

How Four in a Row

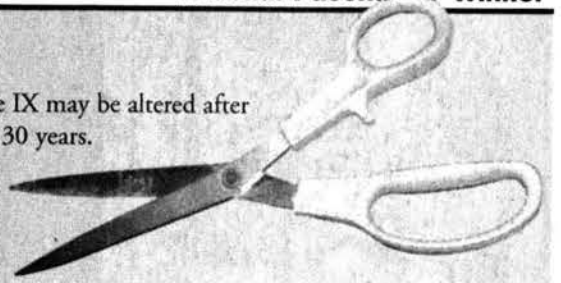
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**'80s Trends Return**  
Styles that were popular throughout the 1980s are being seen again today.  
**Page 13C**

**In Debt**  
Many high school and college students are finding themselves immersed in debt stemming from credit cards and student loans.  
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**TITLE IX**  
A look at how Title IX may be altered after being the same for 30 years.  
**Page 24D**



## New tardy policy seen as nuisance by students

By Katie Backman

When the minute bell rings, sophomore Michael Schulte is already on the first floor.

He has to make it to the fourth floor before the final bell rings or he will be late to study hall, again.

The pressure is on because the new tardy policy is enforced and he is approaching four tardies.

"A minute more would help," Schulte said. "I could at least walk to my classes instead of run."

According to the Student Handbook, under the old tardy policy when a student reached five tardies a warning letter would be sent home.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the new policy starts action at six tardies with a referral.

Senior Vanessa Brutsche said she thinks the new policy is ridiculous and a warning home would be more sufficient.

"A referral is a serious offense and a tardy is a very small disciplinary problem," Brutsche said. "They (administrators) are acting too harshly."

When a student had ten tardies with the old policy, he would have a Saturday School

along with a phone conference with administrators and parents. Bexten said that on the tenth tardy with the new policy, the student receives a referral and a one day suspension.

"No student should get to that point with their tardiness," Bexten said.

Overall the policy has put more responsibility on the students. With the old policy, disciplinary action ended at 20 tardies, with a two-day suspension.

Bexten said on 14 tardies students will have a five-day suspension with the new policy.

He said when students reach 16 tardies there is the chance of being kicked out of the class.

Schulte said he has nearly pushed the tardy policy to the maximum with one of his classes.

He said he thinks the population and the size of the building are to blame for students' tardiness.

Bexten said too many of the students wait until the last minute to leave their socializing circles or just walk slowly during the passing periods.

He said the amount of  
**see TARDIES, page 8**

## SCHOOL LUNCHES



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Senior Louis Valdes eats mashed potatoes from his school lunch. He said he has always eaten school lunch and that he does not mind it. Some students never eat school lunches for various reasons.

Some students may hate them or love them, either way schools are required by the federal government to provide students with healthy, nutritious meals. In this issue, the *Register* examines what Central's lunches are made up of.

By Katie Backman

Junior Desiree Fortina said she walks through the lunch line passing up meals like greasy pizza, undercooked French fries and wilted salad that are approved by national school lunch regulations.

Fortina said she thinks the lunches are unhealthy so she only purchases a bottle of water during her lunch. She said she never thought the schools had to meet requirements with meals.

"I don't eat lunch because it doesn't look like they have everything they are supposed to," Fortina said.

Tammy Yarmon, director of Nutrition Services at the Teacher Administrative Center (TAC), said the schools are forced to meet certain federal regulations with the food groups served.

Yarmon said the regulation states schools have to provide a meal with servings of grains, meat or meat alternates such as yogurt, two fruits or vegetables and milk.

"We do everything we can," Yarmon said. "We don't cheat our  
**see LUNCHES, page 5**



The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat and less than 10 percent from saturated fat.

For more LUNCH STATISTICS see pages 4-5

## OPS proposes new, tougher rule to stop fights in schools

By Charlie Wence

Junior Kelvin Tolston said he remembers his freshman year when he was almost involved in a fight. He talked it out and avoided any conflict.

Had Tolston been involved in a fight, and a proposed Omaha Public Schools (OPS) fighting policy had been in effect, he would have faced a suspension of up to five days. The more fight and he would have to face reassignment. A third fight would have meant expulsion.

Under the current policy, it takes three fights until a student is recommended for reassignment. Principal Jerry Bexten said the new policy is necessary in order to spread a clear message that fighting is not acceptable in school.

"It's a good policy. It takes a

step forward," he said.

He said that there are many negative consequences for fighting.

For one, he said, is the school's strong stance against it. Another, is the social impact it brings with it and the interference with the business of school.

Sophomore Naomi Rennard said the policy sounds drastic at first, but is needed.

"The kids need to realize they need to stop fighting," she said. "It should be changed because there are lots of repeat offenders that the policy does nothing for."

From the perspective of a teacher at school, math teacher Christie Pfeifer said she thinks fights aren't a major problem at Central.

"I hardly see fights," she  
**see FIGHTING, page 8**

## Defibrillators to be placed in Metro area schools after death

By Laura Dising

Fourteen-year-old Harley Collins died during basketball practice at the McMillan Magnet Center last December when his heart stopped after being hit in the chest with a basketball.

"He was playing basketball and he just collapsed. He had an enlarged heart, which I didn't know," Harley's father William Collins said. "Had a defibrillator been there, we could have saved his life."

With help from the media, the Omaha community and an anonymous donor Collins has made it possible for all OPS schools and many others to have defibrillators on hand in case of an emergency.

It wasn't until after Harley's death that Collins came to learn his son's heart was twice the size of a normal 14-year-old's heart.

Collins said that most of the heart problems that high school students develop go undetected. He and his wife found out later that there had been a similar death of a boy in Arkansas.

Collins said he decided to take action to prevent further tragedies like the one that he and the Arkansas family had experienced. He spoke on several TV stations about the need for defibrillator in schools.

"I just told them that I needed the community's help," he said. "I didn't want another parent to go through what

I went through."

Principal Jerry Bexten said that with luck, all the OPS schools, Roncalli, Prep, Mercy and Marian will have defibrillators by the end of the year. But right now everything is still in the early planning processes.

"We're trying to get at least 18 personnel in the schools to learn how to use it," Collins said.

School nurse Jenny Conahan said that Central will be focusing on training the coaches, physical education teachers and anyone else who is usually still at school after regular hours.

Conahan is certified to operate a defibrillator and said that she will instruct Central's staff on how to use it.

Staff members must also be CPR certified to operate the defibrillator.

"The machines are only as good as the people who use them," Conahan said.

Central's defibrillator will be located near the gym and will be portable so that the entire school can have access to it in cases of emergency.

"I hope and pray that we never have to use it," Bexten said.

Collins said that he is happy that all the schools will now be more prepared for emergencies, but he does not feel that defibrillators are enough. He also wants to raise the standards for the school physical.

"I feel that every child who plays

sports should have their heart checked more thoroughly," Collins said.

He is working to make electrocardiograms (EKGs) mandatory.

"Many parents have no idea if something is wrong with their child's heart," Collins said.

Conahan said she agrees but does not feel that the idea is logical.

"If you could find an inexpensive way to do that it would be wonderful, but I don't know if it is realistic at this point in time," she said.

For now, Collins said he is still meeting with doctors to learn more about EKGs, but is satisfied with the fact that because of the defibrillator, many lives could be saved in the future.

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28 pages



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# Calendar

Compiled by Michael Smith



Photo by MICHAEL SMITH/THE REGISTER

Seniors Chelsee Kegermann and Miriam Tippets sample the food at the International Banquet. Students from all language classes were able to bring food and share it with everyone from all the other languages. For more on the International Banquet turn to page 6.

## March

### 7 (Fri.) ACT Registration

Juniors who plan to attend a four-year college should register for the ACT exam. The regular registration date for the ACT is Mar. 7.

### 11-13 (Tues.-Thurs.) Midterm Exams

Students will take midterm exams during this week to determine how well they have learned the material this quarter. The exam schedule for Tues. Mar. 11 is English, reading, drama, CAD and business/marketing/technology classes. The exam schedule for Weds. Mar. 12 is social studies, art, mathematics and family/consumer science classes. The exam schedule for Thurs. Mar. 13 is science, international language, ROTC, music and physical education classes.

### 15 (Sat.) All-City Music Festival

Selected members of band, orchestra and vocal music students throughout OPS will perform in the TAC building auditorium. The high school and middle school participants must be involved in either orchestra, band or choir. The grade school participants can only be in chorus.

### 17-19 (Mon.-Wed.) Spring Production Auditions

During this week, students will be able to audition for the spring play, "Tom Jones."

### 19 (Wed.) Third quarter ends

The third quarter ends on Mar. 19 and the fourth quarter starts Mar. 20.

### 22 (Sat.) Madrigal Dinner

Instrumental music and vocal music students will perform in the courtyard at 7p.m.

### 30 (Sun.) National Honor Society Brunch at Scoular

All the new inductees to the National Honor Society will have brunch with their parents to celebrate their membership in the Beta chapter of NHS.

## April

### 1 (Tues.) Orchestra adjudication at North

Members of the orchestra will be judged and rated on their musical talent at North High School.

### 3 (Thurs.) Band adjudication at Benson

Members of the band will be judged and rated on their musical talent at Benson High School.

### 5 (Sat.) SAT Exam

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

## Science Bowl places third at national event

Two teams from Central competed in the National Science Bowl in Lincoln, Sat. Feb. 1. Over 42 teams from across Nebraska competed in the event along with two teams from Kansas, who could not make it to their bowl. The Science Bowl is part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Jesse Busse and Sandy McCreight sponsored the team.



Busse

Busse said he has been sponsoring the event at Central for three years.

Previously, he sponsored the event for four years in North.

Busse said that the science bowl is similar to Jeopardy, the fact that contestants have to buzz in, but the bowl also consists of bonus questions.

"The topics of the questions range from earth science, chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy and general science," Busse said.

Both teams practiced for six weeks in the morning hours.

Busse said that a lot of people were upset due to the fact that one of the two teams from Kansas that came to compete in the Nebraska event ended up winning.

Central's B team placed third in the event. Team members included juniors Matthew Schreiner, Matthew Barr, Alexander Bloom, Rachel Danforth and senior Tyler Fuchs.

## Speech and debate team hosts two-day long meet

The Central Speech and Debate team hosted its annual Central Eagle Invitational on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Fifteen public and private schools brought more than 500 high school students to the event. Central has hosted the event for five years now.

Last year the event was cancelled due to a snowstorm. The teacher and sponsor, Kristina Jonyka, said she thought the invitational went well.

"The speech part on Friday went very well, but the debate part on Saturday should have had more entries," Jonyka said.

She said that a downside to the tournament was that there were others that were being held at the same time.

"The students who came respected the school and were amazed that this building even was school," Junior Steve Salavec said.

He said he and speech and debate president senior Adam Christensen both helped come up with ideas.

"We helped with the schematics and helped with the setup that went on that weekend," Salavec said.

Drama teacher John Gibson was one of the judges for the event.

"The level of performance of these students has grown throughout the year and has been credible," Gibson said.

Gibson said he was also amazed at the level of leadership that was in the students.

"As a result, Central is going to host the National Forensic League qualifying nationals, April 4 and April 5 right here at Central," Jonyka said.

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# Late starts could help students

By Michael Smith

With over 12 tardies this year, sophomore Shelby Cherek said she wishes school wouldn't start so early.

"I would be able to sleep in longer and perform better," Cherek said.

A few years ago Omaha Public Schools (OPS) considered the idea to start schools later and formed a committee to oversee it.

"I think that the OPS school district should think it out, and try it for a week and see if it works better," Cherek said.

Luanne Nelson, the spokesperson for OPS, headed up the committee to discuss whether or not starting school earlier would be a possibility.

"A couple of years ago, we looked at starting school at a later time to allow students to sleep longer, and thus perform better," Nelson said.

Nelson and the committee looked at a Minneapolis school district and concluded that the idea worked for them. It then looked at the possibility that it

would work for OPS.

Recent studies have shown that students seem to sleep later, due to the biological clock inside of them.

Dr. Stephen Smith, the director of the sleep center at Nebraska Health System Hospital, was on the committee. Smith said he reviewed literature and answered questions for OPS.

"I think that the research would show and demonstrate that the rhythmic clock inside of students makes them not alert at 8 in the morning," Smith said.

Smith said that students are already sleep deprived and even if they started school earlier it still won't make students go to bed later.

Nelson said that no action was taken due to the lack of evidence that was shown to the committee to prove that starting school later actually worked.

"Number one, there was not enough research to show that there would be any significant probable student achievement," Nelson said.

Sophomore Darcy Rutherford

said she likes the idea.

"Maybe if students were allowed to sleep later then maybe students wouldn't sleep during first hour classes," Rutherford said.

Nelson said that in order for school to start school later, the school would have to schedule sporting events later.

"Athletics and after school activities would be at a disadvantage due to no other Omaha schools taking part," she said.

Attendance secretary Ann Goldsberg, said she does not think that with 3,863 tardies so far as of Feb. 11 this year, that starting school earlier would cut down on the number of tardies.

"People are going to be tardy regardless of the time," Goldsberg said.

She said starting school later and ending school later would just conflict with work, after school activities, sports and family activities.

Principal Jerry Bexten was on the committee.

"It sounds like an OK idea and sounds reasonable for sec-

ondary students to sleep later due to their biological clocks," Bexten said.

He also said that he does not know how much impact it might have on students and faculty, but thinks that it would have minimal impact on students' performance and their readiness to get up in the morning.

Bexten said that not only would this new starting time inconvenience parents, but it would also have impact on the bus system.

"In order to have the credits needed for graduation, we would have to extend the school day, if we started later," he said.

For instance the school day starts at 9 a.m., then in order to graduate and obtain all credits for graduation, school would have to end around 4 p.m., he said.

"No discussion has been addressed in these recent years since the committee has met and I don't think we will revisit it in awhile," Nelson said. "We wouldn't want our OPS students at any disadvantage with any other high schools."



## College Corner

### Illinois College

**Location:** Jacksonville, Illinois

**Admission:** 63 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year private college

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 860

**Freshman Admissions:** Most popular majors are Education/Teacher Education, Business and Marketing, Social Sciences and History, Biology/Life Sciences, English, Computer Sciences, recommended courses are 4 years of English, 3 years of Math, 2 years of History, 2 years of Science, 2 years of Electives.

**Application Deadline:** Aug. 15

### Lafayette College

**Location:** Easton, Pennsylvania

**Admission:** 39 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year private college

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 2,270

**Freshmen Admissions:** Most popular majors are Social Sciences and History and Engineering/Engineering Technologies, recommended courses are 5 years of Electives, 4 years of English, 3 years of Math, 2 years of Foreign Language, 2 years of Science (must be lab).

**Application Deadline:** Jan. 1

### Temple University

**Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Admission:** 65 percent admitted

**Type:** Four-year public university

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 18,834

**Freshmen Admissions:** Most popular majors are Business and Marketing, Education/Teacher Education, Communications, Visual & Performing Arts, Protective Services/Public Administration, Psychology, recommended courses 4 years of Math, 3 years of Electives, 3 years of Science (2 must be lab), 2 years of History.

**Application Deadline:** January 1

All information courtesy of the College Board

# Spain native happy teaching rather than designing

By Paula Salhany

Spanish teacher Farouza Bishara is not only new to Central High School this year, she's new to both the United States and teaching Span-

ish. Bishara decided that after moving up in Spain, getting two masters degrees in art, working as a freelance designer and teaching art history that she wanted to do something different.

"I used to think it would be possible to do graphic design and teach at the same time," she said. "I didn't think it would be that hard."

She said she would teach art story all day and come home and spend hours in front of her computer designing. She said though she loved doing both. She

was going to bed at 1 or 2 in the morning and was unable to take care of herself. She said she realized she would have to choose between design and teaching.

Many people expected her to choose designing over teaching, but she said she loved being with students and teaching them valuable information.

"My mom thought I was crazy," Bishara said. "She kept telling me that I could make so much more money as a designer and I was so good at it. She didn't understand why I had gone to an art school and then decided to teach."

Bishara said she attended one of the most prestigious art colleges in Spain. When she went to audition to get in, she had to pass nu-

merous drawing tests.

"I didn't really know if I would get it. I just thought I'd try my hand at it," she said.

Once in, she majored in design and then realized that she enjoyed art history just as much. So after six years of studies, Bishara graduated with one masters in design and one in art history.

"I still love design," she said. "I can spend hours on my computer simply figuring out what kind of font I want to use for a design."

After a few years of teaching and designing, Bishara decided she needed a change. At the time, her boyfriend was teaching Spanish in France and she knew he was having a good time doing it. So

she thought it would be a good idea to try and teach Spanish in a foreign country.

She looked into a program and chose to interview in Nebraska. She interviewed with people from Omaha Public Schools and was called a few days later saying that she got the job.

"I was thrilled," she said. "Then I had to tell my mother that I was going to be moving to the U.S. No one knew I was even applying for the job."

Bishara said she enjoys teaching at Central and plans to stay for a long time. She said she likes the atmosphere and the students at here.

"I have been able to learn English and have a new great experience here," she said.

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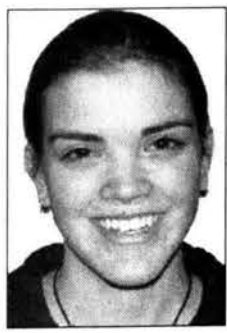
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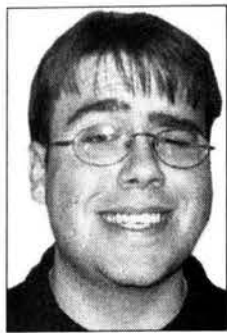
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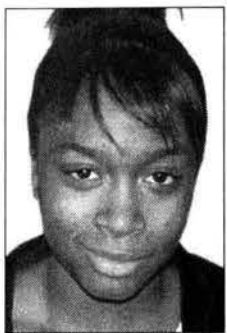
What do you think of Omaha Public School lunches?



"All the school lunches taste the same and it's really nasty."  
Dolan Peters (10)



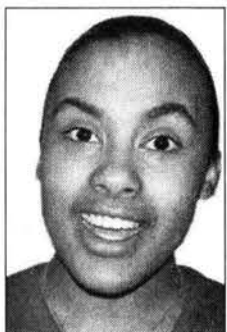
"They are the most delicious things that I've ever tasted."  
Caleb Bentley (12)



"We have our good days and our bad, but food is food."  
Ashley Knox (11)



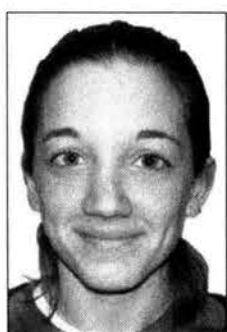
"It's scrumptious, I eat five cookies every day."  
Latoya Sherrod (10)



"It's not very good and that's why I don't eat it."  
Gabriela Brunious (10)



"The school lunch is really gross, that's why I only buy Fruitopia and chips."  
Ashley Dupree (10)



"The school lunch is better than what I make at home."  
Katherine Gorga (9)

# SCHOOL LUNCH vs. SACK LUNCH

In order to be reimbursed by the federal government for the free and reduced lunch program, public schools are required to meet certain dietary requirements set by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA takes its guidelines from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.



## DIETARY FACTS OF A SCHOOL LUNCH

<b>TRI-POTATO</b>	100 Calories 45 Calories from fat 5 g total fat 8% Daily Value total fat 1 g Protein	<b>MOZZARELLA STUFFED BREADSTICKS</b>	492 Calories 198 Calories from fat 21g total fat 33% Daily Value total fat 3 sticks 27g Protein	<b>PASTA SAUCE</b>	59 Calories 33 Calories from fat 4g total fat 6% Daily Value total fat 2 oz. 1 g Protein
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Also included in a full school lunch is a milk and a juice

## DIETARY FACTS OF A SACK LUNCH

<b>CHEESE</b>	Total fat- 5g Saturated fat-3g Cholesterol- 15mg Sodium- 390mg Carbohydrate- 2g Fiber- 0g Sugars-1g Protein- 4g	<b>HILLSHIRE FARM THINLY SLICED TURKEY</b>	Calories- 50 Total fat- 0.5g Saturated fat- 0% Cholesterol- 25mg Sodium- 600mg Carbohydrate- 2g Dietary fiber- 0g Sugars- 2g Protein- 1-g	<b>APPLESAUCE</b>	Calories- 90 Calories from fat- 0 Total fat- 0% Sodium- 1% Total carbohydrate- 8% Dietary Fiber- 2g Sugars- 29g Protein- 0g
<b>BREAD</b>	Total fat- 0.5g Saturated fat- 0.5g Cholesterol- 0mg Sodium- 220mg Carbohydrate- 18g Dietary fiber- 4g Sugars- 1g Protein- 4g	<b>DORITOS</b>	Calories- 140 Calories from fat- 70 Total fat 11% Saturated fat- 6% Cholesterol- 0% Sodium- 8% Carbohydrate- 6% Dietary Fiber- 5% Sugars- 2g Protein- 2g		

All photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

## Cashier enjoys job, relishes in opportunity to interact with students

By Michael Smith

Child care has always been a part of Thelma Haywood's life.

She has gone from working at a child care center to working at Central High School.

For eight years, Haywood has been part of Central's cafeteria staff.

She grew up in Marvell, AR and during her high school years had no job, but always wanted to be able to help people.

"My first job was working in health care with the elderly and it was a great experience," Haywood said.

Later, she moved to Omaha and became a child care provider, and then after that job joined Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

She started as a cafeteria substitute for OPS, coming in and out of school everyday. She was available whenever she was needed.

Haywood quickly moved up the line, to dish machine operator. There she said she cleaned all the dishes that were used to prepare the everyday lunches for students.

Currently, Haywood is a cashier at

Central for the Food Service of America.

She said she enjoys her job and the diversity that goes along with being at the school.



Haywood

"I enjoy the students," she said. "They're like family to me."

Haywood said a typical day for her starts at 6:30 a.m. when there is hardly anyone in the school.

Afterwards, she gets the milk, juice and other breakfast items, which are usually delivered in the early hours of the morning, so that they are ready for the arrival of the students.

"I would go to the courtyard and help setup for breakfast," Haywood said.

Haywood said she continues her day as she clears and cleans the tables in the courtyard after breakfast is served.

"After breakfast, I get to take a fifteen minute break and have my own breakfast," Haywood said.

Haywood's next job is to prepare the lunches.

"No matter what it is, making salads or whatever, we do the same things for the two-week period," she said.

Next, at around 10:30 a.m. Haywood said she is ready and willing to set up the lines for the distribution of lunches.

She said once she receives her money for her cash register she is ready for work.

Haywood said she likes the lunches Central offer's, but would not eat some of them because she said she just doesn't have the taste buds for them.

"I think they're good, but are high in calories and fat," she said.

Haywood said students tend to keep a good balance in the nutritional choices they make.

"It's pretty equal in nutritious food and junk food, 50 percent and 50 percent," she said.

Haywood says that most students choose to take the two percent milk rather than the chocolate milk, which is skim, even though the chocolate is more nutritious.

Kitchen assistant Jan Monico said she thinks Haywood is exceptional and is a hard and determined worker.

"She pleases the students and relates to them and they tend to relate to her as well," Monico said.

She said Haywood is able to create quality relationships with the students as

they walk through the lunch lines everyday.

Haywood said there really isn't much about the job she does not enjoy.

She said if OPS would repair the equipment when it breaks, it would help with a lot of the problems that the cafeteria staff experiences.

Haywood said she thinks having catered food or fast food, which is served in other schools, wouldn't work in the OPS school district, and especially not at Central.

"I don't think that it would, due to the fact that the food is not more nutritious than the food that we already have now," Haywood said.

She said she believes if she wasn't working in OPS that she would be somewhere else doing some sort of book keeping work.

She said she has experienced a relationship with the students that she would not want to give up for another job.

She said she would like to think of herself as more than just the students' cashier.

"I treat them the way that they want to be treated and since I respect them they respect me," Haywood said.

# POPS lunches meet federal needs

from LUNCH, page 1

Junior Jake Sellin said he thinks the government standards for the schools do a good job of feeding the amount of students.

He said the meals aren't expensive and people actually can eat a full, balanced meal.

Junior Alexandra Huston said she thinks the meat the schools use is soy or very low in protein. Yarmon said the entrées are 100 percent pure meat and the schools have never served soy products.

"Soy products may have more nutritional values compared to meat," Yarmon said. "The administration doesn't purchase soy products because of price, they just choose meat instead."

The menu also has adjustments made with the meat entrées because it has to be available for vegetarians and accommodate certain religious practices. Yarmon said that is the reason why schools sell cheese sticks and other non-meat products, which some students tend to question.

She said secondary schools are supposed to offer certain a la carte items for students who don't find certain entrées to be fulfilling.

Fortina said she doesn't understand the reason why chips and cookies are sold at the lines, but they have to turn off the vending machines.

"I think if the vending machines were more people would eat something during lunch," Fortina said.

Yarmon said it's part of the regulation to shut off the machines because some of the foods don't have very high nutritional value. She said the items sold at lunch lines are expected to have some nutritional values.

"There are fruit drinks sold with a percent of real juice, and other items that are nutritious," Yarmon said.

She said the pop machines are supposed to be turned off a half-hour before and after the lunch periods. She said pop is just pure sugar and the administration tries to limit the amount students drink.

The pop machines are also turned off because of the short burst of energy it will give students. She said pop doesn't help students for a long-term period, their study habits and attention span can deplete from sugar energy.

"I think it should be about freedom of choice," Huston said.

The food selection can be limited sometimes. Freshman Ben Bilyeu said he considers certain lunches, but they tend to be sold out when he reaches the line. Bilyeu said he then just purchases chips or other a la carte items at the end of the line for his lunch.

"I think the school makes an effort to make kids eat lunch," Bilyeu said. "But there still needs to be more options."

Fortina said if the menus incorporated more salads and deli sandwiches as a meal instead of an option, students could learn better eating habits.

She said when students reach college they are going to remember how they ate pizza and chips every other day.

"The school lunch meals aren't nutritious," Fortina said. "It's junk food. I would rather wait three hours until I get home to eat healthy food."

Yarmon said the selection of foods schools provided for students is supposed to be a model of good nutrition. She said they begin good nutrition practices in elementary school by not offering the a la carte items.

In the secondary schools she said the administration allows the students to have the ability to choose what they eat more.

"We (nutrition committees) think about nutrition not how nutritious the meal might look," Yarmon said.

The other section of the regulation



Photo by MICHAEL SMITH/THE REGISTER  
Junior Ashley Irwin-Vodicka eats Gobs Gobs as a part of her lunch. She is among many students who chose to supplement their school lunches with food from the vending machines.

refers to the complimentary breakfast the school supplies.

"Every child can purchase a breakfast without paying," Yarmon said.

She said the schools encourage the students to have access to healthy food and eating habits.

She said people must practice better eating habits and lifestyles instead of eating fast food or TV dinners for their main meal.

Fortina said the breakfast section is the most legitimate part of the regulation because not many students have time to eat at home.

Yarmon said the present day is an improvement because years ago there wasn't a big concern with a child's eating habits.

The meals today are a result of the schools worrying more about obesity and other health risks, she said.

# Free, reduced lunches help students with need

By Doug Meigs

Over 52 percent of Omaha Public Schools (OPS) students receive free or reduced price lunches. Sophomore Brandi Clanton is one of them.

"It's a good thing for people who can't pay for their lunch," she said.

Clanton said she eats reduced price lunch in the cafeteria everyday because her mother just received a raise this year.

During the two years prior to the raise, she said she received free lunch. Before then, she did not receive any financial aid in the cafeteria until her mother decided to apply for the program.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said that free and reduced lunch is open for everyone, but students must apply for the classification and meet specific financial criteria.

The guidelines state that a student's household income must be below 185 percent of the federal poverty level to receive a reduced lunch, while the household must be below the 130 percent mark to receive a free lunch.

Students receive the application forms early in the year in their homerooms. They must return them to the teacher, in turn the teachers submit them in to

Semrad to be considered for receiving free or reduced lunch.

"It's up to the family," he said. "It's a family choice whether they want to complete the form or not."

Semrad said there have been individuals who were dissatisfied with not being accepted before, but complaints are rare.

"I've been in charge for a lot of years and I haven't received a single complaint this year," he said. "It's a program that works very well"

Clanton said she has friends who purchase school lunches at regular prices as well as at the free and reduced prices, so she has had the opportunity to see how the aid provided by OPS is beneficial.

For example, she said her cousin buys school lunches everyday and also has to pay for daily bus fares. She said the expense may not seem like much, but it adds up quickly and can become a financial burden.

Free and reduced lunch is one of the provisions of the school lunch program. OPS head of nutrition services Tammi Yarmon said.

"Free and reduced are just classifications for students," she said.

The National School Lunch Program was started in the 1940s in response to young men arriving to enlist for World War II suffering from malnutrition.

"Free and reduced lunch has always been a part of the nation school lunch program," Yarmon said.

