

Row

Estrogen Brigade

A look at what women can do when given a chance to rock in the music world.

Page 11C

Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi

Admission Lock

The early decision process may seem like a good idea, but some say it is not worth it.

Page 7B



Central Swimming

A look at what the school's swim team is doing to try and get as many people to State as possible.

Page 17C



Pacemaker Winner

Proposed budget cuts threaten district funds

By Doug Meigs

If Gov. Mike Johanns' proposed budget cuts are passed, it is a possibility that students like senior Mac Brush will fail.

The cuts are far from concrete, but if they affect special education, Brush may lose his educational lifeline.

Johanns' recent proposed budget cuts suggest a 10 percent cut to Nebraska's current educational funds. Of the funds, \$230 million will go toward the \$673 million state deficit.

Brush is legally blind and suffers from Retinitis Pigmentosa. He is an honors student, but because of this disability, he must also make use of Central's special education facilities to compensate for his visual impairment.

Central provides him a laptop so he can write the themes required for classes. The school also provides him use of enlargers so he can take tests and complete in-class reading.

"I'd be in big trouble if I didn't have it (the enlarger and laptop)," he said. "I'd probably fail."

Brush said he is thankful for the tools provided by Omaha Public Schools (OPS), but he said it would be unfair if the district couldn't offer the services.

"I'd be kind of angry," he said. "It (the budget cut) is going to really hurt OPS. Disadvantaged students would have to go to other schools where the equipment is available."

OPS school board vice president Sandra Jensen said they would prefer not to cut the budget at all. She said all the programs are already too low on funding. But right now, all she said the board can do is look over the governor's proposal and await the Legislature's final decision.

"We will be looking at all of our options and priorities," Jensen said. "We feel all the courses that we offer are important for students to obtain a well-balanced education."

Regardless, she said the budget cuts will come. It is only a question of how big these cuts will be.

The Dilemma

Education in Nebraska is

stuck between a rock and a hard place. The rock is the \$673 million state deficit straining Nebraska school districts' already stressed budgets. The hard place is the additional budget cuts that will plummet from the state capital building 55 miles away.

"It's very simple, we are already in a situation where we have no money," Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) vice-president and Central Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson said.

Anderson's role with NSEA allows her to witness financial problems first hand. She said teachers from Central as well as OPS approach her everyday worried about their salaries, lives and students.

Anderson said an English teacher from South High was told that her department had \$23 for the rest of the year during a department meeting. The teacher came to Anderson and explained the situation, but there wasn't anything she could do.

The dilemma is just one of the many complaints to support Anderson's hope for more education funding.

"That kind of situation gives an idea of how tight money is, and we are not the only ones," she said.

Everyone is in a bind, she said. Educational funding problems cause conflicts for districts across the nation. In turn, she said it has forced many districts to formulate more creative monetary solutions.

She said some states have begun to close school a month early to save money by not paying teachers. Some have made the school week four days so that they can save on utility costs. However, Anderson would hate to see any of that kind of solution applied to Central.

"It's a very real fear that teachers will not be replaced and that class sizes will skyrocket," she said. "It is a very real fear that there will not be money for text books. It is a very real fear that some sports may be cut."

Given that money making team sports like football or basketball

Proposed cuts are 10 percent of Nebraska's educational funds

— No Child —

LEFT BEHIND



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Educators are faced with the No Child Left Behind Act which requires schools to be accountable for the education of students. Some people say the act is not as virtuous as the thought behind it.

By Paula Salhany

There are reasons why the mention of the No Child Left Behind Act makes senior Craig Novak cringe.

In his eyes, the act looks too much at meeting test standards to judge the ability of students.

"Curriculum will no longer be about learning and increasing knowledge," he said. "It will be about passing state-wide, federally mandated tests."

Nebraska State Education Commissioner Doug Christensen said educators are in a tough spot with the No Child Left Behind Act.

"We want to give students a good education, but we have to follow the law," Christensen said. "We (Neb.) think see **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND** page 5

Alumnus pushes societal envelope to change views

By Doug Meigs

"God hates you," read the slogan plastered across the T-shirt of 27-year-old Central graduate Willie Bogue.

All eyes watched Bogue as he walked through the airport on his way home for Thanksgiving. He said that nearly everyone on the airplane had been hostile towards him, except for one 50-something old man sitting in first class who smiled and laughed.

Bogue was on his way home from Portland, Ore. after beginning Torso Fever, a solo run T-shirt company. The "God hates you" shirt is one of 12 from the first set of shirts depicting offensive statements and images. He said at least 20 more are in the works.

"People like to be offended," he said. "It's kind of fun to have your morals rustled. But Portland is such a 'namby pamby' political environment. It's so middle of the road."

Bogue said people in Portland scoff at anything defying the politically correct status quo. He said some of his shirts have an instant gut reaction, like the image of Hitler holding hands with a small African American girl.

Junior Nick Weidner said he'd wear one of Bogue's shirts. His favorite shirt has the slogan "My other car is your mom," written on it.

"It's not like he's forcing you to buy the shirts, besides, people buy these kind of shirts," Weidner said. "I don't take offense to it. I like jokes about people's moms."

The messages may be offensive, but he said the slogans consist of social commentary. Bogue said he developed many of the concepts in Portland as well as before he went to art school.

After coming to Portland, he said he figured he might as well give the endeavor a shot. He had built the T-shirt presses with his father while he was still living at home, so the start-up cost was low. He just had to have the equipment shipped out.

"Frustration can be a good source of energy," he said. "To start any kind of business, it takes a lot of energy. It (the t-shirts) puts some of these feeling of frustration on the outside see **COMPANY** page 3

Latin facilitator leaves teaching job after being appointed District Judge



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER
James Gleason talks to junior Chantia Bowles on his last day.

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

After a year and a half as Central's Latin facilitator, James T. Gleason taught his last class on Thursday Jan. 9 so that he could begin a new job as a District Court Judge.

Gleason, who taught one first period Latin class everyday, said he had no idea that he would get the job before he was notified on Dec. 27. All he knew was that he was one of 18 different candidates for the position.

Gleason's new job will put him

on the bench at a general jurisdiction court, which means he will judge a wide variety of both civil and criminal cases.

"Anything that someone's got a problem with in the court system, it's heard in the court of general jurisdiction," he said.

Gleason has been practicing law for 33 years and currently works for Stalnaker, Becker, Buresh, Gleason and Farnham. After leaving Central, Gleason said he will be on the bench by the end of January.

Gleason said he thought the

hardest part of making the transition from a lawyer to a judge would be changing his way of thinking from an advocate to a decider of fact.

Teaching has always been one of Gleason's loves and he said he would have liked to be able to continue doing it.

But he was not able to do both.

"There is a rule of law that a person cannot work for two different branches of the state government," he said.

He said laws demanding the

separation of government powers required that he leave his job at the public school. But he said he would not rule out teaching again after he retires from judging.

"I love teaching, so I would surely consider it," he said.

Junior Brittany Crockett, who was in Gleason's class this year, said she enjoyed his class. She said Gleason had a special teaching style that made his students interested in learning.

She said she would miss having him as a teacher.

INSIDE

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20 pages



Kangaroo Jack

Even an animated kangaroo who raps and steals money cannot save the weak plot and bad acting of this movie.

A&E, 12C



Aaron at Large

A Register staff member goes to a local swimming pool to participate in an aerobic swimming class.

SPORTS, 17C



Cloning

After Clonaid claimed it had created a human clone, major ethical and moral questions have arisen about the subject.

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Volunteering key to student group

By Charlie Wence

Still in its early stages, the new key club plans to contribute to the Omaha community, junior club member Eleanor Hoeger said.

"It's a great opportunity to be a part of," she said.

The club's first meeting was held on Jan. 7 and it continues to meet every Tuesday in order to organize and arrange projects for this year.

The club was founded on community service and will work along with the Kiwanis organization, a philanthropic organization, which is headed by business leaders in the Omaha area, Hoeger said.

Even though the club is still in the planning stage, Hoeger said some possible projects are Habitat for Humanity and raising supplies to aid needy people in Africa.

The club is sponsored by five advisers who are teachers at Central. DeLayne Havlovic, one of the advisers, said he is excited to become involved with the Kiwanis organization and looks forward to serving in these community projects.

"I plan on spending several hours on these service projects," he said.

Havlovic said it is an honor to be a student service organization to be able to work with a nationally-known organization.

Hoeger said she is trying to advertise the club through word of mouth and encouraging friends.

"Whenever I talk to someone I want to ask them to join (the club)," she said.

She said many of her friends are involved and that enhances the experience of the club.

Havlovic said he plans on traveling to regional conferences in the future for key club events.

"I would like to meet with other schools and learn about their chapters," he said.

Havlovic also said that in the near future the club will elect officers.

Hoeger said she wants to run for one of the major office positions.



Havlovic



Hoeger

Calendar



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Senior Danielle Howsden dissects a lamb's heart in her Anatomy and Physiology class. Many of Central's science classes use hands-on resources to get a different perspective on subjects.

February

7-8 (Fri.-Sat.) 2003 Roadshow

The 2003 Roadshow, entitled "Central Stars" will be held on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. The 2003 Roadshow snow date is Feb. 10, 2003.

17 (Mon.) President's Day - No School

The building will be closed this day due to President's Day.

18 (Tues.) No School for Students

Teachers will have an in-service/teacher work day.

18-21 (Tues.-Thurs.) Third Quarter Progress Reports

Students and parents will be able to see how they are doing in school when progress reports go home.

27 (Thurs.) Early Dismissal

Students will have regular classes, but will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m.

27 (Thurs.) Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held from 12:30 till 7:30 p.m.

New CHS club swings to tunes

By Charlie Wence

Senior swing club member Corinn Grabow said she joined the club so she could have fun and show people a whole different form of dancing.

"It really gives me the chance to teach people a new thing," she said.

Grabow said she learned how to swing dance around year ago from a class at Creighton University. The club had its first meeting

on Jan. 7 and meets every Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. in the courtyard.

Grabow said it was not difficult to find the required two

teachers to sponsor the club. Both math teacher Christie Pfeifer and English teacher Jennifer Stastny were more than willing to help out.

Stastny said the club is different from others because swing dancing is something adults do more than youths.

"The club allows social interaction on a different level not based on academics and is purely fun," she said.

Grabow said every student is welcome to attend and the club members are spreading the word by putting up flyers, asking friends, and even handing out free passes to places that hold swing dances on Fridays and Tuesdays. Stastny said some of the members get together over weekends to dance.

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Grabow

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Teacher reaches out, makes impact

By Michael Smith

Special education teacher Ray Dewaele received a postcard from a student he hadn't seen since he began teaching.

It may not seem like big deal, but the incident had a profound impact on Dewaele. In his line of work, it's the small things that count.

"It (school) made a difference in his life and I look forward to things like that," he said.

Dewaele has been teaching for over 10 years as a special education teacher at Central High School.

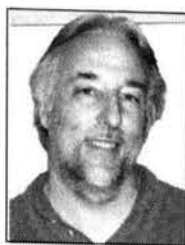
He started his career in the Council Bluffs school district. One day, he realized that a few of his students needed a little more help.

He decided to go back to school to obtain a degree in special education.

"I went back to school to better help them," Dewaele said.

Dewaele obtained a master's degree in learning disabilities, and was later certified in emotional service. He also obtained an ad-

ministration certification, enabling him to take the role as an administrator someday.



Dewaele

"Mr. Dewaele is a veteran teacher and has extensive education," special education department head Judy Storm said.

He said he enjoys teaching at Central and said he wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

"I try to have fun here every day, and I try to have something fun for the students to do," he said.

He stays in contact with many former students, due to the relationship that he has gained from his job. Dewaele said he received a postcard, from a former student in Australia, to thank him for everything that he has done for him.

He said he tries to make his classes fun and exciting. He looks forward to being here and even on the toughest days, something good always happens to him.

"My goal for my students is

to have them make good decisions and good choices in life," he said.

Some of Dewaele's former students have gone on to become members of the U.S. Army and construction workers.

"Mr. Dewaele has a good rapport with his students and their parents," Storm said.

Dewaele and the rest of the special education department work as a team to help the 200 different students involved with the program.

"If there is a problem with a student, the department talks it out and works together to solve the problem. It's a team effort," Dewaele said. He said he admires the good qualities in people. He looks at the qualities in different people and tries to live by them.

"I try to be the best person that I can be," Dewaele said.

Dewaele said he does not relate to one student more than another, but keeps going due to the variety of challenges, and the adventures of the next day.

Dewaele said he works on letting all of his students know that

he is there for them. There is a level of trust among them, both the students and the teachers. He tries to let them know that his students can count on him and that they can trust him.

"The best thing about this job is to be in a position where we can make a difference and really help someone else, and because of the relationship the students can grow," he said.

Dewaele said he believes all of his students can be successful in some shape or form. All the students learn at different rates and with their own support that they can do anything that they want to do, and can accomplish any of their dreams, he said.

"Mr. Dewaele adds a sense of earthiness to the special education department," Storm said.

Dewaele said he enjoys what he does and adds his own special touch to educating students.

Dewaele said he believes he has the ability to see the potential in students, even when they don't see it. He knows deep down, that good things can happen.



College Corner

Antioch College

Location: Yellow Springs, Ohio
Admission: 82 percent admitted
Type: Four-year private university, coed
Undergraduate Enrollment: 559
Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Psychology, Communication, Visual and Performing Arts, recommended courses are 4 years of English, 3 years of Math and 3 years of Science, 2 years of Electives.
Application Deadline: N/A

Boise State University

Location: Boise, Idaho
Admission: 92 percent admitted
Type: Four-year public university, coed
Undergraduate Enrollment: 13,968
Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Marketing and Educator/Teacher Education, recommended courses are 4 years of English, 4 years of Math, 4 years of Science, 3 years of History and 1 year of Foreign Language, 3 years of Electives.
Application Deadline: July 17

California State University: Los Angeles

Location: Los Angeles, California
Admission: 53 percent admitted
Type: Four-year public university, coed
Undergraduate Enrollment: 13,898
Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Marketing, Home Economics, and Protective Services/Public Admin., recommended courses are 4 years of English, 3 years of Math and 3 years of Electives.
Application Deadline: June 15

El Centro College

Location: Dallas, Texas
Admission: 100 percent admitted
Type: Two-year public university, coed
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,274
Freshman Admissions: N/A
Application Deadline: N/A

Gettysburg College

Location: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Admission: 53 percent admitted
Type: Four-year private university, coed
Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,233
Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Social Sciences and History and Business and Marketing, recommended courses are 4 years of English, 4 years of Math, 4 years of History, 4 years of Science, 4 years of Foreign Language, 4 years of Electives.
Application Deadline: Feb. 15

All information courtesy of the College Board

Junior college seen as step to four-year college

By Katie Backman

Not everyone simply goes to a four year institute when they get out of high school.

One of the opportunities students who don't want to go straight to a traditional college have is community college.

Community colleges are thought to be an easier way to enter college because the academics are stereotyped as being similar to high school level courses, Larry Lindberg, Director of Student Services at Metro Community College, said.

The dorm experience is a main reason why senior Ashley Lewis didn't want to attend a four year university. She said it would be similar to high school because she would see the same kids from high school everyday.

Lewis said she thinks that at UNO, many people are not focused on the school and just focus on the social aspects. She said she thinks she will be receiving a better education.

Lindberg said at a community school the student could establish academic self confidence. He said there are vocational programs such as automotive and computer technology

classes. There are also transferable programs.

Lindberg said the vocational program allows the students receive practice in their career. Once they receive their associate's degree, students are ready to walk into the job market even though some continue their education.

"Students can't go to their career without practice in the field first," Lindberg said.

He said some students aren't ready for a university and need to refresh on a few topics. Lindberg said students can take classes just for a review and become prepared for a university they may transfer to.

"If you never caught on to that darn algebra then you can attend a community school and try to understand it," Lindberg said.

Counselor Richard Servis said most community colleges mold their programs to transfer to the four year school.

"Community colleges will do good job to help kids get to where they want to go after the two years," Servis said.

Senior Jennifer Schiffbauer said she plans to attend a two year school and will then trans-

fer to a university.

"The more education you have the more money you will make," Schiffbauer said.

She said she would go to a community school to save money and wean herself into the college career. Servis said 10-12 percent of the seniors plan on attending community colleges, but he doesn't think there has been an increase in the past five years. He said students are just becoming more open to options.

Servis said he thinks that academically a community school is not a difficult stepping stone compared to attending a four year school directly out of high school.

Some programs are not just a practice at community schools but they are the best available programs versus the universities. Lindberg said the culinary arts program at Metro is one of the best programs in the area.

Senior Jared Whitmyre said he looked at UNO and UNL's culinary arts classes and wasn't impressed. He said Metro's program is the best after all of his research.

"Community colleges are not a joke to that many students now," Whitmyre said.

Former Central student starts original T-shirt company

from COMPANY, page 1

side." He said he was always somewhat of a troublemaker. He said he felt an intense sense of frustration in high school, and found himself going head to head with teachers. He also ran an underground newspaper while at Central.

The paper, "Whether or Not," published four issues and ran into conflicts with the administration with a story titled "Kill School." Bogue said the article defied education upholding structure of learning rather than learning information.

In the article, killing teachers was sarcastically offered as a possible option and the administration held a faculty meeting in re-

sponse. Although his administrator said legal action was being pursued, he said the school couldn't pin responsibility on him and he didn't receive any punishment.

"At that time, I started to realize you can impact a lot more people through images than just words," he said.

Bogue said he always hated high school and spent about two years not doing anything before continuing his education.

"After high school, it didn't seem like any relief," he said. "I was left with a sinking feeling. I felt like I wasted the past 13 years."

During that time, Bogue said he floundered. He said he made a series of mistakes that culminated in charges being pressed following being caught forging prescriptions.

As a result, he went to the Mentiger Mental Clinic in Kansas. He was there between seven and eight months. While at the clinic, he said he began to think about pursuing design earnestly.

"That was probably the point that I realized I was tired of messing around," Bogue said. "I told myself, this was the last chance I would get."

Within a couple of months of being released, he said he was enrolled in Metro community college. Within two years, he had put together a portfolio and was enrolled in the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Now he's a freelance designer working for Ford Weithman Designs designing corporate sports items.

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Mexican government gives OPS 2,500 books

By Charlie Wence

In an effort to help the bilingual education of the large population of Mexican families in Omaha, the Mexican government has donated 2,500 books to Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

The books are being kept at schools with the largest Hispanic populations.

Some of these schools are Marrs Academy, Castelar Academy and Spring Lake Academy.

Junior Indira Gallardo has been in the United States for three and a half years.

She said the donation of books will help bilingual students excel in areas of school that are difficult to grasp the subject while learning a new language.

She said there are some subjects that are hard for students to grasp in the first place, so having the Spanish books will help them get a more comprehensive education more quickly.

Gallardo, who studied English in Mexico, said math was always a difficult subject to understand, even in Spanish and that having the aid of these bilingual books would have helped her with her school work.

"For me, math is hard," she said. "When the teacher is teaching I think she is speaking another language."

ESL teacher Catherine Kennedy said the donated books are great.

She also said other ethnicities that grew up learning with different languages may be at a disadvantage because they won't have the same resources the Spanish speaking students have.

"I think it (the donated books) are a great thing," she said. "But there are Sudanese, Asians and Europeans, and it's difficult if they're the ones not receiving help."

She said the donations will

help especially with the recent budget crunches.

The OPS English as a Second Language (ESL) supervisor, Susan Mayberger, said the Mexican government realizes that there are many families who go between Mexico and the United States frequently and that aid should be sent in order to help Hispanic students.

The books that are kept at the schools are in the Family Resource Center, where parents can have easy access to borrow the books.

"Parents who aren't fluent in English can check out a first grade math book in Spanish so they can help their child with their homework," Mayberger said.

Another benefit from the program is that the donated books in Spanish can be used to build language skills for students who are learning Spanish, Mayberger said.

The Mexican government donates books to school districts across the country.

"There was absolutely no cost for these donated books," Mayberger said.

Donated books aren't anything new to OPS.

Mayberger said occasionally donations of one or two boxes come, but 2,500 books amount to 50 boxes.

"The donation is very significant," she said. "I think this is reflective of the increasing number of Mexican families in Omaha."

Kennedy said she believes that being bilingual is something good for everyone.

"Speaking two languages is a brilliant thing," she said.

Gallardo said that learning in different nation with a new language is strenuous.

But being in a different nation forces one to learn the language of the country more quickly.

"It's hard learning without your native language," she said.



Photo courtesy of Aaron Buss

Senior Aaron Buss sits on his couch two days after he got home from the hospital. The accident sent him to the hospital for two days. At the time of this photo, he said he was on morphine for the pain.

Student survives car accident

By Charlie Wence

What began as a commute to work turned into a concussion and a black eye that swelled to the size of an orange for a Central senior.

On Dec. 17, senior Aaron Buss was involved in a two-car crash that sent him to the hospital for two days.

Buss was driving west on Vinton Street on his way to work when coming up a hill and around a curve. He was not wearing a seat belt.

"I spun going sideways and that's all I remember," he said.

Buss crashed into a M.U.D. utility truck.

"It was foggy and a little slick out, but I'm not sure if that had anything to do with it (the accident)," he said. He spent one night in intensive care.

Buss suffered a mild concussion, a gash in his forehead, which required eight stitches and a fractured eye socket. He also had two stitches in his lip.

"I couldn't open my eye for a week," he said.

Buss also suffered a seizure while he was getting a CAT scan at the hospital.

He said he is almost healed from all of his injuries but still has a black eye and that he never really thought his life was seriously threatened from the accident.

"I remember right after the accident I asked the paramedics if they would let me go home," he said. "They didn't let me go because of the gash in my forehead."

Buss said once he was in the hospital he kept thinking that what happened could have been a lot worse than it was.

He missed the rest of the week and had to make up three final exams on the day classes resumed from winter break.

"They (the finals) weren't too hard to make up," he said.

As for his car, the 1983 Ford Mustang convertible sustained damage to its front end.

"I assessed the damage, but I haven't done anything to repair it yet," he said.

Buss said his car, in some people's point of view, is totaled and extensive work will have to be done to fix it. The front end of his Mustang was smashed and a whole new front end will be needed. The engine was also tilted and will have to be adjusted.

Buss said he will try to fix the car, but it all depends on if he can find a front-end that will replace his damaged one.

While insurance took care of his medical bill, auto insurance will not cover the damage to his car.

Since Buss is now without a car, he now gets around with help from his friends and parents.

