the play and analyze statistics on the computer Wilson programmed.

The program enables Central to breakdown opposing teams' film easily, increasing Central's ability to scout other teams as well as to analyze their own tendencies, head football coach Joe McMenamin said. Each play can be specifically analyzed for how many times it was run, and how successful the play was.

Junior Aaron Blanke, who played left guard last season, said footage could be stopped at an exact point of a play which allowed for even further play analysis.

McMenamin said the program is also excellent for preparing highlight tapes of Central players for colleges.

With the Perfect Game, coaches are able to put each Metro team's plays into the database.

The computer's statistics enable coaches and players to easily study what play teams are most likely to run while in different formations and which player is most likely to have the ball.

"I wanted to develop a system a coach could easily use," Wilson said.

The Perfect Game program is intentionally user friendly.

While computer systems of similar caliber, such as UNL's, require a staff of computer technicians, he said that the Perfect Game gives a coach control of his whole domain.

"You don't have to be a computer wizard to use the program," McMenamin said.

He said the program is the football

team's single most valuable asset for game preparation other than practicing.

Blanke said the Perfect Game is a big improvement from Central's old film analysis program.

MacMenamin said Central's old program, Digital Scout, did a good job giving hard copy printouts of plays, but it wasn't capable of combining with video.

Fortunately, this season, Central has been Beta testing the high school version of the program along with Papillion LaVista.

"I hope other teams won't get the program," McMenamin said, "but when they see it, they will want it."

Wilson and his company, Advanced Imaging Solutions, plans to continue improving the program by adding more features.

The program for basketball is due to be released in late November while its volleyball program is expected to be released in the spring.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

## CHS defeated by one point, again

By Devon O'Connell

Junior quarterback Cortney Grixby was one yard away from glory.

For the second year in a row, Westside broke the Eagles wings in the first round of the State playoffs by winning an overtime shocker by one point. Westside escaped by the skin of its teeth, winning 27-26 in front of an estimated 1,500 at Benson Stadium.

The previous week, Central was blown out 34-6 by Omaha North. The team never found any footing at Northwest's Kinnick Field, which was the main reason head coach Joe McMenamin chose to play Wednesday's game at Benson.

"We wanted to guarantee good footing no matter what," McMenamin said.

Good footing or not, the Eagles couldn't capitalize on extra points and conversions, as they had the chance to score ten more points than were on the board, including a stop at the Warrior 2-yard line.

Central's fans, particularly the student section, were revved up from the moment the team took the field, but became absolutely insane in the fourth quarter and overtime. The aluminum bleachers convulsed from the feet stomping, and the Eagle side of the field roared with shrieks from the crowd.

Westside struck first with a 25-yard field goal from kicker Jordan Alvord in the second quarter.

On the following drive, Grixby threw to senior E.J. Falkner for a 39-yard TD pass. The kick was blocked.

Later in the third quarter, quarterback Ross Sinclair passed to Mark Duggan on a 25-yard TD reception.

Central eventually worked its way up to the Westside 2-yard line. The Eagles turned the ball over after juniors Brandon Gunn and Cortney Grixby failed to make the play four times. The defense came out strong however, as they scored a safety on the following play when Westside was charged with intentional grounding while in the end zone.

Central scored again in the fourth off of a 1-yard run from Brandon Gunn. McMenamin went for two, but didn't convert the run. Nick Suarez fired right back, catching an 18-yard pass from Duggan. Alvord made the PAT once again.

Westside charged down the field with a 37-yard kickoff return to the 42 from Connor O'Neill. After a 37-yard passing drive, kicker Steve Siebrandt nailed a 39-yard field goal to tie the score at 20.

With eight seconds left, Westside recovered the ball off of an onside kick. Siebrandt tried for another field goal, but it fell short by inches.

The game went into overtime, with Westside getting the ball first. Westside struck quickly and scored off of a 17-yard pass to Duggan from Sinclair.

Westside stuffed Central on its drive, putting McMenamin in a third and ten position. But Mac pulled a hook and ladder to score out of his usually bland playbook. Grixby passed to Falkner, who while still in the air picked to Tyson, who went in for the touchdown.

But McMenamin's luck ran out when he went for the two-point conversion for the win and failed. McMenamin said that he didn't trust the kicking game, as Medeiros had missed one and had another blocked.

## Halloween matchup spooks Eagle offense

By Devon O'Connell

Central's 34-6 loss to Omaha North Oct. 30 was more like a mud wrestling match than a football game. North somehow found a way to run in the mud, while Central, without its speed, found its faces in the muck of Northwest's Kinnick Field.

The cold weather and wet conditions kept the turn out low. An estimated 500 fans were in attendance. By the end of the third quarter, disgusted with the game and frigid temperatures, Eagle fans left, leaving only a few diehard Central fans still in the student section.

The Viking defense destroyed Central's usually potent offense, holding junior Cortney Grixby to a season low negative 33 yards rushing on 16 attempts, no completions and an interception. Junior Brandon Gunn had 63 yards on 16 attempts, averaging 3.9 yards per carry, while sophomore Robert Wesley ran for 25 yards on 9 carries. Central fumbled 12 times and only recovered 8 of them.

"We just made too many mistakes offensively," head football coach Joe McMenamin said. "The muddy fields really neutralized our speed and quickness."

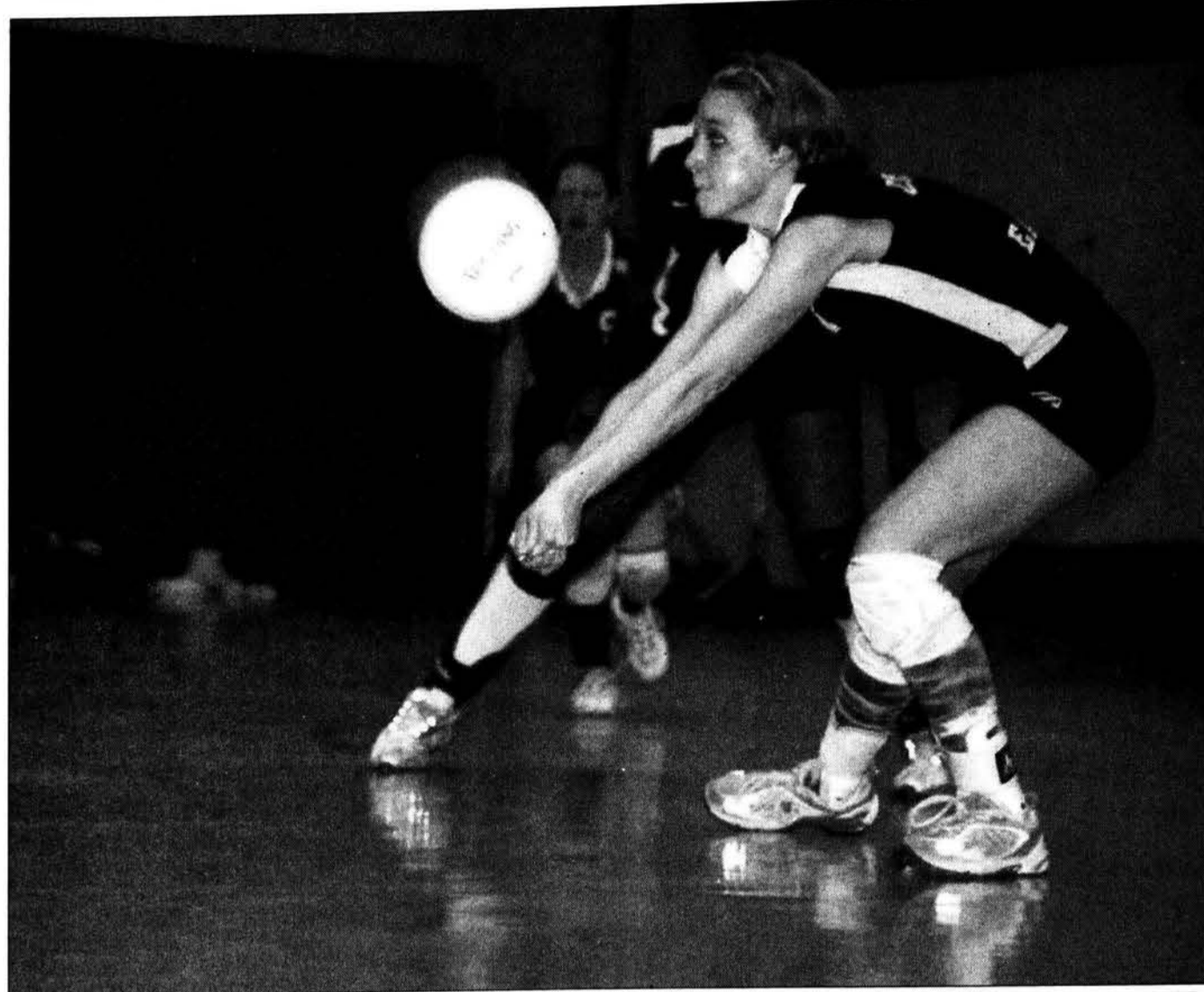
The Eagle's only score came off of senior E.J. Falkner's 86-yard kickoff return in the second quarter. Falkner had a similar run in the Millard North game, which the Eagles lost 49-6. That return was for 85 yards. Junior Joe Medeiros's kick failed each time.

Neither team scored any points in the first quarter. But in the second, everything fell apart for Central. Viking halfback Tyrone Rush scored on a two yard run for their first score.

Minutes later, after a lost Central fumble, North quarterback Kyle Johnson passed to receiver David Hall for a 26-yard touchdown. Hall scored again off a two-yard pass from Johnson. Kicker Anthony Pflug made all three PAT's in North's 21-point second quarter.

Tim Nenemen had a 10-yard touchdown reception and Rush scored another with a 2-yard run, both in the third, to make the score final.

# Calendar



Senior Carolyn Schaeffer returns a serve during the last regular season game the seniors played in. Schaeffer played Varsity all four years of high school.

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

## Team ends regular season with victory

By Jillian Risavi

Senior night and the last home games against Benson and South made the end of the Central girls volleyball season a good one.

After a hard-fought match against Benson, the Eagles went on to beat the South High Packers twice, 15-6, 15-9, on Oct. 22.

Head coach Jodi Dierks said that the team really came together and made a complete team effort to pull out two wins that night.

In the first game, Central jumped out with a five point lead due to errors made by the Packers.

The Packers struggled to snag points off of the Eagles miscues and only managed to gain one point, making the score 9-1.

After three kills by senior outside blocker Carolyn Schaeffer, the Eagle's closed out the win 15-6.

A change of pace came for both teams at the start of the match's second game.

South started off the game with the serve and the lead at 5-3.

But with a block kill by junior middle blocker Ashley Woolridge, Central rallied back.

After strong serves by junior set-

ter Holly Lehmer and a kill by junior right side blocker Becca Mayhew, Central took the lead 7-5.

A strong offense and defense pushed the Eagles out to a 12-5 lead.

After a serve error by the Eagles the Packers gained control and momentum of the game.

Freshman defensive specialist Jessica Carl shanked a pass off of the serve.

The Packers attempted to take the lead until an error on a serve made the score 13-8.