Yarmon said there are a number of different programs that relate to school lunch. Besides the School lunch program, she said the National School Breakfast Program was established in the mid '80s, while Provision Two (which provides for complimentary breakfast) was established in the mid '90s.

"Everyone realized the importance that breakfast plays in the school day," she said. "OPS wants to encourage eating breakfast. Provision Two is just part of the National School Lunch Program"

The National School Lunch Program provides cash reimbursements for the free lunches provided by public schools.

According to the program's website, 27.4 million children participate in the National School Lunch program, while 15.6 million of those students receive free or reduced lunch.

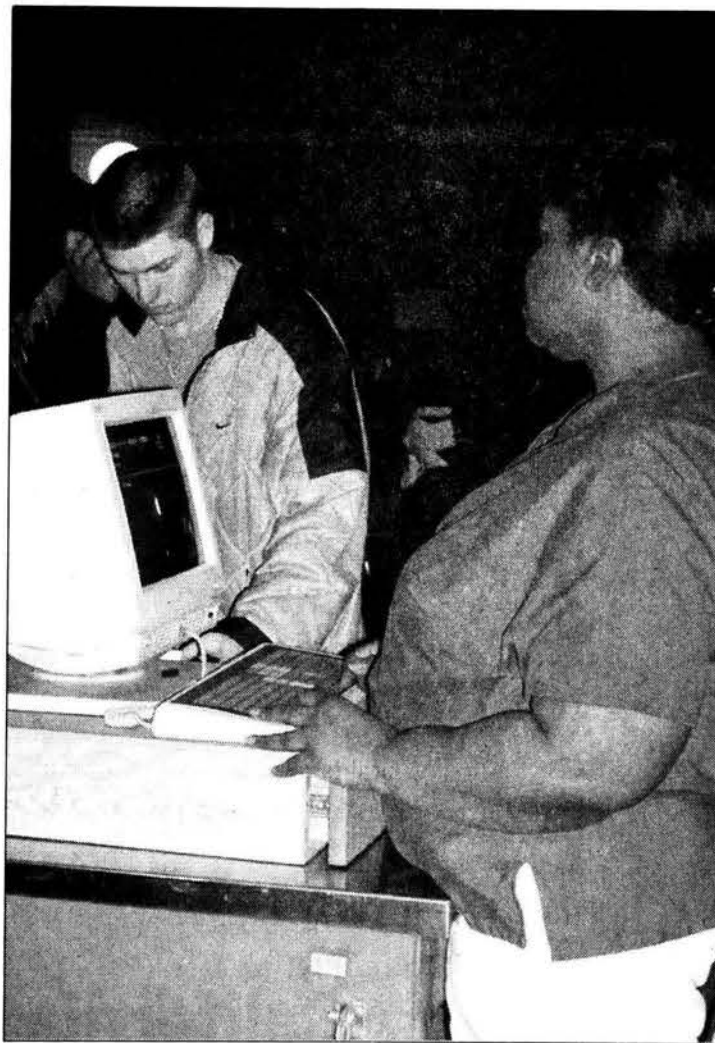


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER  
Senior Joseph Holzapfel gets free breakfast in the morning from cafeteria worker Thelma Haywood. Because of the free and reduced lunch program, everyone in the school is able to get a free breakfast.

## SCHOOL LUNCH STATISTICS

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) was created 57 years ago with the 1946 National School Lunch Act. It was enacted to provide the opportunity for all children to receive at least one healthy meal every school day.

On any given day, 15.6 million of 27.4 million students actually receive a free or reduced price lunch.

99,000 schools and residential child care institutions participate in the National School Lunch Program.

In 1998 Congress expanded NSLP so that schools would be reimbursed for snacks served to children in after school educational and enrichment programs for students up through 18 years of age.

Schools are able to receive money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each meal served. In return, the schools must comply with federal requirements.

School lunches must meet the requirements suggested by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommends that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat.

Regulations have established a standard for school lunches to provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, calcium and calories.

Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals.

Children whose family income is between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. Students can be charged no more than 40 cents for these meals.

Children from families with incomes over 185 percent of poverty pay full price for lunch. However, their meals are still subsidized to some extent.

Schools currently get reimbursed \$2.14 for free lunches, \$1.74 for reduced-priced lunches and twenty cents for fully paid lunches.

The free and reduced-lunch programs cost \$6.4 billion in the 2001 fiscal year, whereas in 1947 they only cost \$70 million.

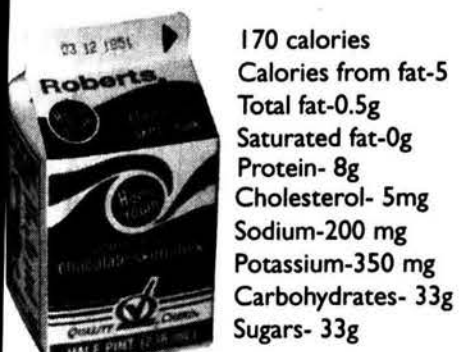
Since the modern NSLP started, more than 183 billion lunches have been served.

Information courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Some people prefer skim milk, while others prefer 2% milk. According to the National Dairy Council, teens ages 9-18 need 1,300 mg of calcium a day, or about four 8-oz. glasses of milk and adults ages 19-50 need 1,000 mg of calcium a day, the equivalent of drinking at least three 8-oz. glasses of milk. Though there are other ways to get a daily dose of calcium than just milk, at school drinking milk is sometimes the easiest. Take a look at the nutritional value of the different types.

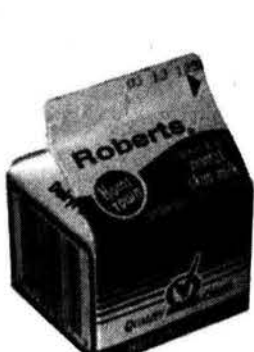
### Chocolate Milk



170 calories  
Calories from fat-5  
Total fat-0.5g  
Saturated fat-0g  
Protein- 8g  
Cholesterol- 5mg  
Sodium-200 mg  
Potassium-350 mg  
Carbohydrates- 33g  
Sugars- 33g

VITAMINS: A-10% C-2% Calcium-30%  
Iron-0% D-25% B6-4%

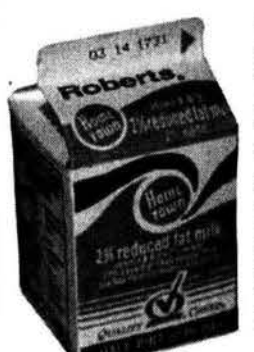
### Skim Milk



Calories-90  
Calories from fat-0  
Total fat-0  
Saturated fat-0  
Cholesterol- 5mg  
Sodium- 130mg  
Potassium- 410 mg  
Carbohydrates- 12mg  
Sugars- 12g  
Protein 9g

VITAMINS- A-10% C- 2% Calcium-30%  
Iron-0 D-25% B6- 4% B12- 15%

### 2% Milk



Calories- 120  
Calories from fat- 40  
Total fat- 5g  
Saturated fat- 3g  
Cholesterol- 25mg  
Sodium- 125mg  
Potassium- 390 mg  
Carbohydrates- 11g  
Sugars- 11g  
Protein- 8g

VITAMINS- A-10% C-2% Calcium-25%  
Iron-0 D-25% B6- 4% B12- 15%

### Vitamin D Milk



Calories-150  
Calories from fat-70  
Total fat- 8g  
Saturated fat- 5g  
Cholesterol- 35mg  
Sodium- 125mg  
Potassium- 390mg  
Carbohydrates- 11g  
Dietary fiber- 0g  
Sugar- 11g  
Protein-8g

VITAMINS- A-6% C-2% Calcium-25%  
Iron 0% D-25% B6-4% B12- 4%

# Student able to adapt to culture, country

By Katie Backman

When freshman Anastasia Rodionova was a toddler she said she spent some days alone watching apartments around hers go up in flames. She said growing up alone in Russia had a huge impact on her life in America now.

Anastasia stayed at her grandparents' apartment while her mother, Svetlana Rodionova, conquered the streets of St. Petersburg by being a classical pianist for an international piano competition. Svetlana said she moved to Barcelona, Spain to be a musical instructor at an academy.

Svetlana said she had to leave Anastasia with her grandparents because the stern academy wouldn't allow her daughter to live with her. She said made arrangements for Anastasia come up occasionally while she taught.

"It was very heartbreaking when I couldn't see her," Svetlana said. "Nastia (Anastasia) used to scream at me asking when I would come home to see her."

Anastasia said when her grandparents and her mother weren't home, she remembered the times being very uncomfortable.

"Imagining the apartment now it was pretty small, also it was very dark and dirty," she said.

Anastasia said being cooped up in an apartment all day grew old for her family, so they traveled to the country house for long weekends. Anastasia said her fondest memories are of the country house because she spent the time with her old best friend.

She said she and her friend Katya would always run around the fields and play games during their visits to the house. She said she's curious what would have happened if she remained best friends with Katya. She said she misses her.

The getaways with her friends and family only lasted a short time, until they had to go back St. Petersburg.

Svetlana said after a year and eight months, she was finally able to leave the academy to live with her daughter.

"It was really hard for the academy to let me go because I was a Russian instructor in Spain," Svetlana said. "But it was a choice I wanted to make."

In November of 1993, Svetlana said

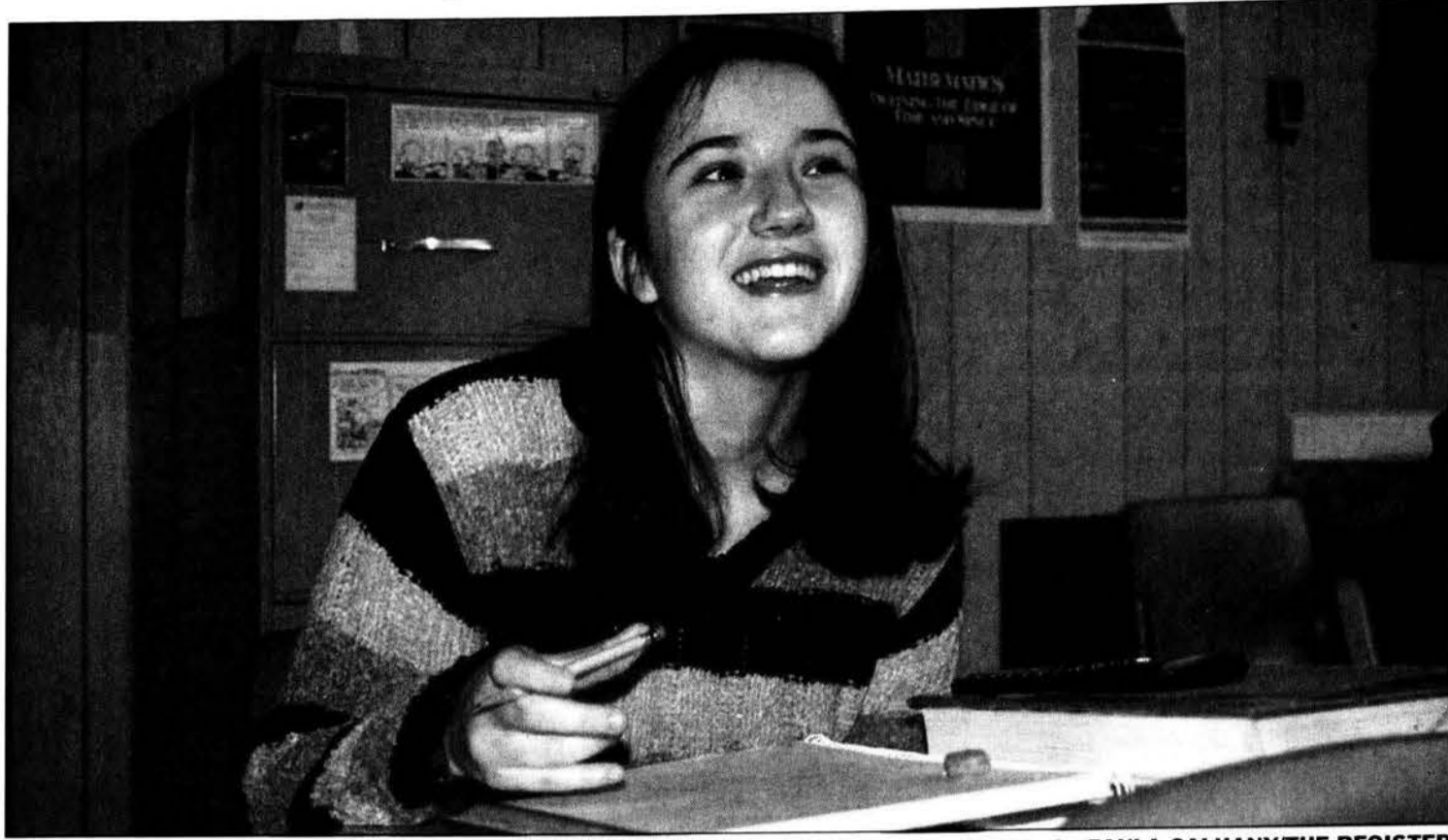


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

**Freshman Anastasia Rodionova takes notes in her first hour Honors Algebra 3-4 class. Rodionova came to the United States in 1993 from Russia.**

she decided to move to the United States to start a life with her fiancée, Matt, whom she met in Spain. Anastasia said she and her mother packed their things and left St. Petersburg. They traveled to Atlanta, GA for a night then moved to Omaha.

"Nov. 22, 1993 was the day my life began in America," Anastasia said.

Anastasia said she couldn't compare Omaha to St. Petersburg because she was too young to recognize the changes. Svetlana said the differences between Russia and America were very overwhelming.

"I hated Omaha when I first came here," Svetlana said. "When I went downtown I asked Matt where all the tall buildings are, and where the city was."

Svetlana said the most difficult transition was from 5 million people in St. Petersburg to Omaha's population. Before she could take time to adapt to the change, she had to work on getting Anastasia's citizenship in order.

Five years is the average time to achieve American citizenship, which applied to Svetlana, but it was much more

complex for Anastasia to receive it.

Finally in Jan. 1999, Anastasia received her citizenship.

"I was taken out to dinner and I didn't really know what it was for," Anastasia said. "And they (her mother and stepfather) said 'hey here are your papers'."

She said her grandparents moved to America shortly after her move in 1993.

Anastasia never attended schools in Russia, so she began her education career in America.

She said she didn't go to school in Russia because her grandmother thought she was too stubborn and outspoken for teachers to handle.

At five years old, Anastasia said she walked through the doors of her kindergarten with her mom. Svetlana attended the first few classes with her to help.

"She conquered the language barrier, but she did forget her Russian," Svetlana said.

Anastasia attended ESL classes until third grade when she was transferred to normal class schedule. Svetlana said she

applied to the King Science Center after she improved her test scores.

The lottery didn't pick Anastasia to attend at first, but Svetlana said the school called to tell them she was accepted.

Svetlana said Anastasia's California Achievement Test scores drastically increased her eligibility to attend the school.

"I traveled around to seven different schools up to now," Anastasia said. "It didn't make sense to me when I moved and other kids stayed."

Anastasia said she focused mainly on English and while doing that, forgot her Russian. But, she said, now her grandmother is trying to teach the language again to her.

Anastasia said she enjoys American life because the country seems more open-minded.

"In America I have a chance to see what I can be and choose it," Anastasia said.

She said she can't wait until she travels back to Russia to see all of her relatives she hasn't seen since she was younger.

# Banquet proved to be fun for all

By Michael Smith

With cultural food, music and dance, participants said the 2003 International Language Department's International Banquet was a smash hit.

Sophomore Michelle Inzauro said she looked forward to the event.

"I like the different cultures coming together and interacting with each other," Inzauro said.

Over 425 people attended the Language Departments International Banquet on Thurs., Feb. 20.

International Language Department chairman Bev Fellman opened the event with an introduction and speech in which she thanked the AIB Institute, which gives partial funding to the banquet.

Principal Jerry Bexten was introduced and gave a short speech in which he thanked all who were involved with the banquet, the planning and the cooking and wished the audience to enjoy the food that they were about to eat.

After Bexten's speech, the supervisor for International Languages from Omaha Public School's (OPS) Steve Brock, said to the audience what it meant to be involved in such a diverse and an ethnic gathering and what an honor it was to be there at the banquet.

Fellman finally introduced the dignitaries of the evening, who were applauded, and the International Language teachers.

"We are so proud to have each one of our teachers on our staff," she said.

French teacher Jeffrey Sill said he thought the banquet went exceptionally well.

"All of the different languages have come together and crossed cultures over food and dancing and shared in the different languages," Sill said.

Towards the middle of the banquet, the Omaha International Folk Dancers, which included junior Kaitlin Nichols, performed a folk dance.

After the dancers performed, members from Ritmo Latino performed Latin dancing.

Overall, Fellman said she thought that the event went fabulously.

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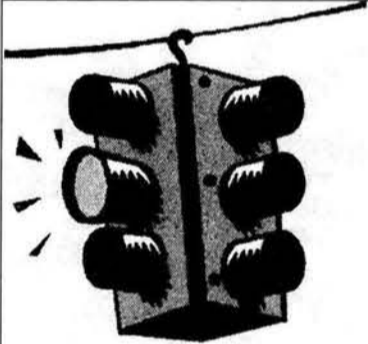


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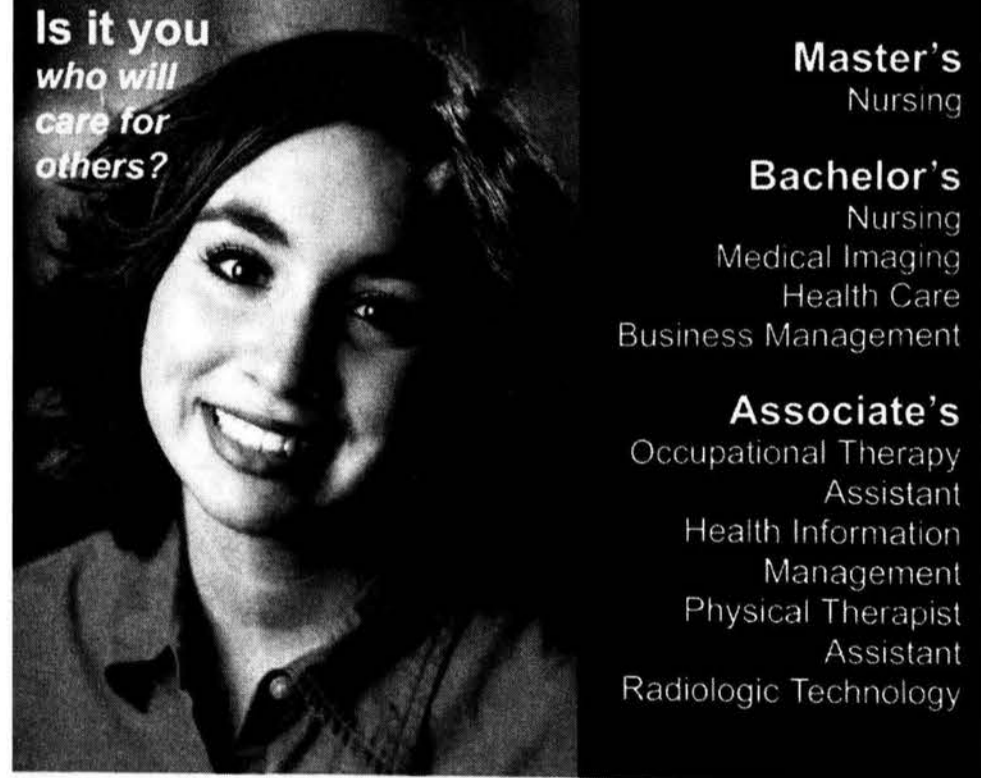
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# Nova Net helps students pass previously failed classes

By Jessica Womack

Without Nova Net, junior Ashley Irwin-Vodicka said she might not be able to get all the credits she needs to graduate.

Nova Net is a new program, similar to night school, but done individually on computers, Rachel Weiss, coordinator for career and technical education for Omaha Public Schools, said.

Irwin-Vodicka said she is taking Nova Net because she missed about a month and a half of school and was unable to save all of her grades. A guidance counselor recommended that she try the new program.

Irwin-Vodicka said she really enjoyed Nova Net and would recommend it to anyone who did not mind working independently to go into the program if failing a class.

Irwin-Vodicka said that doing the Nova Net classes was better for her because she could go right into the class and work at her own pace and not have to wait for everyone else. By taking the class earlier instead of waiting for summer school or night classes to start again, she said she could just get what she needed done quicker.

Nova Net is for students who have failed a class and need the credit to

graduate. Selection for the program is first come first serve and the process for signing up for Nova Net is just like night school, guidance director Lynda Molyneaux said.

Molyneaux said the main difference between Nova Net and traditional night school is that Nova Net is done at each student's own pace since all of the work is completed on-line.

Nova Net does not have a regular class curriculum, it is review of information from the class the student failed. Students cannot take courses they have not taken before and they are able to earn more than one credit.

Weiss helped start the program. She said Nova Net is more independent and helps students retrieve lost credits that they failed to get in previous years.

Molyneaux said students taking the online course still have homework and they have to do book reviews, themes, and other written assignments.

"We want them to be successful," Molyneaux said.

Molyneaux said Nova Net is a great success. There is already a waiting list to get into the program, since only 15 students from Central can take it at a time. The classes are offered twice a week on Mondays and Saturdays.

Classes are \$85 per semester.

Junior Elizabeth Sharpe said she thinks Nova Net is a good program, bad in some ways.

"It's hard," she said. "Some students off, some try hard, how can you drive who's slacking; (it's) not fair," she said.

Junior Johanna Murphy said she thinks that Nova Net is a good idea for students who need a second chance.

"Students should have another chance, things happen," Murphy said.

Murphy said she believes that Nova Net could be used for a lot of good and she thinks that it's effective if students want to pass.

## Policy makes tardies more of an offense

from TARDIES, page 1

tardies had to stop increasing and he began to address the problem in October.

"The principal advisory committee and I enforced the rule at a natural break of the school year," Bexten said. "Which is the start of second semester."

He said the principal advisory committee meets weekly to discuss the school. At the meetings one of the most talked about issues was tardiness.

Julie Johnson, dean of students, said the code of conduct rules regarding tardies was looked over because the penalty wasn't specific enough. She said she talked to teachers who thought three tardies in a quarter was a lot. She said the main point of the policy is to teach students to act responsibly.

"We didn't have magic numbers," Johnson said. "Yes it's excessive, but it (tardies) became a problem."

Junior Sarah Little said sometimes students just have a hard time arriving to school on time because of transportation.

"The policy doesn't really affect me," Little said. "I can be tardy a lot some days, but I don't think anyone should be late first hour."

Brutsche said the policy should be more lenient for first hour tardies because of special circumstances. Brutsche has to travel to school from Elkhorn.

"I tend to be tardy to school," Brutsche said. "I've even exceeded six tardies and haven't received any referrals."

Bexten said once a student passes the fifth tardy the punishment is more serious. After that, students will receive referrals for every tardy.

History teacher Rick Behrens said he understands occasional tardies, but when students run late every day, it becomes a problem.

"Students choose to be tardy," Behrens said. "We have a bell that marks the beginning of class and it is very simple."

Behrens said he talks to his students who are continuously tardy individually.

"The policy will make a world of difference," Bexten said.

He said the policy looks as if it has been effective because he sees more students rushing to class. He said at the end of the semester he will see if the policy should remain the same or be adjusted for next year.

# FIGHTING THE BULLY



A new section and policy has been added to the handbook in order to fight bullies in schools.

By Katie Backman

Freshman Cory McCaron said he dreads going to school everyday because other students constantly bully him.

The new bullying section added to the Student Handbook is supposed to prevent students from being treated like McCaron said he is.

Director of Student and Community Services for Omaha Public Schools Steve Nelson said the state of Nebraska strongly encourages local schools to focus on harassment.

According to the Student Handbook, bullying is any written, verbal, physical act or gesture that is considered to be threatening or causes distress toward the students being harassed.

"Our state is very sensitive to harassment," Nelson said. "With the section it's easier for the students to understand."

McCaron said the section may be clearer, but students don't pay attention to the rules.

"I'm intelligent, I wear glasses, I am overweight and I am in ROTC," McCaron said. "They need to find something to pick on so they find a target with me."

Being the first student to answer questions during class, McCaron said, makes him more vulnerable to torment.

He said students in class make his school life miserable and filled with torture.

Freshman Zack Breazeale said he doesn't think harassment happens that much in the classrooms, but more so in the hall-

ways.

"I see the bigger kids with glasses who are walking alone getting picked on," Breazeale said.

Senior Dan Cavanagh said when he picks on people, he is only joking and being sarcastic.

"I don't want people to take me seriously or (think) that I bully them a lot," Cavanagh said.

Cavanagh said most kids probably keep bullying to themselves because they are not strong enough to take a stand.

"It (harassment) doesn't make me angry anymore or sadden me," McCaron said. "It probably makes me sad deep down, but I just disregard it."

Dean of students John Hammil said some students keep harassment to themselves because they don't let it affect them. McCaron said he does not like talking to administrators.

According to the handbook, the punishment for the first offense of harassment is a short-term suspension or reassignment.

Breazeale said he thinks the first offense punishment is extreme, but it also depends on the seriousness.

Cavanagh said the punishment of harassment should focus on the situation, but also should consider the zero tolerance policy.

Hammil said bullying is a serious thing and appreciates that the handbook made the circumstances for punishments more clear.

In an attempt to stop bullying in school, OPS has added a new section on that very subject in the student handbook.

Graphic by CONNOR MEIGS/ THE REGISTER

# Crackdown on violence in school comes in form of district's proposed fighting policy

from FIGHTING, page 1

She said the policy will be sufficient and agrees with the strictness of it.

"It should be harsh," she said. "It (fighting) is something that shouldn't be allowed at school."

Bexten said that the new policy should transmit a stronger and serious message throughout the school that fighting will not be allowed.

"Five day suspension is a serious message," he said. "I

hope it will make people stop and think and if they don't care, then that's their decision."

Many students think schools have more problems with fighting, Tolston said.

"Benson and North seem to be bad," he said.

The local media may sometimes show schools in a negative light, Rennard said.

Lisa Dale, principal of Benson High School, said her school is enjoying a rather calm year in terms of fights.

However, Benson's fighting

and violence was worse in some years in the past, she said.

"Sometimes there seems to be more physical aggression, this year doesn't show that," she said. "I'm sure that couldn't have been said for other years."

Dale also said that the new policy should help deter and discourage fights in OPS middle and high schools.

"A move for a more severe penalty should decrease fights," she said.

Across the country and even in OPS high schools, fighting

remains as a common problem, be it in Omaha or anywhere else, Bexten said.

"Conflicts are a natural occurrence," he said.

Tolston said it seems freshmen start the majority of fights.

"They (the freshmen) are immature," he said.

Pfeifer said that her general image of students that are involved in fights tend to be mainly underclassmen.

Rennard said that in proportion to the size of the freshmen class, the freshmen should not be

characterized as violent.

"If you take how many students there are in the freshman class and the number of fights within and compare that to the ratio of another class' fight to population ratio, a difference would be shown," she said.

Although fighting is an issue at school, the sense of security is still here at school. Both Rennard and Tolston said they feel safe.

The students that do become involved in a fight sometimes differ in their hindsight. Bexten said some of the students that are

involved in fights utterly regret their decision, or sometimes they fear peer pressure.

"Sometimes when kids are in a situation where they are being watched by other kids, they are pressured to fight. Kids don't know how to get out of that situation," he said.