Support Omaha Hockey

For a night of hard-hitting hockey excitement, come support your classmates on the ice during Northside and Omaha Gladiators games. The two teams contain students from across Omaha as well as Central.

Omaha Gladiators

2002-2003 IHSHL February Schedule

1/ 02/ 2003 Om Gladiators at DM Oak Leafs
 2/ 02/ 2003 Om Gladiators at DM Capitals
 7/ 02/ 2003 Kansas City at Om Gladiators
 9/ 02/ 2003 Mason City at Om Gladiators
 14/ 02/ 2003 Om Gladiators at Dubuque
 15/ 02/ 2003 Om Gladiators at Quad Cities
 16/ 02/ 2003 Om Gladiators at Quad Cities
 22/ 02/ 2003 Quad Cities at Om Gladiators

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

Northside (Metro North)

2002-2003 O.M.A.H.A. February Schedule

2/4/2003	8:15PM	Moylan IcePlex
2/5/2003	9:30PM	Moylan IcePlex
2/9/2003	6:00PM	McLean
2/11/2003	8:15PM	Moylan IcePlex
2/16/2003	4:45PM	McLean
2/23/2003	6:00PM	McLean



FREE: ADMIT ONE

Come support the Omaha Gladiators for free. Gladiators games usually cost \$3. Show this ticket at the door for the free admission of one student.

Paid for by Simpson Supply (451-7500)

Act raises questions about accountability

from **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**, page 1

that our tests are better and more extensive than other states," Christensen said.

He said the problem with Nebraska's tests is that they only test in grades 4, 8 and 11. But the act requires testing in every grade.

"It's already a burden for the grades that we do test in," he said. "But because our tests are so elaborate, if we have to test in all grades, it's going to be a greater burden."

Carla Noerrlinger, the special projects coordinator for Omaha Public Schools (OPS), said if the state has to test all grades, curriculum could become very test driven.

Because of this, Novak said students will not be getting the broad education they deserve.

"People in Washington seem to have this fallacy to believe that the results of giving these tests will somehow be a catalyst to an end where they've fixed the problem of poor education," Noerrlinger said.

She said even though there are some concerns with the act, the idea behind it is a noble one.

The No Child Left Behind Act was passed by the Bush administration on Jan. 8, 2002.

The act, Donald Jacobsmeyer, education program specialist for the U.S. Department of Education said, is a commitment to ensure that all children receive recourses needed to get a quality education.

Under the act, each state is required to test all students in grades three through eight in the areas of math and reading. These numbers are then reported to the Department of Education for evaluation, he said. If a school's scores do not steadily improve over a period of two years, that school is then labeled as a failing school.

"These schools are required to send out notification to parents of students attending the school and they are also required to provide tutoring for students," Jacobsmeyer said.

He also said, if a parent does not want his child to attend a failing school, he can request for a transfer. The schools will then have to provide transportation for that child.

"The intent of the act is very noble," Jacobsmeyer said. "It holds schools responsible for the education they are providing."

He said he has not heard too much negative reaction to the act,

21st Century Learning in America



Just 41 percent of eighth-grade math teachers majored in math in school. That's 30 percentage points lower than the international average.



In English, one-fifth of all public school students in grades seven through 12 were taught by teachers who did not have at least a minor in English literature, communications or journalism.



In history and physical science, more than half of America's students are being taught by a teacher who has never studied the subject in any concentrated way.



In 1998, 60 percent of 12th graders were not reading proficiently.



Since 1966, taxpayers have spent more than \$321 billion on public education, yet the average reading scores for 17 year olds have not improved since the 1970s.



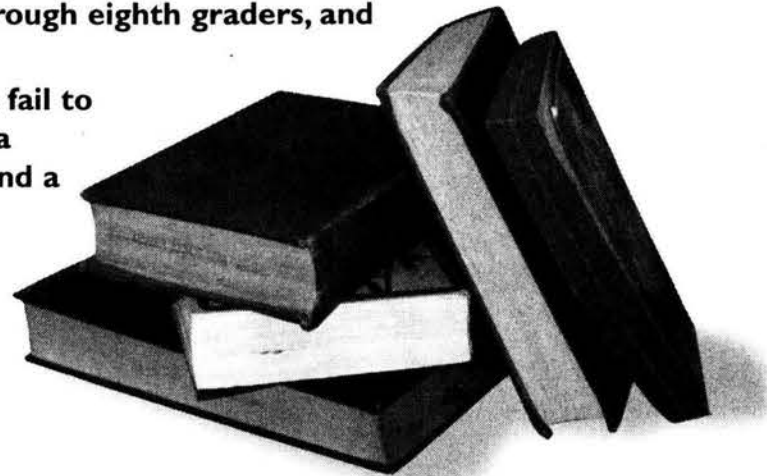
According to the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the average math scores of fourth through eighth graders, and twelfth-graders have improved only slightly.



Evidence strongly suggests that students who fail to read on grade level by the fourth grade have a greater likelihood of dropping out of school and a lifetime of diminished success.



Eighty-two percent of the nation's 12th graders performed below the proficient level on the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science test.



All information from No Child Left Behind

but Principal Jerry Bexten has his reservations when it comes to No Child Left Behind.

He said he does not like the fact that the federal government has essentially taken over public education.

He said it always used to be a local thing when it came to education.

"It seems as though they (the federal government) have stuck their hand in education's back pocket and I'm not sure it should necessarily be there," Bexten said.

Christensen said he agrees with Bexten.

He said because of the way the constitution is written, education should stay with the state.

"No Child Left Behind, walks all over that," Christensen said.

Bexten said the act is not fair to those schools that aren't failing. He said he thinks public education, especially in Nebraska is doing a fine job.

But regardless of whether or not a school is doing well, it will still be required to test students.

Noerrlinger said a committee is currently trying to come up with an plan to determine Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the state.

Educators from around the state have come together to identify the way Nebraska will determine AYP, she said.

"Nebraska already has a testing system in place," she said. "The problem is we don't require testing every single year."

Christensen is trying to negotiate with the Rod Paige, the U.S. Secretary of Education, to try and let Nebraska's current tests be approved.

She said the current district-specific tests Nebraska has come up with are considered more rigorous than many of the tests required by No Child Left Behind.

Nebraska tests students in all subjects, whereas No Child Left Behind only requires testing of math and reading.

Noerrlinger said educators around the state and the commissioner want to see the current district tests approved by the federal

government.

"We will probably have to budget a little bit," he said.

Christensen said Paige called him and said if he and Christensen were to sit down, something could be worked out.

Noerrlinger said she hopes Christensen is able to get the tests approved.

However, if they are not, then Nebraska will have to come up with a new system of testing that could cost the state quite a bit of money.

"While it's hard to say how much money will be needed, some states have tried to estimate it," Christensen said. "New Hampshire, which is a much more rural state than we are, said it would cost approximately \$575 per student to implement No Child Left Behind."

Assistant Superintendent for OPS, Dennis Pool said even though it will cost Nebraska money, it won't necessarily cost OPS money.

"Sure, eventually when it comes down to it, there will be a

squeeze on money," he said. "There already is. We are going into the next two years with a big deficit."

Bexten said the major problem when it comes to money and No Child Left Behind is that the federal government is telling schools they must test students, but they are not providing any money to test them with.

He said he can see a potential hard financial squeeze on schools.

"There is no doubt there is a need to improve some schools," he said. "But in polls I've seen people have been giving schools in their districts grades of As and Bs, but when they grade public schools as a whole, they give it Cs and Ds. Somewhere something doesn't make sense in that equation."

Novak said he thinks it is unfair to students to compromise their education just so politicians can get the results they want.

"It's a good idea fundamentally, but it's not being executed very well," he said.

Cuts could cause district problems, teacher says

from **BUDGET**, page 1

ketball would only be cut in case of drastic measures, Anderson said that individual sports like tennis or golf may be threatened by the budget cuts.

"It (cutting individual sports) is not fair because if you're bad at group sports then there's nothing for you," senior Kwin Kunkle said.

Kunkle has played tennis at Central for the past three years. She said she wouldn't want to see her sport cut, but understands the financial bind that OPS suffers from.

However, Anderson said she is skeptical that students actually care about budget cuts.

"Students won't respond until they start seeing class sizes grow, text books gone and their favorite sport cut," she said

The Process

Ten percent of a student's weekly paycheck might go to such insignificant expenses such as a meal or a new shirt.

Ten percent is very different when applied to OPS's current budget. A ten percent cut would take \$230 million away from over 500 school districts all across Nebraska.

"He (Johanns) constantly claims he's an education governor, yet we have yet to see him do anything but hurt education," Anderson said. "Rather than bite the bullet and raise taxes, like other states do for education, he has

got-

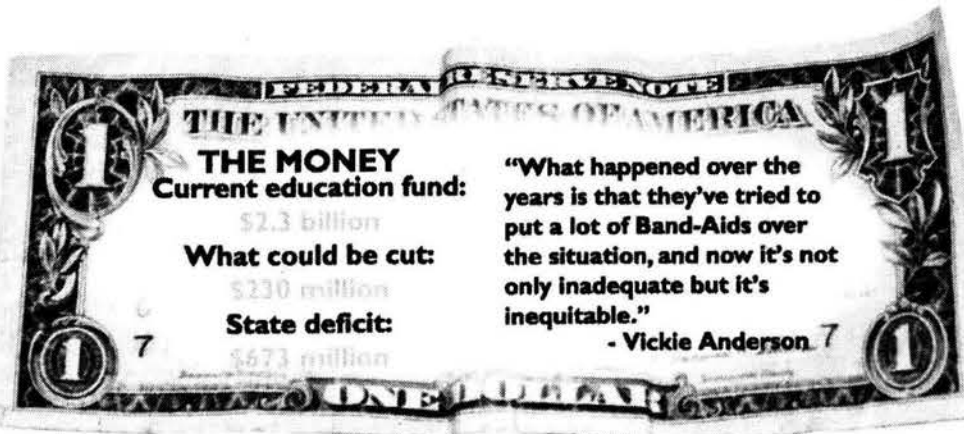
ten it

in his head that he has a commitment to lower taxes, even if schools go without and universities go without."

It's all part of the legislative process. The governor forms a proposed budget cut, then the appropriations committee forms a second proposal, the governor then approves or vetoes, the proposal goes back to the Legislature as a bill and if the Legislature disagrees, then they have to pass a levy override.

Anderson said she hopes that the appropriations committee produces a very different proposal.

Tom Berquist, deputy director of Johann's legislative fiscal office, said the appropriations committee will come out with preliminary recommendations in the middle of February. That leaves only a few weeks for the committee to work the legislative gears in favor of public education.



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

"What we've done now is sit down agency by agency," he said. "It isn't a 100 yard dash, it's more of a ten meter run."

When the preliminary recommendations are released, the public or state agencies being affected will come to testify on their behalf. Berquist said the committee is dealing with over 70 agencies (for example: public education, law enforcement, etc.) After going over the testimonies, public hearings are held where the decision can be contested.

At that point, he said the committee might change its mind if necessary from the original guides set by the governor's proposal and the preliminary budget.

"We have been going through three or four a day, some take a little longer. It gets to be a long, drawn out process," Berquist said.

Berquist said the cuts are the most drastic that he has seen in his

career that began in 1976. The final decision regarding the cuts will be definite sometime around March.

"These are very big reductions especially in light of what we've already done in the current year. This is for next year," he said. "There will be a lot of programs that will be eliminated that won't make people happy, and it will

get more difficult further down the road. This is something we've never seen before."

The Future

Superintendent John Mackiel sent memos to OPS teachers last November asking for budget cut recommendations. Principal Jerry Bexten said it was an attempt to find ways to make more informed cuts.

Right now, lack of information is the primary deterrent to the process. Johann's proposal is far from final.

Bexten, along with the rest of OPS's administration, must wait for the March results to actually begin planning how to handle next year's financial situation. That's why they're trying to get a head start on the process even though they don't have any concrete information. Bexten said his primary goal in the process will be to minimize the affect of cuts on students.

He said he and the other OPS principals along with the superintendent meet monthly. Budget cuts have always been a major discussion point.

Bexten said he would like to see the cuts go to areas such as maintenance to avoid any direct cuts to student programs. However, he said whatever is cut will ultimately come back to the students.

He said some students have already begun to feel cuts that were enacted last year to high ability learner funds that promoted honors and AP students.

"What happened over the years is that they've tried to put a lot of Band-Aids over the situation, and right now it's not only inadequate but it's inequitable," Anderson said. "(For example,) OPS' numbers of special need students far outweighs any other district in Nebraska, yet it doesn't receive comparable funding."

She said her solution would be to throw out the current guidelines and start over.

Bexten said all the economic worries of the present and future link back to lack of tax revenue after the past year's recession coupled with Johann's attempts to maintain lower taxes.

"The middle class is paying so folks in the Millard school district don't have their property taxes raised," Anderson said. "If you want the services you have to pay for them, but everyone wants free education."

Westside puts grades on-line

By Ashley Brown

District 66 has recently adopted the PowerSchool program which allows students to view their grades over the Internet on a regular basis.

"The kids can view their grades on the spot, and so can their parents," Westside computer/technology teacher Gary Cunningham said. "Kids love it because they know what their grades are at all times."

Students, parents and teachers can look at the student's attendance, GPA and grades down to individual assignments by logging into the Apple PowerSchool website with the student's code.

Junior Austin Baumann said he thinks a program such as PowerSchool would be a great idea for Central.

"I find it very convenient because instead of asking your teachers all the time you could go on the Internet and look them up," he said. "They (students) would have the ability to look at them (their grades) more closely and see as to why their grades are falling."

Westside senior Shaina Meyers said she doesn't like the fact that parents can check and see if she didn't do her homework. But she said she does like that she can check what grade she got on a paper immediately.

Central math teacher Kelly Murphy said he thinks the program would be more beneficial for the parents rather than students.

Westside marketing teacher Don Gilpin said he loves PowerSchool.

"I've been teaching for 25 years," he said. "The only thing I didn't like was the paper work. But now there's none."

Principal Jerry Bexten said he thinks a program like this would be very beneficial to students, but some things would have to happen before Central would be able to do it.

"Every teacher would have to have ready access to a computer," he said. "Not every student has access to a computer either."

Central has a similar program called SASI that allows teachers and staff to look up student records. However, students and parents can only look up these records by asking a counselor or administrator. This program also only contains the grades that are sent home in progress reports and report cards and are not updated daily.

Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) district board member Tom McClung said they are piloting a similar program called IntegratePro at several OPS schools, such as North High School and Ashland Park Robbins Elementary.

IntegratePro is an electronic grade book that enables parents to keep track of their students' academic progress online.

"We would still need the board approval," he said.

Until then, McClung said the district will use an e-mail program that was approved by the school board.

STUDENT HEALTH

Pills adversely affect senior

By Katie Backman

When senior Alannah Keleyhers looked in the mirror, she said she only saw a "chubby" stomach and large thighs. She said she desperately wanted to mold her body to fit an ideal image by popping a few diet pills that slowly deteriorated her body.

Keleyhers said she became addicted to the pills during the time she used them from May to November of 2002. The experience put her health in jeopardy and made her think twice about the safety of the pills.

She said she woke up for school one day while using the pills and didn't feel like going.

By second hour she said she felt faint, nauseous and dizzy. She rushed to the bathroom to vomit. The diet pills drove her to a point where she had symptoms of bulimia, she said.

"I would throw up all the time," Keleyhers said.

She said she didn't throw up food because she never ate. She mainly consumed liquids because the pills made her lose her appetite. She said the vomiting was completely involuntary, the diet pills made her feel so gross that she couldn't help but be sick.

Keleyhers said drinking any water would make her have to use the bathroom almost instantly after she swallowed.

Keleyhers said her face changed to a very pale lifeless color, while her eyes were swollen.

"At that time I didn't look at my puffy eyes, I looked at my stomach," Keleyhers said. "I thought 'hey I'm thin, this is how I am supposed to look now.'"

Glenda Woscyna, director of medical nutrition at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), said that the ingredients in the average diet pills are extremely harmful. She said the main ingredient is some sort of diuretic. Diuretics force the body to relieve all its fluids, which makes the user instantly lose weight, she said.

Woscyna said the main side effect of taking diet pills is dehydration and

becoming lethargic. The diuretic will pull water from tissues and space between cells, forcing the liquid to pass through the kidneys making the kidneys work harder.

"People on diets pill will become extremely lazy and not move," Woscyna said.

Keleyhers said she became dehydrated to the extent where she would pass out.

Her mother, who encouraged the use of the diet pills at first, quickly made an appointment with her family physician.

Looking at the bottle Keleyhers said she never saw a warning label listing any common side effects.

Without any warnings she didn't see a reason why she said she should be concerned.

Her doctor told her the pills had too much power for her body and she had to slowly decrease her intake.

"This was really hard for me because I became very addicted to them," Keleyhers said.

During the time she used the pills, she said she lost between 15 to 25 pounds. The variation of her weight loss was based on what food she ate and held down.

"A number of diet pills promote fast weight loss," Woscyna said. "With diuretics, they will gain more weight in the end."

Woscyna said by losing all the water weight, a change could be visible within ten days. She said people go back to their normal eating habits of

junk food while depending on their health condition with the diet pill.

After Keleyhers stopped taking the diet pills, she said she gained 20 pounds back during just a couple months. She said she weighed more than she had before she started using the pills.

Woscyna said the herbal products in diet pills hardly ever under go tests by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

She said the FDA does not regulate herbal medications because it is hard to tell what different types of herbs the manufacturer added.

The FDA should have taken a second look at the over-the-counter diet pills that Keleyhers consumed, she said.

Because not only did it make her dehydrated, she said her physical problems once cured by other medications reappeared.

Keleyhers said she once developed cysts on her uterus and had to be prescribed the birth control pill. The birth control pill minimized and almost erased the cysts.

Then when she began to take the diet pills, all her problems restarted.

She said the diet pill might have

caused the cysts to redevelop at a rapid pace to the point that surgery would be needed.

The cysts were so enlarged that they nearly burst, which could have eliminated her ability to have children.

"After my surgery I don't think about my weight, but I think about my mind and health more," Keleyhers said.

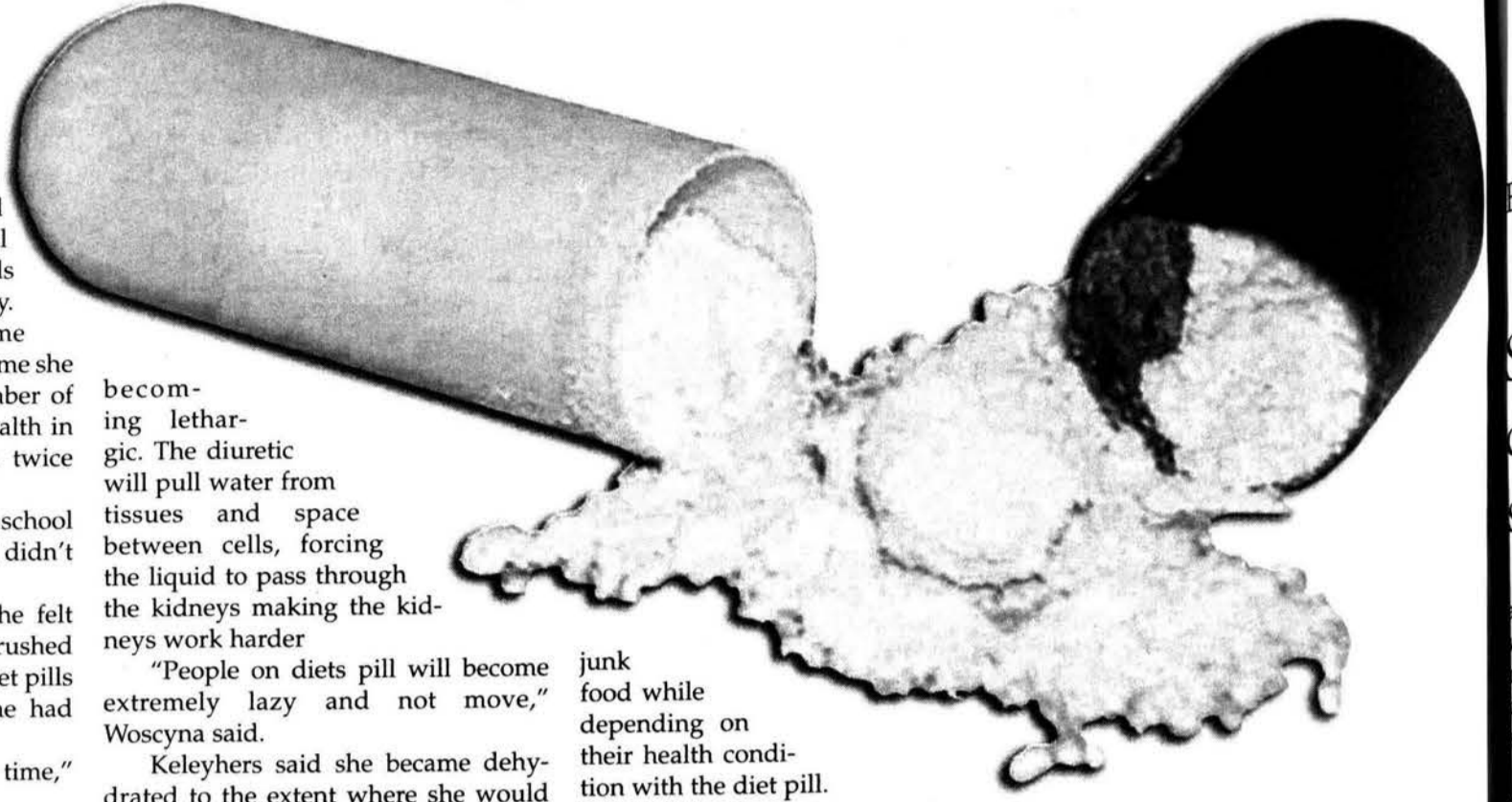
She said she didn't take the pills because of peer pressure.

She said she took the diet pills because how she saw herself. Now she said she shouldn't picture herself as just skin and bones, she would rather just to be healthy after all of her trauma.

Keleyhers said when she thinks back, she never believed a tiny over-the-counter pill could do so much damage to her body.

Diet pills sound like an easy way to lose weight, but the label doesn't mention the harms done to a person's body.

Diet pills were once Keleyhers' way to attempt to live her life like the thin person she thought she had to be.



Healthy school lunches being revised

By Doug Meigs

Senior Mackenzie McDonough has never eaten school lunch. She may not have a lunch period this year, but even if she had a chance to purchase a school lunch, she said she wouldn't.