However, after a tipping error by the Packers, Central nailed down the win 15-9.

The night was complete with two wins and a farewell to the team's only two seniors during the senior night ceremony. Schaeffer and senior left side blocker Robyn Sorensen were presented with bouquets of flowers for their hard work during the season.

"It wasn't how I always thought it would be with Robyn not being able to play, but I'm glad we won," Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer had an impressive offensive night with 16 kills against Benson and 9 versus South.

Sorensen was presented with

roses for breaking four all-time volleyball records, one being for kills with 713 in her high school career.

She said she was honored and happy to be in her home gym where she did all her hard work to hear that she had broken four major volleyball records.

Sorensen said she was sad that her season was cut short because of injury, but thought the evening went well.

"It was more of an honors night for me," she said.

Sorensen said that she was pleased with how the team performed against South and Benson.

She said that she was glad the last two games of the season were against Benson and South because Central usually beats these two teams, meaning that it was good to go out with wins.

Dierks said that she couldn't be more pleased with how well the two seniors had performed throughout the years.

She said that even though it was unfortunate that Sorensen was unable to play the last part of the season, she was proud of how well she performed on and off of the court.

## State appearance a hole in one for girls golf team

By Doug Meigs

The past girls golf season has been a year of firsts.

It was the first year that a senior (Ashley Krijan) made it to State. Furthermore, it was the first year a sophomore (Brandi Smith) did well.

It was the first year girls golf had a 7-1 regular season and was the first year that it went to State (both as a team and individually). The team tied for ninth with Elkhorn.

The tournament consisted of teams from across Nebraska.

Krijan placed 28th, sophomore Naomi Rennard placed 33rd, Smith took 38th, senior Emily Lebens took 61st and freshman Dena Rennard placed 65th.

Wendy Brownson

Coach Wendy Brownson said that the closest an Eagles girls golf team had come to going to State previously was five years ago.

She has been coaching for three years. Individually, the closest that a girl had come to going to state was Smith last year, who missed the cut by one stroke.

The core players from the team (Smith, Rennard, Krijan, and Lebens) were for the most part last year. Smith and Rennard were only freshmen, and Lebens and Krijan were juniors. Nevertheless, the team made a good showing with Smith almost making it to State for individuals in her first year of high school competition.

Brownson said she agreed that the team improved tremendously last year and was able to build off of the momentum coming into the past season. Each player was experienced and able to come together as a team.

Next year's team might have more experience with Rennard, the younger sister Dena and Smith returning. However, Brownson said it will be tough to replace the graduating seniors.

She said sophomore Smith Zendejas will end up stepping into one of the spots after not receiving much action the past season. However, Brownson said the team really needs to have at least five players.

"There is a hole in the team," she said. "We need one more player, but we are not supposed to recruit so I don't know how to do it."

She's trying to get the word out but so far it hasn't been very effective. She said if no prospective golfers show any interest, the team would be able to still play with 10 players. However, it wouldn't be able to drop any scores or replace golfers missing matches due to sickness (five golfers compete each match and the team is allowed to drop the lowest score).

Regardless, Brownson said she expects to have another outstanding team next year and said a second State appearance as a team would be guaranteed if she could fill the holes left by seniors.

As far as going to State individually, Brownson is confident that Smith will repeat while both Rennards have strong chances as well.

Brownson made a similar prediction at the beginning of the past season.

"I knew we had three awesome players and we didn't know if we would get to State or not, but I was hopeful," she said.

She thought the team would be after the almost shutout season. It wasn't completely sure until the Districts on Oct. 8. Then it was cemented. The team placed second behind Burke by one stroke, then came back and beat Burke 83 strokes at State.

Marian was the only other Omaha school besides Central at Burke at State. Marian took 11th while Burke took 12th. Lincoln X won the event.

"It's really exciting," Rennard said. "Most of the girls we were playing with were juniors or seniors."

## Athletic Events

### November

#### 18 (Mon) All winter sports begin

The 2002-2003 winter sports season will start with all sports beginning their practices.

#### 25 (Mon) Football banquet

The football banquet will commemorate the past season's various successes and accomplishments.

#### 29 (Fri) Last Cornhusker game

Central alum DeAntae Grixby, David Horne and Lornell McPherson will complete their seasons against Colorado.

### December

#### 2 (Mon) Football winter weight training begins

Following the disappointing loss at State, the football team will begin its training once again for next year's season.

#### 5 (Thurs) Wrestling team's first meet

Wrestling will participate in its first meet against Vern Ekfelt at North.

#### 6 (Fri) Varsity and Freshman basketball's first games

Both girls and boys Varsity teams will take on Burke for their first games of the year. The Freshman boys and girls teams will play Millard South.

#### 7 (Sat) JV boys and Reserve basketball's first games

JV boys will have its first game of the year. The girls team had its first game against Burke two days earlier. The Reserve boys will also play Burke and Reserve girls will play Millard North.

#### 10 (Tues) Swimming team's first meet

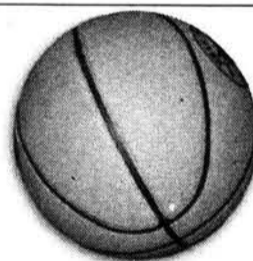
Girls and Boys swimming will begin their seasons against Millard South.

#### 12 (Sun) Bryan invite

The boys and girls swimming team will participate in the first invite of the year at Bryan.

#### 21 (Sat) Holiday tournament begins

The basketball teams will participate in the holiday tournament. Both team's are expected to perform well following last year's disappointing losses at State.



# HATCHING EGG-CELLENCE

Despite graduating strong seniors in both girls and boys cross country, the teams look to be running strong again next season

By Andrew Neal

Next year may be a rebuilding season for the boys cross country team, but the girls look to have one of the most productive years ever.

The boys team is losing seniors Chris Gorga and Ryan Shaw, two of the best runners in the state. However, the remaining members of the team say that next year will not be a disappointing season and plan to prove it.

"We should be able to get back to State next year," junior Jake Mixan said. "Gorga and Shaw leaving is going to allow the juniors to step up and take us back to State."

Although this year was extremely successful for the team, he said next year has the potential of being even better.

The athletes said they all believe that they are solid runners and are capable of reaching their goals next year.

Coach Trent Lodge said that next year's team could be very strong.

"The younger guys are going to have to work harder, especially Alex Bloom, Mixan and

Welch," he said. "They are going to really have to work their butts off."

Junior Norman Welch said he knows that it will be hard to make up for the loss of Shaw and Gorga.

"It's gonna hurt us pretty bad," Welch said. "They racked up the higher points for us this year. It is going to take a lot of hard work over the summer to help us become a decent team next year."

Lodge said that some of the runners are going to have to step up and become leaders for next year's team to succeed.

"Mixan, Bloom and Welch are definitely going to be a good core to have next year," he said. "They showed this year that they could come on and help the team out."

Junior Clare McGuire said next year is going to be one of the best for the girls team because of the talent stemming from the returning starters.

The team placed eighth at State and McGuire said that one goal for next year is to

get in the top five.

"I know the girls were happy about getting there, but they were also disappointed about how they placed because we beat some of those teams that placed in front of us before," she said.

Next year may be a breakout season for the girls team, with the loss of only one senior. Sophomore Catherine Bigsby, junior Kaitlin Hartnett and freshman Allison Hartnett will all return and try to lead the team to a more successful season.

Allison Hartnett said that she believes the girls team showed a lot more effort throughout the entire season than the boys team.

"We worked a lot harder than the boys," she said.

Hartnett said that the girls deserved it more this year, and knows that their desire will carry on to help the team next season.

McGuire said she will work harder next year to have a memorable senior season.

Mixan and Welch have similar plans for the boys team.

Both have set very challenging goals for the next season.

After achieving all of their goals from this year, they know that anything could happen.

Welch said that he is going to strive to break his 17 minute mark next year and wants to be one of the top runners in the district.

Mixan said he also wants to improve his time, but he plans on placing highly in the State meet.

Both runners know that all of the goals they have made are very possible, and they each plan on achieving them during the course of the next season.

McGuire said the girls may not be in the spotlight like the guys are, but she still wants to continue the momentum set this past season.

The boys team assures that next year will not be a rebuilding season.

However, it will be hard to fill the shoes left by Gorga and Shaw, but members said they are more than capable of meeting the challenge.

Meanwhile, the members of the girls cross country team said they will try and continue to build on the success of this season and then apply it to next year.

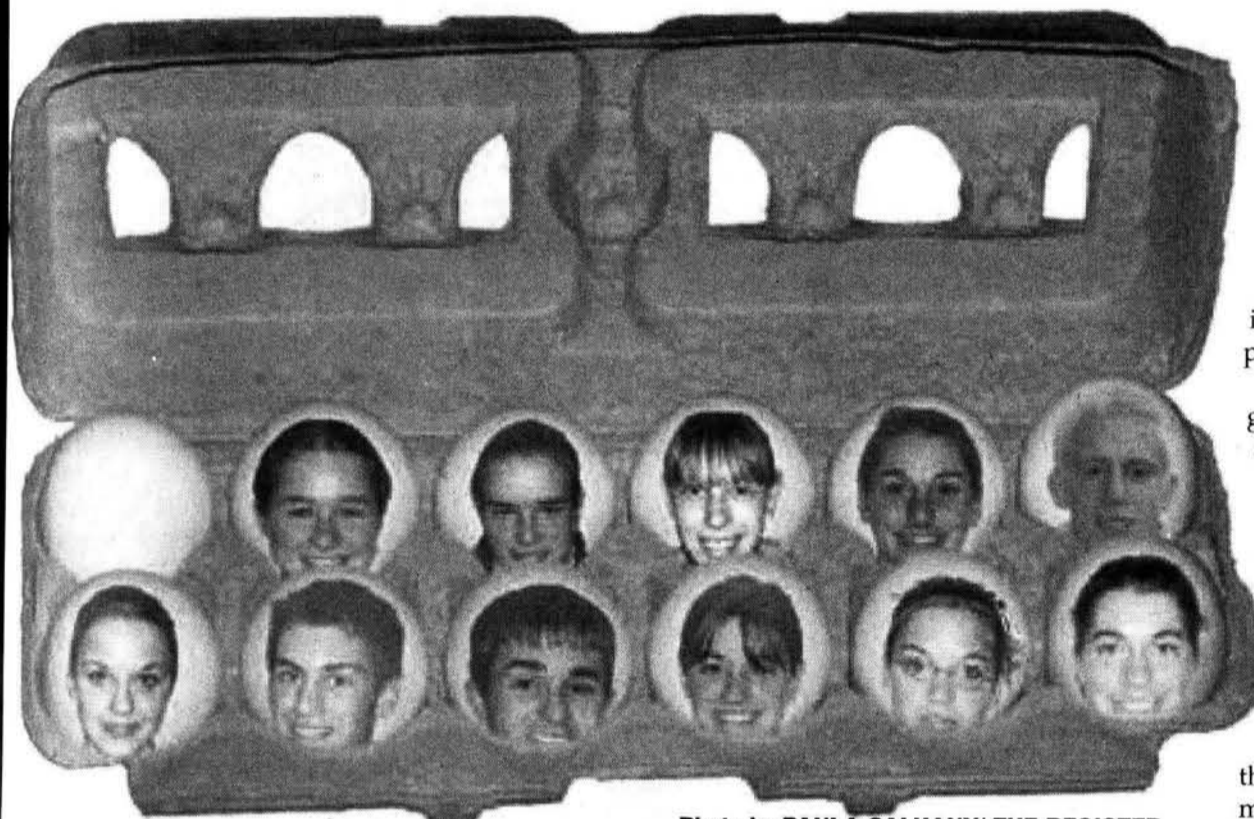


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Next year's returning runners hope to take the team to a new level. (BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: junior Clare McGuire, sophomore Catherine Bigsby, freshman Maceal Jespersen, freshman Allison Hartnett, junior Norman Welch, (FRONT ROW) sophomore Vicki Thomas, junior Alex Bloom, junior Jake Mixan, freshman Ally Gorga, sophomore Nicki Thomas and junior Kaitlin Hartnett



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/ THE REGISTER  
(From left )Mesha and Norma Reynolds have achieved success both scholastically and athletically at Central.