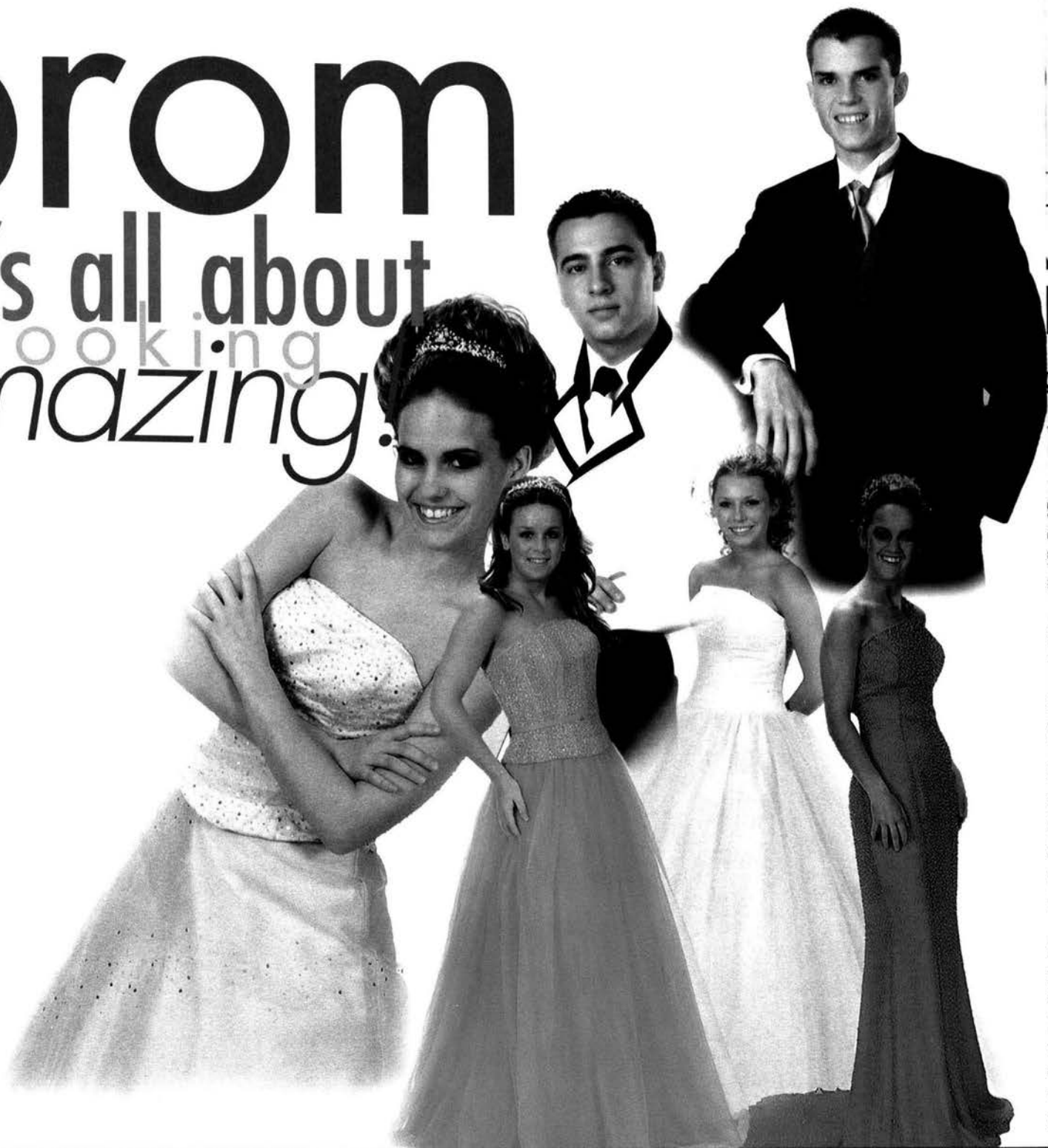
Rennard said her perception of those who are involved in fights is that they don't care about academics and school.

"If they cared they would do things to get themselves suspended," she said.



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## State Deficit

Many people are questioning what will happen if Johanns' proposed budget cuts are approved.

Page 10

Friday, February 28, 2003

## DROWNING IN DEBT

Both high school and college students seem to be having a hard time controlling the debt accumulated from easily-obtained credit cards and student loans needed to attend college. The question is what can students do to prevent having heinous debt when they find themselves in the real world?

Easy-to-obtain credit cards, student loans, sky-high tuition rates and a waning economy-it's no wonder that college students are drowning in debt earlier and earlier.

It may all start innocently enough- a credit card offer comes through the mail, it is easy to get and it seems like it will really help pay off a couple of bills for the month.

But soon it all starts piling up and by the time graduation comes around, the nice little diploma that took so much money, time and energy to earn, comes with a back-breaking debt that can haunt the debtor for the rest of his life.

It is a simple, yet ludicrous equation. College tuition rates are going up, interest rates on student loans are going up, the economy is going down and credit cards are easier to get.

Now there's a legitimate argument to be made for having a credit card during college, or even high school. They are ideal for emergencies and it is best to establish a credit rating before going out into the real world.

But very few people have the will-power to let a credit card be used only in emergency situations.

It is easy for students to spiral out of control and go on spending binges without thinking of the consequences.

With a credit card, it is easy to assume that just because payment is not required now, it never will be.

Then when the bill finally comes, most young people will find themselves out of luck and stuck with debt that may follow them well into adulthood.

Credit cards are not the only way students find themselves getting into serious debt. According to information obtained from the

Sallie Mae student loan company, roughly 70 percent of college students take out loans at an average cost of \$27,000. Between the 1990-91 and 2000-2001 school years, tuition rose 23 percent at public schools and 27 percent at private schools.

Loans are often the only way that students can come up with the cash to pay the sometimes outrageous tuition bills they encounter.

Even very affluent students can have trouble paying the bills without student loans.

Loans are a fairly dependable source of money and the interest rates on them are usually

fairly reasonable, but when a student racks up \$10, \$20, \$30,000 in debt by his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, he is at a major disadvantage.

To compound this problem, it is getting tougher for students to find good jobs to pay off their debts. The current job market is abysmal. It is the worst it has been in the past 20 years.

The answer is obviously not going to be for students not to go to college. It is obviously not for students to avoid credit cards.

The only resolution anyone can hope to get is that those in power at colleges and universities will realize what they are putting students through and reevaluate how much they charge.

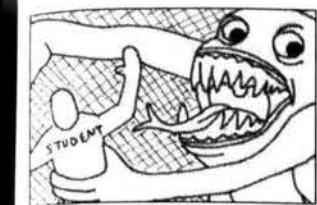
If they did that, it wouldn't be such a temptation for a student to have credit cards.

Loans would not be so scary because not as many would be needed.

The job market, the economy, the world of colleges-they form a rather tempestuous sea. And students are the ones drowning in it.

## EDITORIAL

.....  
The opinion of the Register staff



## EVERYTHING BUT THE SINK

Paula Salhany

## Students cause school to stink

Central smells like a dirty locker room.

At least that's what my mother said as she walked up the stairs to the third floor.

And lately she's been absolutely right.

Not only has it smelled like a dirty locker room, it has smelled like rotten eggs, skanky feet and people who don't understand the concept of deodorant.

The students at this school need to learn simple hygiene.

It's bad enough that students disregard their own body odor.

Never sit down wind of someone who has just come out of gym class. The smell will permeate your nose and knock you out.

Some ingenious students thought it was so important to pollute the air at Central they set off stink bombs making the halls reek more than a huge port-a-potty that hasn't been emptied in months.

It's beside the point to say stink bombs shouldn't exist in the first place, but they certainly shouldn't exist in the halls of Central High.

No one needs to smell that stink. No one wants to be engulfed in the sourness of that stench.

I find it funny to be able to walk into an administrator's office and have her show me a stink bomb someone turned in.

I heard later that day that someone was suspended for setting one of those lovelies off in the halls.

Out of all the things in the handbook students could be suspended for, I think they would feel the dumbest if they were caught setting off stink bombs.

The students who set off the recent toxic gifts probably had the best time of their lives.

How sad is that?

The people who are releasing vile odors into the halls should be stuck in a room full of sulfur.

And if you have ever smelled pure sulfur, Lord help your nose follicles. It's horrible.

I'm just saying I would rather not walk out of my classroom at 10 in the morning and smell a waft of ickiness that would make me gag.

I guess that's just the charm of Central High.

It's like each side of the school has its own ecosystem because each individual side smells like something else. I even heard someone say one side smelled like perm solution.

The only side of the whole school that is pleasant is the two side. It smells like cookies, and cookies are good in general.

But other than that the school is a general cesspool of disgusting smells. Mixed together it could just about kill someone.

To all those who think it's funny to stink up the school with nasty bombs from novelty stores, take them home and set them off in your own house.

Then maybe you'll understand why people get mad when you set them off in the school.

I understand you don't like the school. But some people are actually here to learn. We aren't here to hold our breath. So the next time you take a deep breath, be glad the air doesn't smell like rotten eggs.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/  
THE REGISTER

## Self-pity makes for miserable, inexcusable existence

Quit your whining, stop crying and get off the floor.

It sounds harsh, but I have to stop myself everyday from screaming that (not always the floor part, but anyway) at the top of my lungs whenever I see or hear someone complain non-stop about how horrible her life is and how we should all feel sorry for her.

Now I know self-pity is a natural emotion and we all have "woe is me" moments every once in a while. That's OK, that's a good thing, it keeps the world from being filled with self-righteous martyrs.

But some people take it too far.

Some people cannot walk into a room without expounding upon how horrible life is.

If you live in a free country, have a bed to sleep in at night, food to eat and are not subject to horrible abuse, then you really don't have all that horrible of a life.

Not getting into your top choice col-

lege is a disappointment. Fighting with a friend is a bummer. Flunking a test is a letdown. But none of those, or anything on those levels, qualifies you for sainthood.

We all have problems. We all have stupid parents, thoughtless boyfriends, hard classes or stress at some point or another.

But most of us can keep the whining to a minimum. Those who feel the need to rant about all of their problems need a major reality check.

Calm down, take a breath and think. Can it really be all that bad?

I don't buy for a second that the world is really going to come crashing down on you.

Most of the time, people who are whining about how their lives suck are really just jockeying for attention.

I know I am guilty of being whiny on occasion. I know there are times when it feels like you really do live the worst life

in the world. But it passes.

What does not just pass are the famines, civil wars and horrible injustices around the world. Next time you get a three on a Trig test, think about that for a second and I bet it won't feel so bad.

The major problem I have with people who are constantly steeped in self-pity is that they are usually totally oblivious to it and they expect you to feel sorry for them.

I can stand moderate amounts of self-pity, after a little while, I can sort of shut my ears off and just nod and give the "sympathetic eyes" look.

But when someone expects me to really empathize with him or to offer some sort of solace, I am totally lost.

Whenever someone rants to you about something stupid that they are pitying themselves for, they very rarely want a real response.

They want you to regurgitate whatever they were whining about, add a sympathetic tone to it and toss it back at them so they can hear exactly what they

want to.

That's just a blatant cry for attention and I honestly do not have time to give everyone who feels unappreciated all the attention that they supposedly lack.

I don't know why I encounter so many self-pitying people.

Maybe I'm too nice. Maybe I'm too good at faking empathy so whiny people think I actually care. Now if a friend is dealing with something serious, I will always be 110 percent there. But if someone I barely know has to work a double shift or has to go to the library to do research and feels bad about it, I really don't have the time.

The worst part about self-pity is when these people annoy me to the point where I feel the need to write a column on it, thus wasting about 20 minutes of my life and 600 words in the paper, and making myself sound whiny as well.

Look what you've done to me.

Wait, wait, wait, stop.

Whatever you do, do not feel sorry for me.



## 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

## Proposed fighting policy will deter school violence

It's about time that the Omaha Public School (OPS) district began to get tough.

A policy has been proposed to tighten up OPS' fighting policy.

What used to be a three-day suspension on the first offense, would be a five-day suspension, which is what the second offense consequences are now.

If the school board approves of this policy, second offense consequences would be assigned.

This will teach students more of a lesson, as well as provide them with a fresh start in a new environment with new peers.

Sometimes students have enemies at certain schools and would be more likely to get into more trouble.

If a student doesn't stop fighting after a five-day suspension, the student will choose a different school in the OPS district to attend.

If students aren't responding to the policy, then a change obviously

has to be made.

If the school policy was tough enough, then there wouldn't be students who get suspended one week and then get suspended right away the next.

### EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

Some students fight wherever they go.

If a student is expelled more than once, he will be required to complete extra coursework on behavior problems such as anger management at an alternative school before returning to a traditional school.

That stops the cycle of violence and ensures that troubled students really do get the help they need.

This new policy will really make students think twice before fighting the second, or even the first time.

If the district really wants schools to be safe and secure, they need to give principals and administrators more power to give the student more long-term consequences.

Hopefully, this new policy will be approved to give them the power.

It's the right thing to do.

## Driver's license changes will discourage underage drinking

Minors wanting to get fake IDs will soon find it a little harder.

Nebraska is changing its state ID by adding a harder to duplicate design which will prevent identity theft and underage drinking in clubs and bars.

For many this is a good sign.

No longer will students be able to go into adult clubs or drink at bars, or ask to use a sibling's ID and replace the picture plastered on it.

Ghost photos, bar codes, tamper resistant binding, different shapes and an optical state seal are a few of the many changes that the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles will make to the Nebraska State ID cards and driver's licenses in order to prevent identity fraud.

There will be two different types of cards. One will have a horizontal stripe for adults and the other will have a vertical stripe and slightly different card shape for people under the age of 21.

The card for those 21 and under will feature the year that the owner will turn 21 on it.

With these new changes, the two different types of cards will be completely different and no one will be able to mix up the two.

By making the ID card harder to duplicate, many minors may feel that going through a lot of trouble to make the ID card and still not being able to use it will be a waste of time.

This may lead to fewer teens drinking, buying cigarettes, going to 21-and-over clubs or doing any other illegal activities.

Although there are many ways to steal an identity and get into clubs or buy beer and even live another life in someone else's name, this whole new process will make the IDs harder to forge and harder to go into the DMV to get a reprint.

This is just one step of bringing Omaha into the future. By having digital IDs, the DMV will now have pictures and signatures of cardholders on file so no one can just walk in and use someone else's name.

Now tellers will be able to pull up anyone's file to make sure that who they say they are is true.

Nebraska driver's licenses are often not even honored in other states because of their flimsy appearances. They are simply made of laminated paper and are very easy to duplicate or alter.

Students who go to colleges in other states find themselves having to get new licenses because their Nebraska ones will not be taken seriously anywhere else.

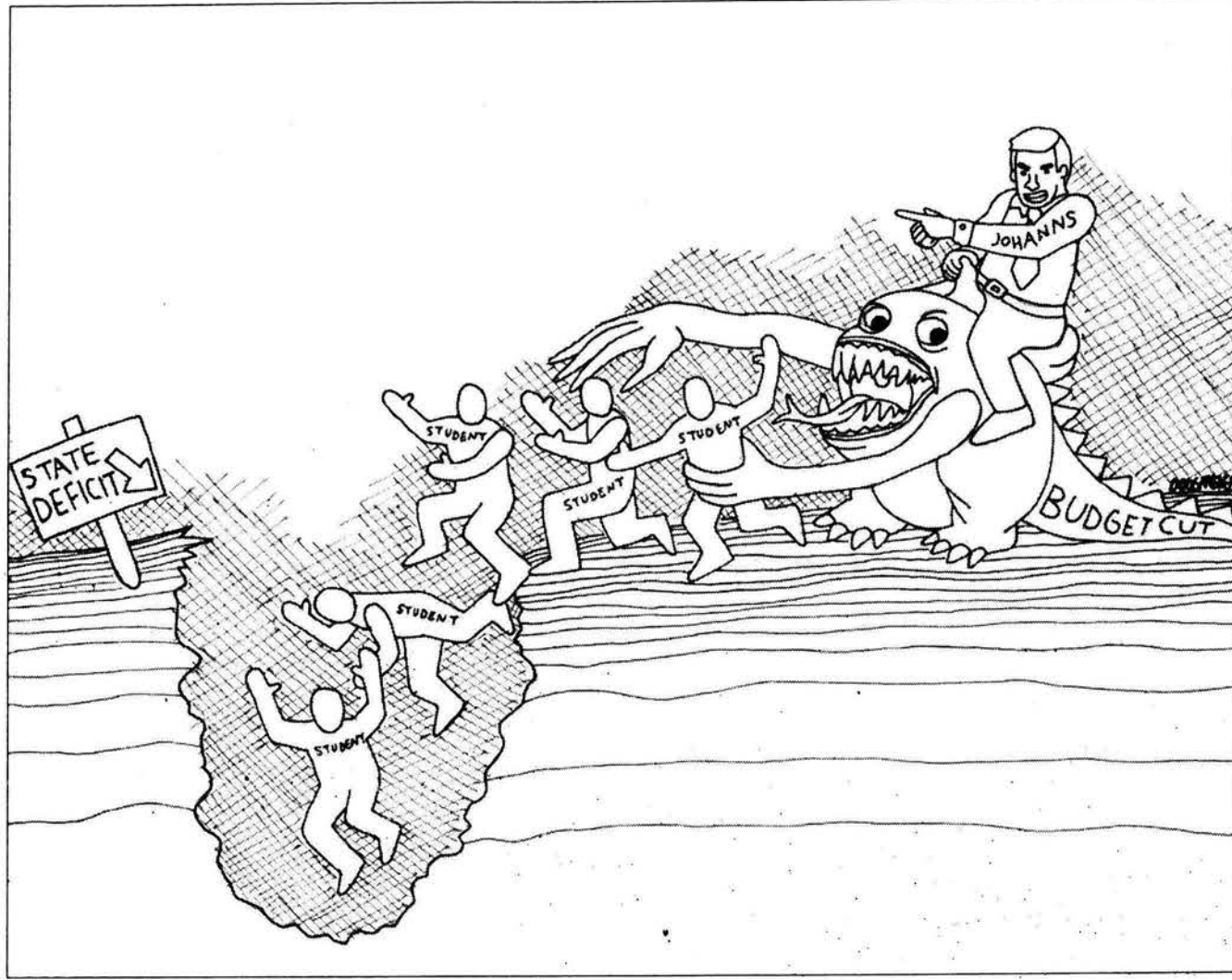
But these new licenses get rid of all of the outdated features.

Now, with these changes, maybe the state can prevent underage drinking and lend itself some credibility.

### EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff



## Budget cuts will take too much

Public education in Nebraska is teetering on the brink of destruction and Johann's proposed budget cuts stand ready to push it over the edge.

All that stands between \$230 million in cuts and the sinkhole of state deficit is an appropriations committee.

The committee has begun the preliminary evaluation of each state agency referred to in Johann's proposal (that includes education). It might decide to decrease the size of the cuts, or it might decide to increase them, nothing is definite.

However, it is definite that Nebraska has a \$673 million problem. Cutting funding to education is not the solution.

If cutting funding to public education is a bad idea then Johann's proposed 10 percent budget cut to public education across Nebraska is suicide.

Ten percent of current educational funds equate to approximately \$230 million.

If all goes according to Johann's plan, then a 10 percent cut to education will do a wonderful job of diminishing the state deficit. But it comes at a cost.

Maybe literacy in Nebraska isn't that big of a deal. Does everyone have to be able to read anyway?

Is public education even necessary?

The answer is a resounding "yes." Private education is available, but not to everyone.

Not everyone has the financial stability to buy his or her way into learning. Besides, it shouldn't have to be that way.

The state constitution allots for free public education for a reason.

Uneducated masses are counterproductive and dangerous. Recall the riots that plagued uneducated early civilizations or post Superbowl Oakland.

Education advances civilization in the broad scheme of things.

Without a good public education system, Nebraska will suffer in ways that many cannot comprehend right now.

Johann's just doesn't get this fact.

If schools are not good, then students will not receive the right education and will not be properly prepared for college or the real world.

More immediately, education allows individuals to obtain higher paying salaries.

Higher paying salaries mean larger state revenue, which is what Johann and all of the citizens of Nebraska desperately need.

Lower paying salaries drive young people out of state to places where they can feel fully appreciated.

If things keep going the way they are, it will be impossible for the state to ever recover.

The ignorance of Nebraska's youth will provide Johann with a possible financial solution today, but it will only be trouble down the road.

Nebraska's educational funding is already tight. The situation is especially difficult in OPS due to the disproportionate allocation of current state funds.

As the largest school in the largest school district in Nebraska, Central will suffer greatly.

This is the school with the most diverse population and the largest variety of special needs students, but also the one that is overlooked most of the time when it comes to allocating state funds.

Again, that's not right.

Students can thank their lucky stars that the Buffet Foundation helped with the funding for Central's new stadium.

It is without a doubt that the school would have otherwise gone without this much-appreciated renovation for years to come.

Cutting \$230 million from public education will only hurt Nebraska.

More than anything else, it will hurt students, the individuals that public education is supposed to be serving.

The cuts will discourage students from staying in Nebraska for their careers or post-secondary education.

If the proposed cuts go through, then they will end up hurting the state's financial situation more than whatever relief they provide the deficit.

These cuts may seem smart right now, but in the long run, they will do more harm than anyone could ever realize.

The "N" in Nebraska doesn't stand for knowledge, but it might as well if the cuts are made.

### EDITORIAL

.....

The opinion of the Register staff

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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.

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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.

### Heroes & Zeros

#### -Roadshow and Director's Choice

Once again, this year's Roadshow showcased some of Central's most talented students.

A new feature for this year was the Director's Choice, an after-school fundraiser that featured students who were not in the regular program.

Not only did this help recoup some funds that were lost since the drama department was not allowed to do in-school matinees, but it also gave more students the chance to get involved with the show.

Congratulations to all of the performers in both shows for a job well done.

#### -Days off in February

It was certainly a nice break to have so many days off at the end of the month.

President's Day, coupled with progress reports, teacher work days and parent teacher conferences, added a few extra days to the weekend for students to get caught up on rest and school work.

#### -The Feb. 6 Fire Drill

Whatever or whoever started this fire or triggered the alarm should not be proud.

The entire student body, including several gym classes clad in shorts and t-shirts, had to pour into the single-digit weather and wait for the school to be deemed clear of fire.

This was not only an inconvenience, but also a very frigid experience for everyone involved.

Not only was it cold, but this also occurred during the fifth hour lunch period, which meant students were not able to finish their lunches.

#### -Stink Bombs

On at least two occasions at the beginning of the month, someone thought it would be funny or wise to set off stink bombs in the hallway ways.

This only made passing periods unpleasant and horrid for anyone who had to pass through the hallway ways. Whoever thought this was a joke needs a lesson in the definition of humor.

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# OPINION

"First of all, this is an editorial section; this is where appropriate comments should be made. This is here for the people. Letters to the editor are usually just complaints and/or comments that should be brought to other's attention. For the most part, this is the only place where a student's voice can be heard."

Valerie Holub, 12

## Parking lot party causes stares, jealousy

When the sun goes down and the streetlights go on, the ravers come out and take their places in the Taco Bell parking lot.

What does Taco Bell have to do with raves? Everything. The Taco Bell near 72nd and Dodge is rave central on weekends as far as my friends and I are concerned. We are the slightly unbalanced kids who quote lines from "Newsies" in line for the bathroom or go stargazing in the middle of the AMC Movie Theater. We are the kids in suspenders and leg warmers wandering around the coffeehouse and calling everything "choice" or "pop notch" when having an intellectual conversation. But the raves are our signature shenanigans. Give us a chili cheese burrito, a great deal of caffeine, a decent sound system

and a copy of any Faint CD (excluding "Media" due to its lack of good qualities) and we're ready to go.

I know from experience that the Taco Bell near 72nd is the ideal location for impromptu raves. The parking lot is our stage and the drive-through our audience. Plus, very few cops drive by that area.

There is no need to try and be cool or to worry about being embarrassed. Anyone who chooses to make snide comments has no idea how much they are missing and we will never see them again. Why should we care?

The last rave was a while ago, but everything is still fresh in my memory. We've only had a few, but this was by far the best.

My friend popped open his trunk and all his doors and blared the Faint to

set the mood. Another friend grabbed his cape and the festivities began.

At first the hungry customers did not know what to think of our show.

Were we drunk? Were we trying to be cool? Maybe some drug was the culprit.

No, we were just in the mood for some dancing. Who doesn't feel that way every now and then?

After the first few minutes of my friend spinning around in his cape, his body jolting in seizure-like movements, the crowd began to get into it.

More and more cars were circling the parking lot to stare at us a little longer. Some girls even stopped to flirt with two of the boys I was with.

Unfortunately, my friend with the cape had a little mishap and took a tumble in front of his admirers.

No worries, when you're in the middle of a parking lot wearing a cape and a marathon runner's hat, spinning

with only one or two other people, very little embarrasses you.

Some self-conscious jerks, who were probably on their way home from a party, yelled rude comments at us, but we all knew what their problem really was. They wanted to come dance with us, but were not free enough.

Eventually the night had to wind down because we could only dance for so long after eating Taco Bell. Since most of us were only 16, we also had curfews to make.

Next time someone you are with comes up with a silly idea like dancing in public places or dressing like 1980s music idols to go out to dinner, take them up on their offer.

Make your mark on the world and live a little while you can still get away with it.

If you pull a stunt like that when you're 45, people are more likely to call the police than to cheer you on.

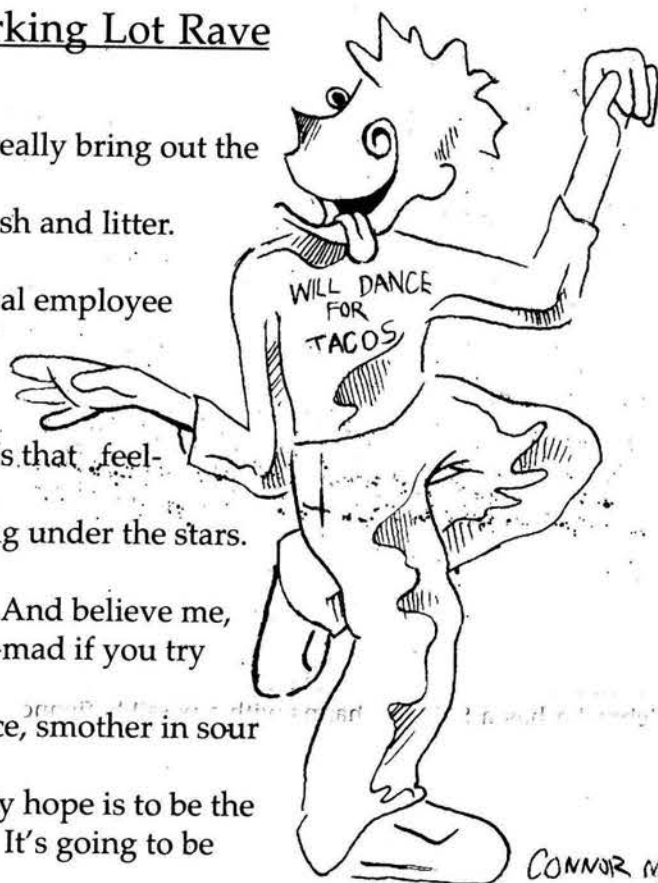


LOOKING THROUGH YOU

Laura Diesing

## Top Ten Worst Pick-Up Lines Heard at a Saturday Taco Bell Parking Lot Rave

1. Is that a chalupa in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?
  2. Has anyone ever told you that the green of the lettuce and the brown of the beans really bring out the gold flecks in your eyes?
  3. Come away and dance with me, under the streetlamps and between the piles of trash and litter. Let's dance the night away.
  4. So, you come here often? You don't, well I do. Mainly because I work here. Yep, loyal employee for the past eight years. Wait, wait, don't go. Why are you running away from me?
  5. Don't try to deny our love; I can feel it.
  6. Can I dip my burrito into your hot sauce?
  7. I felt butterflies in my stomach as I watched you dance across the parking lot. Unless that feeling is because of the Nachos Bell Grande that I ate about an hour ago.
  8. There's nothing I enjoy more than a hot gourmet meal topped off with some dancing under the stars. It doesn't get much better than this.
  9. I would buy you a drink, but only the drive-through is open and I don't have a car. And believe me, when they say drive-through, they mean it. The Taco Bell employees will get super-mad if you try to make it into a walk-through. I know from experience.
  10. You look good enough to deep-fry, cover in nacho cheese sauce, sprinkle with lettuce, smother in sour cream and wrap up in a tortilla.
0. Don't you love techno music? I like to DJ myself when I have a little spare time. My hope is to be the father of the drum 'n bass/jungle/UK garage/trance/neo-disco hybrid movement. It's going to be awesome.



COMMOR MEKS

## Title IX valued part of educational experience, should not be altered

Without Title IX, the girls golf team that did so well at State this year might not have done so well.

The girls tennis, softball and basketball teams might not be around because there would be nothing in place to protect them from cuts.

Since Congress enacted Title IX in 1972, it has placed both mens and womens sports on the same level.

The law prohibits any gender discrimination in programs that receive federal funding.

It also states that the school's male-female athlete ratio must be substantially proportionate to its male-female enrollment.

It has shown great success since it was enacted.

In 1971, there were roughly 294,000 girls participating in high school sports. In 2002, there were nearly 2.8 million.

The number of female athletes in col-

lege sports has also increased fivefold during that period.

Many athletic programs have been added to high schools in response to Title IX.

While womens sports have grown, some mens sports have been eliminated to keep the athletic participation on the same level.

Since it was passed, more than 170 mens wrestling programs at colleges have been cut.

As a result, the National Wrestling Coaches Association has filed a lawsuit pending in court.

They claim that the proportionality standard has led to the removal of hundreds of men's teams.

Mens swim teams at colleges are now becoming victims of this law. The University of Nebraska recently cut its mens swimming team.

The male athletes who are having their programs cut may believe that they

are being cheated out of their high school athletic experience.

However, had the law not passed, mens sports would have dominated on the high school and collegiate level.

Also, the growth of many womens professional sports would not have had the chance to develop without the aid of Title IX.

While some can question the fairness of an action that cuts existing programs, the question that should be pondered is whether it is better to exclude all females or a select few males from participating in sports.

Now ideally, no one should be blocked from participating in sports.