"I eat healthy food, and you can't get that at school," she said.

Jeffrey Connor, congressman Lee Terry's Communications Coordinator, said Congress is reviewing the national lunch program this year for that very reason. He said any nutritional changes made might be

enough to persuade students like McDonough to eat school lunch or at least offer a more healthy meal to those that already do.

Junior Jason Pietramale said he thinks eating healthy is a huge problem for high school students. He said school lunch may not be nutritious, but he still eats it.

Connor said nutrition will be a major part of the congressional discussion. He said the educational work force committee is currently examining experts' opinions and putting together a nutritional guide to be discussed.

"In the beginning, not much was known in regards to nutritional information compared to the present day" he said. "Because of that Congress must reevaluate (the system) from time to time."

The national school lunch program is designed to help everyone get a good, hot school lunch.

He said the status of that kind of lunch is what will be debated.

Connor said the system must meet many more standards now compared to when the school lunch program was established in 1946 by the School Lunch Act, and nutritional food became a mandated priority with the 1966 Child Nutrition Act.

He said much of the complication in the system is because there are so many different regulations on companies that sell foods within schools.

Although Central does not offer fast food services, many schools throughout the Metro do.

The absence of fast food in Central cafeteria is a good thing, as far as pediatrician Dr. John Moore is concerned.

Moore said fast food contractors offer food that is unhealthy. He said he has learned of this first hand from living and working around the District 66 area.

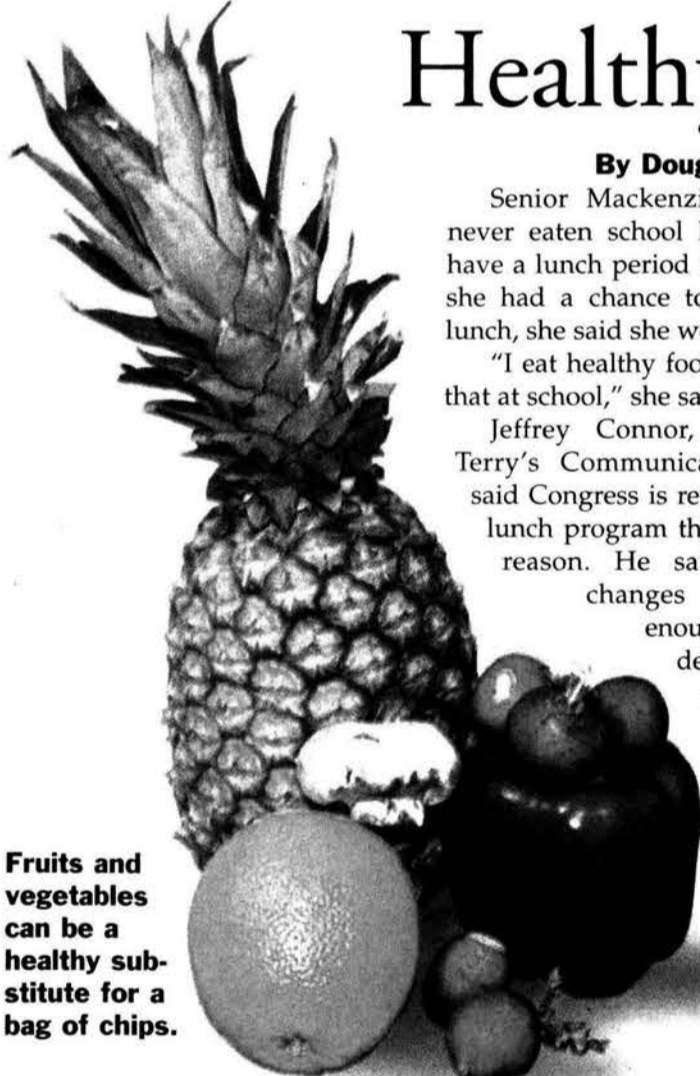
He said the nutritional value of high school students' diets are very poor. In the past ten years, he said the number of youths with obesity problems has skyrocketed, among other nutrition-related health problems.

Moore said much of the problem is result of lack of exercise.

He said high school students are being offered tasty fast food that is bad for them instead of healthy, balanced meals.

Moore said, along with poor school lunches, students have adopted poor eating habits from their parents and a family life that is constantly on the move.

"I think it's a matter of what people are offered and a lack of exercise as a result of a fast moving society," he said.



Fruits and vegetables can be a healthy substitute for a bag of chips.

All photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

All Metro competition hosted at Central, students perform well

By Michael Smith

Over 750 students, from 16 Metro area schools competed Jan. 25 in the All Metro DECA Area Competition hosted at Central.

Many Central DECA students competed in all of the different categories.

Seniors Mara Martinez and Ashanti Weaver competed in competition in the Travel and Tourism Team Decision-Making category.

"Each student is grouped into one of 15 events that correspond to similar careers in the work place," marketing teacher Vicki Wiles said.

Each marketing student is given two written tests and a role-play corresponding to the career to compete with.

"I like competing and the role playing events because they put us into situations that could be your possible jobs in the future," Martinez said.

This is the sixth year Central has hosted the event. In previous years, the event has been at the Southroads Mall.

The process of getting ready for the competition takes a long time.

"It takes a good two months to do the work," Wiles said.

Central students take time out of class to prepare for the event. Many people are involved in the preparation and execution of the event including Central students, DECA officers, teachers and the custodial staff.

"Out of Central, there are 91 registered Central students in competitions," Wiles said.

All 91 registered students can attend State, which takes place in Lincoln, Neb.

"Last year, we sent around 70 students to State competition and around 12 to nationals," Wiles said.

If a student is ranked in the top three at

State, he qualifies for nationals, which, this year, is located at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

"I like everything about the event," Weaver said. "I like seeing the people who are in DECA and the role plays that I get to see."

Out of the 750 Metro areas DECA students, seniors Melissa Hepburn, Michael Michalak, Michael Morrison and junior Claire McGuire placed first.

Seniors Sara Davidson, Aaron Maurer, Scott O'Dell, Jingran Dai and Katie Susman placed second.

Seniors David Povondra, Mara Martinez, Ashanti Weaver and junior Anthony Allee placed third.

"I like seeing the kids dressed up, their hair combed, clean shaven, with the challenge to apply their marketing skills to real-life situations," Wiles said.



Photo by MICHAEL SMITH/THE REGISTER

Junior Kylie Zacharia takes a test in the DECA All Metro competition held at Central on Sat. Jan 25.

Friday, January 31, 2003

Drug Testing

Results from a recent survey may make it seem like drug tests reduce use among athletes. These tests may be deceiving.

Page 8

EVERYTHING BUT THE
SINK

Paula Salhany

Scare raises
concerns for
school safety

I have a safe home. There are no drive-bys outside my windows. I don't have hit men after me. My parents don't beat me. All in all, I'm safer than most people.

But when I found out about a gun being in the school, all of a sudden, I felt less safe and more paranoid about the people I go to school with.

And even though it was only one gun, it made me think about what could happen at Central.

I have never considered that Columbine could occur here. That's just something that happens to other people at other schools. Not me. Never me.

I sat and contemplated the reality of students bringing firearms and other deadly weapons into the school and got really scared.

How would I feel if I saw someone pointing a gun in my face as I walked from one period to the next?

What would I do if my best friend got shot because some student just couldn't take being teased anymore?

Sure we have five or six security guards, five administrators and one cop at Central attempting to keep us safe, but there are 2,500 students in this school.

There is no feasible way to keep the school completely covered and safe.

Despite all of this, I feel pretty safe going to school everyday. Aside from a few fights in the hallways and drug deals in the courtyard, there really isn't anything that has had the potential to hurt me.

The school may have been a safe place so far, but that doesn't mean there isn't a chance something horrific could happen.

I'm sorry, but it's not that hard to walk in and out of the school unnoticed. I've watched people do it.

I'm not necessarily saying there is anything that can be done. In fact, there isn't.

Clear backpacks, metal detectors, armed guards and random searches are all options. But school shouldn't be a police state.

School is supposed to be a place where students go to be safe.

All in all, the administration handled the gun situation well. No one got killed, no one got injured and the students were expelled. That's what's supposed to happen when a situation arises.

Do school officials keep school safety procedures as is? Do they turn the school into a military state with armed guards on each side of all floors?

No matter what, a paranoid student is going to do what a paranoid student is going to do.

We're not as safe as we may think. But that doesn't mean we have to go and become isolated hermits to protect ourselves.

Living is a hazard in itself. We can't escape that.

Have a nice day.

NO WAY IN, NO WAY OUT

Early decision may seem like a way to better students' chances of getting into college, but more and more it seems that it either keeps willing students out or locks them into a situation they are not ready for

The essays, the transcripts, the test scores- it's a seemingly endless process.

Applying to college is one of the most important events in the lives of many high school seniors, but it is also one of the most stressful and nerve-wracking.

EDITORIAL

•••••
The opinion of
the Register staff

Early decision, a popular method of applying to colleges that is meant to relieve some of that stress, may hurt applicants more than it helps them.

When a student applies through the early decision process, he signs an agreement that says he if is accepted, he will definitely go to that school and will withdraw applications to any others. Early decision applications are usually due about two months before the regular decision one.

The idea behind this is that the only applicants will be students who make that school their top choice. Therefore, the admissions board will think higher of them and admission will be likely.

College admissions lore dictates that early decision applicants have a better chance of getting in than their regular decision counterparts do. Early decision students also find out whether or not they are accepted long before the usual deadline.

But more and more, students are discovering that this is not the case and that early decision is fraught with pitfalls that are unseen from afar.

The intricacies and particulars of this process are still fairly unknown and what is known to most students right now does not look promising.

Early decision requires students to sign a contract that requires them to go to that school if accepted; there is absolutely no way around it.

So if a student gets in, there is no getting out, even if other things get in the way.

Since early decision is a binding agreement, it makes it impossible for students to shop around between schools for the most attractive financial aid package.

Instead, they are stuck with whatever the school gives them, whether or not it is enough.

Some schools that offer early decision do not allow rejected early

decision applicants to re-apply for the regular year.

So potentially, early decision could keep a student out of his top school that he probably would have gotten into had he applied regular decision.

That is not the only pitfall to early decision. Some students don't know quite what they are getting into when they apply early decision, but if they are accepted, there is no turning back.

Students who aren't sure of themselves should not be getting into some-

thing so permanent. This is a decision that will affect the rest of their lives and it shouldn't be entered into lightly.

But when students hear statistics that some colleges are accepting 30 to 40 percent of their

students through early decision, they may get nervous and apply early decision just because they are freaking out and figure that is the best way.

But students should take a little time and think clearly before doing anything. Just because it's popular, does not mean that it is for everyone.

There is still a lot of mystery surrounding the process of early decision.

It is nearly impossible to know what exactly goes on behind closed admission office doors.



Illustration by CONNOR MEIGS/THE REGISTER

E-Bay becomes excessive when town is bought

One day, very, very soon, some sick twisted millionaire is going to buy you.

You may scoff now, but when you're washing the crud off of his sock garters, it won't be so funny.

You may be wondering how and why this eccentric millionaire wishes to own your very existence.

Well the "why" part is easy to answer-because he can.

The "how" is part of the exponential decay of society as we know it, also known as E-Bay.

I've never been an E-Bay user. I have seen friends use it to find vintage clothes or rare import records and always thought, "oh that's cool." But I never through it was cool enough to actually get me motivated to create an account and go through all the trouble of bidding on things.

But while my attitude towards E-Bay has always been fairly apathetic, others that I see around me have developed a

near-fanatical obsession with finding weird junk for low prices.

Take my sister, she's nearly 23. She spent all summer buying Hello Kitty crap on E-Bay, including pajamas, jewelry and purses.

She would stake out auctions for hours at a time to make sure people did not outbid her. She would go on the site on her work computer, while she was supposed to be working, and look for new bargains.

One day she called my cell phone in the middle of the day, giggling with excitement because there had been some sort of mistake and she found a laptop case worth \$99 for \$9.99.

She was so excited about that stupid case, which currently is collecting dust in her closet.

It's collecting dust because right after getting it, she sold the laptop that she

bought on E-Bay back onto E-Bay, then sold a different computer onto E-Bay as well so she could afford a new one.

Of course, this new laptop was a different size, making the case useless.

E-Bay fever is a seemingly relentless disease and it does not appear that it will let go of any of its victims any time in the near future. In fact, more serious cases of E-Bay-itis have been popping up all over the country.

There's the town in California that got sold on E-Bay.

First of all, what kind of person needs to own a town?

My guess would be some sort of power-hungry, computer billionaire loser who already owns a mansion, but stays in his basement and plays with his trains all day long to get a sense of power in this crazy, crazy world.

The person who bought this town might be a very nice person, but in my opinion, the crazy train guy would be the more likely candidate.

Now in theory, I am not opposed to E-Bay. I think it's a fine shopping tool when used in moderation. But when E-Bay use develops into full-throttle obsessive madness, something has got to be up.

I don't know what it is that drives some people to freak out over E-Bay like they do. Maybe it is the competition for the winning bid. Maybe it is the thrill of the find, like when you make a great thrift store find or a clearance rack beauty.

Maybe it is something more primitive, a sort of mob mentality where everyone is doing it. Then you feel like you have to as well and you've gotta win!

I don't think I'll ever understand it. I honestly don't think I really want to. To me, it's absolute lunacy, madness and craziness. It's akin to speaking in tongues.

But to others, it's become a lifestyle. So when you've placed yourself up for sale to make some college tuition money and you find yourself washing gross socks, don't blame me.

I didn't bid on you.



LONG STORY SHORT

Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

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

Junior colleges may be stepping stone to success

A four-year college isn't for everybody, especially when he has just graduated high school.

Instead of going right from high school to the university of his choosing, many students are instead going to local community colleges for the first few years of their degrees and finishing it up at a university.

This method, though not part of a traditional college-going experience, can be more cost effective and less stressful for students.

At junior colleges, the tuition is often less expensive, helping students to learn how to slowly balance college life and the work force.

Some community colleges lower their tuition for students who are in the top 10 percent of the class, sometimes even offering full scholarships.

The lower tuition is sometimes accompanied by a scholarship, which also makes this method more cost effective.

Local community colleges also have benefits when it comes to housing.

The student can continue to live at home while going to school.

Once the student has transitioned into college life and completed his two years at the community college, he can move to an out of state university.

For some students, this is a more feasible and affordable plan.

Some new high school graduates want to take it easy for a year. One of the major concerns about

this is that he or she is not likely to get to college after taking the year off.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

By attending a community college, a slight break is given without the student quitting school completely, making it more likely for him to attend a university to finish college.

Some students who go to college end up dropping out due to stress.

By going to a community college, students can ease into the college lifestyle without being under too much stress.

When the student applies and is accepted into the university, more credits can be switched over to the university so the student is not penalized for attending a community college his first two years when applying for a job.

Community colleges have a bad wrap as being schools for slackers. Many, however, are working with larger universities in order to debunk this reputation.

The community colleges are also working with the larger universities to tailor their curriculums so that students can get all of their credits needed during their freshman year.

In time, a smaller community college atmosphere may be the only way to get through freshman and sophomore years.

Metro may not be the nation's next Yale, but heading to a community college first may be the answer to many college-bound students' concerns.

Proposed ordinance robs area youth of recreational options

The age of 18 can signify the end of childhood and the start of new privileges.

But the Omaha City Council may take one of those new privileges away.

The City Council has taken up the issue that after hours dancing by minors above the age of 18 is inappropriate for that age group.

It looks like the Council is just trying to take away another oasis of entertainment.

At some clubs, after the alcohol is turned off at 1 a.m., minors above the age of 18 are allowed to dance in the clubs during this time considered after hours.

Two clubs have already banned minors from dancing after hours. There are only three that allow minors to dance after hours. Omahans seem to complain about why young people choose not to live here.

If the City Council thought more of its youth, young people would think more highly of the city.

Supporters of this proposed or-

dinance may believe that not allowing young adults to dance in night clubs after 1 a.m. will bring their children home at a reasonable hour.

However, this might lead to other activities more troublesome than dancing.

Taking away this opportunity for older high school students and college students would take away another opportunity to have fun.

In addition to taking away entertainment from youths, it might also lead to resorting to activities that would get kids into trouble. Since the clubs have turned off their alcohol by 1 a.m., there is no problem of underage drinking.

The clubs are supervised by security guards and control over the situation will always be there, as opposed to a party.

This ordinance should not be passed for it would make Omaha even more dull as well as take away a relatively safe activity. The Council has the wrong idea.

HEROES & ZEROS

-Mary Ellen Drickey

-Nova Net

Mary Ellen Drickey proved to be a voice of reason when she called for a cap on Central's enrollment. Finally, a school board member is realizing how the school's population is ridiculously large.

Now maybe she can get others to listen to her and something can be done to alleviate Central's problem with overcrowding.

-Hawkins Construction Workers

When all of the students got to stay at home Jan. 16 because of the snow day, these workers came and worked anyway so that renovations would not fall behind.

It may have been windy, cold and snowy, but they still showed up and got the job done. It is dedication that will ensure that the renovations will be done on time.

If a student fails a class, he should have to make it up in school or take night or summer classes.

This new program that allows students to make up courses on-line may be more convenient, but it lets them off too easy.

-Guns in School

School is no place for weapons and the student who brought a gun to school several weeks ago made a serious mistake.

School should be a safe place and no one has the right to jeopardize that safety.

Besides putting others at risk the student also potentially ruined his own future by getting himself expelled.

If anything good comes out of this it should be a warning that school safety is serious business.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE PASSED THE DRUG TEST. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN GET YOU?



Mr. Jerry Bexten
Principal
Matt Deabler
Adviser
Paula Salhany
Editor in Chief
Kaitlin Jessing-Butz
Editorial Editor

Survey misleading on drug use

Random drug testing appears to be working, but appearances can be deceiving.

The results from a recently released pilot study conducted by Oregon Health and Sciences University researchers determined that the threat of random drug testing lowers drug use.

However in reality, such decreases may only be in detection.

The study compared Wahtonka High School (where athletes were subject to random drug testing) to the demographically similar Warrenton High School (where athletes were not) close to Portland, Oregon.

The study, refereed to as Student Athlete Testing Using Random Notification (SATURN), determined that 5.3 percent of Wahtonka's 135 athletes admitted to using illicit drugs under the threat of drug testing.

On the other hand, 19.4 percent of Warrenton's athletes admitted to such drug use without random tests looming above their heads.

Although drug use at the schools can't actually be compared because there is no hard evidence to contrast the two schools other than the word of students, the results of the study suggest a promising turn in the battle against high school drug use, but only in theory.

However, the threat of drug testing may be counterproductive.

Students who may have a history of drug use and are in need of the positive influence offered by extracurricular activities could be scared away.

Schools have every right to expect their athletes to remain drug free. After all, they are representing the school on the field as well as off of it.

The Supreme Court guaranteed such a legal right to public schools last June when it passed a ruling that permitted random drug testing of students involved in competitive school activities (anything from chess to tennis to football).

Unfortunately, some students will use drugs regardless of the threat of testing.

The SATURN test only illustrates the confessions of students who believe they would test positive have de-

creased under random testing.

The wide range of illicit substances available to high school students has made it easy for an individual to obtain less detectable substances.

A football player could easily spend the night after a Friday game participating in binge drinking and be clean for any possible test the following Monday.

Individuals could switch from marijuana (which stays in one's system anywhere between three weeks to multiple months) to far more dangerous substances.

For example, methamphetamines only stay in one's system for four days, while LSD is only detectable through hair tests or spinal taps.

While any drug is harmful to the system, the risks and side effects associated with harder drugs like LSD and methamphetamines are far greater than those associated with marijuana.

There are just too many other roundabout ways for students to abuse substances and those ways may prove to lead students down a dangerous path.

The threat of a drug test may not so much deter students from using as it will make them more creative in what and how they do use.

Drug use in high schools is a big problem, there is no denying that. But making threats and doing some random tests will not do everything to solve it.

The SATURN study is a move in the right direction. However, there is no guarantee that its aims will be accomplished or produce any positive results.

Random drug tests may prove to be part of the solution to the problem of high school drug use, but it will not be the only part. Other, more proactive methods must be in place.

Administrators must get to the root of the problem if they truly wish to decrease substance abuse among high school students.

Idle threats will not be enough to truly get rid of the problem. It may seem like it at first, but in the long run, it will not be enough.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

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The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of interest and importance. The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all its proceedings.

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

The Register is a four time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national convention. It has won multiple Pacemakers, considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhuskers from NHSPA.

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

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. They can be sent to the Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via e-mail to register@ops.org.

* Letters must include the author's full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

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

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OPINION

"The girl that states, 'People at this school are very rude' and, 'People are immature and don't take school seriously at all,' should consider what she is saying. She hasn't met all the people at Central."

David Hernandez, 12

Mall trip reminds junior of hatred of shopping

On my recent vacation to Minnesota, I was forced to make a trip to the Mall of America because my sister dreamed of going to the largest mall in the world and the biggest tourist trap around.

As freeway signs guided me to the Mecca of retail, I was already asking myself why I was doing this.

Four levels with hundreds of shops that I wasn't going to spend a dime at, oh yeah, there was a roller coaster in the middle that I heard wasn't worth the squat to ride.

Maybe if I was into fashion I would have enjoyed this experience. I might have picked up a few hundred bucks worth of clothes at the hottest clothing

retailer.

The only things I found appealing were a large tract of space dedicated to the characters and history of General Mills cereal and the movie theater that actually didn't have tiny screens - they didn't care if you snuck in soda, avoiding the theater's sky-high prices.



CHUCKIE'S CORNER
Charlie Wence

I can't imagine why anyone would want to make a trip to this figure of corporate America.

Why not visit a wildlife reserve, like I did, or entertain yourself at the zoo or do something worth your time?

How about paying \$5 for a smoothie or \$8 for a coffee cup, those can be ob-

tained easily at the corner gas station or coffee shop.

"Ragstock" the so-called thrift store in the mall my friends told me was a nice place, had sold out and was beyond recognition of any thrift store. I think I'll head back to Goodwill or Salvation Army.

I was in the mood to buy some sporting apparel of the Minnesota Twins, so I went to a sports apparel store.

It was advertising a 50 percent off sale and decorated its doors with a baseball jersey.

Much to my dismay there was little selection and once again I was disappointed at the misleading marketing at the Mall of America.

There were a few stores, however, that were interesting.

There was an entire space allotted to a store, "The As Seen on TV Store," where anyone could buy his favorite items he saw on television, like electric can openers or the latest device to painlessly wax women's legs.