## Sisters carry on family tradition

By Doug Meigs

Seniors Norma and Mesha Reynolds are two of a kind.

Track wouldn't have been able to take second at State in the 4 by 4 without Norma, while softball wouldn't have made it through its most successful season ever without the contributions made by Mesha's speed around the bases or in the outfield.

Both sisters have made major impacts to the face of Central athletically and academically. They both are involved in CHS singers, A Capella and their church choirs.

Softball coach Kerri Murtaugh said the key to their strength is their speed. With Norma, it's her speed that pushes her down the track with one of the best girls relay teams Central has had. For Mesha it is the "amazing quickness" described by her sister that puts her in line as one of the fastest players on an exceptionally fast softball team.

"They have a really strong family core," Murtaugh said of Mesha and Norma.

Although Murtaugh doesn't know Norma very well because she was never involved in Eagles softball, Murtaugh said she often sees Norma in the stands supporting her sister.

The sisters' parents are divorced. However, Norma said they both continue to show a lot of strong support for the girls' academic and athletic pursuits.

Norma said that her father will bring his girlfriend and her children, while her mother will bring her fiancée to watch meets or games.

Mesha said that her mom didn't used to be able to come to games as much because she was constantly working, but she has made a lot more time to do so over the past year or so.

"We (Norma and Mesha) are really supportive of each other," Norma said. "We surprise each other all the time. We think so highly of one another."

Mesha said they have similar voices so they can help each other out.

For example if one of the sisters is having trouble with a piece of music or note, they'll work with each other. Similarly they will study for the ACT or SAT together.

"Right now we're probably as close as we've ever been," Mesha said. "I didn't realize how much she meant to me (till more recently). She's my best friend and she'll always be there."

Now that the softball

season is over, Norma said that the track coach (Trent Lodge), and Mesha's family and friends are pressuring Mesha to go out for track.

She ran her freshman year and has gone out for conditioning since then over the years but never ran in the season.

The two haven't participated on the same team since freshman year.

"I'm lazy, I'm fast, but I don't want to run every day," Mesha said. "If I can stay focused I can do it."

Norma had found her niche on the track team while Mesha did likewise with softball. Mesha said Norma's considered the track star, so it would be strange running with her.

"She is really fast," Norma said. "I'm faster in the 400 and 200, but she has this incredible speed. I'm afraid to race her and I'm the track superstar, supposedly."

Norma said Mesha's love is for softball, and unless she would be willing to devote herself to track, she probably wouldn't run again this year. But if she did, Norma said Mesha would most likely take one of the returning runners' spots on the 100 relay.

"I think Mesha is extremely talented and if she chose to participate in track, she would do really well," Murtaugh said. "Mesha is extremely coachable."

The entire Reynolds family has a history of track. Their older brother Wayne Reynolds runs at South Dakota and Vermilion on a track scholarship.

He was the class A state champion both his senior and junior years, winning Districts both years.

His senior year, he was the All-Class State champ for hurdles and was undefeated all year.

Their father runs everyday and even their mother ran track in high school.

"He would be so happy," Mesha said. "He's proud of me (now), but he'd be even more proud of me (if she chose to run track). Besides the ministry that's his passion."

The only other time the two played together competitively was in the Keystone little league in eighth grade.

"I thought she was pretty good, but it was awkward to see her batting," Mesha said.

Norma said it was somewhat strange because they never played sports together. She said Mesha was the softball player, and she was the track runner. Maybe this year will be different.

## Shoe Tech: Spikes Vs. Traditional

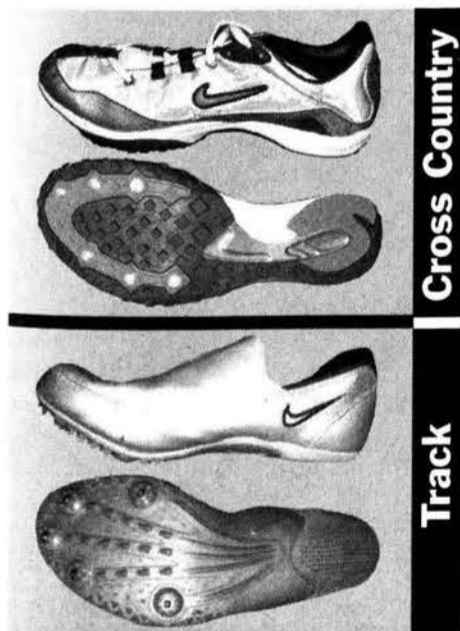
The old notion of "it's just a shoe" is out. Runners now can choose the shoe that best gives them an edge over the competition, whether it is for track or cross country. Shoes are specifically designed to increase traction, support and comfort while reducing weight. Running has never looked so good.

Most runners fit into one of three categories: those who require no additional support, those who need some support and those who want to have full support. The measure of support is based on how

much flexibility the ankle is given. The more support means the ankle cannot turn or buckle under as much stress, but flexibility is compromised limiting the range of movement.

Some runners wear a spiked shoe. This is ideal for those looking for increased grip, but it also gives very little support and is usually not as good for long distance races.

Here is a head-to-head overview of the two main groups, and the runners who depend on them.



Cross Country  
Track



Kate Trerice  
Sprinter

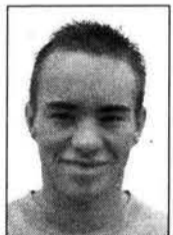
Cross country runners use a shoe like this for added grip. A track runner would use this type of shoe for sprinting where the majority of his or her weight would be on the toes.

Central sprinter Kate Trerice uses a cleated shoe for quick starts and increased traction.

This gives her an advantage over sprinters who use a more traditional running shoe.

The shoe's lightweight design forces her weight to be on her toes.

This combination gives her explosive speed right out of the blocks.



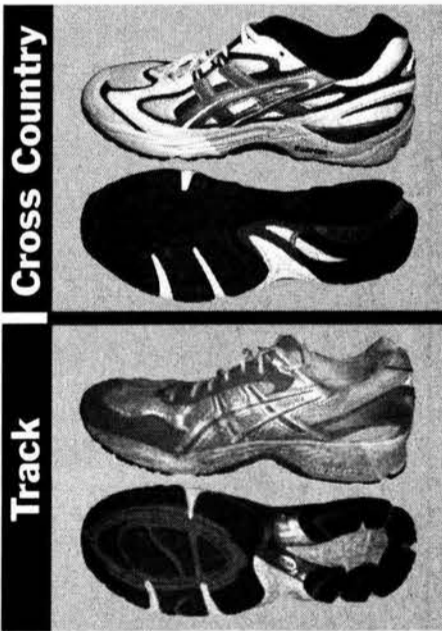
Brandon Skocz  
Long distance

Cross Country runners use this shoe for its increased ankle support and comfort.

Long distance track runners use a shoe like this because they can run heel to toe, getting the maximum amount of energy from each step. A shoe like this is a bit heavier and not as fast for most sprinters.

Central long distance runner Brandon Skocz uses a shoe like this because it provides a level of comfort necessary for a distance race by promoting a low-impact running style.

It allows him to run faster and further.



Cross Country  
Track

### Traditional

- Comfortable
- Increased support
- Weight more evenly distributed throughout sole
- Cushioning adds weight
- Reduced grip on wet surfaces
- Does not conform to foot as well

Infographic by AARON MAURICE/ THE REGISTER

- ### Spikes
- Increased grip in most weather conditions
  - Weight focused more on toes
  - Lightweight
  - Stiff sole
  - Reduced support
  - Not ideal for longer races

Information courtesy Peak Performance Fitness

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# OCTOBER BEST

## State playoffs

## Eagles lose close game in tough pitching duel

By Devon O'Connell

The Indian summer day didn't reflect the somber attitude on the Seymour Smith softball field after Central's season ended in the fourth round of the State tournament.

Two losses against Lincoln Southeast and Burke in the same day closed the year prematurely. However, Central performed above and beyond expectations by finishing the year at 27-8, making it to State for the first time since 1995.

On the first day of the tournament, Central braved eight innings of rain in 40 degree temperatures to edge North Platte 2-1.

The Eagles came out strong in the first inning when senior Jenny Miller hit a double to right field sending senior Liz Davis home. In the bottom of the sixth inning, with the score tied 1-1, North Platte pitcher Krista Blakeman threw a leadoff walk to sophomore Darcy Rutherford.

Rutherford moved to second off a sacrifice bunt by Davis, went to third on a wild pitch and finally scored on a passed ball. North Platte struck out nine times and only had two hits off pitcher Jenny Miller.

The second game, against Lincoln Southeast, was scheduled to be played at 5:30, but was postponed due to the adverse conditions.

Central met the Knights on the second day of the tournament at 10 a.m. It was the first time a state softball tournament had been postponed due to weather since 1997. Along with the Eagles, five other teams played postponed games on Friday.

Southeast pitcher Dana Wertz annihilated Central's hitters, racking up 14 strikeouts.

Miller kept Southeast at bay, but the Knights scored both of their runs in the first inning.

A single by Wertz sent Courtney Hoogeveen and Alison Jergenson home.

## Win at Districts results in best season since '95

By Aaron Maurice

Not since 1995 has the softball team made it to State.

But the sixth ranked Lady Eagles dreams came true when they clinched a berth in the State tournament by going 3-0 in Districts to claim the District A-3 title at the Kelley Complex.

The Eagle bats were on fire all day and helped senior pitcher Jenny Miller easily contain the opposing teams.

"All the practice leads up to playing and winning Districts," Miller said. "A lot of people depended on me to make the big plays, and I thought I came through."

Central opened up with a quick 3-0 win against Omaha Northwest.

In the second game, senior Kate Muldoon went three for three with an RBI, a leadoff triple and a two run homerun in the top of the seventh inning to help the Eagles tear Lincoln East 8-1.

"I was surprised I did so well," Muldoon said. "Individually, it felt good to break through and finally win it (Districts)."

After the loss, Lincoln East defeated Norfolk to make it to the championship game. Central's offense put up four runs off of five hits to defeat Lincoln East 4-0.