But desire and funding does not always equal each other and sometimes not everyone can get what they want.

Title IX has been around for so long that it may be hard for some to comprehend what life would be like without it.

No one in high school right now knows what it is like to go to a school

where Title IX is not there to protect female athletes.

Altering, changing or eliminating Title IX in any way would be a serious, if not fatal, blow to girls sports all over the country.

Recently, a Bush commission proposed an adjustment to the law that would have weakened it. It was ultimately turned down. Title IX will remain the same.

It will continue to serve as a safeguard in keeping mens sports from dominating the student athletic scene.

It will protect the girls sports teams around the country that may not draw in all the fans or raise a lot of money, but have members who pour their blood, sweat and tears into doing the best they can.

Title IX will continue to be here for the protection of student athletes in high school and college. It will continue to be there to keep sports equal.

For now.

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### New library restrictions become ridiculous

Dear Editor,  
Who devised the new library rules? Was it someone with too much time on his hands who sat in a chair this summer wondering how to confuse and restrict us a little more?

It must have been. Many of the new rules are understandable. The no food or drink policy is not outrageous. Not allowing study groups is an action with a purpose also. Although many students needed and used those study groups, others used the excuse of a study group to disrupt the library.

The other day, however, I was stopped from using Chap Stick. Were the fumes from Chap Stick ruining the computers?

Was the Chap Stick a gang symbol? Will I be forced to wear red next week because it matches the carpet better?

Perhaps more time and effort should be put towards helping students function without the paranoid and overbearing rules of school, instead of creating more ridiculous restrictions.

Hannah Wunsch, 10

### Student talent clear at Roadshow auditions

Dear Editor,  
I was in Roadshow this year and I was really blown away when I heard other people audition. There is so

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](mailto:register@ops.org). Letters must be signed with the author's 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.

much talent at this school!

Even some groups that didn't make it into the show were amazing.

Juliet Yoshida, 10

### Teasing based on age sickens, should stop

Dear Editor,  
I hate it when older people pick on younger people. Just because they are older doesn't mean they are better.

I have seen fights start up just because of this. I think people should make a good example of themselves to others and respect everyone no matter of age or grade.

Xi Wen, 9

### Letters should provide full opinion forum

Dear Editor,  
I have a comment for the young man that stated in

a letter to the editor that a certain young woman should "keep it to herself," implying that she should keep her mouth shut. First of all, this is an editorial section; this is here for the people. Letters to the editor are usually just complaints and/or comments that should be brought to others' attention. For the most part, this is the only place where a student's voice can be heard. There is no reason why she should keep quiet. The letters to the editor section is pure opinion.

So just maybe this section is here so students can complain. If so, I've done my job. In fact, so has he. But wait, he said that she should keep her opinion to herself. Is he not contradicting himself? I understand the circumstances of this school. There are just too many students in a small space.

I'm not saying that there is anything that we can do about it. It's a lost cause, I know, because it's an individual effort. To get this many people to cooperate is impossible.

That's still no reason to tell someone to rethink their words. These letters are here to tell people what exactly is on one's mind. If nobody cared, than nobody would read this section and it would cease to exist. Apparently, this young man was stirred enough to reply and is that not what the letter is supposed to do? He must have cared enough because he gave his opinion.

Valerie Holub, 12

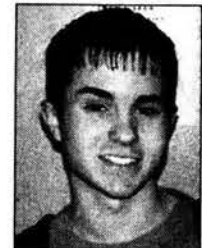
## REGISTER YOUR OPINION

State deficit has caused Gov. Mike Johanns to propose a 10 percent cut from the public school budget. What do you think should be the first items cut from the educational budget?



"Lower income sports, like tennis and soccer."

Brandon Smith, 11



"I don't know, there's a few clubs I don't think are necessary, but I'm sure other people would disagree."

Jake Mixan, 11



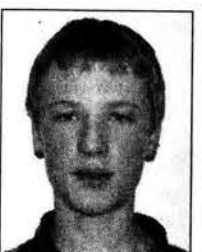
"Chess club because they can buy the game and play it at home."

Jamel McNair, 10



"We should only have clubs and sports that bring in income."

Charmaine Clements, 11



"I think the martial arts club should be cut or the skate club because you can skate by yourself."

Martin Carne, 9



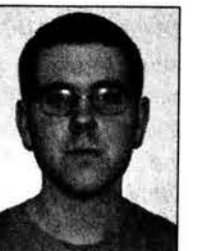
"Get rid of some of the teachers and make the classes more crowded."

Becky Sullivan, 10



"Central needs everything it can get. Nothing should be cut from this school at least."

David Hernandez, 12



"Probably art because I think there's too much emphasis on that in comparison to math and reading."

Jacob Cornish, 12



THE FINE PRINT

Nichole Tyrey

## Month of love makes for sad day, existence

Desperately seeking someone. Anyone.

Single female looking for a male who's looking for a female.

I have come to the end of my rope. I need some lovin'. I refuse to spend another day dateless and at home, watching sappy made-for-television movies and eating stale Valentine's Day candies.

This is how my nights have been going lately. It is bad enough being single, but it's even worse being pathetically dateless during the international month o' love.

I've tried just about every pick-up line in the book, everything from the subtle, "How you doin'?", to the more straight forward, "Are you in heat?" Nothing has worked.

People tell me that love only comes to people who aren't looking for it. I've even tried looking for love while pretending not to look for it. Nothing.

I was at the mall one time, minding my own business. The only guys I was checking out were the ones on the outside of the Hollister bags.

Innocently enough, I went to the bathroom. Little did I know that I had accidentally walked into the guy's bathroom.

You would think I would have figured out that something was wrong by the sight of urinals, but being oblivious little me, I didn't. I just kept walking.

However, I stopped dead in my tracks when I saw a naked butt staring straight at me from in front of a urinal. I gasped.

The unknowing boy turned around to see what the noise was. Needless to say, he zipped up pretty fast.

I instantly went into a dazed babble of "I didn't see anything... well there wasn't anything to see... well there was but I wouldn't know because I didn't look." I ran out. He called after me "It's ok, it's happened to me."

Not quite knowing what to say in return, I locked myself in the stall, in the correct bathroom. I didn't want to ever see him again.

I finished my business and my blushing and walked out. He was waiting for me. Probably figuring I had seen more of him than his mom had in the past five years, he gave me his number. I reluctantly took it. Then I started thinking and realized I shouldn't have.

When we got married, well if we got married, I will have to go through the story of how we met to our kids. For some odd yet nagging reason, I don't think that saying I had met their father in a public restroom is a sweet story.

I never talked to him again.

Maybe being single isn't so bad after all. Boys are icky, they smell funny, they're mean and are not worth anyone's time of day. It also means I don't have to shave my legs or try to look cute.

I guess it's one of those situations where you can't live with or without them.

Or can you? Many very important historical figures are mateless. The Pope never had to fret about Valentine's Day. The Dali Lama never had a girlfriend and Jesus never got married.

If Jesus can live without a significant other then I can too.

# CRUSHING EDUCATION

The No Child Left Behind Act has the potential to hurt teachers, students and education as a whole. Because of mandated tests and requirements given by the federal government, schools are now required to live up to standards many do not agree with.

President Bush's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act's intentions are clear, but the question everyone should ask is not whether or not any students will be left behind, but where will they be taken.

The act is a murky mix of rules, standards, regulations and buzzwords, all of which can easily delude people into thinking that this act is a good idea.

In reality, NCLB is not a good idea. In fact, it is one of the worst ideas in American educational history.

All this act will accomplish is creating more statistics that can be easily misinterpreted and skewed, while subjecting students to nationally standardized tests. NCLB creates a no-win situation for schools, students, teachers and the American public.

Under NCLB, each state has to develop a set of tests that meet federally mandated criteria and that must be administered in a number of grades.

The information from the students' tests results is divided into sub-groups so that various ethnic, economic, socio-economic, geographical, etc. groups can be compared against each other.

If a school performs below par on these tests, it can be required to allow students to transfer out of the school or pay for private tutoring for them.

This is one of the most ludicrous aspects of the plan, since it takes more money from failing public schools, which usually tend to be low on funds in the first place.

It may seem like that is the best thing for students, but it will only result in overcrowded schools with stretched resources while other schools waste away because of a lack of funding. This creates a situation very similar to the one that occurs when vouchers are brought into public schools.

The school is not up to snuff, so the students just jump ship, not solving any problems, just leaving them behind.

The problems do not end there. Over the next few years, NCLB will also require teachers to meet a certain set of standards to ensure that they are capable.

Now granted, there are some areas where the criterion for hiring teachers has been relaxed because of necessity or out-of-date standards.

But the vast majority of teachers are qualified and deserve respect, not scrutiny under an objective set of qualifications. Teaching is a demanding profession, one that is often thankless and arduous. Is it really appropriate to tell teachers they are appreciated by having them go through further measures to prove their competency? That is not only a waste of time, money and resources, but it is also a slap in the face to every hardworking, educated teacher.

NCLB's main problem is

its gaping blind spot.

By having a national standard, it takes away each individual state's discretion and right to develop a strong educational program.

In the end, school districts really have no choice when it comes to NCLB. Failure to comply with the act's provisions will result in the government cutting off the Title I money that is so vital to public schools.

NCLB's most impacting result will be how it changes the way school is taught.

Instead of teachers teaching from a cumulative curriculum that fully covers a topic, they will find themselves teaching from the standardized tests, in hope that their students will do well on the tests and the school's funding will not be put in jeopardy.

So teachers will just have to grin and bear it and allow themselves to be humiliated by undergoing further screening to prove their right to be in the classroom.

And students will just have to sit back and take some more tests and allow themselves to be taught material to prepare them for those tests.

Their interest in school is sure to be gradually sapped away by this non-stop drudgery and repetition and the passion for knowledge that school is ideally supposed to install in students will not be there.

The students of today are living in an incredible time. They have so many opportunities at their fingertips.

Unfortunately, many of them may feel compelled not to because of the way NCLB will make them feel about going to school. Instead, the students' focus will be on getting out of there as soon as possible.

That is simply not the way that things should be.

NCLB may not leave any children behind in its own eyes. What it does is take them to a place where learning and knowledge take a backseat to statistics and figures.

### EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff



Illustration by  
DANIEL MEIGS  
THE REGISTER

## Lost faith, religion perplexes after realization of truth

I forgot what God looks like.

God was the friendly old white guy touching the naked dude in a chapel that some Ninja Turtle painted.

He was also a younger man, by a different name, aiding suffering Middle Eastern inhabitants in children's Bible stories.

But for some reason, all the books in my white middle class neighborhood depicted him in a European environment. Even though I have seen his picture thousands of times at church, I still can't form a concrete image in my head. Then again, I haven't been to church in a long time.

The Bible depicted him as the one and only God. In the Bible he was the God who created mankind.

He's the God who had no opposition.

He was so great that when one of his followers (some Moses guy) wanted to free his friends, God turned Moses' staff into a serpent that devoured the ser-

pent/staffs summoned by some evil dudes' dark powers. How such powers exist with an all-powerful God is irrelevant.

It is easy to make fun of religion. It is much more difficult to maintain faith. I just can't bring myself to do it.

Smirks and snickers echoed against the solemn pre-meal prayer at a family gathering years ago.

I was with a Jewish friend who was laughing along with me as the rest of my family glared. I guess they were offended at our lack of reverence.

Religion has always made me somewhat uncomfortable.

It made me feel out of place, so I laughed and mocked it. I used to tease my grandmother about the flaws I saw in the Bible. All she would say was that she'd pray for me.

My response was to laugh again.

Her promise plagued me for some reason. If there was a God, then her prayers might be the only ones I would get.



EXTRANEIOUS PHRASES

Doug Meigs

## Science switch has advantage for education

In the future, the order of science, chemistry, physics may only apply to the dictionary.

A program called "Physics First" is trying to make it standard for freshmen to take physics, followed by biology their sophomore year and then chemistry their junior year.

This system seems to be working in the schools the program are in.

Taking physics first has advantages in the long run. Physics introduces information found in both chemistry and biology. By mastering physics before taking other sciences, students tend to understand these principles better.

In the past, physics was not required. But this year's sophomores now must complete a year of physics before graduating. However, even the worst physics strikes fear into the hearts of many students.

Teaching physics first not only gets it out of the way, but also teaches skills that can be used in other classes throughout life.

Many teachers argue that juniors have a hard enough time understanding physics after the students have completed Algebra 3-4. It would be even more confusing to teach freshmen because they have not had enough mathematical experience.

To address this concern, the program teaches a more conceptual, less mathematical approach to physics, making it more like a physical science class. In classes like this, students take a more hands-on approach to learning science and therefore not only understand it better, but also usually enjoy it better.

Physical science combines the science of the earth with the principles and theories of physics. By teaching physics first, it will make up for the lack of earth science, which will not be offered at Central next year.

Teaching physics before the other sciences may be like rearranging the educational universe, much like the Scientific Revolution turned the scientific community upside-down with heliocentric theories.

Despite criticism, this move will turn out to be the best thing for students.

image of God I retain from childhood fading.

Then again, my family still gives me Christmas presents and Easter candy. It's not that bad.

Even when I did pray, it was only when I wanted something or if I messed up really bad. Sometimes I still think believe in God when it's dark out and life's been going bad.

Then the tide turns and my heavenly thoughts vanish. They leave me feeling ridiculous.

I grew up two blocks away from Presbyterian church. I attended the services for the first years of my life.

I didn't even know what Presbyterian was until I stopped believing.

But all in all there is no reason for me to be religious. I don't believe in predestination anyway.

If I could just see God, I'd have something to base faith on. I would have some concrete evidence to build upon, something I could grasp.

Until then, I will attempt to remember the image I held while as a child.



**Gods and Generals**  
This gripping drama starring Stephen Lang, is a Civil War film that is sure to please war movie fans.

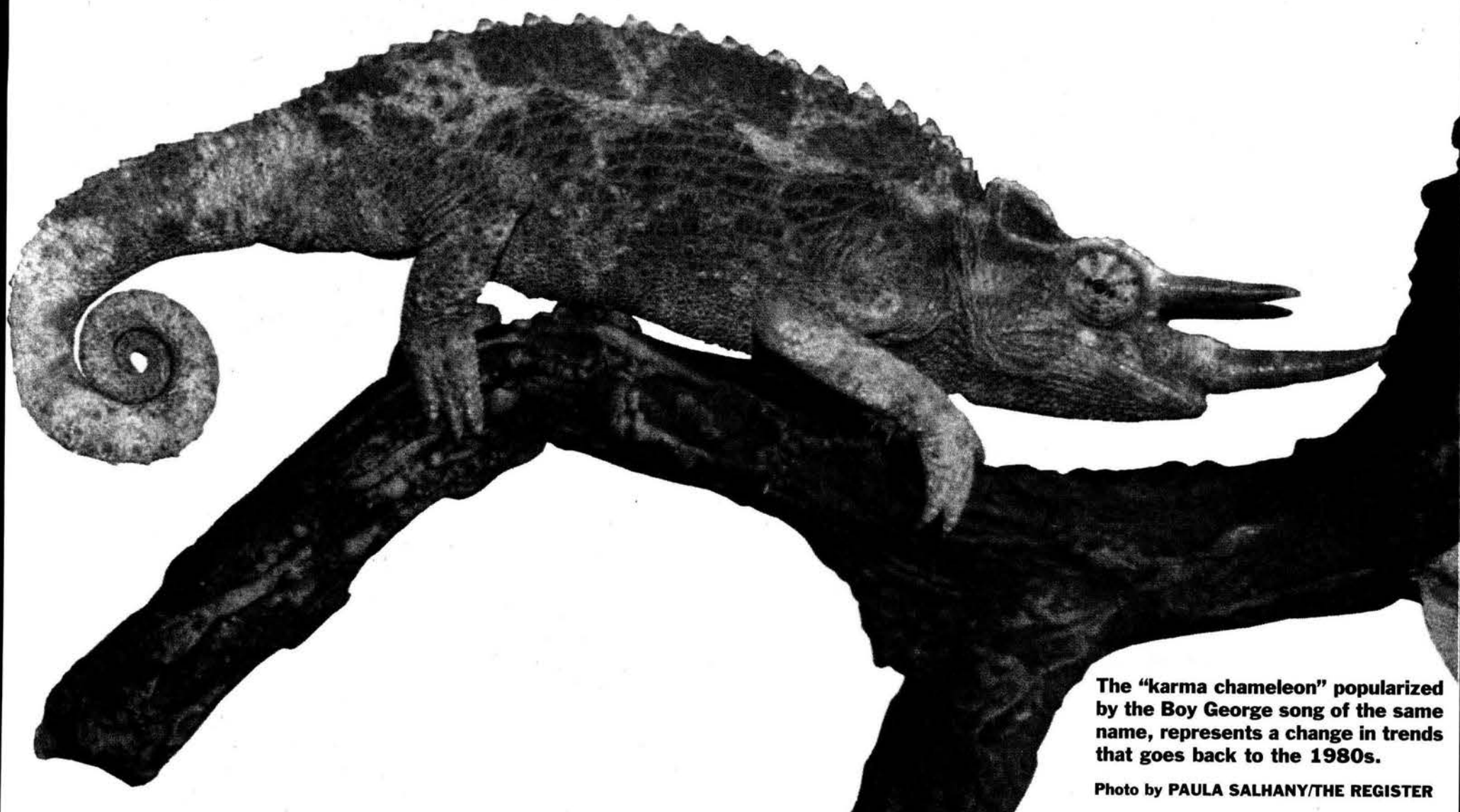
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# A&E

Friday, February 28, 2003

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The Register

## '80s TREND REVIVAL



The "karma chameleon" popularized by the Boy George song of the same name, represents a change in trends that goes back to the 1980s.

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

The decade is still fresh in the minds of many people with its poofy hair, electronic pop bands and punk piercings. But now those same wacky fashions and distinct music styles are popping up in today's culture. For more on some of the most notable bands and movies from this era turn to pages 16-17.

By Ashley Brown

Punk piercings, wrist bands and jelly bracelets, as well as other '80s fashion trends, are appearing more and more on the faces and wrists of teens today.

Bands today are even influenced by older '80s techno and punk music.

Junior Sam Stanfield said he thinks bands like Sum41 are influenced by '80s bands.

"The new Sum41 CD is a little raunchier," Stanfield said. "It has a crunch metal feeling like old Metallica, Slayer and Iron Maiden."

Sophomore Andrew Seevers said he doesn't think bands today are even close to being as good at they were in the '80s.

"Bands today are too simple," he said. "It's all two chord screaming music. Iron Maiden, Guns n' Roses and Def Leppard have a lot more guitar talent."

Seevers said he likes '80s hair bands because as a guitar player, their guitarists are a big influence on him.

"The first songs I learned to play was that type of music," Seevers said. "Those bands had more substance than music today."

Omaha based Saddle Creek band the Faint is known for its '80s techno sound.

Freshman Josh Tapio said he thinks the Faint is still original, even though it obviously sounds like one of those bands from that decade.

"The synthesizer and guitar sounds like the '80s," Tapio said. "But you can still tell it is a newer band."

Freshman Tommi-Lee Ripton said she doesn't like "80s revival" at all.

"The '80s are coming back in the 'it's cool to be punk way'," Ripton said. "It's so annoying."

Ripton said she saw a Good Charlotte music video on MTV with Anarchy signs flashing throughout the video and thought it was horrible.

"It totally defeated the purpose," she said. "I literally wanted to punch myself because they [Good Charlotte] are everything anarchists are against."

They are reviving the '80s in the punk way, but they are doing it all wrong and ruining it."

Unlike Stanfield, who said he loves the clothing trends from that decade, Ripton said she hates leg warmers and blue eye shadow, which were

see TRENDS, page 16



Cyndi Lauper

She was a pop music sensation after the release of her 1983 album "She's So Unusual," which featured the song "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."



Madonna

She launched her career in the early '80s and has been a permanent pop icon ever since. Her wild style defined '80s fashion.



The Terminator

This '80s action flick spawned two sequels and several catch phrases like "Hasta la vista baby" into the American vernacular.

## Audience input drags down CD

By Nichole Tyrey

Dashboard Confessional's live album and DVD "MTV Unplugged" is just like a concert minus the bruised ribs and ringing eardrums.

This live arrangement, however, has its ups and downs.

The band is a definite good thing. Dashboard Confessional's lead singer Christopher Carrabba sings with such heart and soul that can not be fully appreciated without seeing him in person.

The audience, on the other hand, can become quite annoying because the members know every word to almost every song.

The sing-along is not as obvious on the CD as it is on the DVD, during which the camera does several close-up shots on the crooning audience members.

The live studio audience has become part of the "Unplugged" atmosphere. One of the only faults of the band is the lack of audience interaction.

Contrary to the "Unplugged" tradition, the band did not take any questions or suggestions from the audience. Carrabba did not offer hardly any insight on the inspiration of the songs.

Dashboard Confessional's performance, however, was seamless. In addition to the standards off the band's critically praised album "The Places You Have Come to Fear the Most," the band also played all four tracks off its EP, "So Impossible."

The best part of both the album and the DVD is "Remember to Breathe." The audience does not seem to know the lyrics and therefore does not sing.

The lyrics were very empowering and this was one of the only times Carrabba made eye contact with the audience. This song is also the first time all of the band members are playing on stage.

As a whole, this album and DVD are a great addition to any Dashboard Confessional fan's collection.

It is not often these days that a band will play live for only 15 bucks, let alone over and over again.

If not purchased for the wonderful performance, the DVD is also worth the money to make fun of the goofy looking MTV audience bobbing their heads and trying to look cool.

## Roadshow exceeds expectations, makes for enjoyable night

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

The first performers in the first Roadshow, 89 years ago, probably would have never expected to see a video presentation, boys dressed as lunch ladies or stilt walkers.

That's too bad because all of those acts and more combined to make this year's Roadshow, "Central Stars" one of the best in recent years.

The show MCed by seniors Aron Cobbs, Conrad Goetzinger and Kim Pitlor, was filled with a variety of acts that expanded on the typical song, dance, skit, repeat formula. Though there were no real weak spots in this year's show, there were some definite highlights.

The musical acts were all very well done. From Nextweus, a definite student favorite, to senior Norma Reynolds show-stopping finale performance of "Tell Me Something Good," all of the numbers were well executed.

Technical difficulties did hinder a few acts, but the performers worked around them and the stage crew managed to solve them all quickly.

The Blues Brothers act by senior Doug Hageman and junior Charles Serfass was a definite crowd favorite and really got the crowd into it. Seniors Mark Zoll and Adam Lamb did a rendition of "Ice Ice Baby" that worked up the audience as well.

Senior Michael Kern and junior David Rangel won the award for most unique musical act of the night with "Thunder and Blaze," which mixed Kern's piano playing with Rangel's soccer ball handling, all prefaced with a

story from Kern about when to play the blues in his native Germany.

In most Roadshows, there are always an abundance of skits, most of which are often adapted from "Saturday Night Live." This year there were surprisingly few acting bits, but the ones featured were more original than usual.

Besides the advanced drama class' skit "When I Graduate" and seniors Brian Fahey and Jessica Richart's hilarious "Ding," the only other dramatic offering was freshman Andrew Monbouquette's video "I'll Confront You: An Encounter with the Annoying One." The idea of presenting a video was something completely new that worked well. The video itself was funny and was one of the first act's high points.

As always, there were good performances by the band, jazz band, orchestra, Bel Canto, A Cappella, Men's Chorus and CHS Singers.

A new addition this year was a performance by the CHS Gospel Choir, accompanied by an impassioned sermon by senior Larry Coleman entitled "The Prodigal Son." This really was an interesting new twist to the show and Coleman and the choir worked quite well together.

At several random intervals throughout the show, senior Joaquin Lopez amazed the crowd with his stilt-walking antics that included throwing a huge inflatable blue ball into the audience and playing catch.

This year's Roadshow was possibly the best of the last four years and truly did show off all of Central's stars.

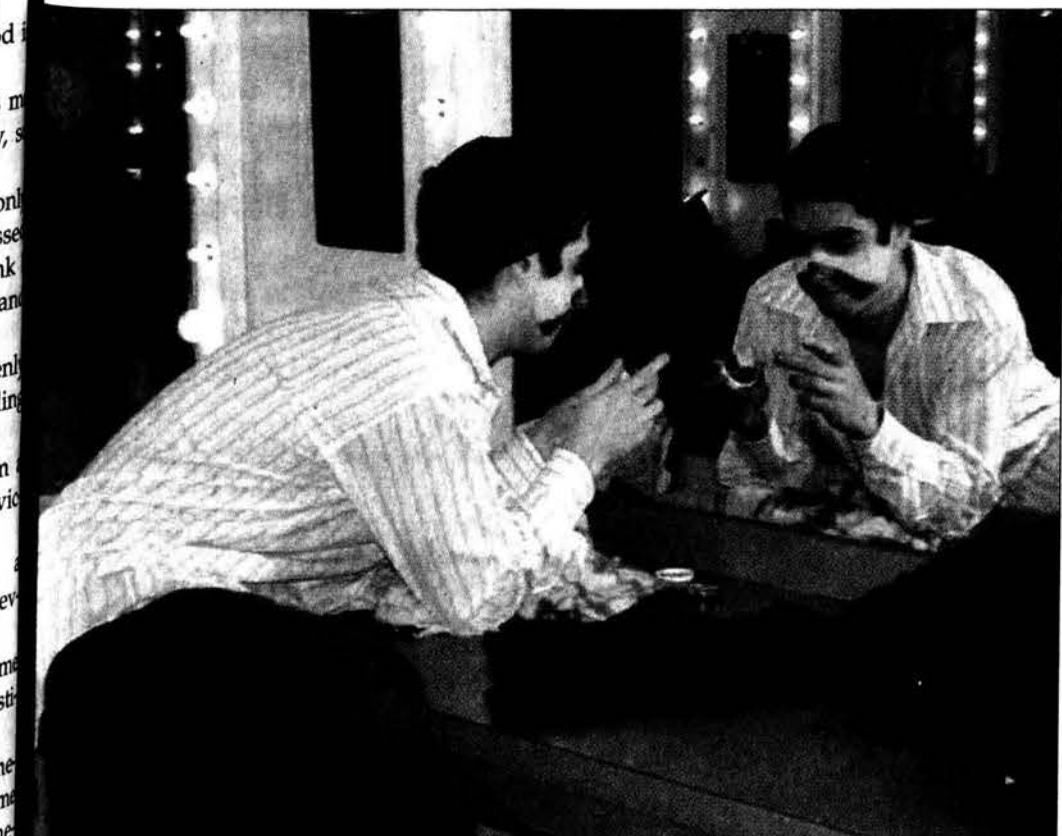


Photo by TEDDI TEAMER/THE REGISTER

Senior Joaquin Lopez puts on his make-up before Roadshow. Lopez performed on stilts for the show.

Reviews

# Quirky Spanish film bound to stir up talk

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar's "Talk to Her" ("Habla con Elle") mixes a certain European quirkiness, a string of incidences connected by fate and two men's somewhat skewed outlooks on love to create a thought-provoking and oddly endearing tale of chance and romance.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Talk to Her" Starring Javier Cámara, Darío Grandinetti of 5

"Talk to Her" has been surrounded with buzz since its original release last year. Though it took the Spanish film quite a while to make it to Omaha, it was definitely worth the wait.

Almodóvar wrote and directed the tale that intertwines the love stories of Marco and Lydia, a writer and a bullfighter, with Benigno and Alicia, a nurse and the coma patient he falls in love with.

Early in the film, Marco and Benigno have a chance meeting at the theater, of which Marco takes no notice. But once his girlfriend Lydia is seriously wounded in a bullfight and taken to the same clinic where Benigno is a nurse, the two stories began to intersect.

Benigno is a disturbed little man who has been caring for Alicia, a beautiful young woman in a coma, for the past four years. However, Benigno's feelings for her have transcended the typical bond between a caregiver and patient and he has developed a sick obsession with her.

From this point on, fate takes control of the movie and takes it down a path that at times seems a little too easy to fit into the story line, but ends in a place that brings the odd little slice-of-life story to a moving, though not life-changing, ending.

"Talk to Her" is the type of movie that is not really a comedy and not really a drama, it is a very human story, it is not always uplifting, but it is not always depressing.

Movies about fate often seem forced, predictable or syrupy. But "Talk to Her" manages to overcome any tendencies to fall into that all-too-easy trap.

Even people who usually do not like foreign films or get annoyed by subtitles will enjoy "Talk to Her."

It may take a little time to get into the odd little world the movie encompasses, but the trip is most definitely worth it.

# Aesop Rock redefines rap with 'Labor Days'

By Doug Meigs

Slide Aesop Rock's "Labor Days" into a CD player and curl up with the album's comforting quilt-work of tracks.

Just like young children cuddled up underneath blankets to listen to parents or grandparents read Aesop's fables, the recent release by solo rapper Aesop Rock leaves the listener feeling fulfilled.