It really made me wonder what the ratio was between Minneapolis residents and tourists.

The friend I went with said his uncle, who lives in the Minneapolis area, said he only went to the mall on rainy days and it was much easier to get shopping done at other places.

As much as I hate malls (being the typical guy), I would have rather gone to Westroads mall instead of trying to find my way through that massive castle and paradise for the teenage girl.

Top 10 Worst Stores at the Mall of America

Can Openers Galore-All of the can openers your little heart could ever desire, including left-handed ones, ambidextrous ones and those fancy electric models.

Wally's World O' Cheese-From gouda to Swiss, this store sells deliciousness by the pound.

Toga Outlet-Irregularly shaped and slightly stained togas for prices that even Aristotle would kill for.

Sweatpant Extravagnaza-All sorts of colors, cuts, luxurious fabrics and sizes, Perfect for the go-go housewife who doesn't want to sacrifice style or comfort.

Tablecloth Adventure-So many tablecloths, so little time. It's a whole new world in cutting-edge table setting.

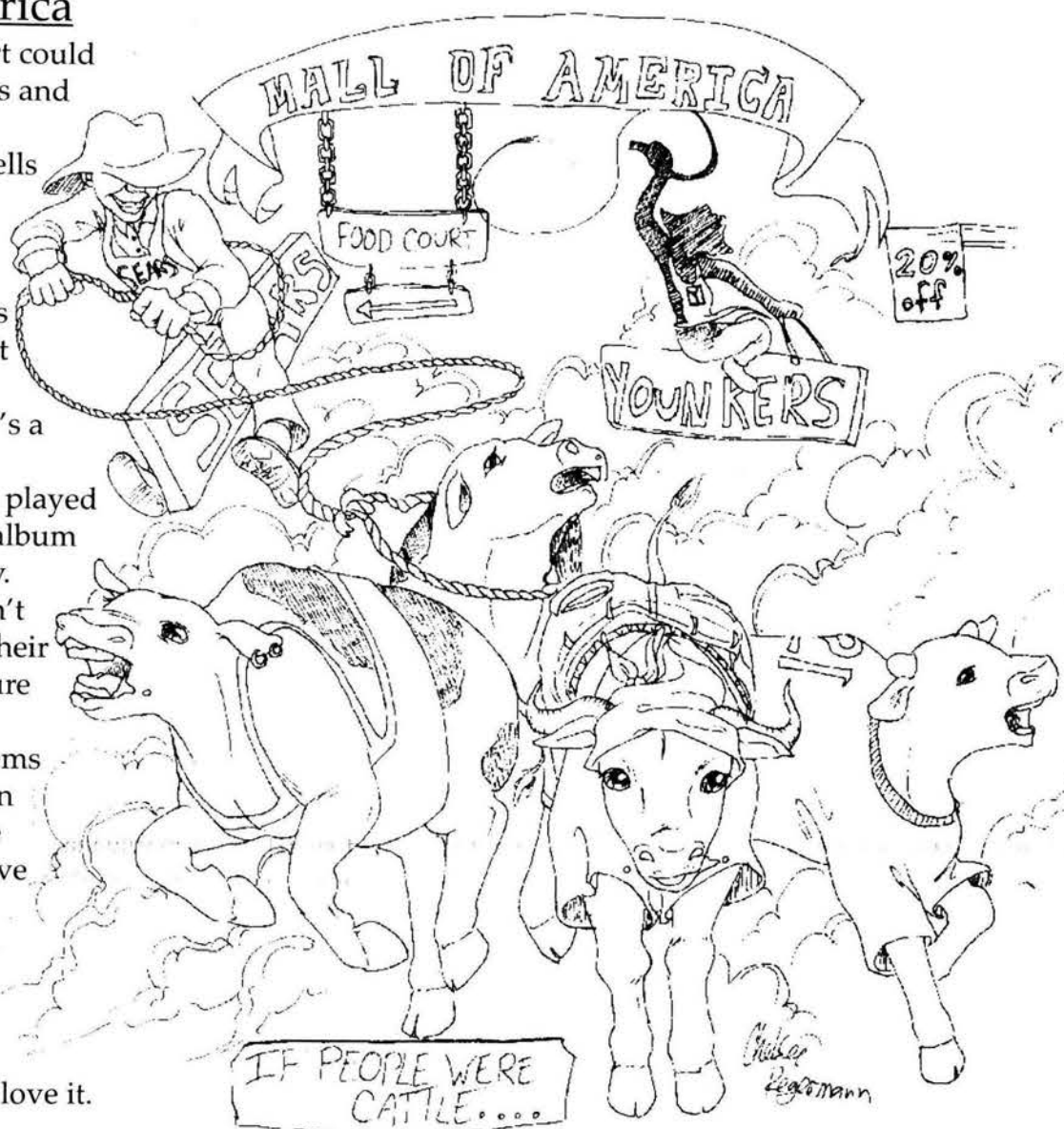
Top 40 Record Store-Only sells the irritating pop hits that are played hourly on bad pop radio. Go in on Sundays for half off any album by an artist from six months ago who has since faded away.

Planet Socks-The prices on socks are out of this world! Don't worry, it's not like those other sock stores that take up half their room with tights or stockings-we're talking 100 percent pure socks.

La Store de Yuppie Crap-Full of whatever trendy useless items the Europeans are trying to pawn off on mindless American consumers who don't know better. Be sure to check out the Swiss furniture that is impossible to sit in and the Italian olive oil dispensers.

Rockin' Rocks-Expand your horizons and your rock collection with this store's wide variety of rocks, semi-precious gems and minerals.

TJ O'Hallohan's Family Eatery-Gaudy decorations, greasy food, pointless colored lights and loud music-the kids just love it.



Rampant consumerism infests America, no end in sight

America has turned itself into a giant pit of consumerism. It is nearly impossible to walk down the street without seeing something sponsored by a major company.

Be it Absolut, Abercrombie, MW, Charles Schwab, K-Mart, Mercedes, or McDonald's, the country is filled to the brim with advertising. If you take a MAT bus to the mall, you will see advertising plastered in and out of the windows.

Even the anti-advertising/Adbusters magazine place their ads all over the

town. The point is that you cannot escape advertising.



LIKE A PARASITE

Sara Rips

Companies buy into this and say, "hey here is a great chance to make money, all I have to do is sponsor something or put my name up."

The sad thing is that it is working. People are buying these products and

eating them up like a 2 year old with candy.

When do we stand up and say that we are not for sale? At the rate we are going, it will never stop.

Is our logic so altered that we do not realize how consumeristic we are?

I fear that there will be a time when we will no longer have an ego to tell us to fight off our impulses. We, Americans, will be looked upon like the savages from "Brave New World," and America will be nothing but a wasteland.

Yes, it is a little extreme, but we are gluttonous and easily bought.

It seems that any one can be bought out for just the right price. Some Americans will claim that they are good people and cannot be bought out. I disagree.

America is for sale. Major corporations support senators, governors, mayors and presidential candidates. A major company has no problem paying a senator to support it and its ideologies. This seems like a good way for a rich person to be heard. All he has to do is write a generous check.

Where will we draw the line? At what time will we take a step back and see that we are being bought?

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Senior's reply to 'Rudeness irritates student'

Dear Editor,
The girl that states, "People at this school are very rude" and, "People are immature and don't take school seriously at all," should consider what she is saying. She hasn't met all the people at Central! She hasn't asked what she's talking about.

Besides that, she is probably one of those who stands in the middle of the hall during passing periods talking to her friends.

If she is one of those people, she doesn't deserve an apology.

Students trying to make their way to class to learn, talk to friends, in class, or just trying to make it to their locker, should have the chance to do so.

These days, with the portables, people have to go faster with all the people who are blocking the hallways.

If someone bumps into you, you don't need to write the school newspaper just to tell people what's on your mind.

Keep it to yourself! If this girl thinks other people are immature, she needs to pause, step back and realize that nobody cares.

Sure there may be some people out there who agree with her, but in the long run there is nothing we can do about it.

David Hernandez, 12

Transportation keeps out too many students

Dear Editor,
We have a big deal going on with transportation. A lot of people want to come to this school, but

Letters to the editor are welcomed. They can be dropped off in room 315 or in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the office. They can also be e-mailed to register@ops.org. Letters must be signed with the authors name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted.

Letters may be edited for taste, clarity or length. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be printed.

can't come to Central because either they have to walk or it's too far and they don't have a ride.

This school offers a good education and people want to receive a good education. In order for me to be happy, I need you to listen to my request and make it happen.

Ana Nava, 11

Skippping made easy for Central students

Dear Editor,
I just want to write about the students who skip. I think Central makes it easy for them to skip since many teachers don't ask for admits or don't even notice when you are gone.

I know it's hard to keep track of all students, but I think students should at least try harder.

The easiest hours to skip are first hour because students can say that they were late and that's it, or lunch and the last hour of the day because they can say they went home.

I also know it's their future and their education, but sometimes they pull in other students who might be in a bad situation and that's why they do it and then they get used to it.

I think that by trying you could do a lot of good and teachers should always ask students where they were.

The reason I wrote about that is because it is sad for me to see my friends so off track and the worst is to hear them say how easy it is. It is also hard to say no.

Alejandra Najera, 9

Tardy policy flawed, too hard on latecomers

Dear Editor,
The new tardy policy is not a good idea. Sometimes kids have a hard time getting to class on time so it isn't fair.

All this is going to do is get kids in trouble and kicked out of class. I think it's a stupid idea to enforce that new policy.

It's not helping any, it's just making it worse.
Jacquelin Darrow, 9

Premature judgements cause misconceptions

Dear Editor,
I feel teachers shouldn't judge students on what they wear.

I had an incident where a teacher said I was showing too much cleavage.

The whole time I was thinking that there were girls who wear less clothes to school and they are not approached.

As long as an outfit is not too revealing, it should not be a problem. Teachers judge before they get to know the student. It shouldn't matter what we wear as long as we come to learn.

Brandi Clanton, 10

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

A company called Clonaid claims to have cloned the first human babies. Do you think human cloning should be legal in America?



"I think it should be illegal because all they are going to do is clone humans for body parts and then that human would not exist anymore."

Ashley Irwin-Vodicka, 11



"If it's for tissue regeneration, then it would be nice."

Conrad Goetzing, 12



"No, there should not be two of the same people."

DaRae Moody, 10



"Yes, because all the other countries will do it before us."

Dannaka Thompson, 11



"No, because it's a very unnatural way to make people."

Nora Prazan, 12



"I don't know because there are so many pros and cons."

Liz Schulze, 12



"Yes, because we should see how much we can learn."

Matt Holzapfel, 9



"I think so, to further the research in America."

Jeanne Bradley, 10



THE FINE PRINT

Nichole Tyrey

Sister helps sibling with life changes

My hope for my brother's future is that he never gets too old to take for granted the humility of a juicy fart.

Going through puberty can be one of the worst and most awkward stages of life.

After many years of pain and suffering, I am finally getting out of the awkward stage of puberty, but my brother's struggle has just begun.

It all starts innocently enough, a pimple on the nose, spending a few extra hours to get ready, a few stray hairs lingering in places where there weren't any before. Then, all of a sudden, this tiny dribble of hormones turns into a flood.

Last year, my brother's age crept into the double digits. This big life achievement was soon followed by another milestone, the first day of Human Growth and Development class.

I tried to ease him gently into the wide world of human sexuality so the poor kid wouldn't have a heart attack or die of embarrassment.

I made him repeat a variety of puberty-related vocabulary with a straight face. At first, my efforts were futile. He would giggle and turn bright red before he could get the "agina" out.

His first day of Human Growth came and went without too many traumas. There were a few questions he had that I had never given too much thought about before.

I thought having to talk to my brother about stuff like that was embarrassing enough. Now that he is starting to experience these things first hand, things have gotten worse.

He started using deodorant, sprouted up like a foot and now has all of the fifth grade girls swarming over him like flies.

This new found studliness has come at a price, mostly costing me.

It takes an extra hour in the morning for him to get ready. Most of that time is spent in the shower.

This half-hour-shower-taking habit completely ruins my morning routine.

I must now wake up earlier so that I can get him up and in the shower so I don't run massively late for school.

The remainder of my brother's ritual is spent doing his hair and getting snazzed up for the ladies.

He puts entirely too much gel on his hair and then goops it up on top of his head.

He then asks, "Do I look good or what?" The answer is usually a snide "Or what."

I then have to spend the rest of my time fixing his hair so I can admit he is my brother and take him out in public.

My brother and I have actually started getting along a lot better since we have gained this hormonal sympathy for each other.

I also want to have fun with him before he thinks he's too cool for me.

We often sit at home for hours upon hours giggling about stupid stuff.

Even though his grooming habits are at times tedious, our burping contests make up for it in the long run.

THE CLONING DILEMMA

The moral and ethical dilemma of creating an exact duplicate of a person has made people think about the consequences of cloning

No one can argue that finding cures for ailments like Parkinson's disease is a horrible idea.

These are just a few examples of times when cloning can be a valuable medical tool. But a line must be drawn between cloning individual cells or organs for research and cloning exact copies of human beings

A recent claim by the company Clonaid that it has

successfully cloned human babies has brought forth many ethical and moral questions about the practice.

Scientists who have cloned animals have deemed cloning humans too risky since cloning is still not an error-free process and serious defects could occur.

No process is perfect on the first try, so when these scientists take the risk of recreating a person, they take the risk of creating a person who will have life-long disabilities or abnormalities that may not be curable. For scientists to develop the perfect cloning process, they would most likely have to repeat the "experiment" several times.

But the byproduct of these experiments is not a puff of blue smoke or some cells in a petri dish. It is a person, a living, breathing person who might have to deal with life-long problems because scientists did not know enough to prevent them.

Even if some day in the future, scientists can prove that they can create a perfect, exact clone with no genetic abnormalities, where does that leave humanity?

There will be two people with the exact same genetic make-up and the exact same appearance running around. It is like a vision from some old horror movie come to life.

If a person is cloned while he is fairly young, the clone will be nearly the same age.

That means that they will be virtually identical.

cal-not only biologically, but also in appearances.

If one of them commits a crime, it would be virtually impossible to get a conviction based on DNA evidence because it is exactly the same. Their identities would be inseparable to others.

That is not to say that cloning should be totally outlawed. Medical research using cloning to reproduce stem cells for disease research or to grow human organs for transplant is a great idea.

It could save thousands of lives each year and eradicate diseases that have stricken so many over the course of history.

There is a major difference between copying a human being and using human cells.

One involves using the material of life to save lives.

The other involves creating a new life that is immediately put at risk because of the imperfect nature of man.

This is a major ethical gray area, but it is obvious where to draw the line. Cloning of human beings is simply wrong.

Some may see it as an option for infertile couples or a way to bring back a loved one who died too soon, but it's not a responsible way to deal with issues like that.

Some people die long before they should. And some people cannot have biological children of their own.

Those are just the kind of curveballs that life throws sometimes. They have to be dealt with, not pacified through an uncertain method that leaves a myriad of variables in question.

Human cloning is immoral, unethical and uncertain. It lies in a murky area that is yet to be tested.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff



The human cloning company Clonaid has claimed to have cloned a human being. It runs the risk of creating humans with horrible deformities.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Stranger's suicide causes student to reflect on own life

The holiday season is a time for happiness. It is a time for the aromas of family dinners, honey-roasted ham and presents.

For 49-year-old Nick Syslo, it was the time of his soon-forgotten death. I found myself wondering, "what if our positions were switched?"

Gas wafted out of the nearly airtight, mid-sized economy car. The rusted brown of the used automobile blended in with the nearly empty garage that was slowly filling with the smoke pumped into the interior of the cab.

It was Christmas Eve morning, and Syslo's body was outside of the car on the cement floor, asphyxiated. He was a tenant in the apartments owned by a landlady who lived near me.

Could this kind of thing happen to me? What would it take to make a person feel like he had no alternative but to kill himself?

Syslo was somewhat of a hermit; friends did not visit him, his landlady said. His apartment was dimly lit and his carpets were covered with stains resulting from rarely ever leaving his four room, walled-in world.

The lady explained to me after she learned of Syslo's suicide that he lived all alone. She said that he hoarded things. He saved all the little items that connected him with the outside world without actually having to go out into it.

Syslo didn't have a Christmas tree and he didn't have any presents. His garage was so filled with junk that he took his car into a neighboring tenant's garage to asphyxiate himself.

Syslo was depressed and the holiday season evidently pushed him over the edge. His father (his best friend) had died only three weeks earlier. The landlady said he didn't have anyone left.

Thankfully, my holiday was quite dif-

ferent. All of my family had just arrived in town. My older brother came in from Seattle with his girlfriend. My older sister came in from Arizona where she goes to college.

My parents and grandparents were all in town already. The only death I have ever known in my immediate family was my mother's father, and he died before I ever got a chance to know him.

The news concerning Syslo's suicide was sobering, but I temporarily forgot about the death. After all, it was Christmas and time to open presents.

My family went through the yearly ritual of gift exchanges and food consumption. Syslo's obituary was in the paper the following day. I cut it out and saved it to use as a bookmark because I didn't want to forget the strange occurrence.

The small scrap of paper did not jump out at newspaper readers. It did not scream, "look at me, I killed myself," or "pity my poor, neglected soul." It just sat in its small-allotted portion of newsprint

between the sea of other listed deaths.

The man's sister arrived in town to arrange for his burial and determine what to do with his belongings. Most of what was in his apartment was trash, so she threw it away. After she left, I helped the landlady tear out the man's stained carpet.

She moved on and has since rented the man's apartment room to a new tenant. The rest of the tenants in the complex whispered about the incident for a few days, but have since forgotten or are trying to forget. After all, suicide is a holiday buzz-kill.

Syslo died in silence and passed on of the world in a state of incongruity, with the exception of his nondescript obituary.

I held on to Syslo's obituary. I never knew the man while he was alive. But his suicide made me consider my life. I hope to be remembered after I die.

Although I don't plan on committing suicide, maybe if I remember Syslo's death, someone will remember me whenever that may be.



EXTRANEIOUS PHRASES

Doug Meigs



'Darkness Falls'
Bad effects and a thin plot make for a corny, scary movie that is not for the horror moviegoer.

Page 12

A&E

Friday, January 31, 2003

Page 11
The Register

Show changes format, still keeps tradition

By Nichole Tyrey

Roadshow is a time-honored tradition at Central, but this year due to the number of students trying out, a few changes have been made.

"I think this year our standards have to be higher, we only have 26 spots to fill," director John Gibson said.

With around 120 students auditioning, Gibson said that the competition was stiff.

He said that he is blessed to be at a school with so much talent, however this means the judges must be more selective.

Freshman Brianna Brei was one of the acts accepted into the show. She said she has been tap-dancing off and on for nine years. She said she didn't think it would be so competitive.

"I was nervous... I was more nervous about missing the steps than the people watching me," Brei said.

In addition to students trying out this year, guidance counselor Julie Politi auditioned.

Politi said when she worked at North High School she tried out for its variety show and made it in. She didn't make it in this time.

This year even the judges had to compete. Gibson said that due to the number of students trying out, the judges had to be a more selective group.

Senior Sarah White was one of the 35 judges chosen to decide which acts made it in.

"I got to be a judge by just filling out the paper work." White said "I am involved in the drama department and I wanted to be a judge because it is my senior year and I would like to have some say on what is on stage."

White said that judging wasn't a very hard job and choosing which acts would go in was pretty easy.

"Basically (a good act is) like when the person gets up on stage and makes you pay attention," she said.

Gibson said this year's Roadshow is a lot better and more organized than last year.

Kris Jonyka, head of speech and debate, said she agreed that this year's Roadshow will be great, but is sad that not everyone can be in it.

"We can't have a program that lasts three hours," she said. "There's so much talent at this school."

Both of the teachers said they regret that there will be no in-school matinees.

"Students are so busy that it is hard for them to come on the weekends," Jonyka said.

Gibson said that in order to try to solve the problems of too many good acts and no matinees, he has come up with the idea of having an after school coffee shop and program showcasing the acts that didn't make it into the actual Roadshow.

"So many of us liked acts that didn't make it in. We were ashamed that not everyone could have a spot," Gibson said.

This showcase of talent, called "The Director's Choice," will be held in the auditorium on Weds. Feb. 5.

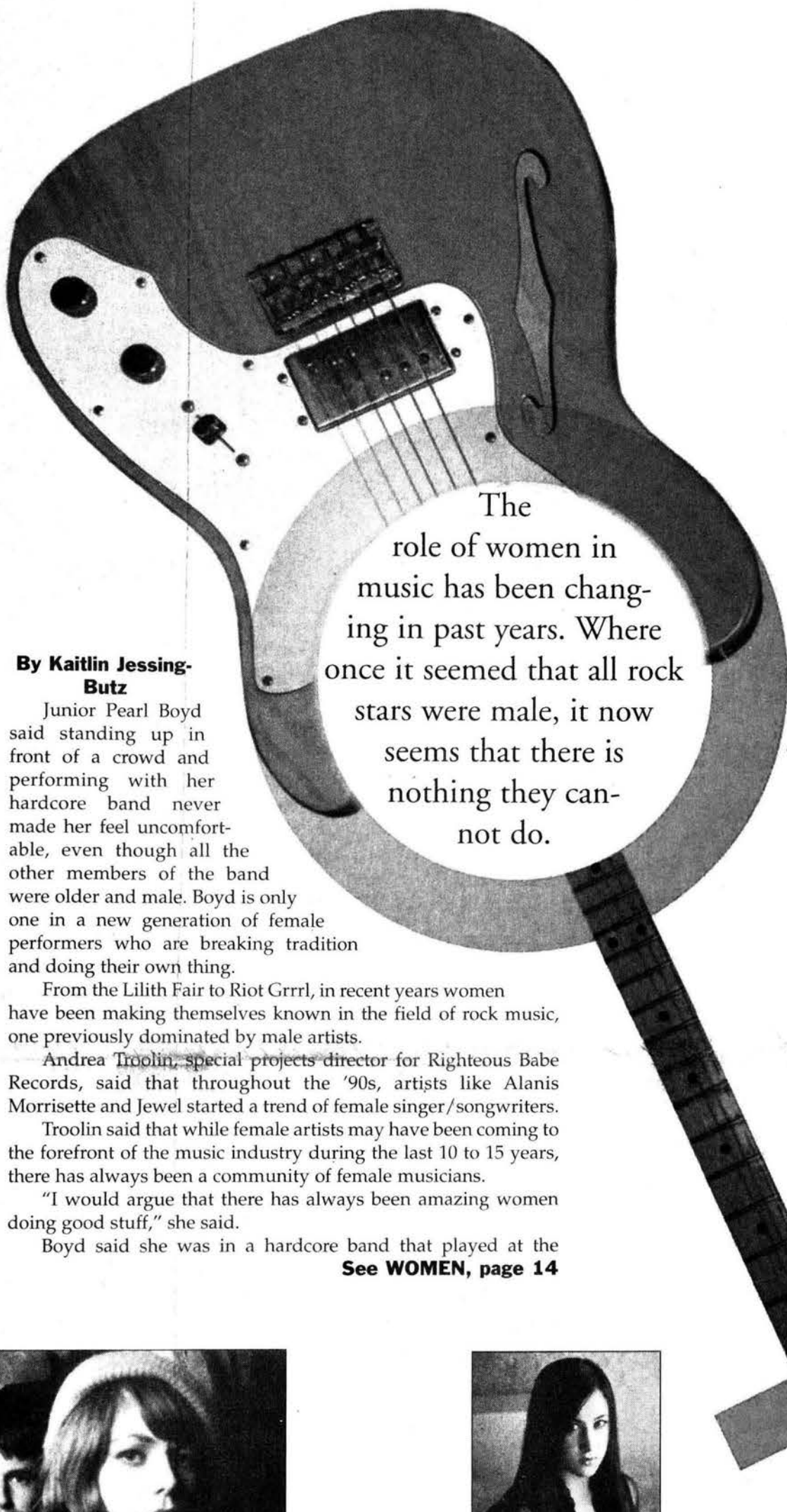
"Like Band Aid was, this will help keep us afloat because the Roadshow (matinee ticket) money was used to pay for various fees," Gibson said.