Senior Liz Davis got on base off a fielder's choice and later

"Our hitting was terrible," Davis said. "We were just never able to get any kind of offense going."

Central went into the losers bracket and faced Lincoln High. After eight innings, junior Emily Muskin scored off a double by Davis to end the Links season.

The Eagles next opponent was archrival Burke. Burke was the only team to give Central a loss in non-tournament play during the regular season. However, Central had beaten Burke 3-2 earlier in the season. The record was tied 1 to 1.

Neither team seemed to be able to get any offense established. However, more problems at the plate prevented Central from ever gaining momentum. Burke pitcher Nicole Fringer threw 15 strike outs and allowed only two hits.

Not to be outdone, Miller had 10 strikeouts and a three-hitter to finish the season with a 0.66 ERA. The games only score was in the top of the second inning when Burke slugger Kellyn Kramolisch hit a double to send Burke runner home.

The closest Central got to scoring was off of sophomore Kelsey Ratigan's leadoff double in the bottom of the fifth, but she was left stranded on second.

Miller had a single in the bottom of the seventh to keep Central's hopes alive.

With pinch runner sophomore Maria Negrete on first, Central was one out away from being eliminated.

But Fringer struck out sophomore Jamie Hoffman to beat the Eagles 1-0. Just like that, the season was over. Burke's bleacher's erupted in triumph. Central's fell silent in shock and disbelief.

Head coach Kerri Murtaugh said she was proud of her team however.

"The excitement and emotion was higher since it was such a big tournament," Murtaugh said. "It caught up with us."

scored off of a wild pitch to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead.

The Eagles gained another run in the third when junior Emily Muskin hit a double and stole third. Sophomore Darcy Rutherford then sent Muskin home with a single to right field.

Central again added to its score in the bottom of the sixth when Liz Davis hit a triple. Sophomore Alison Hess batted her home with a single and later scored on a Spartan error.

Miller and the defense retired East's next three batters.

Miller threw a solid game, throwing five strikeouts and allowing only four hits to end East's season at 20-19.

Central's bleachers erupted in triumph as both teams shook hands.

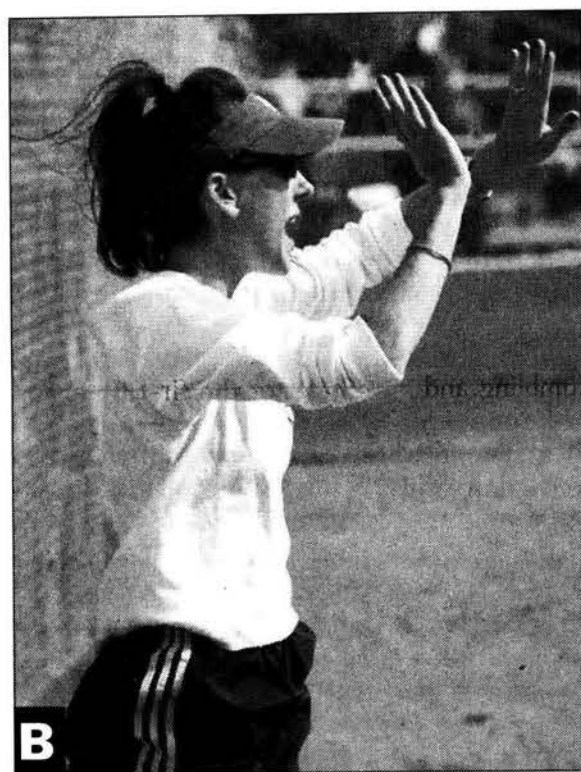
"It was awesome," Rutherford said. "There isn't really any other way I can describe it."

The Eagles faced East the week before in the Millard South Invitational, and defeated them 3-2 in ten innings. Murtaugh said the experience against the Spartans helped them capitalize at Districts.

"They are in the same situation we are with one main pitcher," Murtaugh said, "so when we faced them a third time at Districts, we were really prepared."



A



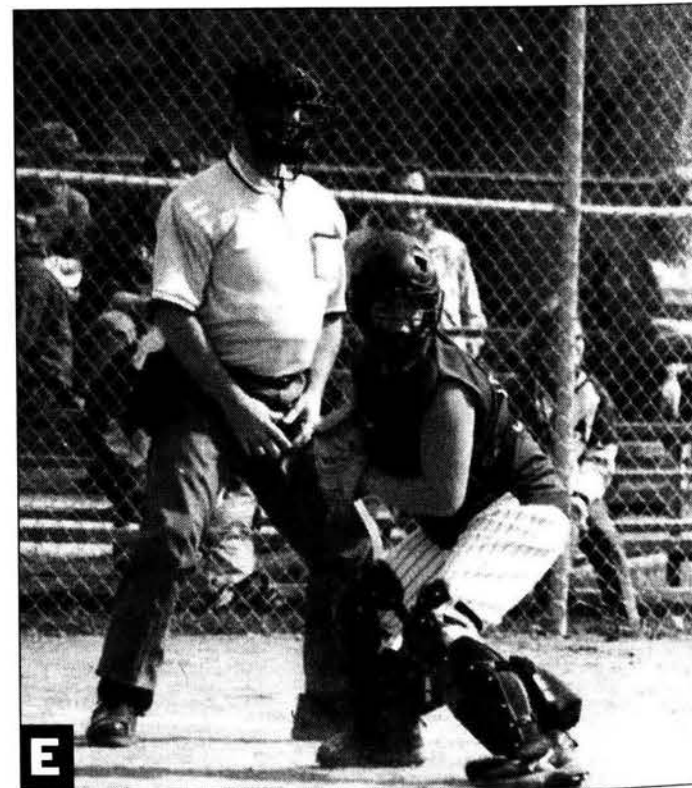
B



C



D



E

(A) Junior Emily Muskin sends the ball flying during Districts on Oct. 10. She demonstrates the ability that enabled her to qualify for the All-State Class A Second Team. (B) Head coach Kerri Murtaugh directs third base during the Millard South Invite which Central placed first in. (C) Sophomore Kelsey Ratigan slides into home base to add up another point in the Millard South Invite. (D) Sophomore Ashley Wilds makes a play at first base during Districts. The team placed first in the tournament. (E) Sophomore Alison Hess gets ready to pick off a runner trying to steal second base. Hess was awarded All-State Honorable Mention for the season.

Photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

## Head coach awarded state recognition

By Doug Meigs

Softball head coach Kerri Murtaugh was awarded the Metro Football Coach of the Year award following her most successful year working with Central's team.

"I was extremely pleased," she said. "It's a nice honor and recognition, but it's through the success of the girls that I received the honor so the success should be aimed toward them."

Murtaugh has been the Eagles

head coach for the past six years. She began working with the team while playing softball on an athletic scholarship at UNO during her senior year.

This was the first year the team went to State under her coaching.

"It was a momentous experience; there is not a bigger tournament in the state," she said. "It was a great finish to a good year."

Because her father (administrator Paul Semrad) had been at

Central for some time, she already had connections to the school prior to taking the position.

During her first year as coach she was required to have a certified staff member work with her on the team, so Semrad served as part of the team that first year.

Other coaches on the team include JV coach Scott Wilson, assistant coach Cindy Semrad (her sister) and assistant coach Mindy Suing.

"They are extremely support-

ive and I think we all share a similar vision for the team," she said.

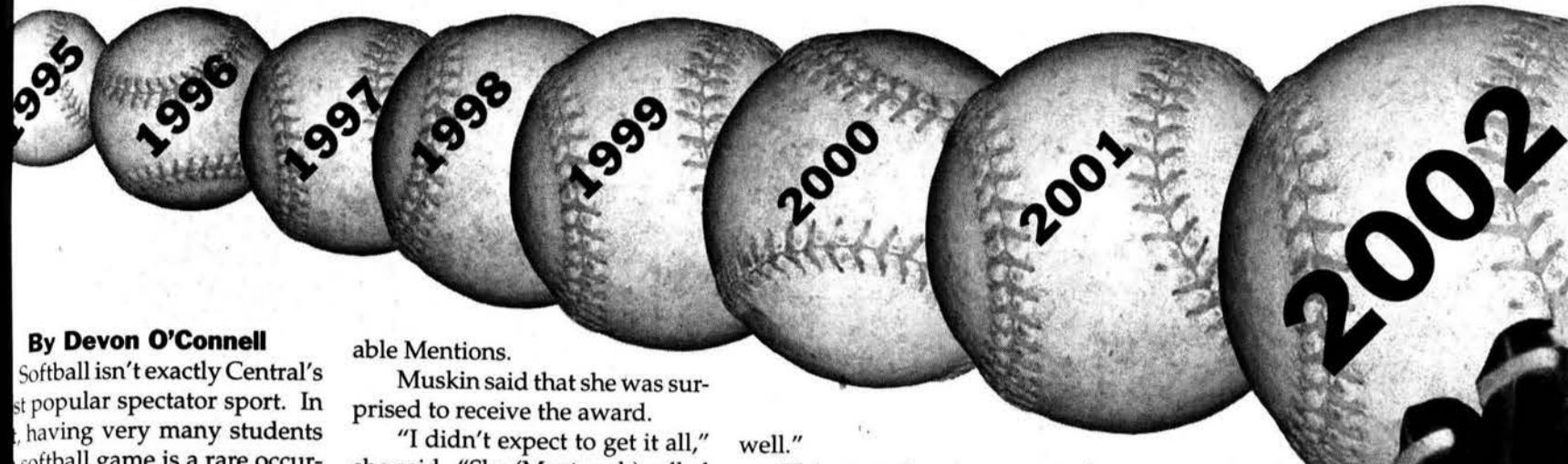
Murtaugh said she plans to continue to coach the team for at least one more year.

However, she is currently looking for a different position (she is currently a second grade teacher at Liberty Elementary). She said that right now she would like to work in an administrative position.

"Central is definitely an option," she said.

# Eagles soar to new heights

The past season was the most successful year ever for CHS softball. The last time the Eagles even made it to State was back in 1995. That was before the current head coach (Kerri Murtaugh) had even taken over and before many of the current team members were even out of elementary school. However, although it was the best Central has ever done, the year ended with disappointment at State.



By Devon O'Connell

Softball isn't exactly Central's most popular spectator sport. In fact, having very many students watch a softball game is a rare occurrence. Even during the most successful season in the school's history, a dismal amount of people witnessed the team's accomplishments.

These girls don't have diehard crowds (except parents). There are no "front-line fans," no horns, no flags, no pom-poms, no chants, no student section. They don't play for fans; they play for themselves.

Back in August, head softball coach Kerri Murtaugh dreamed of victory. Even she couldn't predict how well the team would do throughout the season.

Districts and State, making history as the most successful softball team Central has ever had.

Murtaugh won the Coach of the Year award, and four players received All-State and All-Metro honors.

Senior pitcher Jenny Miller was named to the All-Nebraska Second Team, All-State Class A Second Team, and the All-Metro Conference.

Junior Emily Muskin, who is second in the state in steals, was also named to the All-State Class A Second Team. Sophomores Alison Hess and Darcy Rutherford received Class-A Honor-

able Mentions.