"Labor Days" embodies the same ethical content as the fables from which the rapper took his namesake. Each track contains some message, from the brevity of life in "Daylight" to the more obvious tribute to living for one's self in "No Regrets."

Aesop takes underground hip hop to a whole new level with his forceful lyrics constructing urban landscapes brick by brick, rhyme by rhyme, over an intricate web-work of stories.

Bass configurations resound over each track. Each track holds its own and each track maintains a spectacular fluidity through Aesop's amazing flow.

Each transition slides over the other like syrup over a fresh stack of pancakes.

Still warm from the heart and soul of Aesop, they sink into the listeners' minds and leave their mouths watering for more.

The rapper's massive vocabulary pierces out over unprecedented rhyme-saying skills. Take any beat at any speed throughout the record and Aesop maintains complete lyrical control.

Imagine a less feminine Doug E. Fresh with sophisticated bass beats pulsating through unique instrumentation and keyboards. Aesop seems to be one of the most talented rappers on the market.

"Labor Days" is the most recent full-length release by the rapper on Def Jux records, a company renowned for sending rappers to the fore-front of the non-commercial scene.

Although he has a number of lesser known releases, "Labor Days" is by far the most polished assemblage of Aesop's raps to date. Not to mention, it is his largest release yet, containing 14 tracks

Aesop is a rappers' rapper. He oozes confidence, confidentiality and content. It is evident that "Labor Days" was the result of massive amounts of labor. However, the end result clearly justifies the effort exerted.

# Calendar



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson (Stephen Lang) takes a break from the battlefield in the Civil War epic "Gods and Generals," which opened on Fri. Feb. 21. The gripping drama should be perfect for fans of war movies.

# Album Releases

All album release dates are on Tuesdays



## March

### 4 Various Artists "Mullets Rock!"

Epic Records unleashes a 35-song collection of "mullet rock" hits. From Foghat to Foreigner, Judas Priest to Journey, all the hitmakers of the '80s are here for listeners' enjoyment. While listening to this album may bring back some pleasant nostalgia, it is not advisable to go get a mullet after listening to it.

### 4 The Police "Every Breath You Take: the Classics"

Just in time for the band's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Police release a collection of greatest hits. The band was one of the biggest chart-toppers of the '80s with singles such as "Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic," "Roxanne," "Message in a Bottle" and "Don't Stand So Close To Me." The lead singer of the band, Sting, has went on to become one of the '90s leading new-age singers.

### 4 Woody Guthrie "Folk Collection"

A collection of the work of the late, great Woody Guthrie will be released on this day. From Guthrie's tales of disillusioned Depression Era life ("Do-Re-Mi") to his razor sharp social and political commentary to his classic "This Land is Your Land," Guthrie was one of the most important and influential singer-songwriters of the 20th century. This collection could be a great introduction into Guthrie's works for those who are not aware of them yet.

### 4 Lil' Kim "La Bella Mafia"

The Queen Bee releases what is sure to be another record full of racy, raunchy rhymes. Lil' Kim is best known for her previous albums like "Notorious K.I.M." and "Hardcore." But as popular as her music may be, many will still only remember Kim for her revealing and skimpy outfits and her explicit and suggestive lyrics.

### 4 Cursive "Ugly Organ"

Omaha's own Cursive releases its third full-length album "Ugly Organ" on the locally owned and operated label Saddle Creek Records. The band has been receiving national attention since the release of its last album, the EP "Burst and Bloom." The band's mix of a traditional indie rock set-up combined with a cello player gives it a unique twist that not very many others can offer. Cursive's lead singer Tim Kasher is also the frontman for another Saddle Creek band, the Good Life.

### 11 Ani DiFranco "Evolve"

The DIY princess of folk-punk adds one more album onto her impressive catalogue. DiFranco's original blend of music, social commentary and heartfelt lyrics has made her a favorite on college campuses around the country. DiFranco's best known albums include "Not a Pretty Girl," "Dilate" and "Little Plastic Castles."

### 11 The Clash "Essential Clash"

The re-release of the Clash's greatest hits coincides with the band's induction this year into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The album comes only a few short months after lead singer Joe Strummer's death by heart attack at age 50. The band was one of the most influential punk bands to come out of England in the late '70s, but also incorporated many other influences, like reggae and dub, into its music.

### 25 Ringo Starr "Ringorama"

Former Beatle Ringo Starr returns with another solo album. Starr's solo work has never really been as popular or appreciated as that of his former bandmates John Lennon, George Harrison and Paul McCartney. Starr, who was the voice of the Beatles' classic "Yellow Submarine," has put out a consistent stream of albums in the roughly 33 years that the band has been apart. "Ringorama" includes guest appearances from Willie Nelson, Shawn Colvin, David Gilmour and Eric Clapton.

## April

### 8 30 Odd Foot of Grunts "Another Ways of Speaking"

Australian bad-boy actor Russell Crowe and his band 30 Odd Foot of Grunts try to make a splash on the American music market with this new release. Musical talent or not, time will only tell if Crowe's celebrity will make this album a commercial hit or flop in the States.

## Movie Releases

### March

7 "Bringing Down the House"  
"Tears of the Sun"  
"12 Hours"  
"Irreversible"

14 "The Hunted"  
"Willard"  
"Prozac Nation"

21 "Agent Cody Banks"  
"Boat Trip"  
"Dreamcatcher"  
"Piglet's Big Movie"  
"View From the Top"  
"House of Fools"

28 "Basic"  
"The Core"  
"Head of State"  
"Assassination Tango"  
"The Guys"  
"Raising Victor Vargas"  
"Stevie"

### April

4 "A Man Apart"  
"My Baby's Mama"  
"Phone Booth"  
"Ripley's Game"  
"What a Girl Wants"  
"Cet Amour-La"  
"Cowboy Bebop: the Movie"  
"Hope Springs"  
"Levity"  
"The Man Without a Past"

## Concerts

### March

1 "Unsigned Hype" featuring: Live Entertainment, M.O. Caiaus, Noizewave, Rockin' Shizah, Shortstack, Afta Life, Drama Life and XplisicX at the Ranch Bowl

6 The Sea and Cake and Califone at Sokol Underground

7 Beep Beep, Fast Foward and the Locust at Sokol Underground

7 Idle Apathy and Narcotic Self at the Ranch Bowl

8 Yo-Fleco, Eighth Wave, Core Project, Sunspot, Madison and Full Feature at the Ranch Bowl

9 Mayday, the Good Life and Rilo Kiley at Sokol Underground

18 Bardo and Death Cab for Cutie at Sokol Underground

18 Godspeed! You Black Emperor at the Music Box

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# LATE NIGHT HOT SPOTS

Omaha may not be the most happening town, but if one is willing to search there are a few places out there where it is possible to burn the midnight oil. The *Register* scoured the town looking for the best spots to find a place to relax and hang out when it is later than 10 p.m.

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

A town like Omaha has a reputation for being dead once the clock hits 9 p.m. While this may be true in some respects, there are a few good places that stay open late for those who like to burn the midnight oil. Here are a couple of the best.

### Village Inn

Village Inn is an old favorite around town. Cheap bottomless coffee, pie and breakfast foods are all available till 3 a.m. and does not get much better than that.

One of the few downsides to Village Inn is that since it is an old favorite, it tends to be rather crowded.

Even very late at night, it is not unusual that there may be a crowd or even wait for a table, especially in the non-smoking section.

The other pitfall to Village Inn is that it switches menus at night.

The late-night menu offers all of the same food as the regular one, but at higher prices.

This can be rather irritating, especially when on a rather limited teenage budget.

Village Inn is most famous for its wide variety of pies, which are the same price at night as they are during the day.

These pies are the perfect complement to a bit of intriguing conversation and a few friends gathered round the table.

It is no secret that Village Inn is a great place to go at night. The fact that this is a secret may mean it is a little harder to enjoy because of the crowds.

But with several Omaha area locations and a fairly good, consistent menu, along with the famous bottomless coffee, Village Inn is always a dependable place to go for some decent late night eats and to have a place to sit and talk the night away.

### Taco Bell

Taco Bell may not exactly be a hang-out, but late at night, it is always an experience.

As the first fast food place to discover that late night hours mean lots of money, Taco Bell is usually the first place to come to anyone's mind when the clock has passed 12, but food is needed.

Most other fast food chains have now started to follow Taco Bell's tradition of keeping its drive-through open late while closing the inside restaurant at an earlier time.

Since Taco Bell is only a drive-through late at night, it is very hard to hang out there, at least without risking getting ticketed for loitering.

But going through the drive through is quite often an experience.

As late as 1 or 2 a.m., lines of cars can be seen waiting to get food, sometimes so many that the line extends into the street and blocks up traffic.

The types of people who frequent the Taco Bell drive through late at night are at best an eccentric and at worst a rowdy group.

It seems that the majority of people who go through are stopping on their way home from concerts, parties and the like.

So don't be surprised at the wide mix of people that may be there.

Taco Bell after midnight is sort of like the melting pot of Omaha-West O., South O., Bellevue, Millard. Everyone gets hungry.

And apparently at one time or another, everyone goes to Taco Bell.

### Donut Stop

Tucked away slightly south of the Old Market, the Donut Stop is the kind of place most people hear about through the grapevine.

It is that quirky little place that opens at 10:30 p.m. and closes at 10 a.m. and



Illustration by CONNOR MEIGS/THE REGISTER

offers the best donuts in town, at surprisingly cheap prices.

Donut Stop is another place that attracts a diverse clientele.

At any given moment, it seems any person may waltz through the door, from local celebrities to that kid from gym class.

This makes even a quick visit to the Donut Stop an interesting experience.

The homey, welcoming atmosphere may be why so many different people frequent the Donut Stop.

Owned by a pair of friendly elderly

animal rights activists, the walls are covered in flyers and pictures of cats and show dogs from the '70s.

The menu board even seems to be taken straight from a small town '50s diner.

This is the type of place where people can stay all night without anyone caring, even if they don't purchase more than a cup of coffee or doughnut.

Even for those who are not creatures of the night, the Donut Stop may prove to be a handy place for early birds to grab a quick and yummy breakfast.

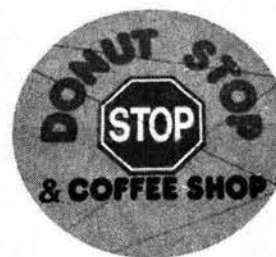
### The Places



**Taco Bell**  
Locations: 3917 S. 42nd St.,  
14554 West Center Rd. and 7516  
N. 30th St.  
Hours: 9:30 a.m. until 2 a.m.

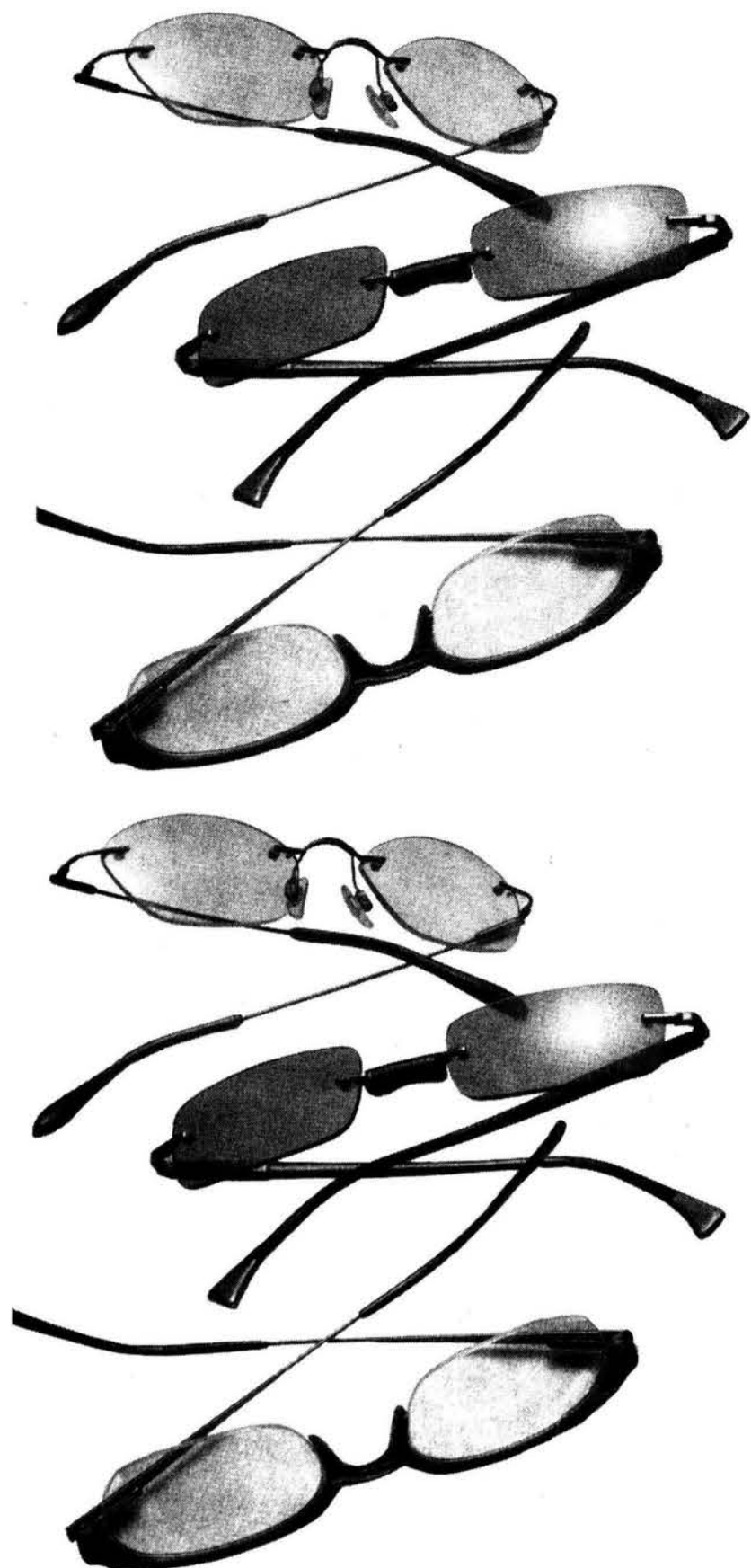


**Village Inn**  
Locations: 2525 S. 180th St., 4416  
Dodge St. and 5425 L St.  
Hours: 6 a.m. until 12a.m. Sun.-  
Thur.; 6 a.m. until 3 a.m. Fri. and  
Sat.



**Donut Stop**  
Location: 1256 S. 13 St.  
Hours: 10:30 p.m. until 10 a.m.

All photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER



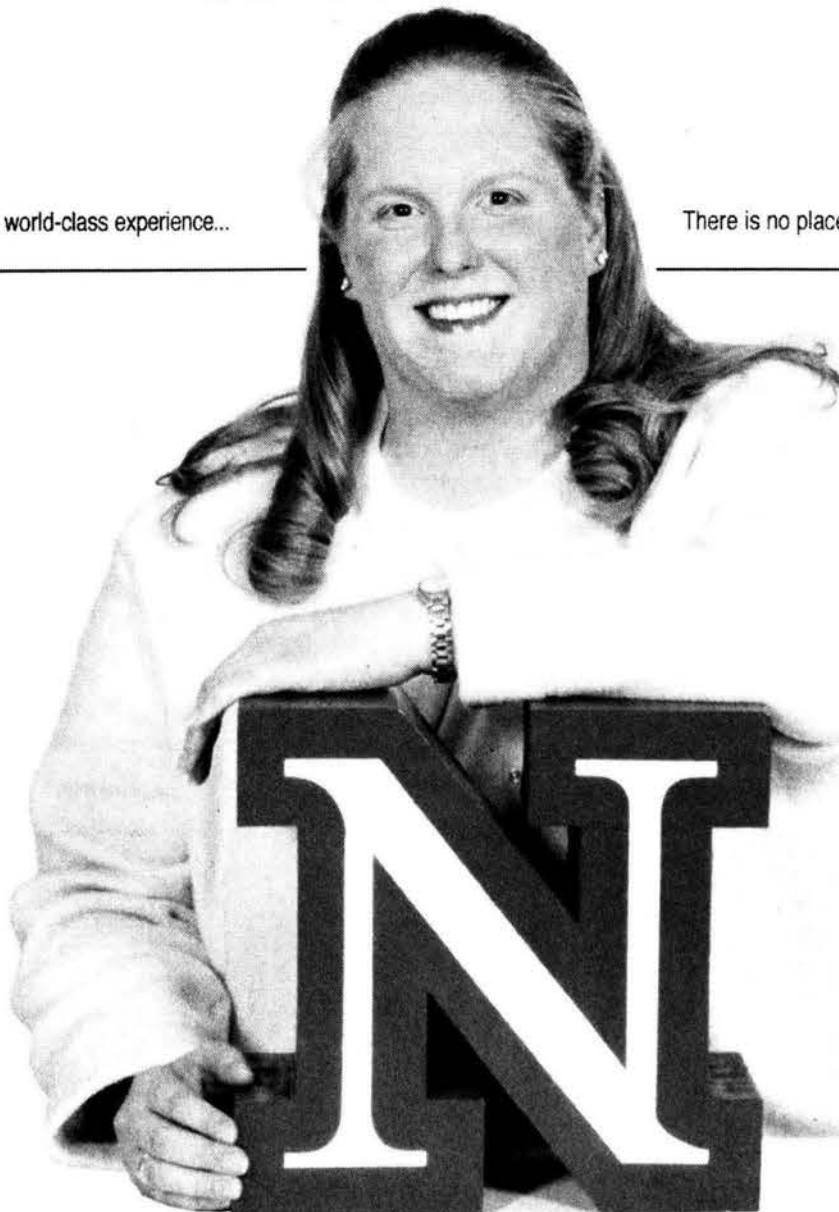
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# THE RETURN OF THE '80s

Recently, it seems like everything from the 1980s has become in vogue again. From music to movies, it is like the '80s never left. Here the *Register* takes a look at the best of music, movies and trends from the decade.

## Favorite Movies

### TRENDS

from TRENDS, page 13

popular in the '80s.

"So many people wear blue eye shadow," Ripton said. "It's like 'hey, is my name 1982? I think so!'"

Ripton also said she is seeing a lot of people wearing spiked bracelets, sweatbands and ties without suits.



Ripton

Lavigne has especially made wearing ties with just t-shirts trendy again, and it's stupid," she said. "Those bracelets with the studs on them are everywhere, too."

What Ripton said she probably hates the most is the long skirts that are tucked in the front, but hang out in the back."

"It's so ugly," she said. "Do people think that's cute? It just needs to stop, it's over."

Stanfield said he is seeing a lot more neon colors and Vans slip-on shoes, which became big in the '80s.

"Neon pink is really coming back," Stanfield said. "I see it on a lot of skate boards and skate shoes. 'Fast Times at Ridgmont High' pretty much kicked off Vans shoes as far as exposing them to the public goes. I see a lot of the checkerboard Vans, too. A lot of people are wearing Chuck Taylor shoes too, but those never really went out of style."

Bright, day glow and neon hues, as well as all the other colors of the rainbow are even appearing as trendy colors to dye hair.

Flashes of pink and blue streaks in hair are becoming more common in the halls and in the lunch line than at a Casualties concert.

Ripton said she thinks hair color is over done and since everybody is doing it, it's becoming lame and old quick.

"Every one and their mom is dying their hair," Ripton said. "People are dying their hair just because they can. But it's totally defeating the purpose. Like the Dead Kennedy's song, 'you ain't hardcore 'cause you spike your hair when a jock still lives inside your head.' It was original in the '70s and '80s, but now it's just stupid."

Sophomore Anne Kline said she doesn't care too much about people dying their hair, but thinks the term "punk" is overused.

"I think dying hair is cool," Kline said. "Some people do it to get a message across like, 'hey I'm different' and I think that's cool. But I think the terms '80s and punk are over used. I don't mind it though."

Big Brain employee Colin Nichols said he doesn't think piercings are becoming more trendy, but just more accepted in society.

He said times are changing. "A lot of jobs allow piercings now," Nichols said. "So they aren't really trendy and they aren't looked down upon."

As much as Ripton said she hates '80s trends, she said she thinks a few more of them will come back.

"I think big hair might come back, too," she said. "Hopefully the mullet and leg warmers won't come back, but it's only a matter of time before 'the claw' (big, poofy bangs that were popular in the '80s) becomes popular."

Unlike Ripton, who said she thinks mullets are white trash and just plain ugly, Stanfield said he absolutely loves them.

"Mullet is awesome," Stanfield said. "I wish they would come back in style."



Courtesy of Universal Pictures  
"Back to the Future"

### 'Back to the Future'

Very few movies transcend the realms of space and time to deliver an almost ethereal movie-watching experience.

"Back to the Future," quite literally, is one of them.

It is one of those films that never seems to get old, even if one has seen it 27 times (4 of them consecutively).

The original "Back to the Future" was released in 1985, and almost overnight, it became an instant classic.

The story is simple, but at the same time ridiculously complex. It begins in 1985. Emmett "Doc" Brown (Christopher Lloyd) believes he has invented time travel, and he ends up spending his family fortune converting a De Lorean into a time machine.

The first time he and his friend Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) test the machine, McFly ends up getting stuck in 1955.

Abandoned and alone, McFly finds the only person who can help him, the younger Doc Brown.

By chance, McFly ends up meeting his younger parents and accidentally preventing their meeting, thus putting his very existence in jeopardy. The movie takes an Oedipal twist when Marty discovers that his mother, Lorraine Baines (Lea Thompson) has a crush on him.

This is what gives the film one of its most original ideas; that not only can teens see their parents as teenagers, but they can actually become their friends and view them on an equal level.

Perhaps what makes the film so appealing is that it in fact doesn't resemble most traditional time-travel movies.

One the surface, the movie is filled with wit and wacky jokes as Marty tries desperately to bring his parents back together without seeming to know too much.

But under that glossy veneer of oddball humor, lies a serious movie with a lot of thought and charisma.

-Devon O'Connell

### 'Say Anything'

This movie is the epitome of everything that is good and right in life.

It's the type of movie where the good guys win in the end, but not without a fight.

Our hero, Lloyd Dobler is an all-around good guy. His classmates like him, he's loyal to his friends and he's not a jerk. He's essentially the perfect man in a high school setting.

Unfortunately, most girls can't see this about him. That is until he meets Diane Court, the drop-dead gorgeous valedictorian who Lloyd admires from afar.

When these two began a romance

during the summer after high school graduation, all the cards seem to be stacked against them.

Her father doesn't approve, everyone thinks she's too good for him and she's leaving for London at the end of the summer.

Of course, after all, love wins out in the end.

The set-up may seem corny, but the witty script and direction by Cameron Crowe ("Almost Famous," "Jerry Maguire") in his debut feature, plus the winning performances by John Cusack and Ione Skye as Lloyd and Diane make this movie classic.

Even the most hard-shelled cynic will melt into a big pile of steaming goo during the scene where Lloyd stands beneath Diane's window playing Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes" in an attempt to woo her.

Strong supporting performances by Lili Taylor as Lloyd's wounded-songwriter best friend Corey and John Mahoney as Diane's father round out the ensemble and help give the movie its quirky little charm.

"Say Anything" was released in a decade where teen romance movies were a dime a dozen. But great actors and a realistically sensitive and witty script make this one stand out far above the rest.

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

### 'Sixteen Candles'

There are certain things that everyone remembers from high school: sweet 16, first love, the first time a group of geeky freshmen pays to see your underwear.

John Hughes captures the essence of adolescence in the 1984 hit film "Sixteen Candles."

Hughes highlights the best and worst of being a teenager and makes it easier to laugh at this horribly awkward stage.

Farmer Ted's (Anthony Michael Hall) flash dancing, Long Duk Dong's (Gedde Watanabe) cheesy pick-up lines and a perfectly formulated plot, made "Sixteen Candles" one of the best things to ever make it out of the '80s.

Every high school girl wanted to be Samantha Baker (Molly Ringwald) when the dreamy Jake Ryan (Justin Henry) slowly leaned in for the perfect birthday kiss.

Every guy wanted to be Farmer Ted when he ended up in the backseat of a Rolls Royce with the prom queen.

Long Duk Dong was sadly not a major part of the movie, but helped to make "Sixteen Candles" the work of art that it is. Now, thanks to "the Donger," whenever someone says "automobile?" somewhere, someone will respond with "lake, big lake."

No one but Hughes would have been able to bring Jake and Samantha together with the help of a nerdy freshman and a pair of girl's underpants.

"Sixteen Candles" is not only a comedy; it is also an informational film.

When Samantha's sister took too many muscle relaxers and left half of her wedding gown at the church, it was a reminder of the potential dangers of over-medicating.

"Sixteen Candles" was John Hughes's Mona Lisa. Only one of his other triumphs, "The Breakfast Club," comes remotely close to achieving the comedic genius he did in this movie.

Be it the nerdy freshman stalker, the insane family or the colossal crush on the hottest senior in school, there is something for every person to relate to in "Sixteen Candles."

-Laura Diesing

### 'Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure'

Like, totally radical dude! Nothing beats 1989's "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

This movie was from a time when movies were big and playing the air guitar was in abundance.

Bill and Ted are a couple of Valley boys whose lives turn upside down when they are assigned a history project that leads them to time travel.

During the project, the twit boys have run-ins with some of history's most recognizable faces.

Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter play the two surfers who just need to pass a class.

Abraham Lincoln, Joan of Arc and many other significant historical figures make appearances in this movie.

They take these important people to the mall of all places.

Do they pass the class? Do you have to ask?

This movie was one of the better movies of the '80s because kids who were born in the late '80s can see how their parents dressed and how to, in a perfect world, use a time machine to pass a high school course.

Bill and Ted will forever be remembered as heroes of the '80s. (Insert air guitar here.)

-Bryan Swotek

### 'The Terminator'

For those who have been in hiding and haven't seen the 1984 movie "The Terminator," it is definitely worth renting.



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

"Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" has a release date of July 2, 2003. It continues the series that started in the '80s.

## Student '80s Poll: Central's Favorites

### Favorite Movies:

1. "Breakfast Club"
2. "Dirty Dancing"
3. "The Goonies"
4. "Pretty in Pink"
5. "Top Gun"
6. "Sixteen Candles"
7. "Ninja Turtles"
8. "Princess Bride"
9. "Ghostbusters"
10. "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"

### Favorite Musicians:

1. Michael Jackson
2. Run-DMC
3. Madonna
4. Bon Jovi
5. Bob Marley
6. Kiss
7. Queen
8. Sex Pistols
9. Ozzy Osbourne
10. Vanilla Ice

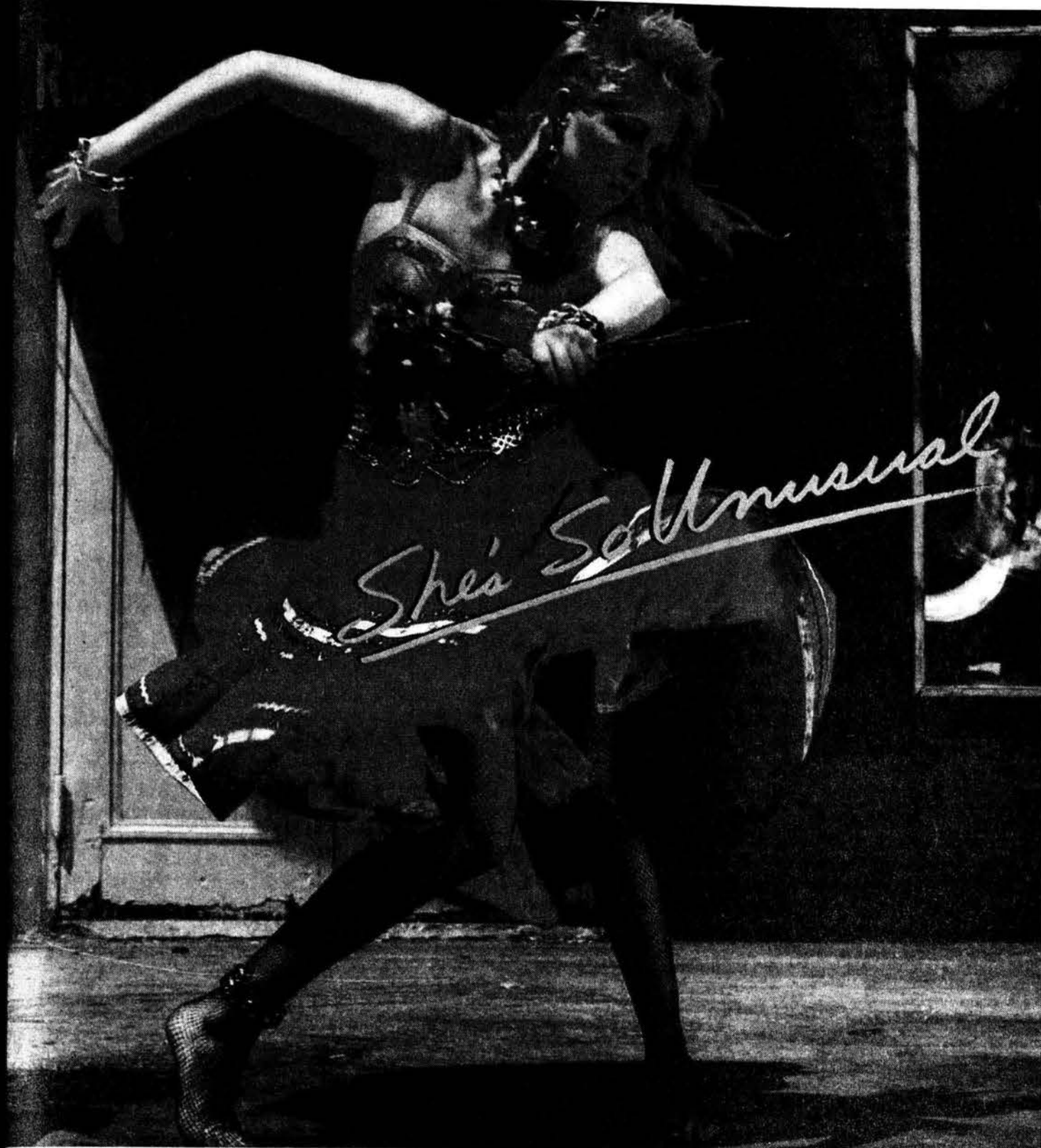
### Favorite Trends:

1. Big hair
2. Mulletts
3. Bell bottoms
4. Parachute pants
5. Leg warmers
6. Hoop earrings
7. Tight pants
8. Jheri Curl
9. Acid-washed jeans
10. Skateboarding



260 Students Polled

# Favorite Albums



Cyndi Lauper "She's So Unusual" 1984

Courtesy of CBS

## Madonna

She may be a 43-year-old mother, but Material Girl's lyrics make male listeners want to dress in drag to know what feels like to be a girl.