Gibson said that he has gotten a lot of positive feedback from students and parents about "The Director's Choice."

"People try very hard to prepare (for Roadshow) and it's just fair for them to get to perform sometime," she said.

Roadshow will be held on Feb. 7 and 8 in the auditorium.

GIRL POWER



By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Junior Pearl Boyd said standing up in front of a crowd and performing with her hardcore band never made her feel uncomfortable, even though all the other members of the band were older and male. Boyd is only one in a new generation of female performers who are breaking tradition and doing their own thing.

From the Lilith Fair to Riot Grrrl, in recent years women have been making themselves known in the field of rock music, one previously dominated by male artists.

Andrea Troolin, special projects director for Righteous Babe Records, said that throughout the '90s, artists like Alanis Morissette and Jewel started a trend of female singer/songwriters.

Troolin said that while female artists may have been coming to the forefront of the music industry during the last 10 to 15 years, there has always been a community of female musicians.

"I would argue that there has always been amazing women doing good stuff," she said.

Boyd said she was in a hardcore band that played at the

See WOMEN, page 14

Courtesy of RCA Records
Natalie ImbrugliaCourtesy of A&M Records
Lisa LoebCourtesy of Righteous Babe Records
Ani DiFrancoCourtesy of Saddle Creek Records
Rilo KileyCourtesy of Universal Records
Vanessa Carlton

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Juniors give memorable performance

By Michael Smith

Two boys, one coffee shop, one guitar and one amazing night.

Juniors Nick Goding and Jonathan Raftery moved the audience at Caffeine Dreams with their Jan. 24 performances.

Goding opened the night with the hit song "Breakfast at Tiffany's" which was a familiar tune for the audience of about 40 to hear. The song itself got its meaning across to the audience due to the well-done vocals by Goding.

Just as the audience was moved by the music, so was Goding. He seemed to get into the songs, which showed his professionalism.

The crowd, including many Central students, seemed to enjoy the comfortable atmosphere. Goding had an acoustic style similar to JohnMayer.

Many more students from Central, Duchesne Academy and Westside graced the presence of Caffeine Dreams as the night went on.

Goding sang "Wonder Wall" by the group Oasis. Though it wasn't an original song, he brought his own originality to it, to the playing field.

When Goding sang "All for you," the crowd was on their feet dancing the night away. The song had good beats and rhythm, which made it a hit for the audience.

"Open Your Eyes" had original lyrics and style to the song that not only went well together, but was also outstanding.

Raftery stepped in and flowed through the next few songs very well, and the vibe in the coffeehouse was good. Raftery brought a good change from Goding's style and added flavor to the mix with his own individuality.

One of the songs that Raftery performed was "Wish You Were Here," by the band Pink Floyd, which was an inspirational song for the audience. Raftery performs in a way that draws attention to him. He hit very high notes and when he messed up a note, he laughed and kept going. That showed that Raftery was having fun.

Raftery continued singing songs until Goding came back with his second set.

Local clubs change dance rules after questions arise

Dance Club Changes

Guitars and Cadillacs

After being denied an after-hours (1-3 a.m.) dance permit, the club no longer allows 18-20 year olds in for after hours dancing.

Club Roxbury

Withdrew its application for an after-hours permit and no longer allows it.

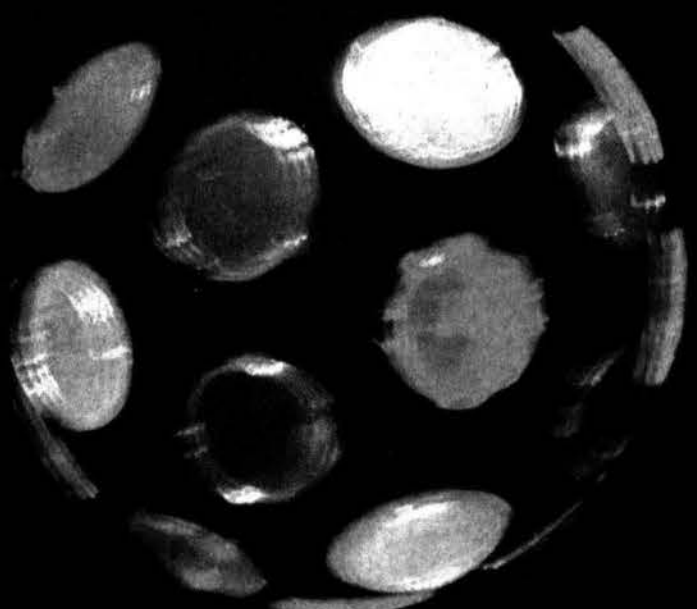


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

By Ashley Brown

Guitars and Cadillacs has discontinued 18-and-over after-hours dancing due to the City Council denying a renewal of its after-hours license as of Jan. 1. Club Roxbury has also not been hosting 18-and-over dancing due to its withdrawal of its application for 18-and-over after-hours dancing license when its record was questioned.

Mike Scarpello, the general manager of Guitars and Cadillacs, said he applied to renew his permit at a City Council meeting, but he was voted down in a 3-3 vote. Councilmen Frank Brown, Garry Gernandt and Franklin Thompson all voted against his application.

Scarpello said he thinks dancing is a great activity for between the ages of kids 18-20.

"As long as you have proper security and you have a safe environment, I don't see a problem with someone who's old enough to vote and old enough to enroll in the service going to dance at one in the morning" Scarpello said.

Senior and clubgoer Matt Brown said he thinks when someone is 18, he should be able to make his own decisions.

"If you can vote, then you should be able to do whatever else you want to do," he said.

Both clubs have had numerous police calls, but Scarpello said they were told by the City Council 10 months ago to make sure if something goes on at the club to keep close contact with the police.

"We have officers that we hire and pay for," Scarpello said. "If someone came in here with an

I.D. that was questionable, we would give it to our police officer to check it. The officers would call that license in and if the person had a warrant out for their arrest we would call the police."

Club Roxbury was convicted by the State Liquor Commission of a Minor is Possession last year. A police report also stated that a female exposed herself atop the bar.

According to police reports, security guards at Guitars and Cadillacs have been accused of numerous assaults as well as fights between club-goers. Scarpello said he tries to provide kids with a good, safe environment to dance and hang out.

He said alcohol is picked up and locked away in a back room at 1am. The club sells pop, water, and Red Bull energy drinks during 18-and-over and all-ages nights.

"Kids 18-20 should be allowed to dance because the alternative isn't very good," Scarpello said.

Junior Emily Newman's mother Bonnie Newman said she doesn't like kids being out past one.

"I think there should be some kind of curfew. Maybe around 12," she said.

"My number one piece of advice would be to register to vote," Scarpello said. "Call and find out who your city council man is and politely tell them your opinion. That's how you make changes. People really can make a difference. It's just as important to thank people who support your cause as it is to complain about the ones who oppose it."

Reviews

Donnas' raunchy new album too repetitive

By Ashley Brown

Girl rockers the Donnas have taken another step in their music career. Last year they turned 21, and this year they are inviting listeners to "Spend the Night" with plenty of heavy guitar riffs and simple drumming.

ALBUM REVIEW

"Spend the Night"

The Donnas

4 of 5

The whole album is basically about boys they want and boys that need to go, and they don't stray from those two topics. They actually stick to those topics to the point where the whole album seems like one, excruciatingly long song.

They start their boy bashing session right away with the track "It's On the Rocks" where Donna A. tells her annoying, whiny boyfriend that their relationship is over.

In the hit song "Take it Off," she basically tells a guy to cut the foreplay and give it up. After they've had a few drinks, of course.

She doesn't take a break from telling boys off until the fourth track "All Messed Up," where she still sings about a boy again, only this time, she has it bad for him, not the other way around.

"Dirty Denim" is chalk full of not-at-all subtle slams and put downs towards a member of the opposite sex such as "I wonder why you're so moody, is it 'cause you've got no booty?"

The rest of the album is pretty much the same as the first few tracks with what seems like the same drum beat and chunky guitar, excluding "Please Don't Tease" which starts out a bit lighter, but then ends up sounding like the rest of the songs.

But all in all, fans of other girl punk bands such as the Eyeliners or the Distillers will probably like the '80s rock sound of the Donnas which seems like a weak attempt to mimic that of female rocker Joan Jett.

Members of The Donnas really know how to rock, but they do it with very little shift in style, which gets old fast.

Old 97's singer returns with new solo release

By Katie Backman

Whining rock stars fade away everyday because they cannot expand on the age-old topic of love.

But one star can get away with singing love songs.

ALBUM REVIEW

"The Instigator"

Rhett Miller

4 of 5

Rhett Miller has successfully escaped the stereotype of the whiny, emotional rock star.

His debut album "The Instigator" shows that love is definitely on his mind, but he is not holding grudges against the world for his mistakes.

His main message is that love comes and goes and a person shouldn't dwell on the departure of love, but its upcoming arrival.

Miller could not have entered his solo career from the band the Old 97's better than with this album filled with emotional lyrics and music.

In his lyrics, he doesn't provoke questions from the listeners, but places ideas before them to consider. He discusses the phases of love people experience and asks them to look beyond the haze of confusion surrounding relationships.

Even though the release is mainly a love album, he brings a different perspective to each of the tracks.

Miller's songs don't reside on the downside of life, instead he sings about how he will make it through.

In the middle he quickly touches on a breakup with one song.

He attempts to give a girl he was pursuing comfort that all the people are not the same. Miller sings about going into relationships as a healer and about being a better guy than the ones before him.

While in the end, Miller is looking on the bright side of life, his songs prove he would rather learn from mistakes than complain about them.

His tone is very positive despite the tempo of most his songs. His sound is similar to Semisonic and Dashboard Confessional.

The songs will remain stuck in the heads of listeners. Miller's been added to the successful new rock-emo stars list and will probably climb the charts as he makes more music.

Calendar



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

Jack the kangaroo wakes up after being run over by a urban safari van much to the surprise of Louis (Anthony Anderson) in the new family action movie "Kangaroo Jack." This movie will be very entertaining for elementary-aged children, but will probably bore most high school viewers.

'Kangaroo Jack' jumps around, lacks plot

By Nichole Tyrey

A cross between "City Slickers" and a bad documentary on "Animal Planet," "Kangaroo Jack" is not worth the money that was used to make it, let alone anyone's \$5 it takes to see it.

This is the type of movie that might be able to find a captive audience among elementary school-aged boys, but otherwise will be hated by all who are forced to endure it.

This movie was pushed from its original summer release for the simple fact that it definitely could not have held up against the competition put forth by this year's big summer releases.

"Kangaroo Jack" is about the son of a mobster who gets mixed up in the

trafficking of a \$100,000 debt.

The mobster's son, played by Jerry O'Connell, brings along his best friend, played by Anthony Anderson, to Australia to take care of the money.

Predictably, the duo gets mixed up in all sorts of hijinx after they put a jacket containing the money on the back of a dead kangaroo. Of course, the kangaroo is not really dead and it "comes back to life and hops away into the Australian outback."

As usual with movies like this, a hot girl pops out of nowhere and eventually saves the day.

This movie's dumb and predictable plot is made even worse by the wannabe slapstick and toilet humor.

"Kangaroo Jack" is as unfunny as unfunny can get.

But it is not as bad as one may have originally thought.

The trailers made the movie out to be even worse than it was.

Luckily, for a majority of the movie there is no talking, singing, rapping or dancing kangaroo.

This would have sent the movie completely over the edge from dumb and tacky to well, really dumb and tacky.

The movie did however pack a surprise punch at the end, teaching the audience to remember the importance of a good friend.

This movie should have never been made, let alone be viewed by innocent impressionable children and teenagers.

"Kangaroo Jack" as a whole should have been left on the editing room's floor.

Album Releases

February

All CD release dates are on Tuesdays.

4 Lionel Richie "Definitive Collection"

Lionel Richie releases the essentials from his lengthy catalogue of music. Richie is famous for his love songs, which some may call cheesy, but others may see as romantic. His style is a mix of pop and smooth R&B.

4 The Hollies "The Best of the Hollies"

The '60s group the Hollies releases its greatest hits. This band, best known for its songs like "Bus Stop," was part of that decade's mod trend, but it has endured through the years. The Hollies also cover many famous bands and artists, and have an album of just Bob Dylan covers.

11 Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds "Nocturama"

Nick Cave and his backing band the Bad Seeds release a new album. Like all of the previous ones, "Nocturama" is sure to contain plenty of songs that show off Cave's deep, throaty, almost creepy, voice. Cave is best known for his song "Red Right Hand," which was featured throughout the trilogy of "Scream" movies. His recent works include a cover of the Beatles' "Let It Be" that he contributed to the "I Am Sam" soundtrack and the album "No More Shall We Part" which featured the single "Love Letter."

11 John Mayer "Any Given Thursday"

John Mayer, whose career shot off like a rocket this year with the release of his album "Room for Squares," releases a new live album. Mayer's folk/acoustic sound has drawn many comparisons to similar artists, like Dave Matthews.



Movie Releases

January

- 31 "Biker Boyz"
- "Final Destination Two"
- "The Recruit"
- "Chaos"
- "The Guru"
- "May"

February

- 7 "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days"
- "Deliver Us From Evil"
- "Shanghai Knights"
- 14 "Daredevil"
- "The Jungle Book Two"
- "All the Real Girls"
- "Gerry"
- "Lockdown"
- 21 "Dark Blue"
- "Gods and Generals"
- "The Life of David Gale"
- "Old School"
- "Dischord"
- "Open Hearts"
- "Poolhall Junkies"
- 28 "DysFunkional Family"
- "The Guest"
- "The Hunted"
- "Spider"
- "Cradle 2 the Grave"

Concerts

January

- 31 "Unsigned Hype" featuring: Exclusive Sound Bo & Veelo, Miraj, Baby J, NFL, N.E.B. Ryders, June Bug and special guests: the Team at the Ranch Bowl

February

- 1 Har Mar Superstar and Tilly and the Wall at Sokol Underground
- 1 System Failure Farewell: System Failure, Analog, Cloaca and Align at the Ranch Bowl
- 5 Truth in Ruin, Narcotic Self, Hollowed and Diesel Breath at the Ranch Bowl
- 7 Anchondo, The Brews, Straight Outta Junior High and the Cover Story at the Ranch Bowl
- 8 Trippin' Default CD Release (KISS army party) at the Ranch Bowl
- 12 The Bangs at Sokol Underground
- 13 Galactic: Freezestyle 2003 with Lyrics Born featuring: Joyo Yelarde and DJ D-Sharp at the Ranch Bowl
- 14 Rainer Maria and Mates of State at Sokol Underground
- 27 Rescue at the Power Pad
- 27 Haley Bonar and Low at Sokol Underground

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'Adaptation' reveals a maze of humor

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

The new Spike Jonze/Charlie Kaufman film "Adaptation" blurs reality with fiction, absurdity with humanity and tragedy with comedy.

It is the type of movie that takes viewers into its own little world, a very confusing world at that. But if one takes the time to just sit out the ride, it will definitely be worth it.

A little background information is needed before seeing "Adaptation" to fully appreciate it. Kaufman wrote the script for Jonze's last picture "Being John Malkovich" and "Adaptation" opens on the set of that movie.

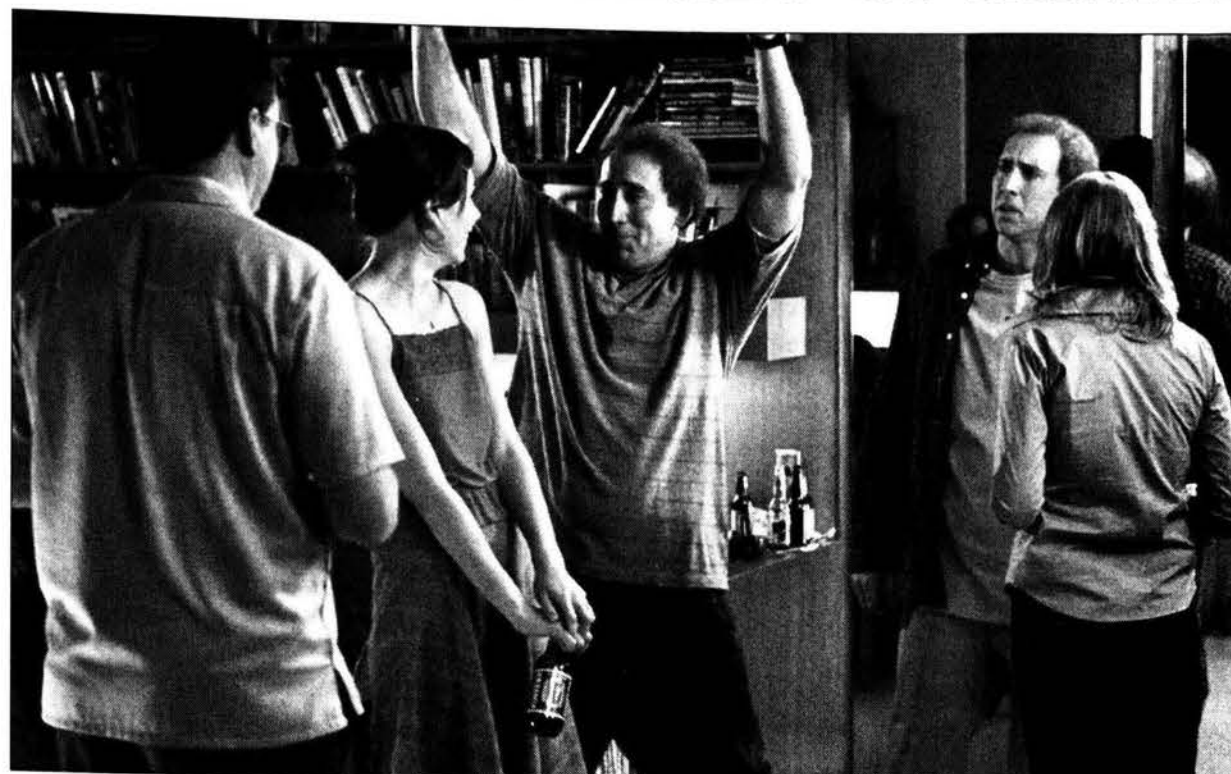
Literally. The genius of Kaufman's script is that he has written himself in as the main character. Nicolas Cage plays Kaufman and is perfect as a 40ish, balding lonely man with a definite personality crisis and a terrible fear of confrontation.

From Cage's opening monologue on what a fat dorky loser he is, he lays it on thick without being over-the-top whiny so that Kaufman is still a lovable character.

Cage also plays Kaufman's twin brother Donald, who is fictional (however as a nod to his "alter ego," Charlie decided the script to both him and Donald).

Donald is a lovable, optimistic doof who also attempts screenwriting and finds he is able to churn out the standard, hokey Hollywood schlock that studios love.

As this is happening, Charlie finds himself trying to top "Being John Malkovich" with an adaptation of "The Orchid Thief," a New Yorker feature turned into a book about John Laroche, a toothless



Donald Kaufman (Nicolas Cage) dances as his girlfriend Caroline (Maggie Gyllenhaal) and twin brother Charlie (also Cage) look on in the new Spike Jonze movie "Adaptation." Cage does an impeccable job of playing both of the Kaufman twins in the movie.

Courtesy of Propaganda Films

horticulturist/orchid poacher in Florida who hunts the rare and elusive ghost orchid

MOVIE REVIEW

"Adaptation" 3.5 out of 5

Starring: Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper
Rated: R

"The Orchid Thief" is a real book by Susan Orlean about Laroche, a real orchid hunter. "Adaptation" is credited as being based on Orlean's book.

A major portion of the movie is spent flashing back three years to when Orlean was writing Laroche's story.

Kaufman has trouble adapting "The Orchid Thief" into a book until he begins writing himself into the script.

When he still finds himself stumped for an ending, Donald convinces him to go to Florida to meet Laroche and Orlean, where the two stories finally intertwine.

What Kaufman (the real one) has done here is essentially write a screenplay based on a book that

also tells the story of how he wrote the screenplay. It sounds amazingly confusing, and at times it is, but if viewers just give the movie a chance it will all come together in the end.

Jonze and Kaufman have achieved a real triumph by creating a film that has all the potential to be a narcissistic mid-life crisis whine fest, but instead is a hilarious movie about passion, art, love, family, writing and flowers. The mix sounds odd, but it is a winning combination if there ever was one.

Add to that Jonze's sharp direction and creative use of montage and stock footage, plus some whip-sharp sound editing and the result is a film that is both visually and auditorily pleasing.

The script and direction are only strengthened by the stellar performances. Meryl Streep is great as Orlean, but Chris Cooper

steals every scene as Laroche, a veritable walking ball of contradictions. Cage switches between Kaufman twins easily, but keeps each one distinct and memorable.

Strong supporting performances from Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ron Livingston, Tilda Swanson and Cara Seymour round out the ensemble.

The stars of "Being John Malkovich," including John Cusack, Catherine Keener and John Malkovich, also make cameos during the opening scenes that take place on the movie's set.