Muskin said that she was surprised to receive the award.

"I didn't expect to get it all," she said. "She (Murtaugh) called me the night before, and I was kind of shocked to find out."

Statistically, I guess I deserved it, but I don't know, it still seemed kind of weird."

Hess and Rutherford also said they didn't expect to receive any type of softball honors.

"It was kind of a surprise because I am only a sophomore," Hess said.

1995 was the last time Central went anywhere near as far. At that time, Diane Miller was the head coach.

Millard North beat the Eagles 2-0 in the first round, but they bounced back to win the second game

against Westside 4-3. Central was eliminated in the next game however with a 13-3 loss to Millard South.

The changes made during the off season were apparent.

Central went from a 12-16 mediocre team, to a 27-8 contender.

Last year's season ended two games into Districts, with a 9-7 loss to Millard West, followed by a 4-0 loss to Northwest.

"We really came together as a team this year," Darcy Rutherford said. "Most of the players were returning starters, so we all knew each other and played together

well." This year, the season started on a high note. Central won its first tournament, the South High Invitational, by defeating Omaha Bryan 4-1 in the championship game.

The Eagles were on a 7-0 streak until they dropped their first game 2-1 to Elkhorn. Two games later, Central lost 3-5 to Millard West.

The next game pitted the team against rival Omaha Burke.

Going in 9-2, the Eagles were off to their best start in some time. Seven innings later, Central won the game 3-2.

The game was a huge momentum builder, sending the team on a 6-0 run, racking up a huge 1-0 win over powerhouse Lincoln Southeast.

Central lost its third game 3-1 however to eight-time state champion Papillion LaVista.

Things seemed to go downhill after the loss.

After two victories against Millard North and Bryan, the Eagles dropped three straight to Burke, Beatrice and Ralston.

"Around the middle of the season, we started stumbling, and we weren't really winning the games we should have been," Hess said. "But we picked it back up at the end of the season."

Central did so by winning the Millard South Invitational in three games by defeating Lincoln East 3-2.

## Districts

Going into Districts, Murtaugh said she felt confident

that the team would do well.

It already had an incredible season and was seeded first in its district.

Murtaugh said that a key to winning this year was Central's district assignments. In previous years the team had always been paired up against tougher teams.

On the bright sunny day at the Kelley Softball Complex, Central annihilated its competition and won the A-3 district finals to clinch a berth in the State competition.

## State

Lincoln Southeast and Burke ended the Eagles season in one day.

However, Central performed above and beyond expectations to finish the year at 27-8, making it to State for the first time since 1995.

Three rounds and six innings into the tournament, the Eagles found themselves on the verge of elimination. Two minutes later, Burke pitcher Nicole Fringer retired the last batter. The game, the season and the dreams were over.

However, Central had gone where no other Eagle team had before.

## STATISTICS

Season: 27 - 8

Post State : 4th

Pre-Districts: 6th

Number of All-Metro Players: 1

Number of All-State Recognitions: 4

Returning Players Next Year: 10

# Pitcher throws toward goal

By Doug Meigs

Senior Jenny Miller is an all-around pitcher. She pitched long before she began playing high school softball.

As co-captain during her fourth year on the Varsity team, she made All-State, All-Nebraska, All-Conference, All-Metro and All-Division. Although she said she has been playing since she was in kindergarten, she just stopped pitching.

"When I first started pitching, I hated it. Then I quit for a year," she said. "I'm glad I got back into it because I never thought I would

be that good."

That was ten years ago. She started playing back when she lived in Fort Calhoun. Her mother coached a local select team, the Fort Calhoun Phantoms, so she has always been around softball, even when she wasn't playing.

It was her mother's team that convinced her to continue her pitching. She said she really looked up to the pitchers on the team. Now she's at the point to take her career to the next level.

"I want to go on to college and play softball," she said.

Miller said she has been talk-

ing to a lot of coaches from Nebraska schools along with St. Cloud State in Minnesota among others. However, she said her preference is to stay in state.

After a recent visit to Kearney, she said her decision has been pretty much cemented. Kearney will be the next and possibly final step in a softball career that Miller said has been a building block process.

"Freshman year I was pitching and I had never pitched in high school in my life," she said. "Then this year, my senior year, we won Districts and went to

State. Even though it took four years, I've been waiting for it. We finally made it."

Miller attributes much of her success to the support of her parents. Both her parents have been involved in youth athletics, her mother with the softball team and her father with a select volleyball team in Fort Calhoun.

"They got me mentally focused," she said. "They gave advice for what to do and how to keep the other players focused."

She said they told her to take it one pitch and one inning at a time. So that's what she did.

Senior Jenny Miller demonstrates the proper throwing technique. She has been pitching for the Eagles for the past four years

Infographic by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER



## KEY PLAYERS

The following players were the starters for the 2002 Varsity season.



Jenny Miller  
Pitcher



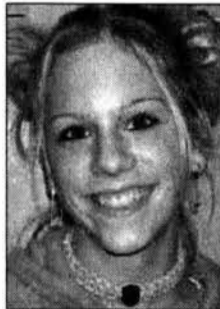
Liz Davis  
Outfielder



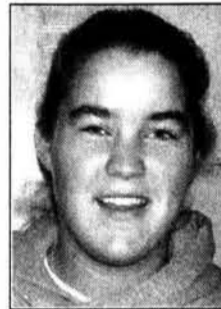
Emily Muskin  
Outfielder



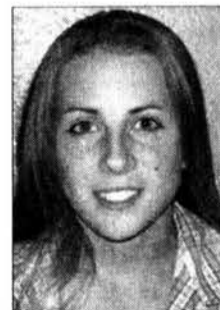
Kate Muldoon  
Third baseman



Darcy Rutherford  
Infielder



Alison Hess  
Catcher



Kelsey Ratigan  
Designated Hitter



Allison Rutherford  
Outfielder



Ashley Wilds  
First Baseman

# ONE OF THE GIRLS

JOHN



LARGE

A REGISTER reporter, John Owens-Ream, spent an awkward three days practicing and performing with the CHS Pom Squad. The process culminated in Owens-Ream going onto the field and strutting his stuff during an actual football game.



The pom squad members have to hook arms while performing this particular cheer. Owens-Ream hangs onto junior Kylie Zacharia as he tries to maintain his balance and composure in spite of his embarrassment



All photos by JILLIAN RISAVI/ THE REGISTER

(ABOVE LEFT) Owens-Ream shows off some of the jumping ability he has developed while practicing with the pom squad (ABOVE RIGHT) Owens-Ream kicks in the kick line at a recent home game. Zacharia laughs at Owens-Ream.

## By John Owens-Ream

I don't know which is more bruised, my muscles or my ego.

I joined Pom Squad for three days. I did everything from practicing with them before school to hanging out with them after school. I even performed with them at the Millard West football game. I never felt so out of place in my life.

Like the Pope at a nudist colony, or a stalker in the Vatican, I conspicuously did not fit in with the other 19 members of the group, most of whom were half my size yet could still out jump, out kick and certainly out dance me.

As I made my way up from the boys locker room before the first practice, I paused in front of the door. I glanced around wondering if I still had time to drop out.

Or maybe I could ask them to just let me sit in on their practice and not actually do it. Or maybe I could squeeze through the window of the locker room and run far, far away.

Actual thoughts like this were running through my head. When I walked into practice, however, the group couldn't have treated me kinder. Practicing at such an ungodly early hour (7 a.m.) many of them weren't even awake enough to notice that I was there.

While we were doing stretches, one of the girls raised her leg in such a way that she was showing a little bit more than what is school appropriate.

"Watch out, there's a guy here," one of her friends warned her.

"Well in that case..." she said as she laughed and turned to wards me raising her leg again. We all laughed and I turned away blushing like a 12-year-old.

The atmosphere was so informal that hardly a second went by without someone cracking a fairly off-color joke. It felt like a fun little social club up until we started actually practicing the kick-line.

Then it felt like boot camp. I was informed that the kick-line was the easiest of their dance routines, but that only made me feel more inadequate while I struggled to keep up.

I never got all-the-way around to learning the names of the kicks (I called them "arm things," "low, medium, and high things," "fan things," and "leapy things" but the one jump I did learn the name of was the infamous Russian.

Although I did well for someone accustomed to trying to do the splits while simultaneously jumping as high as he could into the air. This was no consolation to my butt as I landed, SMACK, on

the floor.

Eventually I became quite good at the Russians, for a guy. I even began to feel proud of how well I could do the jumps. When Lynne, one of the captains, commented that mine were making hers look bad, I began worrying that maybe I was getting too good at them. What would it say about my manhood if I were too good at Pom Squad?

Blam, I landed hard on the floor during the middle of another jump, bruising my lower leg again. I stopped worrying about getting "too-good" from then on.

Not that I ever had a chance to begin with. When most of the girls were doing high kicks that ran parallel to their bodies, my high kicks were perpendicular.

I don't remember Geometry that well, but I think they had about 90 degrees on me.

And it showed. After the game a few parents laughingly told me that, "my jumps were good, but my kicks needed a little work."

But I didn't let that get me down; I had survived one of the most embarrassing and painful experiences of my life, and actually managed to enjoy it a little bit.

I did what no other male has ever done before, or may ever do again. I lived every man's dream; I infiltrated Pom Squad and lived to tell about it. Barely.

# High schools harvest older football players

## By Andrew Neal

Move over! Here comes the herd.

They're large and muscular and you will probably end up going head-to-head with them at some point in your life. Especially if you are an athlete in Nebraska, the home of the harvested athlete.

They are those athletes that are bred for fame. As a football player, you've seen them across the line from you. As a wrestler, you have had your face smashed into a mat by their huge bodies. As a baseball player, you have had home run after home run sent flying by you at two hundred miles per hour, right off their bats.

I am talking about the high school athletes who are larger than life. The ones that have little kids lined up wanting autographs after the game because everyone knows they'll be turning professional one day.

Every one is All-State, the homecoming king, the guy who gets all of the girls and not to mention wins every big game.

All right, I'll admit it. I'm jealous. It's just not fair. Why am I not one of those guys? Maybe there are a few good reasons.

First, it's all my parents' fault. It really is. See, if my parents just did what many parents do out in the suburban schools in the rest of America, I'd be living it up.

Honestly, couldn't my parents see that I have the athletic talent to become a star? All they had to do was hold me back one year. That's the common trend now in most affluent athletic powerhouse communities.

Those parents out there really care about their children. They hold them back a year so that they have better opportunities. They are a year older, more mature and a heck of a lot bigger.

To think, I could have been one of them. Instead, I'm the one they're beating up on. The 15-year-old junior going against the 18-year-old junior with more facial hair than I have on my entire body.

Why didn't my parents care about me enough to do that one simple task? Because they care about me more than that. They know that sports are not everything.

There are other ways to get to college than an athletic scholarship. So why hold me back? I wonder if the parents in those suburban communities ever thought of that.

The problem is that some parents care more about their sons or daughters playing a sport and being the best at it than anything else.

I'm not blaming the parents or the athletes.

I have seen enough evidence for me to decide my opinion on how things are different in the suburban schools.