Who could blame them? Madonna's smooth, pearly skin and flamboyantly stylish has been setting trends for over a decade.



Madonna

It wasn't Madonna's moderate voice that made her an icon, but her haughtiness towards her dress, song lyrics and music video content that gained her respect with her fans.

Even 12-year-old junior high girls have been intrigued by her strong, feminine persona since 1983. Twenty years later, fishnet stockings and gobs of black beaded bracelets can still be seen on the wrists and wrists of teens and adult men and women everywhere.

If Madonna wears it, it's become her style. It doesn't matter how many cattle ranchers and runway models have been sporting the look, if she wears a cowboy hat and a belt buckle, she automatically sets the trend. What used to be "that girl look," would become "the Madonna look" after she wore it.

It doesn't matter how outrageous it is either. If she were to wear black, tutu, skirts, thick socks, pump high heels or a bow in her hair bigger than her head, it would become trendy. But oh, she's already done that.

Her albums are even full of sexy, feminine flair. She controls men and shows it and she really shows it in songs like "Material Girl," where she said if she doesn't give her proper care, then she just walks away.

She doesn't let you get the wrong idea. She also sings about being independent and taking care of herself, with a little help from you.

Known as "the queen of controversy," she caused quite an uproar with many of her music videos, with some of them depicting images of burning crosses, erotic dancing and her having sex with church pews among other questionable actions.

Her originality sure did get her a lot of negative attention, but the spotlight quickly turned into the limelight, and she has remained there ever since.

It doesn't matter how old she is or how many times she remarries, Madonna will be a timeless icon and household name for years to come.

-Ashley Brown

## Minutemen 'Double Nickels on the Dime'

While the rest of the country was off bouncing around to the strains of A Flock of Seagulls and Men at Work, there was a certain group of young men who spent their time creating some of the most honest, angry and intelligent music of the decade.

Those men were the members of the Minutemen and their album "Double Nickels on the Dime" perfectly sums up the anti-pop movement of the '80s.

The Minutemen's music is political, but not as blindly idealistic or radically leftist as that of the band's '80s political-punk counterparts the Dead Kennedys.

From the intricate melodies of Farquet to the bristling post-punk of Drive Like Jehu, traces of the Minutemen can be seen everywhere in today's indie rock world.

The Minutemen is a band with a message. Even the title of the band's album is a sly bit of social commentary.

Disgusted with the mindless rock that permeated the '80s, such as the Sammy Hagar song "Can't Drive 55," the members of the band decided to poke a little fun at mainstream rock stars.

"Double nickels" refers to the 55 mph speed limit that Hagar can't stand and "On the Dime" refers to highway 10, the roadway that had the low speed limit.

The cover of the album features a photo of Minuteman frontman Mike Watt looking in the rearview mirror and smirking as he drives down highway 10, going exactly 55 mph.

On this sprawling double album, the members manage to address a little bit of everything, from American involvement in French Indochina to the party-boy habits of most young men.

Every once in a while the Minutemen take a break from the political and slow things down a bit with an instrumental number.

"Double Nickels on the Dime" is not for everyone. It is not for anyone who thinks watching the news is "boring" or "depressing" and it is not for anyone who can watch MTV without feeling a little bit of bile rise in the back of his throat.

But for those who do not fit those criteria, this album will open up a whole new world.

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

## Michael Jackson 'Thriller'

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago Micheal Jackson still looked human, his monkey Bubbles still lived in the zoo and children ran toward him in admira-

tion as opposed to away from him in fear.

Welcome to the '80s. Jackson's album "Thriller" won eight Grammy awards and filled the pockets of many record company executives. Some say that this was Michael Jackson at his best.

To quote the King of Pop himself, "I'm bad, I'm bad, you know it!"

Obviously the world didn't know how bad Jackson truly was or else he would have sold as few records as he does now.

With his high-pitched squeaks and squeals, glittery spandex and flash dance moves, Jackson would be more accurately known as the Queen of Pop.

"Thriller" is a massive three hours long and contains only nine tracks. It is very surprising that songs this long and of this poor quality ever made it to the pop charts, however almost every one of them did.

The only track that was innovative enough to be noteworthy in the '80s is the title track. In essence the song is making fun of the '80s era. The song contains cheesy horror movie dialogue and a verse consisting entirely of rap.

Jackson rapping alone makes the track worth a listen. The song becomes even more hilarious when accompanied by the video.

Former Beatle Paul McCartney himself couldn't even save the album. "The Girl is Mine" is very repetitive and uncreative.

It is hard to believe that McCartney and Jackson would be fighting over the same girl anyway.

This album personifies the '80s, flashy, trash and a wash of time. Just like this decade, listeners will be glad that it is over.

A novelty at its best, "Thriller" does not live up to its reputation.

-Nichole Tyrey

## Cyndi Lauper 'She's So Unusual'

In 1983, Cyndi Lauper proved what scientists and anthropologists have been trying to for years.

Girls do just wanna have fun.

Lauper's "She's So Unusual" is a seeming contradiction. A pop album with a somewhat feminist message that still retains its danceability and commercial appeal does not come along every day.

The album spawned the anthemic "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" and the classic '80s prom slow-dance song "Time After Time."

But on an album like this, the individual music doesn't even matter anymore.

What matters is the overall feel, the joyful, breathless life that Lauper infuses into all her songs, the one that makes everyone, male or female, young or old feel like going out and having a good old time.

Lauper's voice may not be considered classically trained, but her Jersey-esque drawl had the decadent neo-modern edge that embodied the spirit of the '80s.

Her wild style and innovative ways of dressing made her a perfect poster girl for all of America's mall youth who had aspirations of something greater than mid-western suburban life.

More than anything else, "She's So Unusual" is a product of its time period. It epitomizes the decadent, gimme gimme, shamelessly fun feel of the '80s. This album will always remain the perfect piece of nostalgia.

Be sure to listen to it on vinyl, if it all possible, for the most realistic experience. Then just sit back and let the memories of lace gloves, leg warmers, sprayed hair and ankle boots wash the world away.

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

## Fugazi 'Seven Songs'

Contrary to popular belief, the '80s were not all about just having fun.

For some, the rampant materialism and consumerism of the decade sparked disgust, not a carefree spirit.

That kind of disgust is what motivated the members of Fugazi to begin their careers as intelligent, observant and socially active post-hardcore rockers.

The band's first album, "Seven Songs," is a guide to that particular brand of late '80s social dismay.

Songs like "Waiting Room," an essay on complacency, show that Fugazi had much more pressing concerns than the other typical popular musicians of the day.

To this day, Fugazi continues to be one of the most innovative and politically aware bands around.

It has retained its legend, fanbase and code of ethics by sticking to a few simple principles.

The band charges around \$5 a show and only plays all-ages venues.

Frontman Ian MacKaye has been known to stop shows to ask the crowd to be considerate of those in the front or in the mosh pits.

The band regularly plays benefit shows for women's charities, pro-choice foundations and other liberal groups.

Actions like these make Fugazi stand out from the rest.

But even if the band was not known for its activism, it would be known for its talent and music.

A band like this is never content to rest on its laurels, but it never forgets where it comes from either.

All of the tracks on "Seven Songs" can also be found on the album "13 Songs" which combines "Seven Songs" and the EP "Marginwalker."

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz



Fugazi

Courtesy of Dischord Records

## '80s Hits

### Top albums of...

#### 1980

- \*Pink Floyd "The Wall"
- \*Billy Joel "Glass Houses"
- \*Barbara Streisand "Guilty"
- \*Rolling Stones "Emotional Rescue"
- \*John Lennon and Yoko Ono "Double Fantasy"
- \*Bruce Springsteen "The River"
- \*Jackson Browne "Hold Out"

#### 1981

- \*REO Speedwagon "Hi Infidelity"
- \*Styx "Parade Theater"
- \*The Moody Blues "Long Distance Voyager"
- \*Foreigner "Foreigner"
- \*Pat Benatar "Precious Time"
- \*Stevie Nicks "Bella Donna"
- \*Journey "Escape"
- \*Rolling Stones "Tattoo You"
- \*AC/DC "For Those About to Rock"

#### 1982

- \*Go-Gos "Beauty and the Beat"
- \*Asia "Asia"
- \*Paul McCartney "Tug of War"
- \*Fleetwood Mac "Mirage"
- \*Men at Work "Business as Usual"

#### 1983

- \*Michael Jackson "Thriller"
- \*Various Artists "Flashdance Soundtrack"
- \*The Police "Synchronicity"
- \*Quiet Riot "Metal Health"

#### 1984

- \*Various Artists "Footloose Soundtrack"
- \*Bruce Springsteen "Born in the USA"
- \*Prince and the New Power Generation "Love and Money"
- \*Huey Lewis and the News "Sports"

#### 1985

- \*Madonna "Like a Virgin"
- \*Wham! "Make It Big"
- \*Phil Collins "No Jacket Required"
- \*USA for Africa "We are the World"
- \*Tears for Fears "Songs from the Big Chair"
- \*Dire Straits "Brothers in Arms"

#### 1986

- \*Whitney Houston "Whitney Houston"
- \*Madonna "True Blue"
- \*Various Artists "Top Gun Soundtrack"
- \*Huey Lewis and the News "Fore!"
- \*Boston "Third Stage"

#### 1987

- \*Beastie Boys "Licensed to Ill"
- \*U2 "Joshua Tree"
- \*Bruce Springsteen "Tunnel of Love"
- \*Various Artists "Dirty Dancing Soundtrack"
- Michael Jackson "Bad"

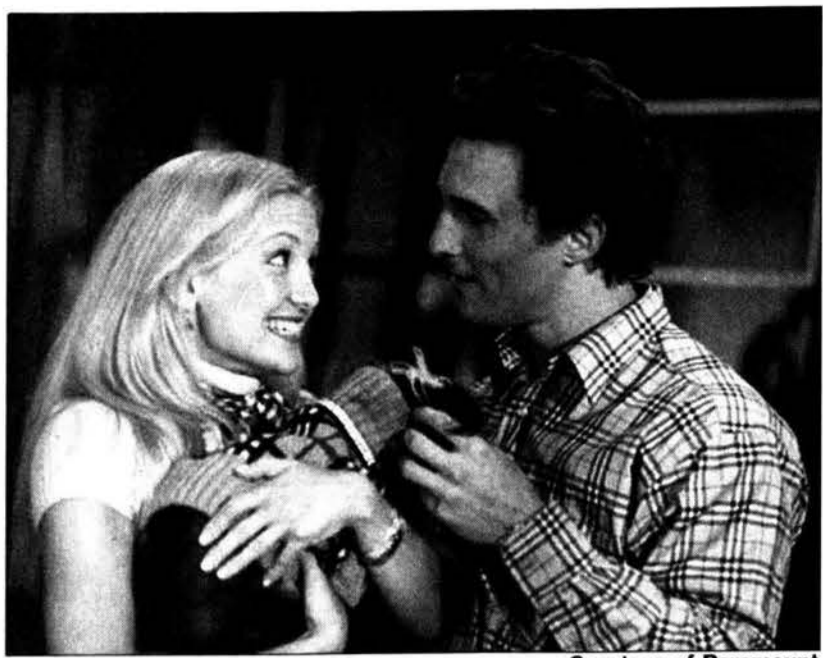
#### 1988

- \*George Michael "Faith"
- \*Tiffany "Tiffany"
- \*Van Halen "OU812"
- \*Guns 'N Roses "Appetite for Destruction"
- \*Def Leppard "Hysteria"

#### 1989

- \*Debbie Gibson "Electric Youth"
- \*Madonna "Like a Prayer"
- \*New Kids on the Block "Hangin' Tough"

Courtesy of About.com '80s music archive



Courtesy of Paramount  
Andie (Kate Hudson) attempts to scare off Ben (Matthew McConaughey) with her giddy cheer and sweater-wearing puppy.

## Sappy comedy quickly loses audience's interest, respect

By Paula Salhany

Vagisil, a love fern and psycho baby babble are a few of the ten things that should never have gone into making "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

The chick flick starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey will leave any respectable woman writhing in her chair and wanting to get out of the theater as soon as possible.

The plot is doomed from the beginning. Hudson, who plays Andie Anderson, a "How To" girl for an up-and-coming women's magazine, is given the assignment of dating a guy and then using ridiculous measures to lose him in 10 days.

She ends up picking up McConaughey's character, Ben,

who works for a big time ad agency. Ben has to get Andie to fall in love with him in ten days and bring her to a company party in order to get to represent a big account.

### MOVIE REVIEW

"How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days"

Starring: Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey

of 5

It's not enough that this movie is cookie-cutter predictable, it is also full of annoying things that Hudson does that no woman would ever do.

No man would ever stay with this woman in real life even if she was "sexy and attractive" as Ben says.

This movie is a sinking ship that has no redeeming qualities. Hudson's character should have been writing 10 ways to make a bad movie instead of how to lose a guy in 10 days.

No respectable woman or man should ever even think about going to this movie.

# Director wins prestigious award

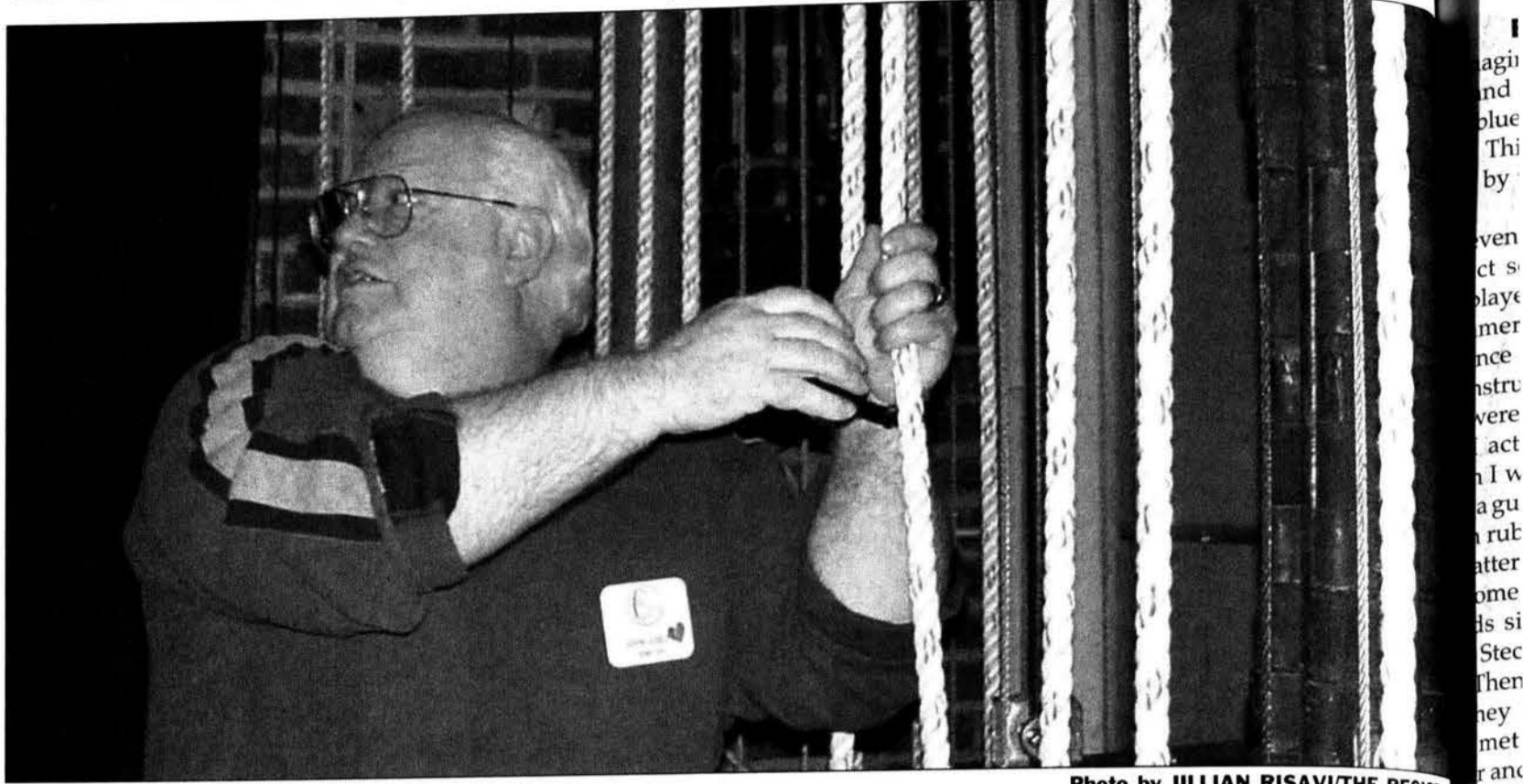


Photo by JILLIAN RISAVI/THE REGISTER

Drama teacher and director John Gibson pulls the curtains open while cleaning up the stage after Roadshow. Gibson was honored with the Heritage Award because of the recommendations of his former students at Abraham Lincoln High Council Bluffs.

By Nichole Tyrey

Many teachers at Central have won prestigious awards.

Drama teacher John Gibson is one of the latest to join the long list of teachers who have been honored.

Gibson recently won the Heritage Award, an award sponsored by Alegent Health and given to outstanding citizens of southwest Iowa. Gibson said this award is one of the highest honors a community member can receive.

Four awards are given out a year, Mary Zgota, the public relations representative for the Heritage Award said.

The nominees are put into one of four categories for the award: Arts and Humanities, Business, Education and Health and Medicine.

Gibson won the Arts and Humanities portion of the award.

One of the qualifications to win the

award is that the honoree must either work or live in Council Bluffs. Before coming to Central, Gibson worked in the drama department at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs.

Even though Gibson works in Omaha now, he still lives and does community projects in Council Bluffs.

Gibson said he was surprised that he would be even considered for the award because he is not an Iowa native.

When Gibson said he got the phone call to tell him he had won the Heritage award, he was on his way out to dinner with friends. He said they were as excited as he was after he heard the news.

He said he almost didn't believe he had won until he got an official letter in the mail.

"It was a shock to me when it happened," Gibson said "I had no clue I had even been nominated."

Gibson said he was nominated by a stu-

dent he taught when he worked at Abraham Lincoln High School.

The student started a letter writing campaign and the letters were submitted to a chamber of commerce to review.

This was the first time Gibson had been nominated for this award, he said.

"I guess I kind of brought it all in one lot," Gibson said.

After he got over the initial shock, Gibson said he was kind of embarrassed and did not want to make a big deal out of his accomplishment. He said the news came and taped by working with students and many of his friends congratulated him.

"I'm kind of embarrassed by things like this and I get very shy," he said.

Even though he said he is embarrassed about the award, Gibson said he is very excited and honored to receive it.

All of the winners will be given the awards at Harrah's Casino in Council Bluffs.

## Decade of excess brings back memories of big mall hair, television, wild fashion

There was a decade that produced big hair, good music and all of the students of Central High. That decade was the '80s.

One weekend I flipped through my aunt's old high school yearbooks and realized how important the decade and its pop culture were.

The music was big and the hair was bigger. The guitars were loud and the drums were heavy, while the hairspray

punched a permanent hole in the ozone layer.

That decade introduced the world to some of the most influential icons that the world has ever seen.

First of all, my personal favorite, Punky Brewster.

She rocked in her mismatched clothes and two-toned Chuck Taylors. Pig tales donned on the sides of her head; she was an innovator.

Then there was Alf. He was a brown creature with a phallic nose. He lived with

a family that seemed to give him everything.

The decade also influenced the world's greatest fashion. First of all, there were women's fashion.

There were Spandex pants with the over-sized socks scrunched at the ankles.

Don't forget the oversized sweaters with the neck cut down so that it sat on their shoulders.

The motto for hair was "taller the hair the closer to God." That was obviously practiced.

Women teased their hair up so high

that they had to duck in order to walk into doors.

Don't forget about the guys. They were not afraid to tease their hair up a little, too.

They were also not afraid to wear women's clothing and makeup.

This was also the decade for some really great music.

Bands like Motley Crue and Sonic Youth made their debuts and Pat Benetar was roaring like a siren about her troubled past and past relationships.

With music, MTV also made its ap-

pearance. Music as the world knew it has been changed forever. Though the stations played the same three videos, nothing had ever been like it.

For some reason I remember owning my own pair of checkerboard Vans.

Now, almost 12 years later, I have bought another pair.

It is funny how things come full circle and repeat themselves.

Keep rockin' like Dokken and as long as we are still driving black Trans Ams and working on our rubies cubes little part of the '80s will be in us all.



OFF THE WALL

Bryan Swotek

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# Midwest band keeps roots in mind, stays true to local fans

By Katie Backman

Imagine a sound of mostly rock, jazz, and rap with a slight amount of bluegrass, Christian rock and death metal. This new wave of music is produced by the band Core Project from St. Louis.

The seven band members create the very distinct sound, which emerged when they played each of their music at once. Member Tony Barbata said the main influence on the music was the albums of instruments members played when they were younger.

"I actually loved to play anything when I was young," Barbata said. "I'd play a guitar on a piece of cardboard and use rubber bands. I like to play music no matter what it is."

Some of the band members had been playing since second grade, when MC Steve Stecher and guitarist Chris Taggart met. Then Taggart met keyboardist Nate Hershey in high school. Hershey said he met DJ Matt Ayres, bassist Todd Miller and MC Justin Maginn, who were involved in other bands.

Maginn and Stecher said they agree on focus and verses for their lyrics together, but then split up to put their own spin on it so two different views exist.

"Our lyrics are a flow of continuous thoughts; they are very abstract," Stecher said. "The other band members read and write them down. What's left is our song." Maginn said they write songs with a main message that allows the listeners to take away their own idea from the lyrics.

Stecher said his writing is an art form that shows what is really running through his mind. He said despite how hard his lyrics are, he quickly remembers them when a beat is added.

Hershey said the band members first came together in late 2001, making a band a "core project." The members prepared with lyrics and beats they wanted to try to incorporate in a song.

"None of us listen to the same mu-



Courtesy of Core Project

**St. Louis band, Core Project remembers where it is from, though moving to California has crossed its mind, the band seems to remain stable.**

sic," Hershey said. "We all just met in the middle; we met at the core."

Core Project released an LP in 2001 shortly after it formed, which sold out after six months. In May of 2002 the band released its second and better-known album, "Fluid Forward Motion."

Core Project quickly went on tour. Hershey said they toured seven dates with Nelly. He said the crowds were anywhere between 15 to 20 thousand people.

Core Project also opened for Ja Rule, Jurassic 5, Nappy Roots, Black Eyed Peas and the U2. At a Ja Rule show, Hershey said the audience was sitting down when they walked on stage and after the show everyone was on their feet.

"I think the audience was pleasantly surprised by us," Hershey said. "I don't think they really knew what to expect."

After opening for these bands, Core

Project finally gained enough ground to headline some of its own shows and one was at the Ranch Bowl in late January.

Barbata said touring is always an experience with the band. The seven guys squeeze into a van and travel across the states.

He said they usually sleep inside this van, which means some guys have to sleep on the floor between seats.

On tour in Chicago, Barbata said the band stopped at a strip mall and parked the van on the streets before the concert that night.

He said when they came back out the van and trailer had been towed. This was just one of the many pitfalls the band works through while touring.

"(With a band) It's like having six brothers, six girlfriends and six mothers," Barbata said. "It's very difficult to spend

so much time with each other, but we love each other like brothers and have the common goals to overpass any fight."

Miller said staying in the van for ten hours with each other, the band can discuss anything about Core Project. He said this type of relationship is ideal for bands because members can discuss problems and goals on the road.

"You're trapped in a van; there is no place to go," Miller said. "The only thing we can do is fight and solve the argument."

DJ Matt Ayres said as the band toured, it built a tie with Omaha that began when it played a show with Pomeroy in St. Louis.

He said Pomeroy and Core Project always try to play shows with each other when possible.

Ayres said Core Project dropped press packs off at the Ranch Bowl, which quickly offered tour dates with local bands such as Anchondo.

Miller said Omaha and St. Louis are so different from each other with their music scenes. He said Omaha has an antique feeling because he isn't used to the passion and support from the fans.

"Omaha's local band support at the Ranch Bowl is incredible because the kids show so much pride with the music there," Miller said.

Hershey said the main venues it plays at in St. Louis are downtown, and some people are too lazy to drive downtown to see the local music.

He said St. Louis, the city itself, stands in the way of creative progress with bands.

He said the city is so old and construction is constantly going on which puts many venues out of business.

St. Louis doesn't have great clubs and it is really difficult to let the talent be known when the crowds attending the shows are so small, he said.

He said the Ranch Bowl seems to be the dominant music venue and is located in the middle of the city. It is the only

venue Core Project has played at in Nebraska.

"The fans don't go to the Ranch Bowl because it's a beautiful place," Hershey said. "The Ranch Bowl is a dirty small place, but kids love it because the diverse music that constantly goes through it."

St. Louis audiences are restricted because most clubs are also bars. Miller said with the older audience, the band doesn't get that much publicity because it doesn't have the kids' strong demand for fresh music like Omaha fans.

Members said moving to California would be nice, but they don't think their "big break" will happen in Los Angeles. Guitarist Chris Taggart said he thinks they can become famous by the touring they are doing now.

Taggart said L.A. is really expensive and most bands don't understand that stardom won't be as simple.

He said he thinks the band needs to build an audience before it signs a contract to a record company.

"People in St. Louis know about us and they will always be there," Taggart said. "I'm not willing to risk our confidence as a band and try our luck with California, yet."

Hershey said he couldn't see the band becoming so huge to where it would not go back to St. Louis.

He said he wants to be Core Project that came from St. Louis, like 311 came from Omaha.

He said the members don't want to be known as Core Project that originated in California.

"We won't forget our roots," Hershey said. "There are no rock stars in our band."

Members said they still have their jobs outside of the band, but anticipate the day when the band's success will support them.

"I am willing to wait for that day when I am rich and famous," Barbata said. "But I really just don't want to wait on tables anymore."

# Childhood commercial spots spark love for writing, producing short films

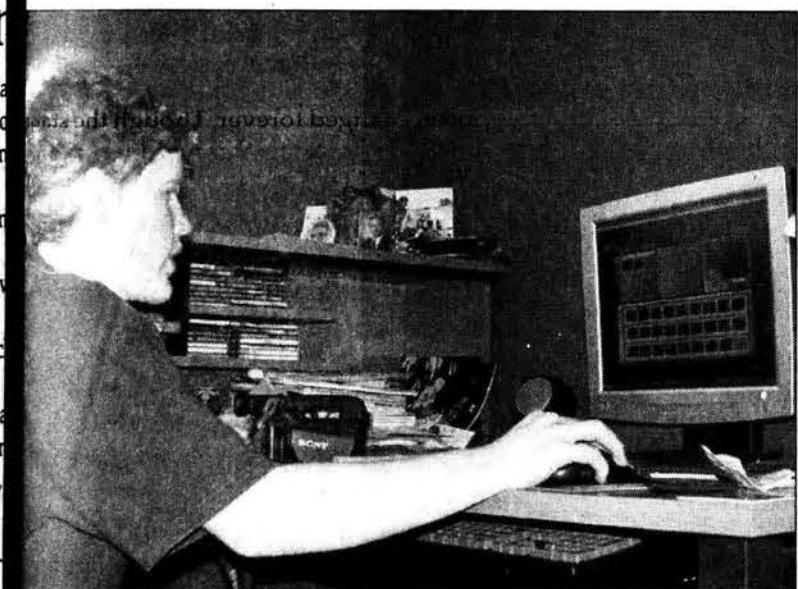


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

freshman Andrew Monbouquette edits one of his short films on his home computer. Central audiences got a taste of Monbouquette's work when one of his films was in Roadshow

By Jim Schalles

As a 14 year old with a head full of screenplays and a film history of over 20 commercials, the future is a promising one for freshman Andrew Monbouquette.