"Adaptation" may seem like a big jumbled maze of a movie that doesn't know whether it's a documentary or a comedy at first glance.

But once it starts, it entraps viewers in its twisted little web of storylines that leads to an ending that's perfectly touching and comic.

Alumnus starts clothing brand, hopes to expand

By Michael Smith

Central graduate David Newson has joined the ranks of Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren from the comfort of his dorm room.

Although Newson's label, BAVAKA, may not be found in department stores or plastered on models walking runways across the nation, it is a growing brand, especially in his business base of Kansas State University.

The past school year has been a year of firsts for Newson. It was his first year at K-State following graduating last year.

It was also the first year he was involved in clothing design whatsoever.

Newson is majoring in business marketing with a minor in apparel.

He said he came up with the idea to start his own clothing line in 2002, from his pastor.

"He gave me the idea and the congregation members liked it," Newson said.

This was no easy task for an 18 year old to accomplish. Newson said he always had a sense of design and said he loved to design things that people liked and enjoyed. But, remarkably Newson said he has never had any formal training.

"I never took any art classes or anything," Newson said.

Even though he had no education in this field, Newson said he was still determined to start his own clothing line.

Newson titled his clothing line BAVAKA, and a brand name was born.

Though his business was small, he said it meant the world to him to get it started.

Newson said he has a love for designing and with help of

his grandmother, who became his seamstress, he got his business going.

"When I was younger, and even today, I love clothes," Newson said. "But I always wanted to dress my way. I wanted to put together this shirt and this pair of pants so that it would be cool."

Though Newson said he did not consider himself to be a trendsetter in high school, he does in fact consider himself to be a designer today.

Newson started from scratch. He said he took his ideas, put them on paper and sold them to his friends and family.

Newson said he, his grandmother, and another person are the only ones involved with the business at this time.

He said he mostly designs casual wear for his customers. He makes custom designed clothing for clients as well.

"Whatever color, shape, or form they want, we have the product made for them," he said.

Newson said he has flyers that he makes and gives out to people in K-State to get the word out about his business. He also gets many of his customers by word of mouth.

"People here in Kansas hear about the line, and they see it and then they want the product," Newson said.

Newson has about 30 customers at the moment, but said that the business is growing day by day.

He said that he is taking a hobby and applying it to a dream.

Newson also said he is furthering his education to make that dream a reality.

Local concerts become treacherous territory with overexcited fans, flying elbows

Concerts are supposed to be safe, fun environments. Well, that is unless you are going to a local show.

Every time I go to the Ranch Bowl, something goes wrong.

Whether it is a tragic stage dive or carefree drunkards-spitting on the performers, this crap always happens next to me.

Then sometimes, if I am really lucky, I can get all of that and then some, all in one night.

Recently, I went to a show at the Ranch Bowl in hopes that I could avoid all contact with people there and keep sweat that did not belong to me away.

However, in this case, I was wrong.

At a three-band show at the bowl, I received bruises and mental anguish. By the time the third band went out, the audience was nuts.

People were jumping and being pushed into other people. Where was I during all of that fun?

Right smack dab in the middle of it all.

After successfully avoiding moshpits for a couple of hours, it was my time.

Some random Ranch Bowl brat grabbed me by my arms and attempted to throw me into what I would call the most violent mosh pit I have ever seen.

Before he could throw me, I grabbed a hold of his arms, turned around and threw him into the pit. After the little scuffle, I noticed that I bruised my arm on his elbow. He returned from the pit of hell yelling at me.

"What was that for man? It was all in good fun," the kid said.

I blew it off in hopes that I could just enjoy the show.

However, before I knew it I was with "the jumpers." You know the ones who jump up and down when the bands tell them to.

That was the scene where I became a victim of chinning.

As I jumped up, another fan was coming down, and his chin hit my cheek.

He bit his tongue while I grabbed my face and felt a lump starting to form.

When the jumping calmed down, I had time to grasp the situation, realized I was not hurt that badly and continued on with the show. Then I had a meeting with the "rock on" guy.

He was the one who raised his arms up with the "rock on" sign on both hands.

When he brought his hands down, I was struck by his elbow.

I found my way to the back of the floor and stayed there for the rest of the night.

The next day, I woke up with a pounding headache, got ready for work and went there. I was there for 15 minutes before a co-worker noticed that I had

a slight black eye.

Now, it is important to know that I am a waiter and I see somewhere between 60 and 75 people a day at work.

All day all I could think about was my eye, and the fact that everyone knew.

So anywhere from 60 to 75 times, I had to explain what happened the night before at the "Raunch" Bowl.

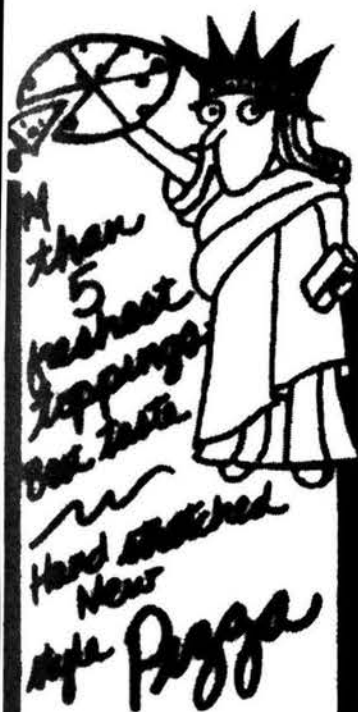
Yes, I do mean raunch because that place is just raunchy.

One thing that I have noticed about the Ranch Bowl is that no matter who is playing, what kind of music and what people show up there, something will always go wrong.

Or maybe I am just someone who does not know how to have fun.



OFF THE WALL
Bryan Swotek



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WOMEN IN ROCK

From Riot Grrrls like Kathleen Hanna and Courtney Love to mixed gender indie bands like Rilo Kiley and Milemarker, there seems to be no aspect of the music industry that women have not conquered yet. Here, the *Register* takes a look at the role of women in rock. Look throughout the A&E section for reviews of some of the most cutting-edge female artists.

Females who Rock



Courtesy of A&M Records

Lisa Loeb
Albums: "Hello Lisa," "Cake and Pie," "Firecracker," "Tails," "Purple Tape" and "Liz and Lisa: Days Were Different"



Courtesy of Saddle Creek Records

Jenny Lewis of Rilo Kiley
Albums: "Takeoffs and Landings" and "The Execution of All Things"



Courtesy of Virgin Records

Paz Lenchantin of A Perfect Circle

Album: "Mer de Noms"



Courtesy of Dreamworks Records

Jolie Edwards of Jolie and the Wanted

Album: "Jolie and the Wanted"

Women's role in music more prolific, label director says

from Women, page 11

Farnam Street club several times and at quite a few house shows. Boyd said she never received any weird vibes from audiences because she was the sole female in the band.

"I never got weirded out, if anything I got props," she said.

Boyd said audiences seemed to like the fact that she was a female singing and screaming with a hardcore band full of guys.

"I think people liked it because it was out of the ordinary," she said.

Troolin said women like Ani DiFranco, who started Righteous Babe Records by herself, were early empowered voices in the female music scene.

She said the Riot Grrrl movement of the early '90s, which included all-girl feminist bands like Bikini Kill, helped paved the way for the female musicians of today.

"Riot Grrrl made a lot of that (modern music) possible," she said.

Once people saw female musicians and bands in the mainstream media, Troolin said it inspired many to follow in their footsteps.

She said that the rise of independent labels also helped the development of women's role in the music industry.

Major labels, she said, often want a certain image from their female artists and some of them do not judge women on their musical ability first.

"The major labels want you to be sexy and 95 pounds," she said.

Troolin said not every female artist on a major label is sexually exploited and as long as a woman feels like she is in control of her own life and musical career, she does not think it is an issue.

"If they (female artists on major labels) feel comfortable with themselves and their creative expression, more power to them," she said.

Sophomore Joseph Kowalewski said he thinks some major label pop stars sell themselves out to get their music heard.

Troolin said she finds it depressing when major labels make calculated ploys to exploit female musicians. But if it is a woman's choice to be marketed that way, she said it is great that she is controlling her own career.

Troolin said she started her own independent



Courtesy of Righteous Babe Records

Ani DiFranco (pictured above) has become one of the most respected women in the music industry by starting her own record label, Righteous Babe Records. DiFranco has run and maintained the label for over a decade.

music label, Grimsey Records, when she was 22 years old, before she worked for Righteous Babe.

Righteous Babe was started in 1990, when DiFranco started self-releasing cassettes out of the back of her car when she was on touring around the country, Troolin said. From there, the label just kept building up from the bottom.

"She (DiFranco) built her following piece by piece and brick by brick," Troolin said.

Although, Troolin said her label never took off the way Righteous Babe did, running it was still a valuable experience for her.

In the end, Troolin said gender should not have to be a major issue in music.

She said Righteous Babe releases albums by all

sorts of artists, male and female, as long as the music is good.

"I just hope people keep making music regardless of their sex," she said.

Kowalewski said he listens to all sorts of music and gender does not really make a difference in what he buys.

"If I just hear something I like, I go out and buy the CD," he said.

Women have come a long way in the music industry and Troolin said there is nothing that she does not think they can do.

"I feel like women have really taken it very far," she said. "It doesn't seem like there are any genres that are really closed."

New Osbourne release result of fame, lacks musical talent, merit

By Michael Smith

Kelly Osbourne may have inherited her father's name, but certainly not his talent.

Her cover of Madonna's "Papa Don't Preach" recorded earlier this year, and the 11 original songs on her new album "Shut Up" are a tribute to rock 'n' roll girl power.

However, she did not get this record deal based on her talent and it shows. Osbourne does show emotion in some of the tracks, but it seems to be another ploy to put more bucks into the Osbourne dynasty.

Would she really be here if it were not for her father, the prince of darkness?

Osbourne seems to have become a real punk rock chick. Should listeners care even though they see the real Osbournes on the MTV show "The Osbournes" and know it's only an image?

"Shut Up" is 39 minutes long and includes a hidden bonus song, which happens to be the record's only smash hit "Papa Don't Preach." It is shocking to hear the song at the end of the album, just as the last track played.

However, the melody and dynamics of the album were outstanding.

The opening track "Disconnected" is a powerful start to the album because of the overwhelming gear shifting of the guitars in the background. If her

band had just played on the album, it would probably sell millions of copies. "Come Dig Me Out" is a little more melodious, and offers a glimpse into her misguided world.

Osbourne's voice has obviously been digitally reworked to make it sound better.

There are some amusing moments in the album. "Right Here" is an '80s pop punk piece that shows that this track is a little genuine.

Oh, there's the girl power. "Contradiction" is set to the beat of Little Peggy March's hit "I Will Follow Him," which in a way, is a fitting tribute to women in general.

It does, however, borrow heavily from the song in the "Sister Act" movies.

The closing track to the album shows real emotion, in "More Than Life Itself."

"You never said that you were perfect/ but you always are to me," she sings. God help us if she really is singing about herself. She really needs some help with that one.

Osbourne and the rest of her family are the hit of reality television on the MTV network. She is always somewhat on top, but she's pretty close to the bottom with this album, if not under it.

Osbourne should take her own advice and "Shut Up."



Courtesy of Sony Records

Kelly Osbourne, daughter of Black Sabbath frontman Ozzy Osbourne, has a new album entitled "Shut Up." Osbourne's sound is not nearly as innovative or original as her father's.

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Former Soul Coughing singer embarks on solo career

By Paula Salhany

As he sings in his song "Where Have You Gone?", former lead singer of Soul Coughing, Mike Doughty's life isn't a convoluted axiom of the cube of x+y.

It's simply about his music. All he said he wants to do is keep being creative.

Even though his band has broken up, he continues to do what he loves: compose and perform music.

Doughty said he started playing music when he was about 14. "I bought a cheap bass off of a friend," he said.

Even though he said he wasn't ever really encouraged to play music as a child, he began writing through his journals and coming up with lyrics.

His first solo album, "Skittish," recorded in 1996, was a result of a frustrating experience recording an album for Soul Coughing, he said.

"I wanted to make an acoustic record very quickly, and had this opportunity to work with this guy, Kramer, who's a renowned New York producer guy," Doughty said.

To come up with his songs for both himself and Soul Coughing,

Doughty said he does intense journaling and later goes through his material and finds phrases and stanzas he likes.

He then puts them together to create his songs like, "Soft Serve," "Where Have You Gone" and "Rising Sign."

Doughty's most recent work is a solo live album called "Smofe and Smange," which was recorded in July of 2002.

He said he made the live album as a documentation of his shows, when he said they were in a "hot phase."

"Smofe and Smange" features songs from previous Soul Coughing albums and from "Skittish."

He said he included the Soul Coughing songs because they are part of a repertoire he has developed over ten years. He said not only does he like those songs, he can't ignore them.

"Also, I think there's an emotional kind of aching sense in those songs that didn't shine in the bombastic Soul Coughing arrangements, so I really have relished playing them solo and hearing that stark inner thing they have," Doughty said.

But when Doughty is not writing his mostly love influenced

songs, he writes poetry and has published a book called "Slanky."

He said his love of poetry comes from a fascination with Alan Dugan, Dylan Thomas and the life of John Coltrane.

"I idolize John Coltrane," he said.

Doughty said he is a sucker for sappy trance songs with meaningful lyrics that end up influencing how he writes his.

He said his goal for the future is to continue to push his art to grow, even through difficult times.

He said his poetry does influence his music, but a lot of the time, his poetry is driven by his desire to produce music.

"I view poetry as more of a side dish, and the music is the entrée," he said.

Though right now he is writing new songs and is trying to get people together to record and hopes to be in the studio soon.

Though he says he will never be on MTV's cribs, he's content doing the same thing he always has.

"I can see myself forming another band someday, though probably not in the immediate future," he said.



Courtesy of Little Big Man Productions

Mike Doughty, former lead singer of Soul Coughing, released his last album "Smofe & Smange: Live in Minneapolis" in 2002. It was his second album as a solo artist. Doughty is currently writing new songs and hopes to be in the studio soon.

Cheesy horror flick fails to frighten

By Jessica Womack

Mix "Pitch Black," "Urban Legend" and "Night of the Living Dead" with a lot of cops and two scared boys haunted with nightmares and the result is "Darkness Falls," a new horror movie starring Chaney Kley and Emma Caulfield.

At the beginning of the movie, the legend of Matilda Dixon, an evil ghost, and the so-called "tooth fairy" is told.

The curse that is supposed to be cast upon anyone who sees her face is also revealed.

Kyle (Chaney Kley) is one of the unfortunate ones who sees her face and is burdened with the curse.

When Kyle loses his last tooth and the "tooth fairy" comes into his room, he sneaks a peek at her while she tries to put a gold coin under his pillow.

He then gets her curse cast upon him and she pursues him, trying to kill him.

Kyle goes through his whole life fearing the "tooth fairy" and continues to stay in the light at all times, because it is the only way to protect himself.

But when his childhood sweetheart Caitlin (Emma Caulfield) calls on him for help regarding her younger brother, he is called back to the scene where his nightmares first started.



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Caitlin (Emma Caulfield), Kyle (Chaney Kley) and Michael (Lee Cormie) hide from the mysterious forces surrounding them in "Darkness Falls." The action/horror movie is hampered by a weak plot line.

Caitlin's little brother Michael (Lee Cormie) is being haunted by the tooth fairy as well, so Kyle and Michael team up to stay in the light at all times together so that they can escape the tooth fairy's evil grasp.

The rest of the movie is filled with flying shadows, unrealistic stunts, poor character development, cops with guns and people dying all over the place.

These things don't help. Towards the middle of the movie, the plot gets thin and it seems as if a whole lot of action and jumpy scenes that don't really fall together are put in just to fill time.

This movie is recommended for all those who don't mind watching a corny/scary horror flick that is predictable.

But for all those who are die-hard horror fans or people who like to be surprised at the end, this is most definitely the wrong choice of movie to go see.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Darkness Falls"

Starring: Emma Caulfield, Chaney Kley

of 5

Eighth Wave works up Ranch Bowl crowd with refreshing ska/punk sound, releases new album

By Bryan Swotek

Omaha and Lincoln have one saving grace when it comes to the two cities' local scenes and ska music. That saving grace is Eighth Wave.

The six-piece band played a show at the Ranch Bowl Entertainment Center on Jan. 11 with three other local and national acts.

Members of Eighth Wave knew it was their night.

It definitely made the album release show a party with songs like "Crush A Lot" and "Party Girl" which were both

featured on the band's last album, "The Truth Hurts."

The band even managed to work a Beastie Boys cover into the set list, making "No Sleep 'til Brooklyn," a song that hopefully will come back and make appearances at future shows.

The band has never performed a bad show. This performance was no exception.

Good shows just seem to come naturally to this band from Lincoln.

The mosh pits, stage diving and crowd surfing at this show were finally

successful after many failed attempts.

Though the crowd surfing usually ended up in an ugly fall, the victims kept on coming into the massive sea of sweaty bodies.

It was quite the scene. Eighth Wave ended the show with the song "Lost Between the Lines."

"I swear this is not a song about drugs," lead singer Kris Wave assured the audience.

Kris and Steve Wave, who plays trumpet and provides backup vocals, added great moments of laughter with their on-stage antics.

"We are the ska band that is not re-

ally ska," Kris said.

"I promise, we have at least one punk song," added Steve with a belly full of chuckles.

Last year the band was given its shot at television stardom when its music was used on the MTV show "Undressed."

If the success of the last release says anything, it looks like these self-proclaimed "Store Bought Punks" will have another great year.

Only time will tell.

The show started out with the Omaha band Suspicious Fifth.

The band performed a 45-minute set that got the audience ready for the rest of

picture.

There was a close call at a recent Cursive show.

Opening act Calico's weak melodic screams, courtesy of lead singer Tim Kasher, interwoven with cello riffs, courtesy of cello player Gretta Cohn, and a driving beat.

Cursive started its show to enthused roars of anticipation from a full house.

The playlist consisted of an assortment of new and old songs.

The band also threw in a few amped-up renditions of oldies.

It played songs off of its previous albums, such as its debut full length "Domestica" and its 2001 EP "Burst and Bloom."

Cursive will release a follow-up to those albums, entitled "The Ugly Organ," on March 4. "Art is Hard," a CD single from the upcoming album, has already been released.

Cursive played an outstanding set on the night of its show with Doris Henson and Calico.

However, the show's quality was in no part due to the numerous crowd members singing along.

This painted an interesting

Cursive entertained the audience with its unique sound of melodic screams, courtesy of lead singer Tim Kasher, interwoven with cello riffs, courtesy of cello player Gretta Cohn, and a driving beat.

When Cursive finished its last song and walked off stage, the excited audience was still not satisfied.

Eventually the band reappeared for an encore presentation in response to the clapping, stomping and screaming masses.

The entire night did not go that well though. The first band, Calico, was unimaginative and derivative-seemingly a trendy emo band trying to cash in on the craze.

Calico was a guitar-based emo duo, and the members were possibly the only ones that enjoyed the performance.

After the unimpressive generic performance from Calico the intermission music was a relief for the few audience members who had been trying to feign interest out of pity.

Calico's performance didn't

leave high expectations for the act to follow, but Doris Henson caught the crowd's atrophied ears by surprise, giving a jolt to the sleeping crowd, and bringing the show out of the doldrums.

For the first time since descending into the hazy, smoke-permeated underground, the audience began to crowd towards the stage.

Dancing around in excessively tight jeans, singing about cows and neurotically grinning, the lead singer's antics captivated the audience for the band's entire act.

At the same time as it entertained the crowd, the Lawrence, KS-based indie band emphatically expressing its gratitude for being invited to play with Cursive.

The members also managed to show off the homemade jewelry boxes that they were peddling. By the end of Doris Henson's performance, the underground was being packed to the limit as tickets sold out.

With the conclusion of the concert, the crowd piled out of the underground from an excellent concert by Cursive and Doris Henson with the shoddy performance of the Calico almost forgotten.

Though the set may have only raised eyebrows, the next band won the awards for favorite band of the night.

The Moped Band from Chicago was the odd band out at the show.

This super emo band kept the audience's attention and knew how to keep it.

The band could have possibly won a Weezer look-a-like award.

Another band of the night was Mandown. It was slightly more energetic than the Moped Band and gave the audience a taste of what the main event held.

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The Register's Sports Star Cards


The Register asked each winter sports coach who they expected to be the most vital player to the team.


The coaches chose the following players based on their expected roles leading their teams to successful years.


As the season wears on, the coaches expect to see these players stepping up to the front and helping each respective team on to victorious State tournament performances.