Kids are bred for a certain sport. The parents may look at each other and say, "Well, I'm a big, muscular guy and she has the quick feet of a dancer, I guess we have ourselves the next Nebraska I-Back."

Wake up ignorant, self-righteous parents! This is not about making a new breed of cows.

It's about a human being.

Get off the idea that you can be famous when they make it big.

You want us to think that you are doing it for

them. Take off the mask and be real for a second. I'll repeat it again for those of you who didn't understand it the first time: sports are not everything.

Another thing that has been proof to me of the "breeding" process is the fact that some children are actually born to play a sport while growing up. Many parents in suburbia make their children play a sport, whether they enjoy it or not.

Kids play on the same team from the time they're five to the time they start their freshmen year of high school. Little Johnny might not like baseball, but we don't want to ruin his parents' dream of glory do we?

That wouldn't be fair to them, would it? After all, they are the ones that bred him for baseball. He was the school's top pitcher and she was the state's best

hitter.

That must mean that Johnny will skip college and go play professional baseball. Then the money will start rolling back in to mom and dad.

Parents of suburbia, please get off your high pedestal of unrealistic expectations and look at what you are doing. You are ruining not just your child's life, but others, too.

Look at one example, Chris Weinke.

Given, he may not have been bred for a sport, but he was older during college than the rest of his

opponents.

This actually does relate to high school athletes because he was older than the others he played with and against, exactly like those bred athletes in high school.

Weinke went to play baseball and when that didn't work out for him, he came back and played a little college football for Florida State.

I feel bad for him because he was a 28-year-old senior, but I feel worse for the teams who had to play him.

He always had a maturity advantage over the opposition. Believe it or not, there is a big difference between 28 and 22.

His maturity and life experience did play a role in him winning the Heisman Trophy.

It just was not fair to all of the other athletes who were so young, but still had to go up against him. And it's not fair for a much bigger, older teenager to play another teenager who is two years younger.

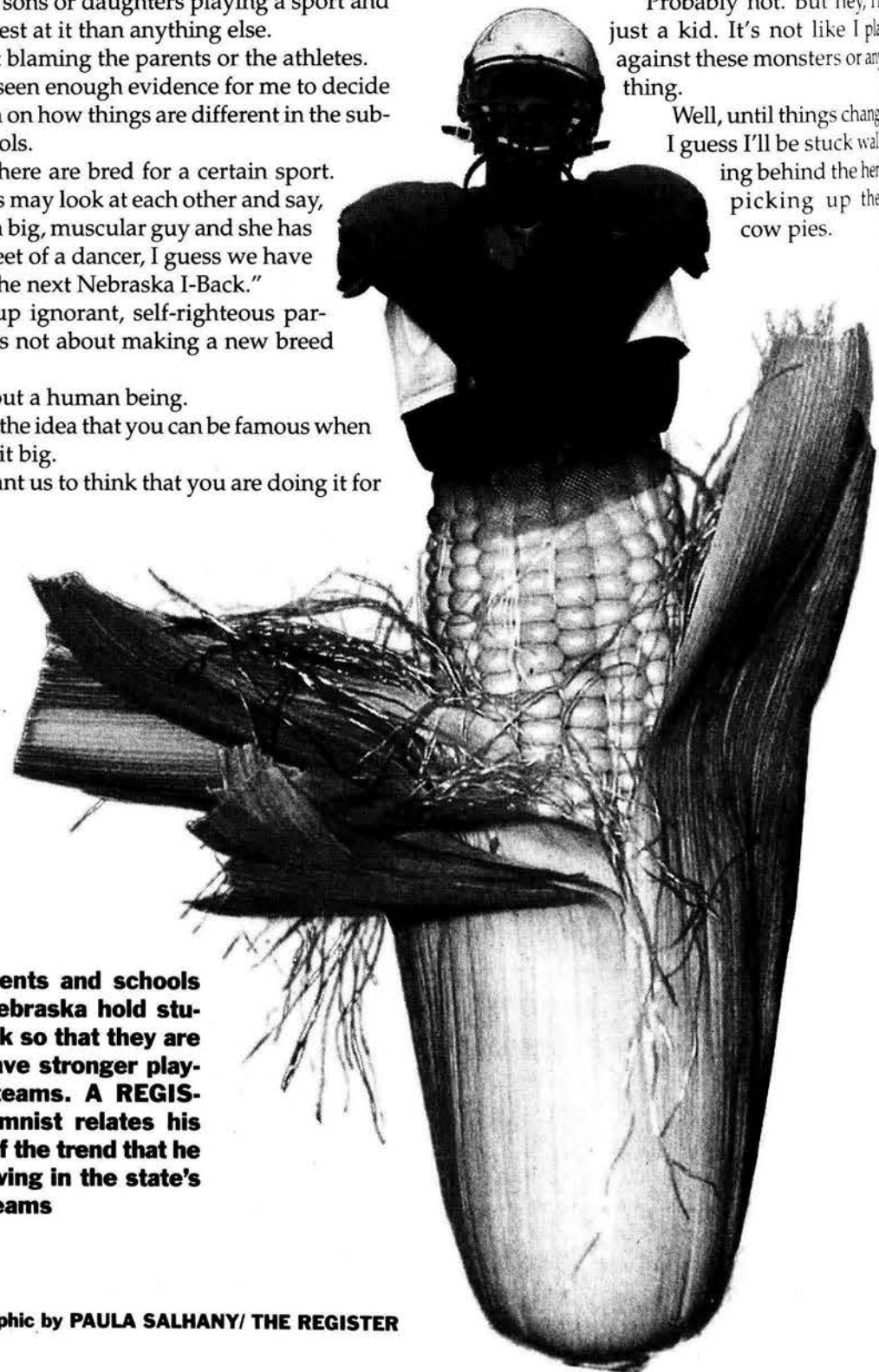
Now, do the parents see what they are doing to all athletes?

Probably not. But hey, I'm just a kid. It's not like I play against these monsters or anything.

Well, until things change. I guess I'll be stuck walking behind the herd, picking up their cow pies.

Many parents and schools around Nebraska hold students back so that they are able to have stronger players and teams. A REGISTER columnist relates his disfavor of the trend that he sees growing in the state's athletic teams

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER



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# Junior manager enjoys job, dreams of coaching

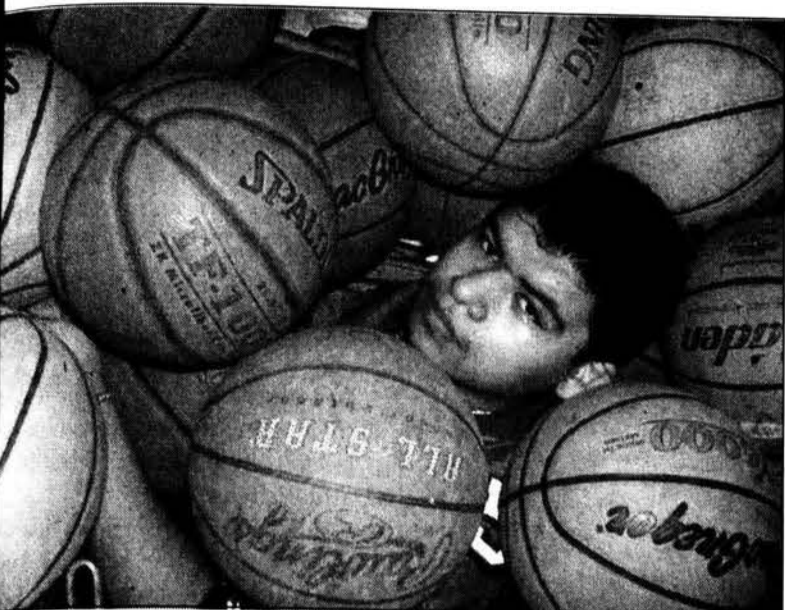


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/ THE REGISTER

Junior Andres Tapia has been helping manage the basketball team's equipment for the past two years. Now he says that maybe he wants to go into coaching as a career.

By Andrew Neal

Junior Andres Tapia spends his afternoons during the winter at basketball practice. He spends the weekends at an endless amount of basketball games. He is a vital part of the team, but he is not a player. He is the team manager.

When the basketball season starts, Tapia will enter his second season as the team manager. He will spend his time sweeping floors, running the clock, keeping score and anything else that is asked of him.

When Tapia came to Central, he had no plans of helping with the basketball team. In fact, he wanted to play for the team and play football. Last year, when he realized that he couldn't make the team, head coach Eric Behrens offered Tapia the job as team manager. He readily accepted the offer.

"I figured that if I couldn't play, this would be the second best thing," he said.

Through the past year, Tapia says that he has developed a strong relationship with most of the players. He said that they have a relationship of mutual respect.

"I'm just like regular friends with most of them," he said.

His work is hard and lacks prestige, but it is something that he really enjoys doing.

"Sometimes I'll get down and think that I'm not really doing anything for the team," he said.

Tapia said that there will be certain things throughout the season that bring him back up, such

as daily interaction with the players and knowing that he is needed.

"When they come and ask about their statistics and I can tell them, that feels really good," he said, "That is when I realize that I am doing something for the team."

Regardless of whether he feels essential or not, many players say that Tapia is very important.

Junior Davon White said Tapia helps the team in many ways that he may not understand.

"He's become like another family member to me and the other guys," White said.

Another person that he has built a close relationship with is Behrens. Behrens said Tapia works very hard to do anything

he can to help the team.

"Andres is always trying to do anything that will give us a hand," he said.

Tapia attributes much of his passion for helping the team to the coach who has since become somewhat of a father figure to himself and the rest of the team. In turn, he said he plans on coaching basketball later in his life.

"He's really helped me out a lot," he said. "If I wasn't here, I'd probably be off getting in trouble."

Considering the setbacks in his dream to play basketball for the Eagles, there seems to be a purpose in this new twist for Tapia.

He said that now he has developed a desire to coach basketball at some point in his life.