He said his interest in the film industry was sparked when he was 6 years old.

Monbouquette said he was at a photo shoot for one of his neighbors when his talent was discovered.

"I was making these different voices when someone there asked me if I was in a talent pool. When I said no, he gave me a number to call if I was interested in doing commercials," he said.

Twenty-some commercials later, his first being done with Cox Cable, Monbouquette said he has

found a new interest in writing and producing films. He has already written two full scripts and is currently working on a third.

"I like writing and directing, and I've always thought of them as intertwined," he said. "I figure if you're going to write it, you might as well see it brought out the way you envisioned it."

As for his inspiration, Monbouquette said he looks up to Wes Anderson (director of "Rushmore" and "The Royal Tenenbaums") because of his original style of writing and directing.

When at all possible, Monbouquette said he spends time on his films.

It usually takes between two and three hours to film and edit a

movie, at least for the lengths of the films that he produces.

Monbouquette works on the scripts with his friends, freshmen Jamie Rubio and Josh Goers. They work on their films whenever they have time and they have already produced six films, including one that made the cut for the Roadshow, Monbouquette said.

"I was very surprised our video made Roadshow; we were all surprised," he said. "We were just messing around and thought that most people would be biased against non-live entertainment."

Roadshow director John Gibson said that it was a new twist on the Roadshow and that it reminded him of an Saturday Night Live skit.

"It was a nice new touch for

the Roadshow, bringing a new style and showing the way of the future," Gibson said.

Monbouquette said this year's Roadshow went well.

"We didn't need to attend any rehearsals or auditions," he said. "All we had to do was walk out and take a bow."

He said he got a lot of compliments and was even compared to Steven Spielberg. He said he was even told by several people that it moved them to tears.

Now looking towards the future, Monbouquette said he would like to see himself producing films for a career.

"It's hard to become a mainstream director, but it'd be awesome to write movies and produce them for a living," he said.

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## Director gives groups second shot to shine

By Bryan Swotek

It was amazing that some of the acts that performed in the first ever Director's Choice did not make it into the Roadshow itself. Though every year several acts do not have what it takes to get accepted into the show, this year was different.

Some of the acts that did not get accepted got a second chance. The Director's Choice was more of a prelude to the Roadshow. Fifteen acts performed for the show.

The first act was counselor Julie Politi and math teacher Kelly Murphy, who performed "I Will Survive." As Politi began to sing, Murphy strolled on to the stage in a purple seventies-style suit. The suit was then topped off with a matching hat with a feather.

MCs for the show were seniors Kim Pitlor, Aron Cobbs and Conrad Goetzinger. It was obvious that the show was the first in front of an audience, but the three MCs did well with the bumpy show.

After a slight delay, the break dancing group performed "Mission in Motion." It was amazing that this group did not make it into the Roadshow. When the group was done performing, it received a standing ovation.

Junior Nick Goding made three appearances on the stage that afternoon. The first time he performed John Mayer's "No Such Thing."

In between the rock performances, sophomore Tiffany Ransey and senior Norma Reynolds did soulful numbers.

Seniors Brian Fahey, Mark Zoll, Jessica Richart and Goding, performed an Irish folk song called "John Barleycorn."

In all honesty, this act slowed things down a bit. Well, it slowed down things a lot. Junior Abbie Fitzgerald tap-danced across the stage, which was something different from the other performances.

The show was excellent, with one downfall. There were no acting skits.

All of the acts had music in them. It definitely would have been nice to see some of the acting talent that is here at Central.

# Coffee shops worth the blend

Sometimes it's nice to sit down to a hot cup of coffee and read a book. Other times it's just nice to grab a coffee on the go. Either way, there are many quaint coffee houses around Omaha that are able to serve every coffee addict's dream. A *Register* staffer went to many of the area coffee shops to see which ones needed to work their espresso blends and which ones had it just right.

By Laura Diesing

Coffeehouses are a dime a dozen in this town, but ones that are worth going to are few and far between. A good mocha or latte can be a great pick-me-up. If you go to the wrong place, all you will leave with is a bad taste in your mouth.

Crane Coffee

It is a wonderful place to grab a mocha and catch up with a friend or start a good book.

Crane's many locations offer wonderful food, but the prices are a bit steep.

The smoothies, priced at \$3.75, can be a delicious snack, but can be a meal if accompanied by a muffin or giant cookie.

It's heaven.

How could it not be?

The coffee drinks are a little less expensive, but are well worth the money.

The turtle latte is full of caramel, chocolate, and all of the other tasty things that make up a turtle chocolate candy.

The atmosphere at every one of Crane's locations is very peaceful.

The tables are spread out enough to provide a comfortable place for people to chat with their friends.

For those who do not like sitting at tables, there are large armchairs to curl up in.

Crane is perfect for those who want to sit back and relax, but be prepared to pay up to \$4 for a drink.

Caffeine Dreams

This pseudo-intellectual atmosphere really smells of the stereotypical New York coffeehouses shown in movies.

Located off of Saddle Creek, Caffeine Dreams is hidden from the regular flow of traffic and is really not worth spending the time to find it.

If the coffee were good, there might be a good reason to go there, but the drinks are over priced and often lack flavor.

The iced coffee tastes as watered down as the last drops of pop in the bottom of your cup.

The interior's silver-mirrored balls and painting-covered walls are pleasing to the eye, but the artistic chairs and tables are extremely uncomfortable.

The only really good reason to go to Caffeine Dreams is to see the young musicians perform.

Several Central students' bands have made appearances there.

If you want a place to go to be seen and have the money to do it, then make your way to Caffeine Dreams.

Stage Right Coffee and Tea House

Nestled in the heart of downtown Omaha, Stage Right Coffee and Tea House provides classy surroundings and delicious coffee to its customers.

Stage Right blends in well with all of the other buildings on Harney Street so keep an eye out for this one.

It would be a shame to miss out on the bold flavors it provides.

The coffee at Stage Right is far from bland.

The café mochas are creamy and warm to the stomach. The coffee flavor is not drowned out by the coffee's bitterness. And unlike other places, the coffee is not scalding hot.

The coffee leaves a smooth flavor in your mouth, as opposed to the normal sour coffee breath that normally follows. The large windows that surround the hideaway allow customers to partake in excellent people watching and downtown is perfect for people watching.

Gold chandeliers hang above the visiting caffeine hounds as they take in their morning muffin and latte and give off a soft light that only adds to the coziness.

The prices are not too damaging to your pocket book. A 12-ounce mocha only costs around \$2.50. Treat your pallet and take a walk to the Stage Right Coffee and Tea House.

13th Street Coffee

The drinks lack the boldness usually desired of a cup of joe, but that can be forgiven thanks to the talented musicians that often grace its stage.

Performers like Howie and Scott and others have been known to make appearances at the small coffeehouse to promote CDs or just to jam. Customers have a perfect view from any spot in the house.

The second floor balcony provides excellent viewing from the couch for the shows or just for watching those on the first level. If it weren't for the shows, the place would have been shut down a while ago.

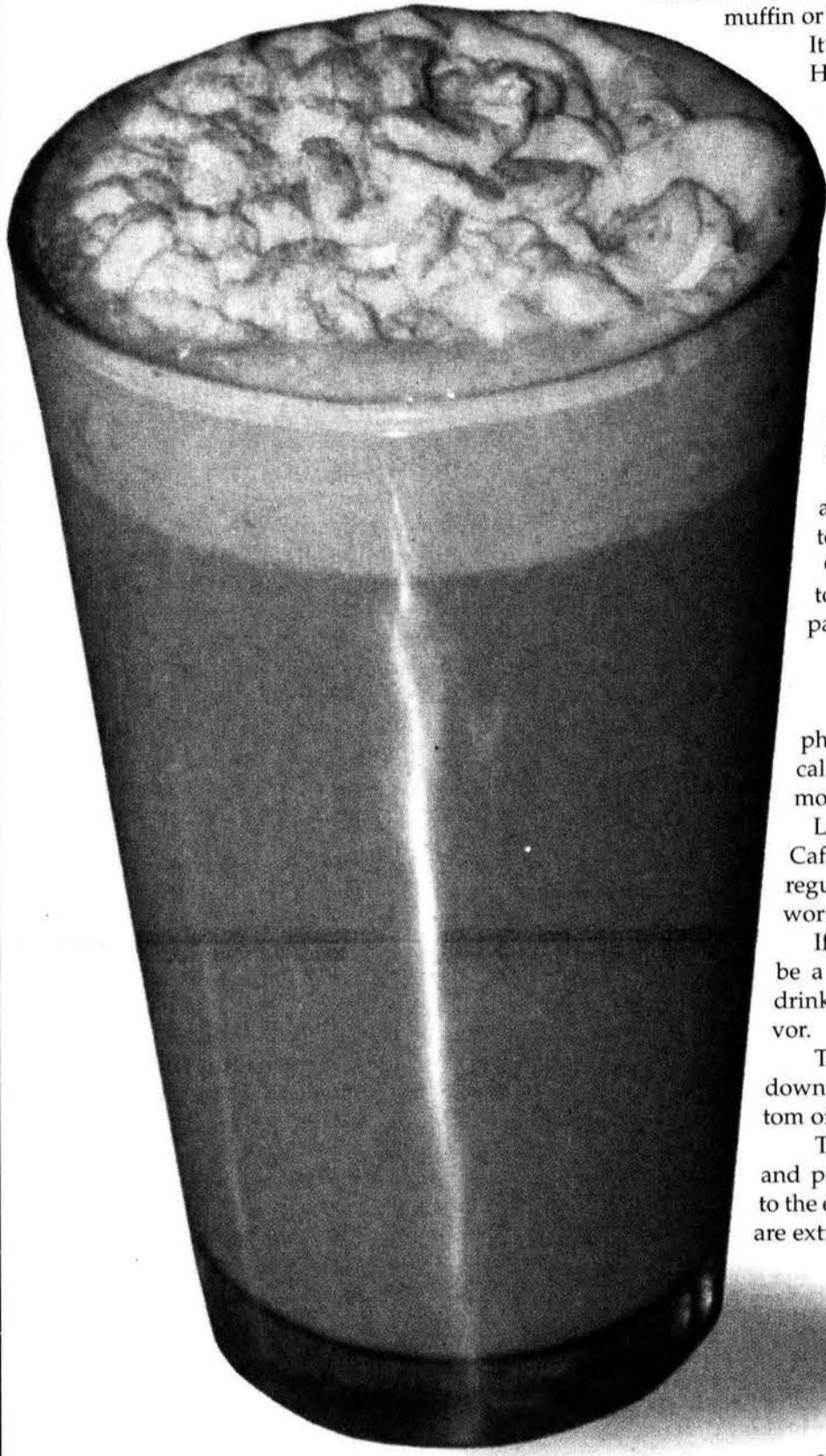
The coffee is bitter, the flavored milk is grainy and the customers often find flavor chunks at the bottom of the cup. That's not exactly a prize you would like to find at the bottom of your drink.

For those who are hungry and do not go for coffee, stay clear of the sandwiches.

If it weren't for actually having to chew, customers would not know they were eating anything. The sandwiches might as well have been made of water for all the pleasure they give your mouth.

Despite the lack of quality in the food, it is a very nice place. It is especially nice for those who are wandering around in the Old Market and are tired of the street performers.

If you have hypersensitive taste buds and need something with a calmer flavor, wander in to 13th Street sometime and enjoy some quality entertainment.



Caffeine Dreams, with its emphasis on gourmet coffee and excellent blends, serves many specialty drinks like this double white mocha as well as the usual coffee.

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

## Percussion show blows audience away with music, flair

By Bryan Swotek

The Tony and Emmy award-winning show "Blast" has officially redefined its title.

It is hard-hitting and exciting from beginning to end.

In fact it is so engrossing that most audience members found themselves reluctant to leave when the show finally did come to an end.

With a blur of drumsticks, streams of dancers and a river of whirling trumpets and trombones, the show did six performances at the Orpheum Theater from Feb. 11-16.

"Blast" is not a traditional Broadway musical with a convoluted storyline and lots of big love songs.

It is a series of musical numbers with an emphasis on originality, flair, percussion and showmanship.

While most men might groan about seeing musicals, this is the type of show that both sexes can enjoy.

The two-hour show took the audience's breath away with the on-stage mind tricks and the synchronization of roughly 30 people, all of whom were on

stage at one time.

It was amazing how all of the band members could be instep with one another.

This was obviously a top notch group of highly trained professional dancers.

Even while performing the challenging "Appalachian Spring" by Aaron Copland, they sang in tune and all danced with the same pitch-perfect rhythm and grace.

The way these dancers performed, they made Riverdance seem like an introductory tap dancing class for second grade girls.

Though some of the songs were primarily performed on-stage, some numbers brought the performers out into the rows of the theater.

It was moments like these that really got the audience going.

The mix of performers that came out into the audience was really quite astounding.

Flag performers, brass players and even a few digeridoos were spotted weaving in and out of the rows.

The crowd was not let down

at any point, even during intermission.

About ten minutes into the 20 minute break, four of the performers gave people a treat while sipping their \$2.50 bottles of water.

They performed a few quick songs on chairs and a garbage can.

This kept the awestruck crowd prepared for the second half of the show.

In the second half, the performers went out with a blast, no pun intended.

The show's ending perfectly summed up the feeling of the entire bright, loud, rhythmic and gut-wrenching performance.

The final song of the evening had a Latin beat.

It was performed by three flag dancers.

Each one of the dancers played one of the members of a torrid love triangle.

It worked very well due to the vivid imagery and emotional beats.

The key to why this number went over so well was how all of the elements fit together so very well.

The bright flair of the color field made the song and the act very believable.

"Blast" is the type of show that can be enjoyed by people and kids of all ages.

Young children and elderly adults alike enjoyed the sharp horn playing and colorful displays.

The show was simply amazing.

Though some people may have missed it, they may be able to catch it on PBS occasionally. They are lucky.

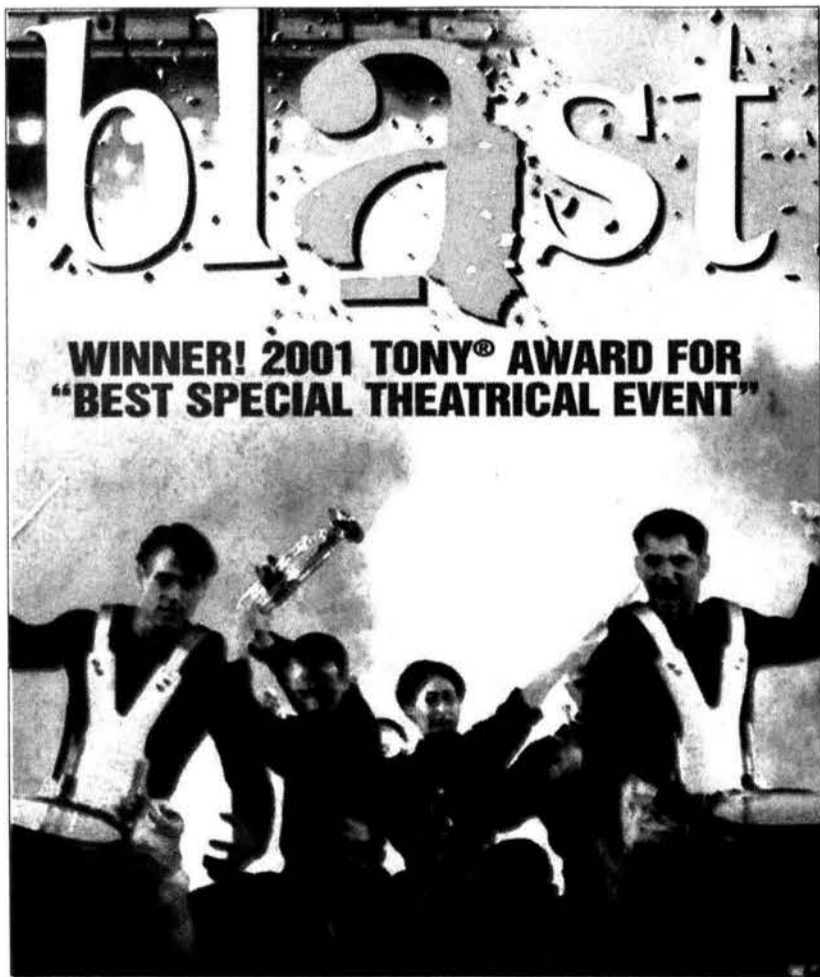
Unfortunately, watching on television will in no way compare to the experience of going and seeing the real show in person.

Television cannot capture the raw energy and uplifting feeling that the show aroused in the audience.

It should not even be attempted.

Television cannot allow the performers to begin marching down the aisles and interacting with the audience.

Nothing could make up or recreate the thrill of seeing "Blast" live.



Graphic courtesy of Blast

The newest percussion phenomenon, "Blast," played at the Orpheum Theater from Feb. 11-16. Audiences were excited by the show's flashy flair and wild musical numbers.

## Golf

The boys golf team is gearing up for a big season. Players said they hope by training now, they will have a better chance at State.

Page 26

# Knee injury ends player's season, hinders Lady Eagle outlook

By Devon O'Connell

Junior Crystal Howard's season was over in a matter of seconds.

After a collision with a Marian player on Jan. 10, it was later discovered that she had torn her ACL and MCL in her right knee, effectively ending her junior year of basketball.

"It didn't hurt that much when I got up. I was able to walk off the court," she said. "I didn't think it would be so severe."

It's a pretty big deal, considering that Howard is one of the best basketball players to pass through Central in some time. Last season, as a sophomore, she earned first team all-state

honors as she led Central to State for the first time since 1987. She averaged 17.5 points and 6.1 rebounds in the impressive 16-7 season.

During her junior year, she is already one of the most heavily recruited girls in the state.

She has several scholarship offers from NCAA Division I schools. The University of Tennessee, the University of Georgia and the University of Missouri just to name a few.

Before her injury this season, Howard was averaging 14 points a game. Over the summer, she was the only junior to be named on the 12-member Daubert Pinnacle Senior All-Star

team. She ended up being one of two Dakota Showcase Tournament MVPs on the team.

The injury was a surprise to everyone. It was first diagnosed as no more than a bruise, but a MRI revealed the full extent of the injury. Surgery was Howard's only option for a full recovery.

"I was just devastated when it happened," Howard said. "I was really depressed for a couple of days afterwards, but then I realized it wasn't the end of the world."

On Monday, Feb. 10, her knee was operated on at the Creighton Medical Center. The surgery was a success, and

she said that the doctors told her she might even be stronger than before.

"I was kind scared going into it," she said. "I had all my friends and family helping me. They've all been really supportive when I needed it the most."

Doctors told her that she will need at least six months of rehabilitation before she can play basketball again. During that time she will do physical therapy to get her knee back up to full speed.

Head basketball coach Michele Roberts said that losing Howard was a big blow to the Lady Eagles this year.

"She is easily one of the best players I've ever seen at the high school level,"

Roberts said. "She is the best player on the team."

Howard said that she didn't really see any one player on the team stepping up to fill the huge gap that she has left. Instead she said that the team has come together as a whole.

Following her injury, Howard said she didn't expect the team to make it to State, but there was always a chance. However, she did expect the team to do well in Districts.

Howard said she still attends basketball practices everyday, and is still at every single game, even though she is helping on the sidelines instead of on the court.

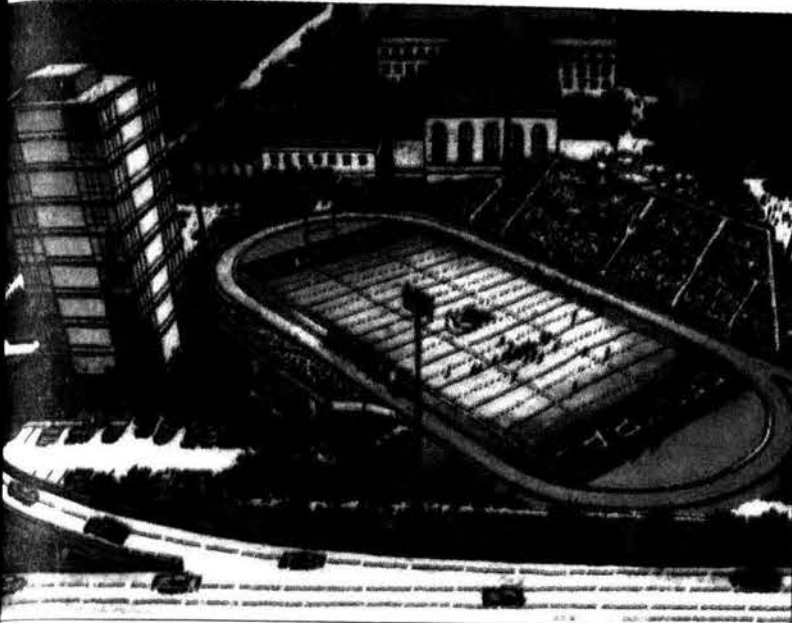


Photo courtesy of HDR Inc.

The new stadium, to be completed in 2004, will allow Central to host football and soccer games.

## Stadium plans progressing, home games in near future

By Doug Meigs

Freshman quarterback Kevin Kuzelka said he may not play the exact same position by his senior year. But whatever his position, Kuzelka said he is looking forward to playing home games at Central's new stadium.

Athletic director Paul Pennington said the stadium is supposed to be completely finished by August of 2004, allowing Central to host Varsity football and soccer games for the first time in the school's history. Among other things, Central will receive Joslyn's current eastern parking lot. Omaha Public Schools (OPS) director of buildings and grounds Mark Warneke said the existing field will go to Joslyn, part of which will be used as extended green space for Jazz on the Green and parking.

"It'll be a really nice field," Kuzelka said. "I'll be more proud."

Meetings regarding the stadium's construction have been held throughout the past year and have included representatives from Central, Creighton and Joslyn. Pennington and Warneke have both been involved in those meetings.

Warneke said that the design meetings have addressed everything from layouts to how they finally made the track and field

He said the biggest problem was wading through all the details in a limited time while always keeping in mind that Joslyn needs a parking lot, Central needs a parking lot, the stadium needs a parking lot and maintaining access to all Creighton, Joslyn and Central facilities.

"Currently we are trying to work with utility companies to get utilities reverted," he said.

The individuals at the meetings have been considering how to power the stadium, whether or not the meter will be separate or shared by the school and the different costs of the various arrangements.

Pennington said that buildings around Central will be demolished as soon as Central and Creighton are out in May.

The Creighton House near the old senior lot is included in the buildings to be destroyed.

He said the field level will be the same as the boys' locker room and the dirt will have to be dragged from 22nd to 20th Street.

In the early stages of the negotiations process, a rectangular track was planned, but Pennington said a rounded track was necessary to make any real use of it.

"Obviously the track is not going to be a regulation track, that's all we were promised," he said. "It's one of those things where in an ideal world the track would get to hold meets and fields will be able to hold games."

Unfortunately, Central's situation is not ideal. The track will be just for practice. Pennington said that it may be possible for Central to hold non-Varsity track invites, otherwise all Varsity meets will continue to be held at Burke.

Pennington said that some meetings have included Central's coaching staff and physical education teachers so that they can get insight into the staff's wishes for the stadium.

"Everyone is really excited," he said. "We think it will really help the campus."

Pennington said the soccer field is not going to be as wide as he would have liked, but it is within the regulation size. The field will be approximately 63 yards wide. He said the regulation size is between 55 and 75 yards, but the ideal size would be wider.

"It's the state we live in and it is a football-playing state," he said.

Home-side seating will accommodate 3,500 spectators and the visitor side will allow for 1,600.

Originally, he said the stadium wasn't going to have seats on both sides, but he negotiated for it because he said it was necessary for any Class A Varsity games.

Pennington said that a small parking lot will be formed by the old senior parking lot that will

## IS IT TIME TO TRIM TITLE IX?

Over 30 years after Title IX was established for the protection of females in academics and athletics, the legislation is being reconsidered. The Commission on Opportunity in Athletics has concluded its meetings and the scissors of change have been brought to the table, but nothing is definite at this moment.

By Doug Meigs

It's only a matter of time before Title IX changes. The 31-year-old landmark legislation banning sexual discrimination in academics and athletics will be revamped sometime in the near future following the final report released by the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics... on Feb. 28 to the Office of Civil Rights.

"It makes everything fair," senior Mary Michalak said.

As a female who has been involved in athletics her whole life and is a current Varsity basketball and soccer player, Michalak said Title IX has always been around for her.

"The best example (of Title IX's merit) is that I haven't been affected by it at all," she said. "I've always had the same opportunity that boys have had."

On the other hand, Michalak said that her grandmother (who played tennis at Michigan) had very different experiences when she was involved in athletics.

She said her grandmother and her fellow female athletes had to pay for all of their own equipment, traveling/ competitive expenses and had little to no fans or support. In her own experiences, Michalak said she has barely ever had to pay for anything while playing Omaha Public Schools (OPS) sponsored sports.

"Even in high school athletics, we (the girls basketball team) just got new uniforms this year and the guys haven't," she said.

Assistant athletic director for University of Maryland, Michael Lipitz, said the proposals will all be considered by the Office of Civil Rights before being sent to secretary of education Rod Paige for the final decision.

Lipitz works with Dr. Debbie Yow, Maryland's athletic director, who produced the most successful proposal at the Jan 30 hearing with a tied vote of 7 to 7. He said a majority would have approved it if the congresswoman who was absent had cast her vote.

The proposal called for a more

lenient ratio than the current one percent difference between the proportion of funding for male to female undergraduate athletes. "We live in a world of finite resource. If there is one apple, we share it and move on," he said. "Reality is there is no guarantee that you will hit it (the ratios set forth by title IX)."

Lipitz said that many non-discriminatory factors block true gender funding equality. For example, he said if a student athlete transfers to a different school, or quits for whatever reason (anything from expulsion to injury), it could throw off the ratios.

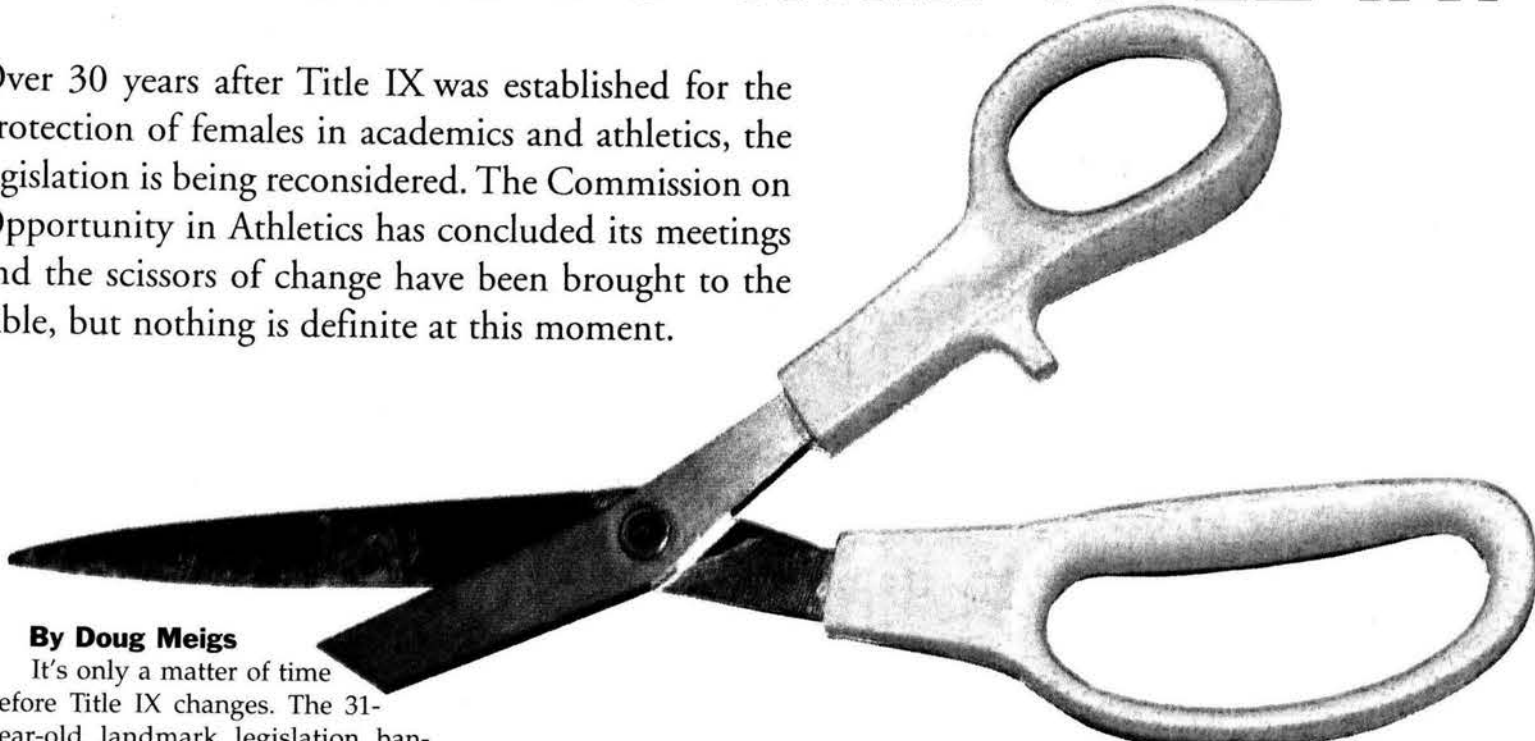
Title IX currently consists of a three-prong test for compliance to the legislation. The first prong is determined by participation ratios. To be in compliance, he said school funding to events has to be within one percent of the undergraduate enrollment.