	WINTER 2003 Brittany McClure
	As a returning State qualifier, she will help lead the team. Women's Swimming CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach(es): Lynne Slobodnik, Andy Wane	
Returning Starters: senior Lauren Freeman, senior Lara Watzke, senior Jessica Moyer, sophomore Kim Norvell, junior Ally Gumbiner, junior Katie Lydiatt	
Season outlook: With swimmers already qualifying for State, they hope to finish on top at Metro's.	
Key meets this year: Northwest	


	WINTER 2003 Crystal Howard
	Out with a torn ACL, she will cheer her team on to victory. Women's Basketball CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Michele Roberts	
Returning Starters: junior Keonna Williams, senior Rebecca Pauba	
Season outlook: Overcoming adversity will determine their fate this season.	
Key games this year: Millard West	

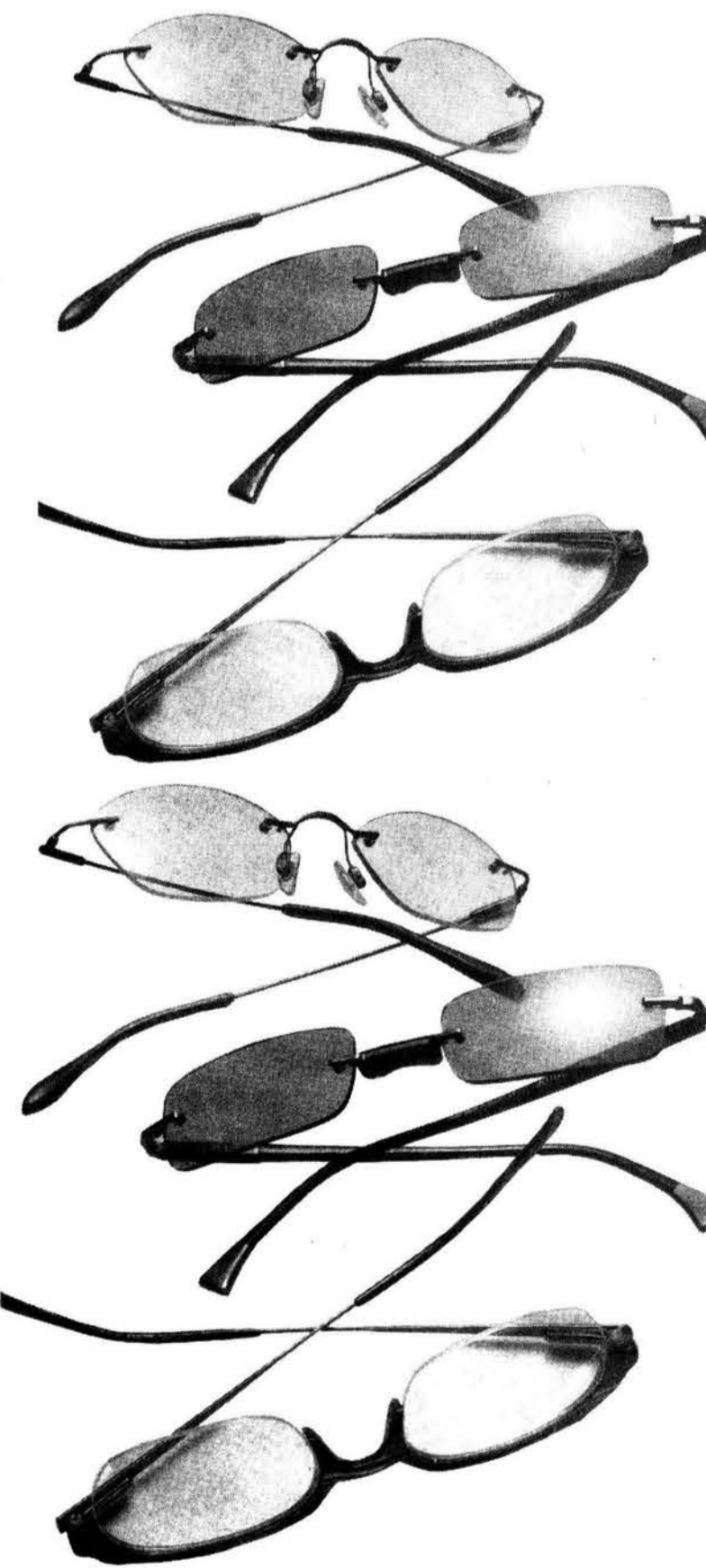
	WINTER 2003 Duaine Johnson
	His intensity will lead the team to success this season. Men's Basketball CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Eric Behrens	
Returning Starters: junior Cortney Grixby, junior Rico Washington, junior Karl White, sophomore Nate Prater	
Season outlook: With a strong team effort they hope to build on last year's success.	
Key Games this year: North, Benson, Bellevue West, Lincoln High	

	WINTER 2003 Nick Wright
	After placing at State last year, he will lead the team to success this year. Wrestling CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Jimmie Foster	
Returning Starters: sophomore Blake Gayer, senior Jose Cardenas, junior Nick Wright, junior Marchelo Moderow	
Season Outlook: The team is inexperienced, but will compete for several State qualifying positions.	
Key meets this year: Bellevue West, Millard North	

	WINTER 2003 Sean McCall
	His hardwork and determination should take him to State. Men's Swimming CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach(es): Lynne Slobodnik, Andy Wane	
Returning Starters: junior Nick Garing, junior Abie Farhat, sophomore Chris Kielion	
Season outlook: With a tough swim schedule they hope to make it to State.	
Key meets this year: Northwest	

	WINTER 2003 Alisha Kellon
	As a returning starter she hopes to dive her way into State. Women's Diving CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach(es): Lynne Slobodnik, Andy Wane	
Returning Starters: sophomore Elisa Berzins	
Season outlook: Their work will be cut out for them, but they will work to their fullest potential.	
Key meets this year: Northwest	

	WINTER 2003 Tarrell Burrell
	He hopes to win his 181 pound weight lifting class. Powerlifting CHS STUDENT ATHLETE
The Team	
Coach: Joe McMenamain	
Returning Starters: senior Brandon Teamer, senior John Peterson	
Season outlook: They'll be stronger this year and hope to do well in the upper weight classes.	
Key meets this year: Abraham Lincoln, Fremont	



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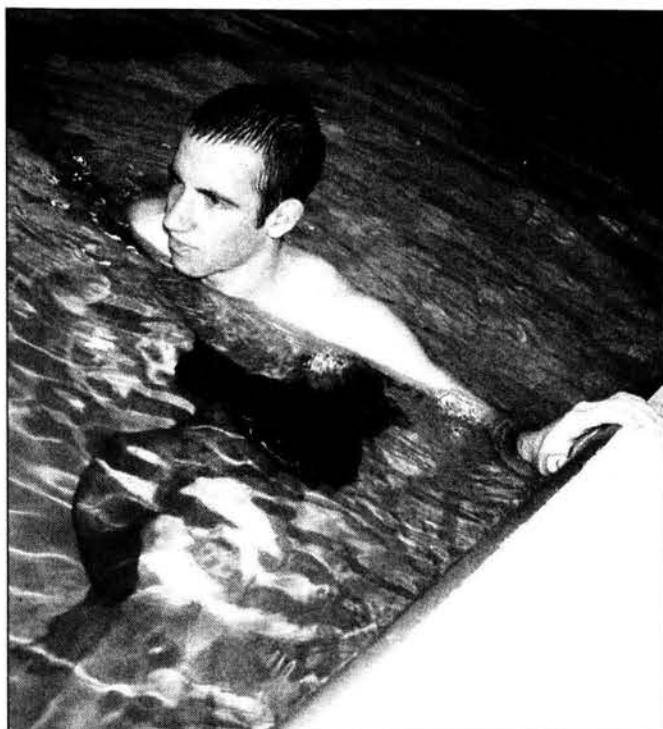
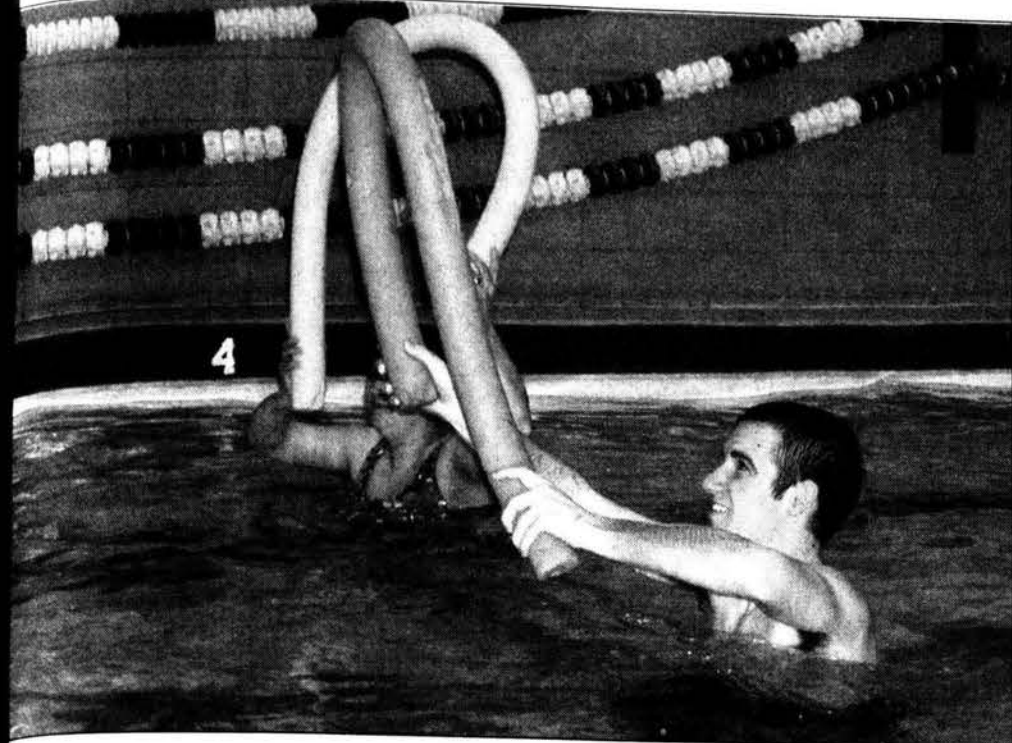
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(LEFT) Aaron Maurice uses a water noodle to follow the rhythm set by the instructor. **(RIGHT)** Maurice cools down after the exercise doing ballerina stretches. Photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

An afternoon in the pool

Register reporter Aaron Maurice participated in a local water aerobics class with a number of elderly individuals. Although the reporter claims to be a soccer player, the event was a new athletic experience.

I have never dated more than one girl at once. Suddenly, I was thrown into the midst of over a dozen. All were old enough to be my grandparents. In fact, one was 87.

I entered the Christ Child Community Center at 10th and William Streets and was enthusiastically greeted by the people inside. They seemed excited for me to be there, or at least excited for someone new to haze.

It seemed innocent enough, just a rectangular pool. But it was what happened in that pool that changed everything.

I joined the group warming up for the session by jogging in place.

They were old enough to be my grandparents. As they were jogging, they discussed random topics, ranging from what they did during the afternoon to their favorite books.

The ladies said they were dressed in their best suits for this swim, just for me.

If I was a lot older, I may have been jumping all over them. But as it was, I blushed and continued to mind my own business.

My attempts to act somewhat cultured in this instance most surely failed, but I managed to mingle enough to add to the conversations. Although, I don't know how much they cared about how hot I thought Britney Spears was. Our

instructor motioned that it was time to begin, so we spread out, ready to work.

The class started off with stretches, but quickly evolved to a full-body workout. This wasn't too bad, but as a soccer player, I wasn't used to any exercise other than running.

One lady in particular seemed to take a personal interest in making me feel welcome. Dolly was close to 90, but had more energy than most small children.

Aerobics in the water seemed like a good idea. The water makes motions easier, but hidden beneath this half-truth is that water also slows your motion. You have to work harder to do the same thing you would do on land.

As I struggled to keep pace, the other ladies just chatted away.

They had done this before, they knew how it was to be done.

Behind their seemingly nice and calm exterior hid workout machines. It didn't matter that they were four or five times my age.

We moved on to foam dumbbells, which added a new element into the equation. The first exercise was to hold the dumbbells over our heads out of the water.

It got hard when we worked underwater. Foam becomes harder to push underwater, as it

tends to rise to the surface. What started as an easy workout was quickly becoming strenuous.

After a half an hour of working, it was time for the fun. We each were given a foam noodle and proceeded with the final activity of the day.

The first thing was to use the noodle to work our arms.

Next, we played a game as we rested that included making shapes out of our coveted noodles. The images these women came up with probably should not be shared.

Our day was not complete until we had our final activity, swimming in a circle while holding the noodles to form a flower. This actually was surprisingly fun.

This marked our cool down and our day was complete.

I was thankful knowing that my muscles survived the 45-minute workout, but sad that I had to leave my new friends (but not before I got my hug from Dolly.)

These individuals did not fit my preconceived notion of the elderly.

They did not go around harassing children who wandered onto their lawns.

Instead they were active and energetic. They accepted me into their group and wanted me to be there. I ended up having a wonderful time.

Modern athletics lacking innovation, interest, food

A man and a woman, both naked, wrestling, in the mud. That's a sport.

It was considered one of the greatest sports in ancient Greece. It embodied the original war between the sexes. It seems inappropriate today, but at least it's interesting.

In the pros, the winning team receives signing bonuses. The losing coach is fired. No one eats pizza, instead they spend all week at the gym.

In little league the only statistic that mattered was who hits more home runs per season.



THE FIRST DRAFT
John Owens-Ream

Interesting sports don't exist in America anymore.

We still have entertaining sports, but they have lost their edge. They've become too refined.

Players in the NFL spend five hours a day working out. In the off-season, they work out even more.

They have computer tests to tell them which muscles need work.

This isn't everyday people sweating it out in a good football game anymore, these are scientifically engineered supermen in 40 pounds of padding.

Sports are supposed to be about the common man. Joe Blow versus John Doe in a match of strength and wits and whatnot.

When I think of sports, I think of little league baseball.

But between little league and professional baseball, an aspect of the game just disappears.

In little league, when a team loses, the coach tells them it's OK as long as they tried their best and when they win they are exhilarated beyond belief.

Either way, they will still happily eat pizza and ice cream to celebrate the day's event.

Now it's all about error to play ratios, ERAs and how fast a player can run the 40.

What happened to the idea of new sports?

Until televisions took over, people were still inventing new sports and changing old ones. The footballs people played with looked much different a century ago.

Why don't we just change the shape of the ball every few games?

It would keep the players on their feet. One day would be a soccer ball, one day a Frisbee.

When was the last time a new sport was popular?

There should be a mandatory invention of two new sports played on major networks at least once a year.

Like the XFL, except sports that don't involve ex-convicts; or at least not any more ex-convicts than the NBA.

There's still plenty of room for inventions in the area of sports that involve lots of mud, too.

If you add five tons of mud to just about any sport, it gets more fun to watch.

Or maybe instead of mud, Jell-O. You know, "Jell-O on Ice" has a certain ring to it.

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FOCUS: SWIMMING

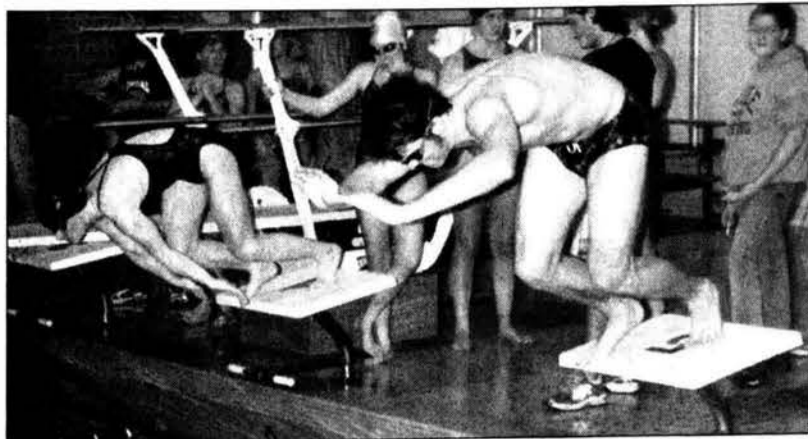


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Central swimmers compete in the Purple and White meet early in the season.

Swim coach says attitude key to year's State success

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz
If the swim team keeps a positive attitude, head coach Lynne Slobodnik said it will have a chance to do just as well, if not better than last year's.

A major problem for this year's team has been limited access to facilities, Slobodnik said. She said too many swimmers are focused on the fact that their times were not as low as they would like.

"They just need to see that when we go to Metro, they will swim faster," she said. Slobodnik said sophomores Brittany McClure and Kim Norvell will be the standouts on the girls team. Norvell agreed that she and McClure would do well, but also said senior Lauren Freeman and junior Ally Gumbiner have a lot of potential, too.

As for the boys team, Slobodnik said sophomores Sean McCall, junior Nick Goding and junior Abe Farhat will be the standouts. McCall said he agreed that they would do well this year.

Several swimmers said there have been some other roadblocks for the team to overcome this year. Norvell said a lack of participation among boys has been a problem this year.

"Since we have a limited number of boys, we need them all," she said. Gumbiner agreed that the boys team will be at a greater disadvantage this year because of last

year's losses. Slobodnik said the loss of some of last year's key senior boy swimmers has been hard for the team, but she still expects them to do well.

Gumbiner, who qualified for State last year, said she thought the team's limited access to facilities is one of the roadblocks that it will have to overcome this year. "(The biggest problem is) lack of practice, probably because competing schools practice a lot more than we do," she said.

Gumbiner said Central's team practices for two hours a day, every weekday with weight training every other morning, while competing schools will practice for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon and on weekends.

Norvell has already made State this year for the backstroke and made it last year as a freshman.

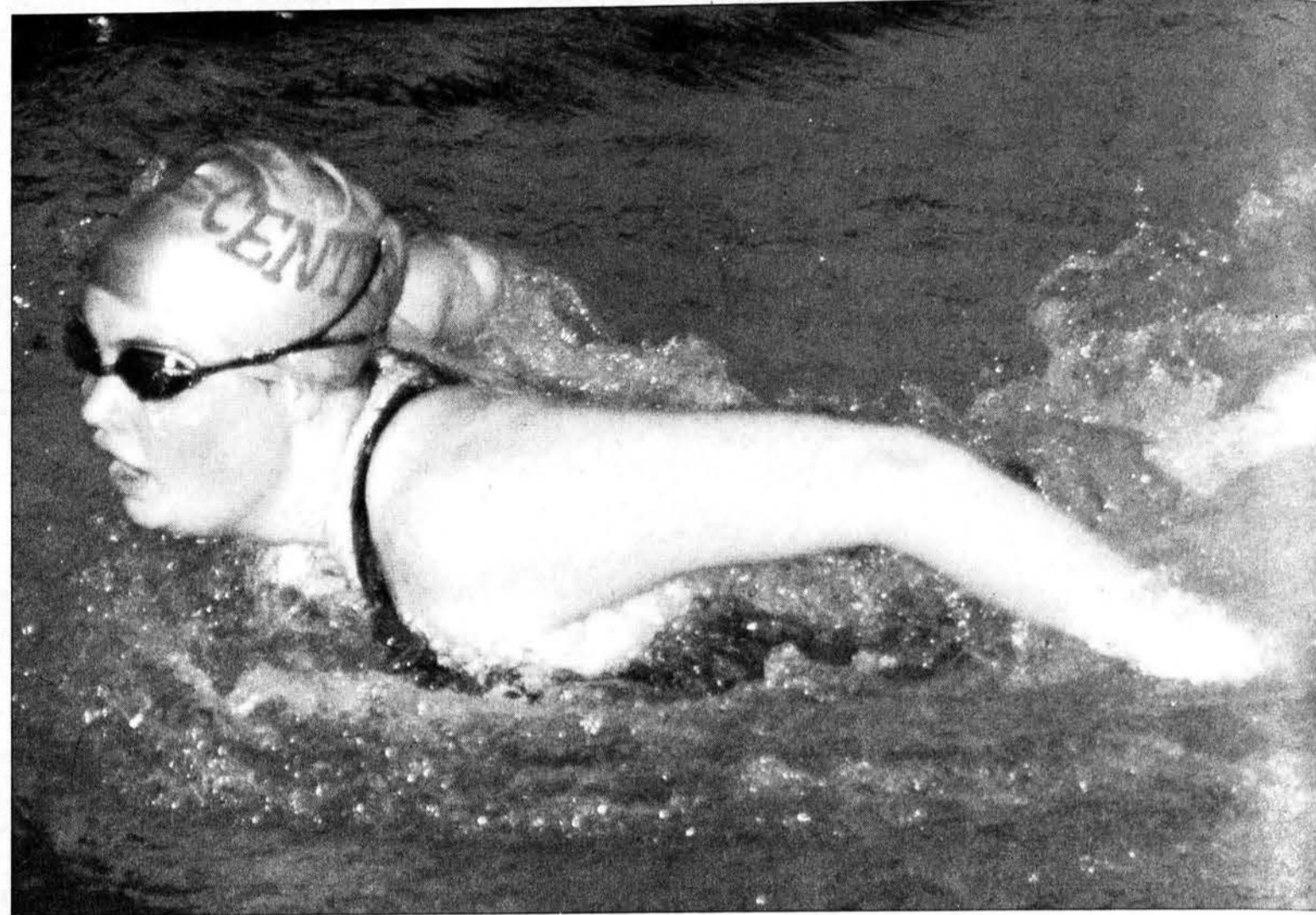
Slobodnik said she hopes to send between 12 and 15 people to State this year. She said she thinks that junior Alisha Kellon, a diver who attends Mercy High, but competes on Central's team, has the potential to place in the top three at State.

McCall said that if this year's team works hard enough, it will be able to do as well as last year's team did.

"We need to practice harder to get up to that level," he said.

STREAMLINED FOR SUCCESS

A group of Central's swimmers demonstrate the sport of swimming's various strokes. Each stroke has its own unique style and form. The following swimmers hope to use the strokes to guide themselves to successful finishes individually as well as a team.



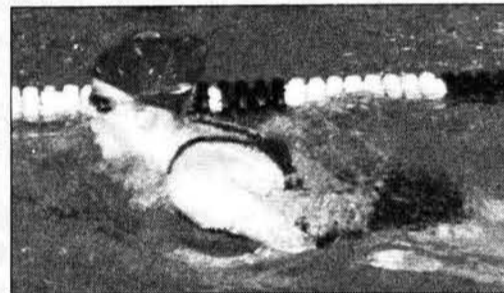
Butterfly: senior Lara Watzke

"I like it because not everyone likes to do it and it seems like a challenge."



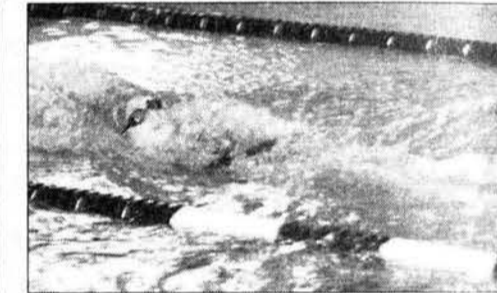
Freestyle: sophomore Christopher Kielion

"It helps me stretch out. It is one of the strokes I have down to a rhythm."



Breaststroke: sophomore Brittany McClure

"I like it because I've been good at it since I first started swimming and I had knack for it."



Backstroke: sophomore Kim Norvell

"In seventh grade they needed a backstroker and I said I'd do it. I liked it ever since."

Photos by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Norris facilities average for OPS, unsatisfactory elsewhere

By Charlie Wence
Central's pool isn't the worst when compared to other pools in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS), but junior Abe Farhat said it doesn't even compare to suburban pools.

"Norris isn't the worst, but it's one of the lowest," Farhat said. Schools like Westside and the Millard schools have newer facilities, more deck space, timing systems and larger areas for seating.

Head coach Lynne Slobodnik said none of the OPS schools have that. "It (the pool) is comparable to other schools in OPS, but does not compare to Westside or Millard's pool," Slobodnik said.

Doug Krecklow, Westside's head swimming coach, said that Westside's pool has an array of features that give it a good reputation. The pool, constructed in 1964 by a firm from California, includes a pressure filtering system that maintains a good flow and clear water, Krecklow said.

Westside's pool also has a gut-

ter and drainage system different from normal swimming pools. "The water is at deck level and the pool is built into the deck while public pools have water below the deck," he said.