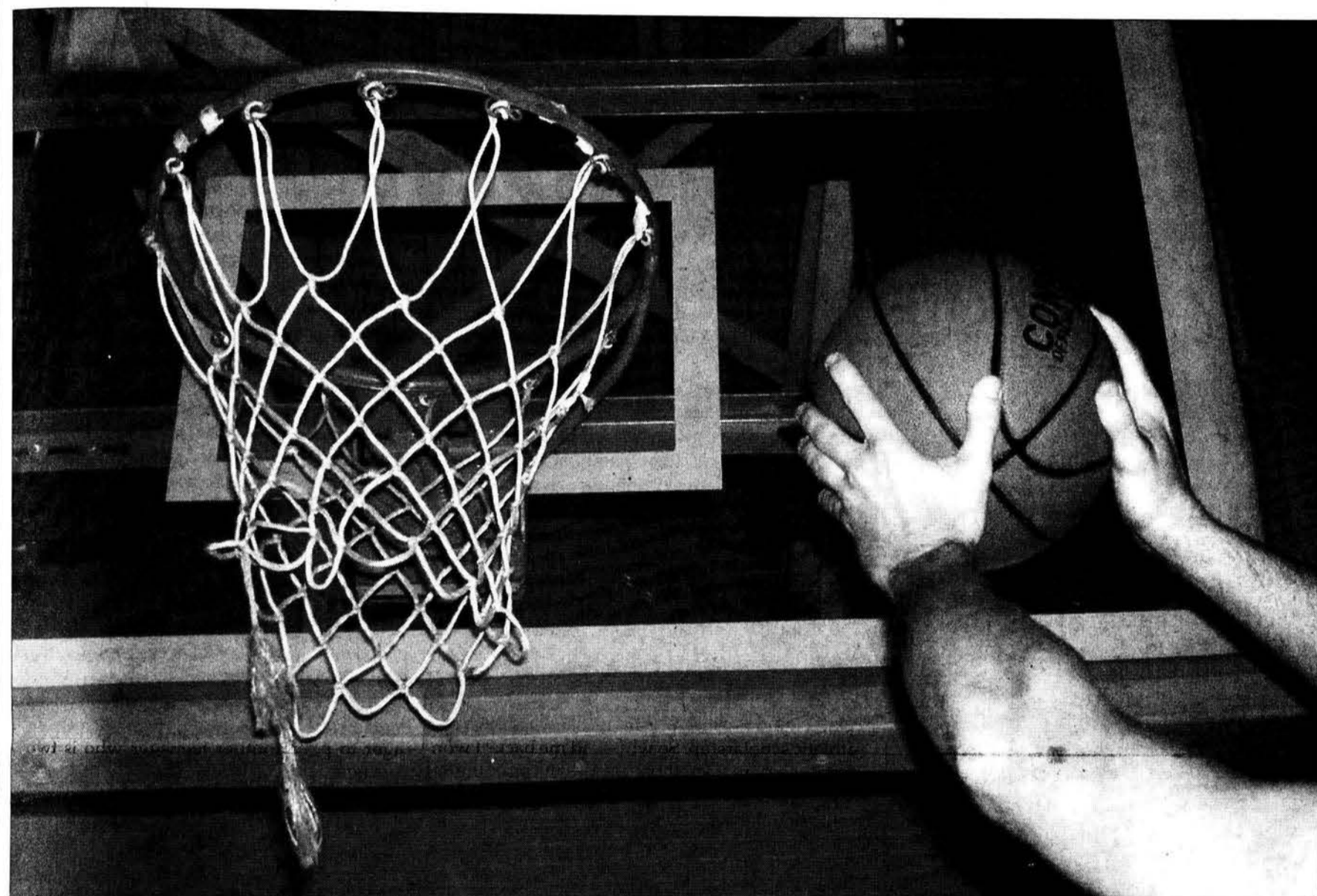


Photo Illustration by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

The boys and girls basketball teams are projected to rebound from last year's quick departure from the State tournament by having an even stronger season this year.

## Bouncin' back on the rebound

By Devon O'Connell

A new era of Central Basketball was ushered in last year when fans witnessed stellar performances from both the boys and girls teams. However, disappointments in the State tournament left both teams hungry for next year's season.

The last time the boys team made it to State was 1997. That year, they were eliminated in the second round.

The girls team made a previous appearance in the State tournament during the 2001 season. It was eliminated in the first round of the tournament.

### Boys Basketball

Last year's boys basketball team was one of the most successful in recent memory. The Eagles finished the regular season 19-4, only to be beaten 80-74 by Lincoln High in the first round of the State playoffs.

Head Coach Eric Behrens, along with several of his players said they believe that last year's disappointing finish never should have happened.

The game ended after Central committed three technical fouls, one at the end of the third quarter, and two with 1:40 left in overtime. Five players fouled out during the course of the game, and sophomore starter Cortney Grixby suffered a game-ending ankle injury in the first quarter.

"There was a lot of freak stuff that happened last year," Behrens said. "With Cortney's ankle, and the bad calls, it seemed like all the odds were against us."

The loss was hard on the entire team. Junior Rico Washington was the player who was called for the first technical foul in overtime. Washington said he was upset with the result of the game.

The team had played hard that game and the entire season, and to lose the game on account of foul trouble was anything but uplifting.

"I thought it was a bad call, but I sucked it up and took the blame for the penalty and the loss," Washington said. "He (Behrens) wasn't mad, he just told me to relax, keep my cool and keep playing my best."

This year Head Coach Eric Behrens said he hopes to fill the gaps left by graduating seniors, and take his team to the State championship.

The team began conditioning after Labor Day, and several players attended tournaments in Kansas City and at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO).

One of the main problems that Behrens said will affect the team this year is the loss of graduates Schyler Thomas and Kris Kuhn.

"What they (Kuhn and Thomas) really contributed last year was leadership," Behrens said. "They were in the system longer and were more used to the game. There isn't really anything that they could do that any of the guys playing now can't."

Kuhn, a Second Team All Metro player, went on to play Division II basketball with Robert Morris College in Illinois. Thomas, a Second Team All-Metro and McDonald's All-American, graduated to play at Kansas State University.

Behrens said that senior leadership may be a problem this year. Seniors Adam Olsen and Zach Kruse are the only two players returning from their junior year, and whether or not they will start is still up in the air.

"Adam and Zach have really improved," Behrens said. "But our strongest leaders and players are juniors."

Those key junior players returning from last year will add to the team's strength this season. Behrens said that talented juniors Rico Washington, Karl White, and Cortney Grixby are the three top players.

Grixby, a point guard, was strong last season. As a sophomore he averaged 10 points a game.

White was an anchor to the team during his sophomore season.

White was the third leading scorer behind Kuhn and Washington at State and led the team in scoring during Districts.

"I've been working hard, trying to improve my shooting," White said. "I shoot about one to 2,000 shots a day now."

Washington makes his return this year as one of the strongest links on the Eagles team. He averaged six points a game last season and led the team in assists.

"The work ethic on the team has changed the most from last year and the attitudes toward the

game have improved a lot," Washington said.

Another key player this year should be Junior Davon White. Last year, White didn't see much playing time. But, over the summer he has gotten progressively better.

"I've been working out a lot, shooting, working on my defense and speed," White said.

As for starting positions, Behrens said he isn't sure who will start, but White (Davon) will definitely play an important role on the team.

"Davon is one of the most improved players this year," Behrens said. "Over the summer he has been working hard and the results are showing with his defense and speed."

### Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team ran into a wall last year when they lost 45-31 to Lincoln Southeast to be eliminated in the second round of the State tournament.

Coming off of a 54-46 first round victory over fourth seeded Lincoln Northeast in which junior Crystal Howard had a season high 27 points, the team couldn't find an excuse for Central's shooting woes.

Head basketball coach Michele Roberts said that the game didn't go the team's way.

"We played poorly," Roberts said. "We lost our focus, and the game didn't go in our favor."

Howard, the leading scorer, was held to 6 points and was just 3 for 17 from the field.

"It was an off day," Howard said. "I don't really know what happened. Our shots just weren't going in."

Even though several key players have graduated, Roberts said she believes that this year will be better than last.

The players Roberts referred to were Lauren Pauba and Holly Greenamyre.

"The main thing Holly and Lauren gave to us last year is height," Roberts said. "We are really going to miss their post play."

Freshman Cherylle Leffal will be providing most of the Eagle's height this year.

"We are really impressed with Cherylle's abilities," Roberts said. "She'll be great this year."

Other key players this year are Morgan Chatmon, Keonna Williams, Becca Pauba, and AnAdrian Booker.

## Student transfers for more play time

By Andrew Neal

Central lost a promising Varsity basketball prospect this year when junior David Rhee transferred to Northwest. Rhee claimed that his move was a result of a lack of playing time and a better chance for Varsity time at Northwest.

Last year, Rhee played limited time for the JV team and thought he wouldn't have the opportunity to play at the Varsity level this year.

"I feel like I can play well enough somewhere else right now," he said.

Rhee said that it wasn't due to anything that happened with the Central basketball program, there was just so much talent and competition that he knew he probably wouldn't play.

"Central is like the best place to go and play basketball," Rhee said. "When I first came here, I thought that it would be good for me to play, but I've just realized that I will have more of an opportunity at a different school."

He said that if there is a chance for him to play in college, he needed to receive more of the spotlight so that colleges could see his potential. Rhee chose Northwest over other schools because of its location and the opportunity for him there.

He said that he started to think about transferring at the beginning of this school year and finalized his decision at the end of September. Rhee informed head coach Eric Behrens about his idea.

Behrens said that he was disappointed to see Rhee leave, but wished him the best.

"I was actually shocked by the news at first, but I understand that it was a choice he had to make," Behrens said. "I just wish him the best of luck."

Rhee said that Behrens called the head basketball coach at Northwest to inform him of Rhee's transfer. Rhee also said that Behrens put in a good word for him.

Northwest's head basketball coach Jeff Stallworth acknowledged that Behrens did call him, but did not comment on the specifics of the conversation. Stallworth also declined to comment on his position of students transferring due to playing time in a sport.

"Sometimes you have to think about yourself," Rhee said. "This is only high school. I plan on playing when I'm in college, so I was just trying to do what was right for me."

Behrens also declined to state his opinion on athlete transfers.

"It is the athlete's choice to make the change and it is not my job to say what is right or wrong."

Austin Henley, a teammate of Rhee, said that the move would effect the team, but certainly not ruin it.

"He was a good player and all, and I hope he does well, but it isn't going to change how we play," Henley said.

Central's basketball team still has a strong outlook for this season, and Henley said that Rhee would probably strengthen the Northwest team.

"I'm just worried about even making the team first, but then I would like to help the team in anyway I can," he said.

Rhee also mentioned that there were no hard feelings toward the any of the coaching staff or players.

"They are really great guys and the coaches are some of the best, so it really wasn't about anyone there or the program," he said. "It was my choice. My parents were both supportive of me, but it was all up to me."

Rhee is not the only one to transfer out of Central for sports-related situations.

Students transfer in and out of schools all across Nebraska for athletic reasons. Central itself has relatively frequent number of such transfers.

David Horne, for example, transferred into Central from Prep and had an extremely successful season. Other transfers include individuals involved in any or every sport Central offers. Rhee does not know what will happen at Northwest, or if he will even make the team, but he is sure that he made the right decision.



Rhee

## SPORTS

Monday, November 18, 2002

Page 40  
The RegisterSenior's season  
cut short due  
to leg injury

By Doug Meigs

Central's volleyball season ended short of going to State this year. Senior Robyn Sorensen's season ended over a month before then.

After four years of starting for the Eagles, Sorensen's career was cut short in the middle of her last year due to a stress fracture in her fibula, right above her ankle.

Despite being out for a large part of her senior year, she still broke a string of previous Central volleyball records. She had the most career digs (578), most career service aces (143) and most career kills (713, breaking the previous record by 90), along with other distinctions.

"It (Sorensen's injury) was a huge downer," coach Jodi Dierks said. "I only had two seniors to begin with so it took a lot of experience off of our court. She did a bit of everything."

The injury occurred during a tournament against Papillion. But she kept playing for the next two weeks until she was literally unable to walk after the second game of the tournament against Skutt.

"I would lay in bed at night and I couldn't sleep because it hurt so bad," she said. "I would lay in bed and cry, but I knew I had to play."

Dierks told her to go see a doctor about the injury after the third game of the tournament. She said she probably would have still played in the final game if the doctor visit didn't take the rest of the day.

The doctors at Clarkson's sports medicine clinic x-rayed the leg and found a bump. She said it didn't really look like all that much, but they wanted to do further scanning.

They went to get a bone scan at Clarkson where they injected a radioactive fluid in the bone. The doctors said that if the image turned up green, then it was broken.

The screen lit up pure green. The technician wouldn't give a diagnosis, but Sorensen knew exactly what was wrong.

The doctors told her she had to stay off the leg for about eight weeks. The hope was that she'd recover in six, but even then the season would be over.

"At first when I got the message I cried a week or two, but by now I kind of accepted it," she said. "It had to end somewhere."

## THE F WORD

Because of new rules on sportsmanship, the NSAA has given new meaning to the word foul. Now, there are consequences for unsportsmanlike conduct.

By Doug Meigs

The "f-word" has taken on an entirely new meaning over the past year in Nebraska high school athletics.

New sportsmanship bylaws were added to Nebraska Schools Activities Association's (NSAA) rule book in the spring of 2001. Previous to that point, there were no regulations or fouls (the "f" word) for unsportsmanlike conduct at sporting events.

Freshman Jamie Peck said he has seen a lot of poor sportsmanship. He currently plays football for Central, but while playing in junior high last year, he said he saw players attempt to injure each other or even tackle referees.

"I think it (NSAA's sportsmanship rule) is good, if you play like that you shouldn't be able to play," Peck said.

However, sophomore Mark Pommells said he doesn't think the rule was very necessary.

"I guess its good, but I'm good natured anyway," he said.

Since the rule was instated 222 ejections were reported (191 athletes/31 coaches), while 200 of the 326 member schools had no ejections. Volleyball, girls golf, boys tennis, girls tennis, girls swimming and girls' track had zero ejections. Male athletes had 177 of the ejections/female athletes had 14 ejections.

According to NSAA rule, unsportsmanlike conduct consists of "fighting, verbal abuse...racial or ethnic slurs, inappropriate comments or actions...obscene gestures...taunting, trash talk, baiting, cheating, throwing or abusing equipment...unauthorized leaving of a team bench area," along with similar offenses.

The penalty is to sit out for the rest of the game that the foul was called in as well as the next.

With the second year of the legislation underway, Jennifer Hascall, the assistant director of the NSAA, said the changes have made a positive impact across the whole of Nebraska's high school athletics.

Omaha high school soccer referee Doug Epps said he thinks the rules will greatly improve youth athletics.

"If you've got one guy who won't behave, it gives you a chance to take him off the field and a game to think about it," Epps said.

Although soccer already had sportsmanship rules integrated into the sport in the form of yellow and red cards, he said the NSAA ruling made it effective uniformly across all high school sports.

Epps said that every sport will have some differences in regards to rules, but that's due to the nature of the sport.

"In the last five years it (poor sportsmanship) has gotten worse," he said. "I can't say that soccer has because we've always had that rule in place. But overall sportsmanship seems to be going downhill."

Epps began refereeing youth games in '86 and has been working with high school players since '88. He said he saw a red card his first year, but never in an under 12 game till '89. Now he said it's commonplace.

Epps said that unsportsmanlike conduct has worked its way down from college and professional play into the youth games. However, the NCAA is trying to remedy the problem with a recent zero tolerance policy towards vulgarity. The NSAA has always had such a policy, just not in regards to poor sportsmanship until recently.

"We try to take the classroom to the field, the majority of red cards are for foul language," he said.

Hascall said the rules came about through the cooperation of a number of different parties. The rule had to be voted on by each administrator from every school from Nebraska's six school districts.

"The proposal was spearheaded by the NCA and the NSIAA, but the member schools had to submit proposals before it could change," she said. "They came together and thought it was a good idea. I think it's been pretty positive all the way across the state."

## EJECTIONS BY SPORTS

**Football: 60**  
54 athletes, 6 coaches

**Softball: 5**  
3 athletes, 2 coaches

**Boys Basketball: 22**  
2 athletes, 6 coaches

**Wrestling: 27**  
23 athletes, 4 coaches

**Boys Swimming: 1**  
1 athlete

**Boys Golf 3**  
3 athletes

**Baseball 8**  
4 athletes, 4 coaches

**Boys Track 2**  
2 athletes

**Boys Soccer 74**  
72 athletes, 2 coaches

Information courtesy of NSAA

From HORNE, page 33

## Alumnus able to live up to expectations of the I-Back position

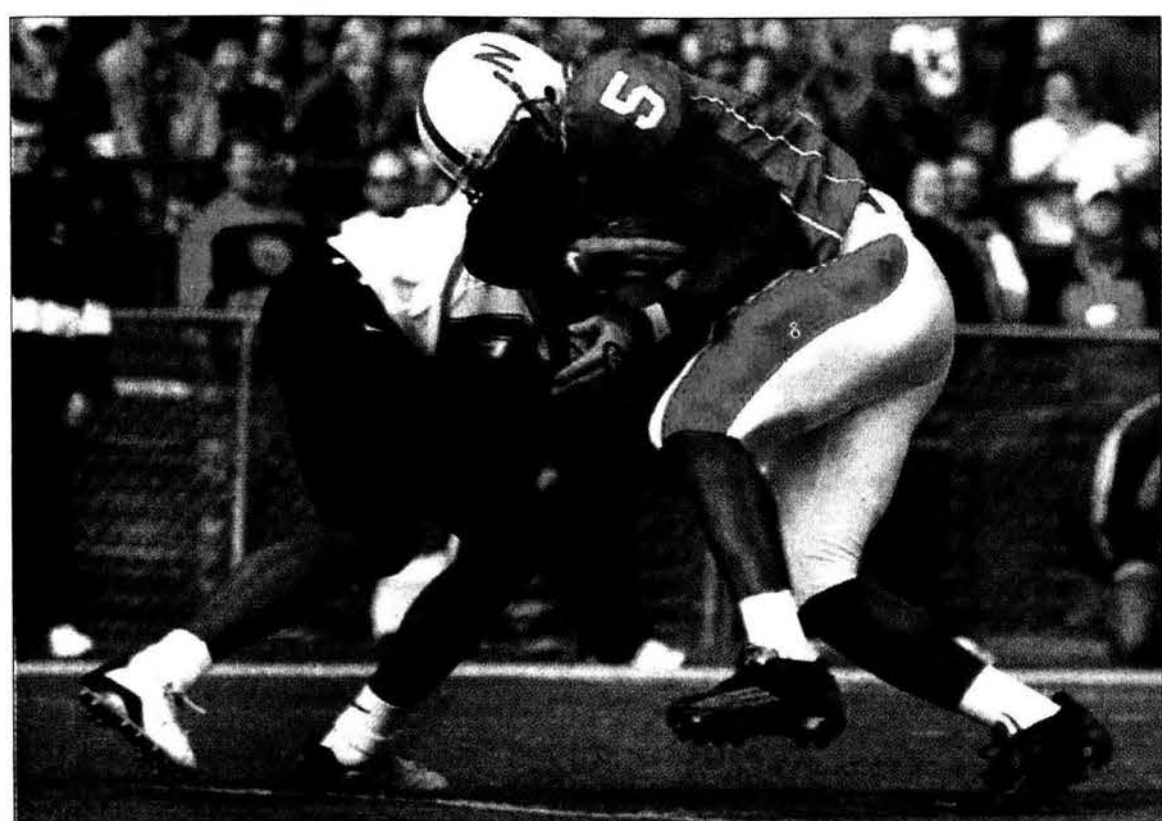


Photo courtesy of UNL Sports Information  
UNL true freshman David Horne battles through a tackle during the game versus the University of Missouri at Columbia. Horne has rushed for over 500 yards this year.

resigned himself to not playing next year. Gillespie said the coaches had planned to use Horne if the opportunity presented itself. As it turned out, it did.

The coaches wanted to give him a chance to see what he could do and so far he said they are happy with the results.

"I don't want to compare him to the other I-backs, but he had something that we thought might get the running game going," he said.

Although Gillespie said that he hasn't seen any hard feelings between the I-backs, McMenamin said that he would not be surprised if there was.

He said that I-Backs are generally some of the most talented players on a football team. UNL began the year with six players in the I-back position, all with scholarships. With all that talent sitting on the bench, he said there is bound to be some discontent.

"They are used to being the stars of their high school football teams and getting a lot of publicity," he said. "It would be especially tough for some I-backs to be beat out by a freshman coming up."

McMenamin said that the competition for the spot would be based on game performance. But now that Horne and Diedrick are co-number ones, playing time isn't that much of an issue.

"Dahrran is good. They'll always consider him the number one I-back because of his talent," Horne said.

Horne falls in the line of Central's great I-backs. In fact, he is only the second to go into a division of school and begin playing as a true freshman. Ahma Green was the first.

McMenamin said that both Green and Horne freshman years are similar in many ways. Even though he said Green had tougher competition and an unique situation (the starting I-back was suspended and the two below him were injured), while Horne began playing due to talent, both were suddenly thrown into the position over tough competition.

Both took the risk of wasting their first year of eligibility. Green stepped up when he was given the opportunity to play and Horne has done the same.

McMenamin said that if Horne was red-shirted this year, he would have been able to begin next year with a better understanding of the team's system. Not to mention, he would have had the chance to grow stronger, bigger and faster.

But any doubt concerning whether or not skipping the process has been beneficial is out of the question. McMenamin said Horne's chance at field time has given him the opportunity to showcase his talent early and make his position more secure for next year.

"If he can help the team it's probably better that he didn't (red-shirt)," McMenamin said. "He's a team player and he'll do whatever he needs to do for the team."

From TRANSFERS, page 33

Rule makes  
sport more of  
a privilege

passed last spring, one of its primary goals was to prevent athletes from switching schools for athletic reasons.

Central Athletic Director Paul Pennington said he supports the current rule because it also helps to prevent recruiting of athletes from other schools.

He said that some schools illegally recruit, but if the rule were changed there would be no limit to what schools could do.

He also said if students had the chance to switch schools any time, they would go where the best teams were or where their chances of playing were better.

Westside High School potentially could be affected by the rule due to its high number of option enrollment students.

Westside Athletic Director Bob Reznicek said that even though the school has a significant option enrollment population, only a small number of these students actually play Varsity level sports, or option enrolled before the start of their freshman year where they would have full eligibility.

Reznicek said that he was concerned over what would happen if the Maxwell case was successful, meaning that athletes could switch schools and play Varsity level sports immediately.

He suggested that the rule at least have a limitation on the number of times an athlete could transfer.

He agreed with Pennington in that athletics should be considered a privilege, not a right. They both said that athletes have always been considered this way, or coaches would be unable to cut players from a team because each student would have a legal right to play.

Some of Central's top athletes over the past few years have come to Central as the result of a transfer.

Among the most notable cases is that of David Horne, who transferred from Prep to play football.

Horne transferred to have a better chance at getting the attention of college coaches.

As a result of this, Horne became an integral part of the Central team the last few seasons, and now is quickly becoming a star I-Back at UNL.