Norris only has enough seating for 200 people compared to 2,000 with other schools, Slobodnik said. Junior Andrae Allen said the capacity and where people sit could be worked on, but the chances of that changing are small.

However, Slobodnik said maintenance is not much of a problem. "They (upkeep staff) do a pretty good job (of maintenance)," she said.

Farhat said that Norris is somewhat cramped being a full size pool (six lanes), but the swimmers got used to it. "We just have a lot of people," he said.

Out of all the OPS schools, Slobodnik said Burke is the nicest because it has a separate diving area. Slobodnik said that OPS

schools are all about the same because they all have old pools. "It's old, but sufficient," sophomore swimmer Christopher Kielion said.

Allen said that even though the pool is not in the best shape, the swimmers should be glad to have it. Farhat said University pools such as UNO, Bob Devaney (Lin-

coln) and Creighton are the best. When on the road swimming at other school's pools, Allen said he doesn't really care what specialties they have.

"It's not that big of a deal," he said. Westside's pool is on campus and easier to get to rather than commuting to an area middle school like Norris.

Having the pool on campus opens it up to the school curriculum in addition to being used for the swimming and diving team practices. Westside requires enrollment in a quarter swimming class for graduation, Krecklow said.

Looking to the future, Slobodnik said she wishes that one day Central could have its own pool. "I can only hope if they could put a pool at Central that there would be more seating and a timing system," she said.

Allen said it would be nice to have a timing system at Norris like other schools. Slobodnik said she understands the chances of getting a pool on campus are slim.



Westside's pool (above left) is a more modern facility than any of the OPS pools. Central's pool at Norris (right) is not the worst OPS pool according to swimmers. However, it is not comparable to the more advanced facilities owned by schools like Westside or the Millard school district.

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McMenamin attends national convention

By Doug Meigs

Coach Joe McMenamin recently returned from the American Football League Association Conference that took place in New Orleans Jan. 5-9. McMenamin was among over 6,000 coaches who attended the clinic from across the nation. Coaches in attendance included individuals ranging from the high school level, to the Division I college level.

The clinic was specifically divided into five groups (high school, junior college, Division III, Division II, Division I). However, he said individuals could switch between groups if they felt like it. Speakers present included Jim Tressel of Iowa State and Larry Coker of University of Miami.

"Every day, they had different speakers talking about what they did offensively and defensively in their programs," he said. "It's a great clinic where coaches exchange ideas and ways of doing things."

He said he always picks up some information from the conference. This year, he said he picked the jailbreak screen.

Sometimes it isn't necessarily new information, but the conference offers a chance to view the different ways that other schools run the same plays. In many cases, he said it offers a chance to reaffirm some of the team's current practices and plays.

Often times McMenamin said college coaches have already heard of some of his players. The clinic offers a chance for him to further sell athletes by obtaining a more personal conversation with the coaches and explain how the particular player would benefit the college team.

This year, he said that he spoke to Wyoming about seniors Chris Leflore and EJ Falkner.

Sometimes he will approach college coaches, and sometimes they approach him.

McMenamin said that before Ahman Green had moved to any college, but was still playing at Central, several coaches followed him around trying to obtain more information on Green while promoting their schools.

"They ended up recruiting me so to speak," he said.

McMenamin has attended the conference for several years. He said it is primarily a college clinic, but there were over 100 high schools represented.

He said he learned of the camp from local coaches and college coaches earlier in his coaching career.

EAGLE REWIND

A look back at the past month in Central sports

All information as of Jan. 11

As the winter sports season progresses, each sport has shown a great deal of potential.

Both wrestling and swimming have a number of athletes hoping for successful State performances, while the boys basketball team hopes to win State after last year's disappointing first round loss.

Wrestling			
11	V	5 of 9	Tri-center
18	V	11 of 16	Metro

Girls Swimming			
14	V	LOSS 70-84	Duchesne
21	V	WIN 84-70	Bryan

Boys Swimming			
14	V	LOSS 31-73	Lewis Cen.
21	V	WIN 73-21	Bryan

Boys Basketball			
11	JV	LOSS 33-42	Westside
13	9A	LOSS 39-55	Millard W.
14	R	WIN 36-34	Westside
17	V	WIN 51-47	Papillion
18	R	LOSS 36-44	Papillion

Girls Basketball			
11	JV	WIN 59-50	Marian
13	9A	WIN 42-36	Millard W.
13	9B	LOSS 28-34	Millard W.
15	R	LOSS 36-48	Duchesne
17	V	LOSS 39-55	Papillion
18	R	WIN 45-37	Marian

Calendar

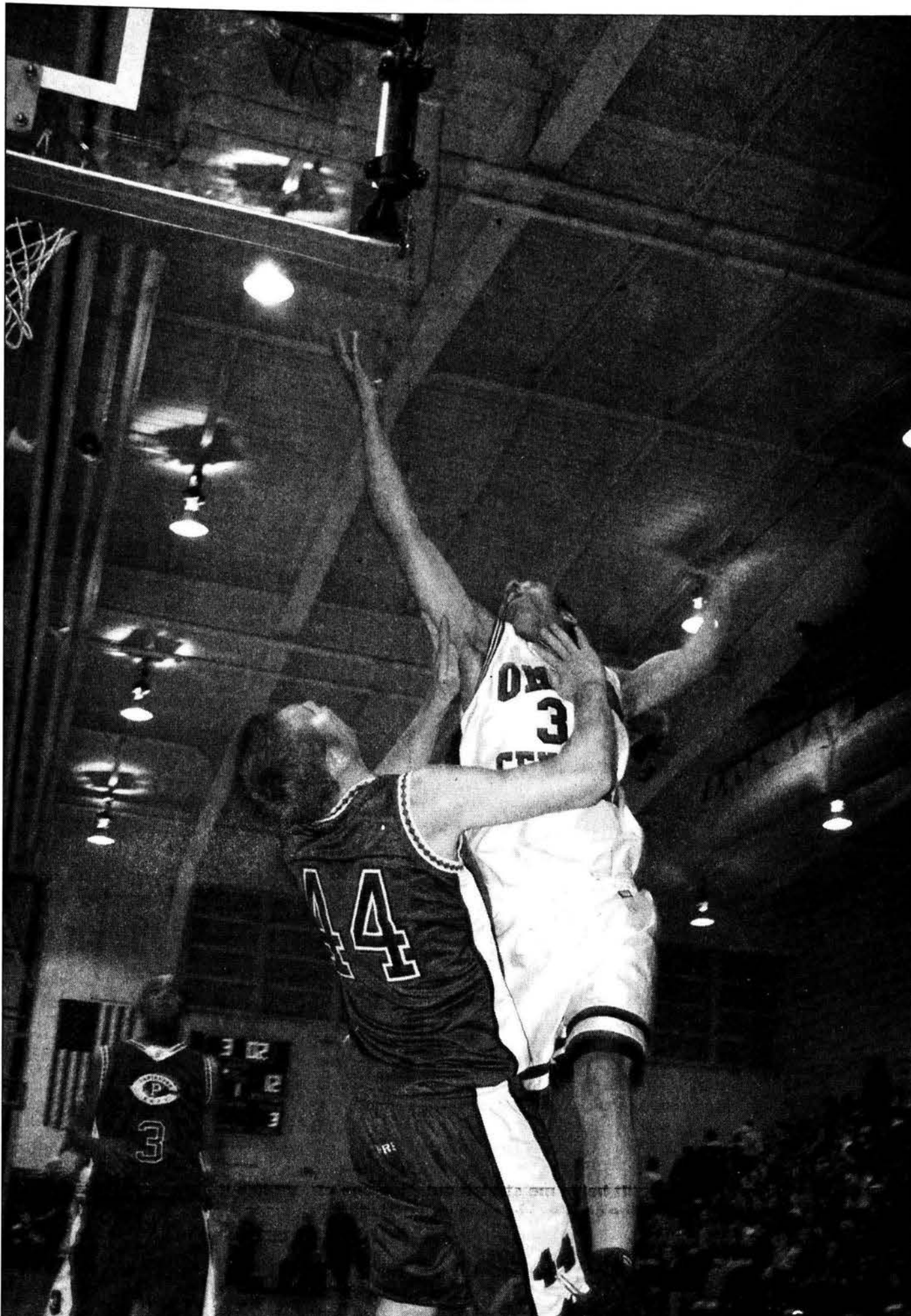


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER
Junior Karl White soars above Prep's Zach Potter to make one of his many baskets of the night. White was the team's leading scorer. The basketball team dropped a heartbreaker to Creighton Prep Jan. 10, losing by three to the Junior Jays 69-66.

Athletic Events

February

14 (Tues) District Wrestling Tournament

The District wrestling tournament will take place. The team has a number of wrestlers that hope to go on to State. This tournament will determine their chances.

20 (Thurs) State wrestling tournament

The State wrestling tournament will take place. Junior Nick Wright, among others, is expected to do well.

27 (Thurs) State swimming meet

The State swimming meet will begin. It will continue through the next three days. Sophomores Sean McCall and Brittany McClure are two of the team's hopeful swimmers.

28 (Fri) Districts basketball

The first day of the boys basketball Districts will take place and continue through March 1. The girls tournament will begin the previous day and will conclude on the 28th. After winning the Holiday Tournament, the team is hopeful to go on and win at State.

March

6 (Wed) State girls basketball

The girls State tournament will begin and continue through the next two days. Last year the team lost in the first round.

13 (Thurs) State boys basketball

The boys State tournament will begin and continue for two days. The team's hopes were cut short last year.

Senior commits to eager UNL sports program

By Devon O'Connell

Most linemen can't block him, and most backs can't run from him. As a lineman, senior Brandon Teamer is big, tough and verbally committed to Nebraska.

The 6'5," 256 pound defensive tackle is one of the top high school prospects in the nation, and was named to the All State First Team Defense.

He was honored for the accomplishment along with the other All State qualifiers at the Outland Trophy Award Banquet on Jan. 9.

He said being named to the team and going to the banquet provided him with a lot of exposure, and helped him meet several people in the football community.

In addition, Rivals.com rated Teamer as a First Team All American, and as the number 19 defensive tackle in the country.

Nebraska isn't the only school after him. Teamer received seven offers total, on top of the constant barrage of phone calls, scout visits and letters.

"He's still getting calls from a bunch of schools, even after he verbally committed to Nebraska," head football coach Joe McMenamin said. "Some colleges have been very persistent."

Teamer said he owes all the hype to McMenamin.

"Mac got my name out there," he said. "I mean he is the one who got me on the field in the first place and he introduced me to the Nebraska summer camp."

He is such a great mediator in between the colleges. He knows everybody and he can get your name out there."

All this attention is fairly new, as he wasn't such a sought after commodity his junior year.

"He didn't play his sophomore year, he's still learning the fundamentals of the game," McMenamin said. "His best years are definitely in front of him."

Teamer said he's not letting all the recent recognition get to his head.

"I'm just ignoring all the hype and attention," he said. "I just want to concentrate on football. I haven't really grasped it all yet, I think I will later in my career."

McMenamin said that he wasn't surprised when Teamer received All State honors, in fact he expected it.

"He's been great all year," McMenamin said, "He is easily the most athletic tackle I've ever coached. He has a good head on him, and he's very fast and very strong."

Teamer is expected to sign his letter of intent to Nebraska on Feb. 5, where he said he will receive a full athletic scholarship.

He said out of all the scholarship offers, Nebraska's was the best. He could stay close to home, and be part of a great tradition.

"They really didn't promise me too much," Teamer said. "They were real. I felt I could trust them. I'm really looking forward to next year and I've got a lot to work for to keep me going."

He said that he may not receive as much playing time at Lincoln as at other schools, but he is happy to be a part of a program with so much tradition.

"They recruited me for defense, but I'll play wherever they want me," he said. "I just hope to add to the success of the team."

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Michelle Marsh wishes the best of luck to all of Central High School's students and faculty
Congratulations to the Class of 2003!
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Senior switches sports to better college chances

By Paula Salhany

Senior Zach Kruse's first love is baseball.

So it was because of this and because of the lack of playing time that Kruse decided to stop playing basketball for Central.

Coach Eric Behrens said while he was sad to see Kruse go, he understands his reasoning.

"He was a man about it," Behrens said. "He wants to spend more time concentrating on his baseball career."

Kruse said now that he doesn't have to worry about the competition that went into games and practices, he can focus more on conditioning for baseball. With his high school career quickly coming to a close, he said he felt it more important to focus on one sport.

"I did like basketball," he said. "It was challenging and fun. But I guess I just didn't fit into the coaches offensive style."

Kruse used to play five center and sometimes four center. He had always played that position, but this year players like senior Adam Olsen would be put into the game before him. Kruse ended up getting his time on the court cut.

"I can understand his frustration with the lack of playing time," Behrens said.

He said it can be difficult for players to go through rigorous, time-consuming practices everyday and then suit up for a game and end up sitting on the bench.

Kruse said he misses being with the team and thinks that they probably miss him.

"I was one of the only seniors on the team," he said. "I think I brought leadership to the team since they are such a young team."

Junior Cortney Grixby said he was shocked when he heard Kruse was not going to be returning. He said it was odd to have Kruse on the team one day and then have him be gone for the next.

He said it was especially odd when Central won the Holiday Tournament and Kruse wasn't there.

"I just didn't expect him to leave in the middle of the season," Grixby said.

Even though his absence will be noticed, Grixby said it would not drastically hurt the team. Behrens said it was nice to know there was another big guy on the team who could be put in to rebound and block other big teams.

"He's a solid player who I could count on to make good plays," he said.

INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Central has a formula for making great basketball players. This year's team has several up-and-coming athletes who have exactly what it takes to make it big.

By Doug Meigs

The recipe to playing Division I basketball is no secret. But it does take an enormous amount of talent and hard work.

Former head basketball coach Rick Behrens said that it is a recipe that Central has followed over the past years. Behrens averaged about one player moving to the Division I courts every year during his 11 years as a coach.

Since then, the tradition has continued when Eric Behrens, his son, took over the head coach position last year.

"There's much less opportunity in basketball than football," Rick said. "You've got a lot more competition. It's much tougher to be a Division I basketball player than a football player."

A few of Rick's players to go Division I include '94 graduate Eddie Smith (University of Missouri at Kansas), '97 graduate Galen Morrison (Kansas State), '00 graduate Ben Jacobsen (Lamar) and '00 graduate Mike Kuhn (Hampton).

The tradition continued with Schyler Thomas's walk on at Kansas State and Kris Kuhn's scholarship to Robert Morris.

"We've had a lot of guys play college, but its often at a lower level because it's such a matter of size," he said.

Rick said that part of the reason for that is because most schools will only have 13 scholarship players at a time and can only offer five in one year.

Eric Behrens said that the primary ingredients that college scouts will look for in a player include height, knowledge of the game, skills and athletic ability. However, he said the first thing they look at is almost

always height.

If a recruiter could choose between two players equal in skill, one who is over 6' and one who is under 6', Eric said the taller player would receive the spot without a second's hesitation.

He said the only way the smaller player would take the spot would be if he was significantly more talented.

Because of that, he said the first thing that Kansas State asked him about Kuhn last year was if Kuhn was really 6'1."

The average size for a point guard at the college level is 6'5", in the NBA it is 6'8". However, Allen Iverson of the 76'ers is only 6'. Behrens said Iverson has the spot because he's such a great shooter and can make the plays.

"Scholarships are investments," Eric said. "A scholarship athlete sitting on the bench is wasted dollars."

He said a college would be more likely to play an athlete on scholarship even if a walk-on was a better athlete.

Just like the size factor, the individual would have to be significantly better because the college wouldn't want to waste the money put into the scholarship athlete.

Eric said Thomas walked on to Kansas State this year, and has since averaged eight minutes on the court a game.

He said that such is unusual for walk-ons, and because of that, he'll be receiving a scholarship to play next year.

"The danger of walking on is if you make it, there are still more coming up behind you," he said.

The current year's potential Division I players include juniors Cortney Grixby, who has already been offered a full-ride to UNL and Karl White, who he said is also definitely going on to play Division I.

He said that if juniors Rico Washington and Davon White could work up a more consistent three point shot, then they would also have good chances of making the move.

"Size stands out, but skill level and understanding are as important just not as noticed by college scouts," he said.

Grixby, who Eric said is one of Central's most talented players, is only 5'9". However, despite being a junior, he is already being heavily recruited by Nebraska, Florida, Florida State, Oklahoma, Stanford, Utah and LSU.

Grixby said that even though he's short, in some cases, colleges might be looking for a shorter player because it may fit their offense.

"I'm 5'9", but I go out there and play like I'm 7", he said. "All it is, is hard work. If you're out there, doing what you have to do, college scouts will notice you, that takes away from talent and height."

Last summer, Grixby attended the ABCD Adidas Camp. He was the only player from Nebraska to attend. The camp included members ranging from the top-ranking junior in the nation (Sebastian Teletor) to the top ranking senior who happened to be injured at the time (Lebron James).

"I got a lot of looks, there were over 500 Division I scouts and coaches," he said. "Being from Omaha, it was another experience a lot of people don't really get. I got the chance to meet a lot of people and showcase my talent to the nation."

Results of Holiday Tournament shows skills of team

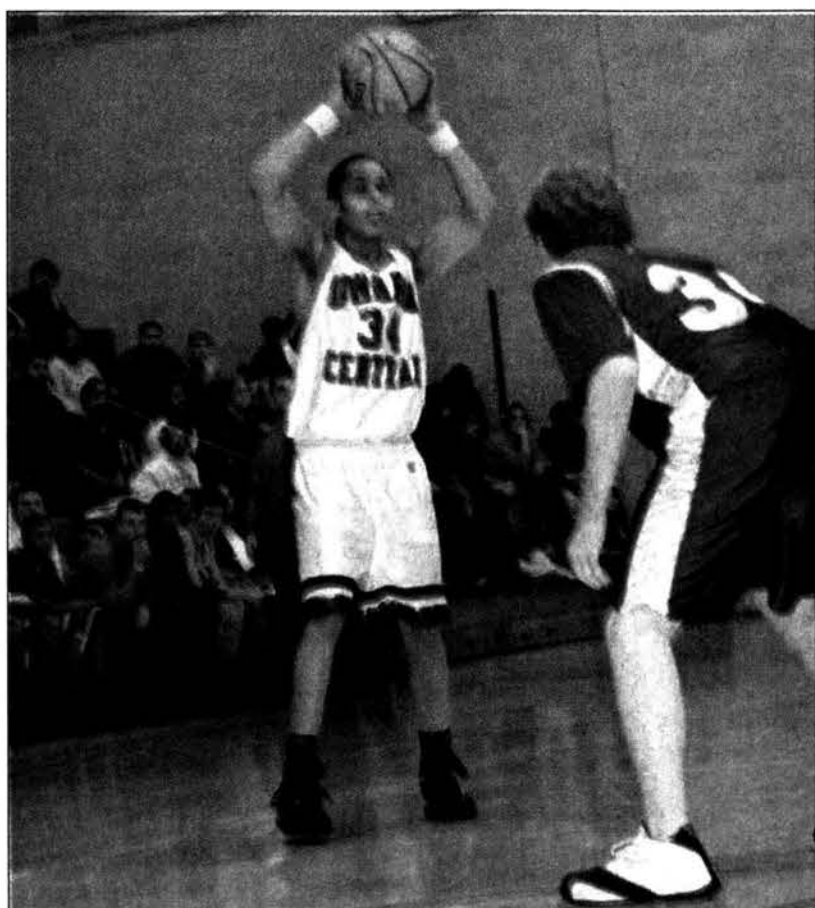


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Junior Karl White looks to pass the ball against Creighton Prep earlier in the year.

By Devon O'Connell

Members of the Varsity boys basketball team have received Holiday Tournament wins in their stockings the last two years, and for the second year in a row, it looks like they might not make good on their New Year's Resolution to win State.

Even though Central was again crowned the Metro Holiday Tournament Champions this year, it went on to drop two straight games to lower ranked teams after the tournament.

Unofficially, the Holiday Tournament is a catalyst to the State tournament; the champion is supposed to be the Metro Conference's best shot at the State title.

"The way Nebraska is, you've got 26 teams in Class A, and 15 of them are in the Metro," head coach Eric Behrens said. "So if you win, you should do well in State."

Even though the team did win the tournament, it never won any game by much, but a win is a win. Central's game is often compared to a roller coaster, which is one of the things Behrens said needed to be worked on.

"The only thing we aren't doing is being consistent," he said. "We have a lot of ups and downs in our games. We go on so many runs, and then turn around and let the other team walk all over us."

This was evident during the Benson

game, when the Eagles came back from trailing by 12 at the half to win 66-57. Junior Karl White added 16 to lead the team.

Central's next opponent was Millard South. With hot shooters like Rocky Guido and Euvon Turner, the team definitely had its hands full. The Eagle's defensive flaws were visible as the Patriot's nailed 13 threes. However, Central pulled away by the skin of its teeth, winning by one. White shot 16 of his 21 in the second half to help out the win.

"We stayed motivated the entire time," White said. "We made the plays that needed to be made and we were working as one."

In the finals, the team faced its most daunting opponent, undefeated Bellevue West. Behrens said that they were never intimidated by the Bellevue school because Central defeated the Thunderbirds during the summer league.

Central got out quick to a 8-1 lead, and after that, it seemed like Bellevue West, couldn't get back in it. The closest it came to victory was after a three point play by forward Jesse Meyer in the third quarter.

But the Eagles shut the T-birds down with authority after an 11-2 run in which White nailed three straight threes and junior Cortney Grixby had a layup. White led both teams with 31. Central shot 57 percent for the win.

Along with winning the tournament, Grixby made the All Tournament team and White was named as honorary captain. Of five players out of the 15 teams that played in the tournament made the team.

Unfortunately, Central couldn't hold momentum. Upon returning from the tournament, the Eagles were met with a harsh reality check.

Bellevue East, a team ranked very low in the Metro, surprised Central by narrowly pulling away with a 56-54 win.

Central took another blow when they escaped Norris with a win, beating the Eagles 69-66.

"We knew every team was gonna come out and give us their A-game every time," White said. "We just got beat."

Nonetheless, the Varsity boys are working hard to get back up on top for State. "The games that we have won, we've won, and the games we've gotten beat, we've got beat," Behrens said, "We're always working though. We're still one of the best teams in the state and a contender."

One of the problems Behrens attributes to the difficulty this year was the amount of competition in the Metro Conference.

"The Metro is very balanced this year," he said. "On any given day, any team can beat any team."