"It's a one prong test in reality," he said.

He said the second prong deals with a school showing compliance by demonstrating evidence of continued expansion of opportunities for female athletes. The third prong deals with student body response. A school can produce a survey and try and determine if sports do not need to be added if the need has already been met.

Lipitz said that the second two prongs are somewhat useless compared to the first because students can still sue if they feel the school is not complying with Title IX and the school will still have to defend itself.

He said the third prong has been raised in court by colleges, but has never been successful to his knowledge. The



Have you been affected by Title IX?

21% YES



255 students polled

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/  
THE REGISTER

Commission on Opportunity in Athletics was established to research the issue of Title IX. He said four town hall meetings were held across the nation before the final hearing and he expects a final decision on the proposals to be released within the next six months.

Lipitz said that Maryland's current funding ratio is 51 to 49, so it is in compliance with Title IX. Of the sports offered, all of the schools' female athletics are fully funded. Only four of the school's 12 men's sports are completely funded. Some sports like baseball and wrestling are partially funded and mens tennis receives no funding.

"Each school has to deal with things differently, different numbers, different ratios," he said. "We've been able to figure out a way to make it work, but there are other schools that haven't."

Athletic director Paul Pennington said that Central has never had any problems complying with Title IX.

He has worked at Central since 1971 and said that the only changes he has seen is the revival of girls basketball in 1975.

He said girls basketball had been a sport at Central during the '20s and '30s, but it was taken out for some

see TITLE IX, page 26

## CHS volunteers contribute time, energy to Special Olympics

By Charlie Wence

Junior Autumn Golonka is one of many students at Central who volunteers for an organization that helps the physically and mentally handicapped participate in athletic and recreational activities.

That organization is the nationally recognized Special Olympics.

"I like volunteering and I get to meet wonderful students," she said. "It's nice to go back into community and give back."

Lisa Studer, the Special Olympics sponsor for Central, started the Central chapter three years ago. She established the chapter as a part of the Nebraska Teacher Core, a

program that pays a portion of a teacher's student loans in exchange for involving students in extra-curricular activities, she said.

In the beginning, the organization was only open to students in Studer's advanced aerobics class and students referred to the club by aerobics students.

Because of high demand she has opened it to the entire school to volunteer for Nebraska Special Olympics.

Steve Neesman, the director of Volunteers and Communications for the Omaha Special Olympics, said the club offers a wide array of opportunities for students to become involved. The Special

Olympics also provides a good opportunity for high school students to earn their community service hours, he said.

If some volunteers do not want to work with the athletes, the volunteers can do administrative work.

This includes stuffing envelopes or preparing a newsletter for the Special Olympics.

Athletes can volunteer for the Special Olympics at athletic events because their athletic knowledge and ability can be shared with the Special Olympics athletes.

One event the Central chapter participated in was the Nebraska Teacher Core

see OLYMPICS, page 28

# Girls basketball loses Valentine's Day game

By Devon O'Connell

Central didn't get any hugs and kisses from the Vikings on Valentine's Day in a 57-45 thrashing. Instead, it received a box full of bricks, turnovers and missed opportunities.

In front of an estimated 1,400 people, North guard Ashley Jones' shots fell like the sleet outside of North High's gymnasium; endless and without restraint. She led all scorers with 25 points, and went 6 for 8 from three-point range.

Senior Morgan Chatmon led Central with 13 points, while junior Stephanie Williams added 11.

The Vikings never trailed once the entire game. In fact the closest Central came was within one in the second period. But a volley of field goals by Jones and other North players set the Eagles back 30-20 heading into the half.

At one point in the third quarter, Central trailed by 17, led by Jones once more. She had 14 of North's 16 in the period. Chatmon led a rally early in the fourth, coming within 8 of tying, 49-41. But North guard Natasha Marisett topped off an 8-0 run to put the nail in Central's coffin.

"We never seemed to be able to get any momentum going," Chatmon said. "Anything we threw at them, they put right back in our faces."

The Viking's shot 16 more times than Central in the loss, while the Eagles out rebounded North 38-34. Central turned the ball over 18 times.

"We couldn't capitalize on any plays," head coach Michele Roberts said. "We made too many mistakes."

"Our only hope now is to do well in Districts so we might have a shot at State," she said.

The Eagles have gone 7-9 since losing leading scorer junior Crystal Howard to a knee injury on Jan. 10. While Howard won't be back until next year, Central still had a chance to stick it out and make a run for the State tournament.

# Calendar

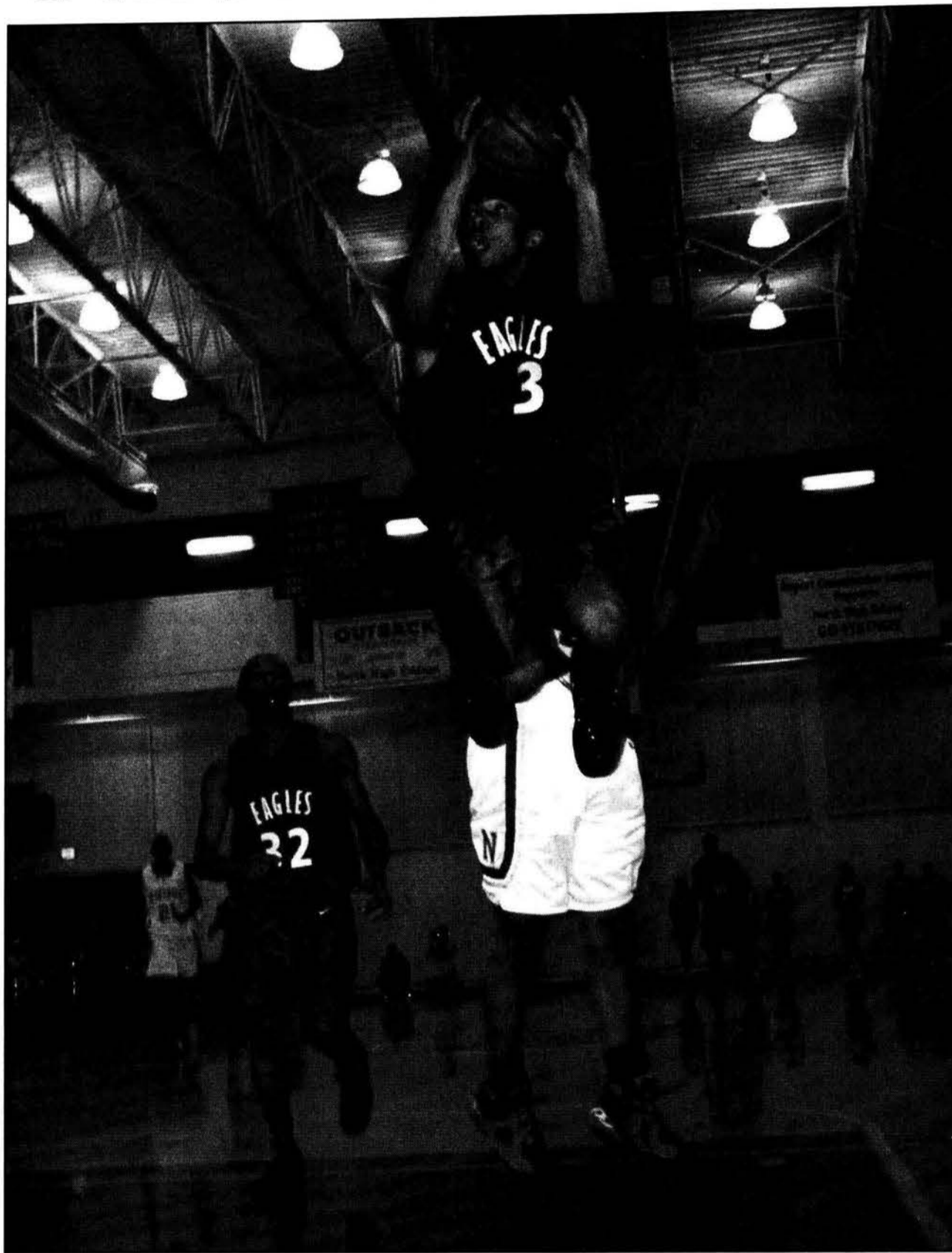


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Junior Cortney Grixby takes off with a reverse layup in the Valentine's Day game against North. The game was also North's senior night.

## Eagles shot down with two seconds

By Devon O'Connell

North High guard Brandon Jimmerson only needed two seconds. Only two seconds to send the game against Central into overtime at 65 a piece, where the Vikings eventually topped the Eagles by two, 74-72.

After junior Brandon Gunn missed a free throw with four seconds left in regulation, North marched down court, and in front of an estimated 1,600 screaming fans in the North High gymnasium, Jimmerson sank a three-pointer from the top of the key.

The Vikings opened up strong in the first, jumping out to a quick 6-0 lead. Central fired right back, with Grixby leading a scoring drive that put the Eagles close to being on top.

North led pretty much the entire game, with Central nipping at its heels. At one point in the third quarter, North led by nine points, topped off by a three by North guard David Hall. Hall led all scorers with 25.

Central was fired up in the fourth however, as they caught up with the Vikings quickly.

Karl White helped with a three, and the Eagles found themselves down by one with about three minutes left. A quick steal later, Grixby scored on a layup to put Central up by one.

The game went back and forth from there, until Gunn missed a free throw and Jimmerson nailed the three.

In overtime, Central bounced back on top, with Grixby again leading the charge. Hall and Jimmerson each scored within the final minute as North pulled out by

### EAGLE REWIND

As the winter sports season concluded, each sport showed a great deal of potential and success.

Both the wrestling team and swimming teams achieved success with a number of team members going on to the State tournament.

Meanwhile, the Eagles basketball teams began the season with a series of wins. However, they went on a losing skid midway through the year.

All information as of Jan. 27

Wrestling			
1/27	V	27-49	Millard N. L
2/6	Metro	48-30	Benson W
2/6	Metro	36-30	Westside W
Girls Swimming			
1/28	V	50-135	Millard N. L
2/5	V	99-84	Burke W
Boys Swimming			
1/28	V	42-120	Millard N. L
2/5	V	30-127	Burke L
Boys Basketball			
1/27	9A	58-37	Gross W
1/27	9B	36-37	Gross L
1/29	R	41-43	Ralston L
1/30	JV	37-44	Northwest L
1/30	R	33-34	Northwest L
1/31	V	80-45	Northwest W
1/31	9A	62-51	Bryan W
1/31	9B	46-20	Bryan W
2/1	V	64-65	Lincoln L
2/1	JV	41-47	Lincoln L
2/1	R	35-44	Prep L
2/1	9A	56-17	Bryan W
2/1	9B	31-10	Bryan W
2/4	V	64-69	Westside L
2/4	JV	53-47	Bryan W
2/4	R	46-29	Bryan W
2/7	V	69-73	Bryan L
2/8	V	75-60	Millard W. W
2/8	JV	56-66	Millard W. L
2/8	R	31-45	Millard W. L
2/10	9A	50-67	Prep L
2/10	9B	31-64	Prep L
2/11	R	56-53	North W
2/12	9B	46-50	Millard N. L
2/13	JV	84-72	North W
2/14	V	72-74	North L
2/14	9B	36-45	Benson L
2/15	V	61-57	Lincoln W
Girls Basketball			
1/28	V	50-135	Millard N. L
1/30	JV	60-24	Northwest W
1/31	V	55-40	Northwest W
2/1	V	39-45	Lincoln L
2/1	R	58-36	North W
2/1	9A	56-17	Bryan W
2/1	9B	31-10	Bryan W
2/4	V	43-58	Westside L
2/6	JV	65-10	Bryan W
2/7	V	67-39	Bryan W
2/7	9A	56-37	Marian W
2/7	9B	22-51	Marian L
2/8	V	45-72	Millard W. L
2/8	JV	33-43	Millard W. L
2/8	R	38-35	Westside W
2/11	R	42-21	Bellevue W. W
2/13	JV	76-52	North W
2/14	V	45-57	North L
2/15	V	59-68	Lincoln E. L

## Athletic Events

### March

#### 6 (Thurs.) State Girls Basketball

Girls basketball teams will compete in the State tournament. The Eagles hoped to do well and overcome the absence of injured star player, junior Crystal Howard.

#### 11 (Tues.) Winter Sports Banquet

The past winter sports season will be commemorated with a night of recognition, with food provided by Outback Steakhouse.

#### 13 (Thurs.) State Boys Basketball

Boys basketball teams will compete in the State tournament. The Eagles team was expected to do very well, especially following the Holiday Tournament win, but had since been stuck in a slump.

#### 14 (Fri.) Varsity Girls Soccer

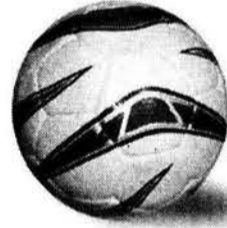
The girls soccer team will play in the first game of the season against Mercy at Berquist

#### 16 (Sun.) Varsity Boys & Girls Track - Burke Relays

The boys and girls track teams will participate in their first meets of the year at Burke

#### 25 (Tues.) Varsity Boys Baseball & Soccer

The boys baseball and soccer teams will play in their first games of the season against Valley at Seymour Smith and Westside at Westside respectively.



# Freshman player leaps forward into Varsity basketball

By Michael Smith

When freshman Derrick Russell attended Nathan Hale in eighth grade, he had no clue that he would be living his dream to play Varsity basketball.

But come freshman year, not only did he make the squad, he found himself starting as a freshman on the Varsity team.

"In fourth grade, I started to play, and in sixth, I knew that this was something that I wanted to do," Russell said.



Russell

Ever since Russell was a little boy he said he found enjoyment in the game and the atmosphere.

"It's great to be on the court with all the fans applauding your every move," he said.

Russell said he played on the select Junior Eagles team and found that it was a very enjoyable experience.

He knew from then on that he would be playing basketball for a good high school.

In junior high, Russell was a bit taller than the other boys were. At 6'1", he knew that he had the skills to play basketball for a good team.

Scouts from high schools would watch Russell at his games and talk to him afterwards in hopes that he would come to their school and play basketball for them.

Russell said he had the option of going to Roncalli and Prep, but finally decided Central.

Russell said the assistant coach from the Junior Eagles knew him and knew the skills that he possessed on the basketball court.

"I wanted to go to a school where I knew I had a chance at a good scholarship," Russell said.

Russell said he had a tough decision on his hands, and that it would definitely affect him in the long run.

Russell went to Central and made the boys Varsity basketball team. He said it was a little overwhelming to see the least.

"Being a freshman on the Varsity team is fun and is a great experience that will really help me in my future," he said.

He said that he admires junior Rico Washington the most out of all the members on the team, as a person that he looks up to him on the court.

Junior Davon White admires Russell as an individual on the basketball team.

"He works hard in practice and in games," White said. "He's really a smart kid."

Russell played at the Central Varsity North game and was pumped up more than he ever had been.

"The crowd was real into it and with more than 2,000 people, it really got me motivated to play well," he said.

Russell averages around 10 points a game and starts sometimes as a power forward or a center.

Russell said he loves the great experiences that he gets to share with his coaches and the teammates.

Coach Eric Behrens said that Russell is a good player.

"He's quick and he's a great defensive player," White said.

Russell said he sometimes wonders on his future and playing basketball for the Central team.

"During my senior year, I see myself starting on the team, and the college scouts become interested in my playing ability and offer me a scholarship to go there," he said.

Russell said that even though he often thinks about his future, he has no clue where he wants to go to college. One thing is for sure though, he would definitely like to leave the Omaha area.

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# RESTRUCTURING SCHOOL SPIRIT

Eagles cheerleading has undergone a number of changes over the past year. Among the changes include the prohibition of stunting at high school games while cheerleading at wrestling meets received an acknowledged low-priority status

## Stunting rejected due to injury at college level

By Danielle Welty

Last year the Varsity cheerleading squad was able to stunt at football games. This year, as a result of college cheerleading injuries at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Central's cheerleaders have been ground bound along with many other Nebraska high schools.

Cheerleading isn't all jumping and yelling. When stunting is involved the cheerleaders have to be in place at several different positions in order to perform the stunt safely.

There are four main positions including the flyer, main base, third and fourth bases, captain senior Jen Hodges said. The flyer is the top person on the pyramid, the climber or mounter.

The third and fourth bases along with the main base are three other fundamental parts of a stunt.

The main base holds up the flyer while third and fourth base spot the flyer.

The reason injuries occur during stunts is because either the squad or the coaches have not been trained properly, otherwise cheerleading is a very safe sport,

Lance Stoltenberg of Elite Cheer, a private organization in which stunting is allowed, said.

Each year Central's cheerleading squads attend a cheerleading camp in which they compete and learn new routines.

When the cheerleaders were allowed to stunt they did the majority of it at camps during the competition.

"Cheerleaders used to be able to stack to the height of one person," coach Amanda Beery said. "Now no stacking is allowed at all since the cheerleaders were ground bound and in some competitions they're not even allowed to tumble."

Since many schools have been ground bound, a few alterations had to be made for state and national competitions.

Now there are stunting and non-stunting categories at national competitions so that neither group has an advantage over the other when competing.

"Though we can't stunt anymore there are still people on the squad who stunted last year and still have the ability to if we could," junior Katherine Lydiatt said.

Hodges is one of those returning members from last year's Varsity squad who has the ability to stunt.

"I went to Elite Cheer all of eighth

and ninth grade years and that's where I first learned to stunt," Hodges said. "Being able to tumble is good for the optional tumbling portion of tryouts, but there isn't a stunting portion so not being able to stunt has never hurt this squad."

Hodges said that the Varsity cheerleaders were the only cheerleading squad that stunted last year and though they didn't use a flyer, they did stack at many football games.

"It's good that both high schools and the colleges eliminated stunting because the girls that want to go to school in state don't have to compete with those who can stunt," Beery said.

Stoltenberg said other schools along the east coast limit the level of stunting instead of completely eliminating it. Pyramids are not to be higher than two people, and no basket tosses are allowed.

He said many believe that eliminating stunting from cheerleading exerts no challenge for the squad, makes it less of a sport and that it does not fulfill its purpose of entertaining the crowd.

Hodges said that the cheerleaders just replaced the stunting sections of their cheers with jumps.

In addition to cheering for several different sports, the cheerleaders have now begun to preform dances during the halftime shows at girls Varsity basketball games.

## Cheerleaders for wrestling thought of as possibility

By Danielle Welty

Central has a lot of cheerleaders, but even more events than they all can attend, and wrestling tournaments are not a top priority, cheerleading coach Amanda Beery said.

"The cheerleaders have football, basketball, volleyball and wrestling to cheer for, and when those sports overlap it gets to be a lot for them all to attend," she said.

Athletic director Paul Pennington said that other schools have cheerleaders especially for wrestling meets, and Central's cheerleaders have so many events to attend that the dedication needed for a day long wrestling tournament is just not there.

An announcement was recently placed by Pennington and Beery to see if there was even any interest in cheerleading exclusively for wrestlers.

They said they were pleasantly surprised with over 20 applicants.

"We're looking for cheerleaders that know the

rules of wrestling and are dedicated to just that one sport because at the last tournament we only had one cheerleader show up," Pennington said.

Others don't believe that having a special cheerleading squad for the wrestlers is needed.

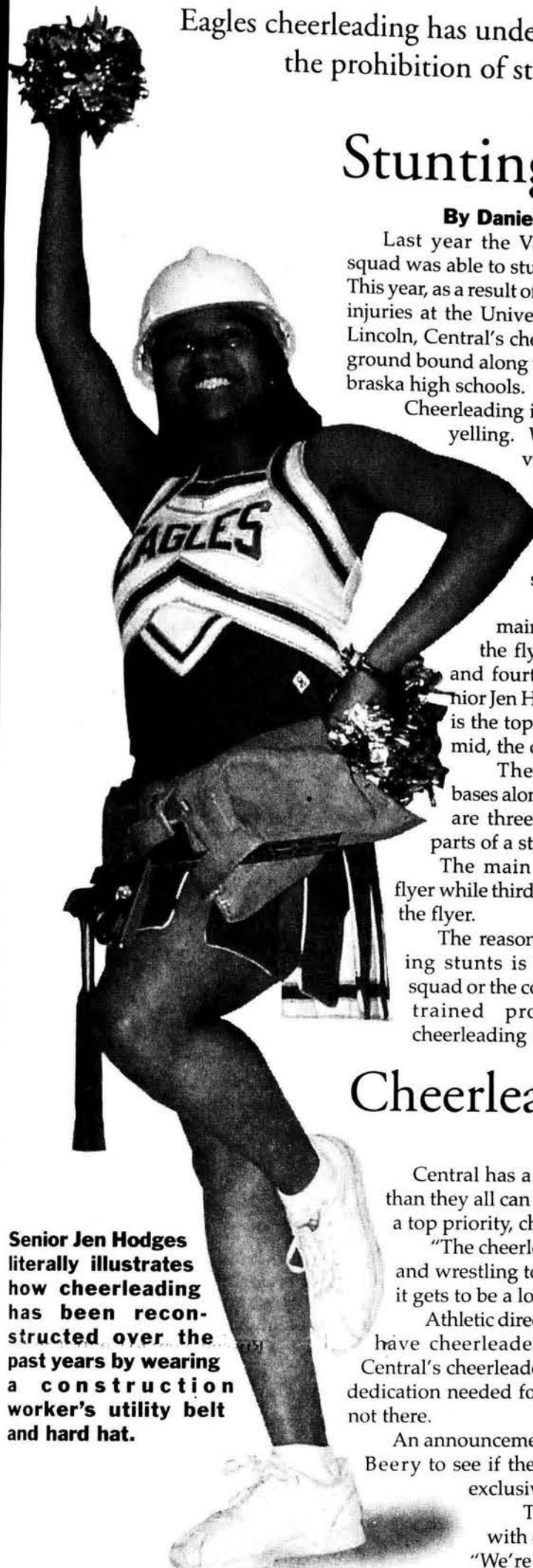
"I think if a girl wants to be a wrestling cheerleader, that's great," sophomore wrestler Terrance Harris said. "It doesn't make much difference to me because I'm concentrating more on the match than the people or cheerleaders around me."

If the wrestlers get their own cheerleading squad, a uniform for the cheerleaders must be decided upon.

Sophomore Lindsey Thompson is one of the students who signed up to cheer at the tournaments.

"I just didn't want to spend the money that other cheerleaders do," she said.

Pennington said that the expenses for wrestling cheerleaders would be less than those of seasonal cheerleaders. However, limited time and resources still make it a low priority.



Senior Jen Hodges literally illustrates how cheerleading has been reconstructed over the past years by wearing a construction worker's utility belt and hard hat.

Illustration by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

## Coach makes big splash for Eagles arsenal

By Steve Packard

Three years after completing his student teaching, former Central student teacher Andy Wayne is still hard at work with both Central athletics and the OPS community.

Wayne is currently the assistant coach of the Central swimming team.

He helps keep time at swimming meets and coaches the more inexperienced swimmers with their techniques.

However, Wayne's not just an assistant swimming coach. He has more things on his full plate. Some wonder how he can keep track of everything.

He is also the outfielder coach for Central's JV boys baseball, and the defensive lineman and tight ends coach on South High's Varsity football team and a social studies teacher at Norris Middle School.

Wayne completed his required student teaching in the first semester of the 2000-2001 school year, while assistant coaching Central's freshmen football team.

He's since been hired as a full-time social studies teacher at Norris Middle School, but hasn't closed his ties with Central just yet.

Essentially, he's a three for the price of one coach as well as a teacher. Wayne said he enjoys it, but it can be a busy schedule.

"It can be kind of tough because there's an off-season with every sport," Wayne said.

During summer vacation, he said a day can start with football all morning, and end with baseball in the afternoon.

But Wayne said he's all about the job.

"I love doing it, I really do," Wayne said. "I wouldn't do all three unless I could get something out of each of them."

Wayne said the prime reason he does all three is the exposure to the kids, and as an added bonus, some competition.

Wayne's hard work with the students and fellow coaches has won him some sentiment from both.

Wayne coached and taught senior Michael Morrison freshman year in football and geography, and has since coached Morrison in swimming.

"He's a real dependable coach and a great mentor," Morrison said. "He's someone good to go to if you ever have any problems."

But Wayne's not just a great mentor.

Head swimming coach Lynne Slobodnik said Wayne, now in his second year as assistant coach, was a great help to the swimming program as well.

"He's at all the meets and I enjoy having him on deck with me," Slobodnik said, "And it's great that he wants to be involved in all the sports. I couldn't do it myself, that's for sure."

Athletic director Paul Pennington shared the opinion, saying that Wayne's personality and hard work have helped Pennington deal with athletics a great deal, too.

"He has a good personality and he seems to work well with the athletes," Pennington said.

## Rugby team tackles winter training's tough turf

By Devon O'Connell

Snow carpets the turf outside of the school on a frigid winter afternoon. But that doesn't keep the rugby team from practicing. Since 1995 students from both Central and Prep have joined together to form the Griffin United Rugby team.

This year members said they hoped to avenge their only loss to Westside and make it to the tournament in St. Louis for teams with players under the age of 19.

This is the first year the team became sponsored as a club. Now, anyone registered in classes at an Omaha school who is under 19 is eligible to play.

The team also has a new coach, Ryan Kaiser, the coach of the Omaha Rugby Team.

The sport is sort of like a combination of football and soccer; players run with the ball (basically bloated football) down the field

and try to avoid defenders by simply pitching it backwards amongst themselves in an attempt to make it past the other goal, scoring a touchdown.

Griffin United is in the Great Plains Rugby Union, a conference which organizes many under 19 teams around Omaha and the Midwest, such as Westside, Lincoln Southeast, Millard North, Sioux City and two teams from South Dakota and Kansas.

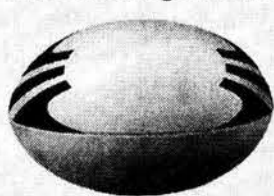
In his second year playing, senior Matt Brown said that last year the team lost several seniors.

However, conditioning started in early December this season, with over 20 underclassmen showing up, so the outlook is positive.

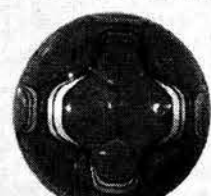
"The new guys coming in this year learned more about the sport during the first two weeks of conditioning, than I did in two months of practice last year,"

### PERFORMING ON THE BALL

The following illustrates the differences between rugby balls, soccer balls and footballs.



Weight: 14 to 16 oz.



Weight: 14 to 16 oz.



Weight: 14 to 15 oz.

Infographic by DEVON O'CONNELL/THE REGISTER

Brown said.

Over the summer, he said he participated in an International Rugby Tournament in Canada, where he was playing against professional players.

He said that it gave him a perspective of the sport.

"Rugby is easily the most addictive sport I've ever played," he said. "Once it's in your blood, you can't get it out."

So far, there haven't been any problems with administrators in terms of violence. Senior Paul Hildebrandt said the sport may have a bad image, but there is more to the game than just hitting people.

"It's only as violent as you make it," he said. "All of us realize that it's just a game out there, not war."

Brown said that his favorite

part of the game is the friendship shared between the players.

"We are all friends off of the field," he said. "Whenever we are visiting another team, they buy us dinner, and then we buy dinner for them when they come to play us."

Brown said he was betting that the team would do as good or better than last year.

"I'm just happy as long as I can play," he said.

Michelle Marsh sends her best to all of Central's students and faculty members

### Central High Alumni

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# WRESTLING FROM

Central's wrestling team began the year as one of state's underdog teams. However, through the year competing while sophomore Cavin Cooper placed fifth in the tournament's consolation bracket.

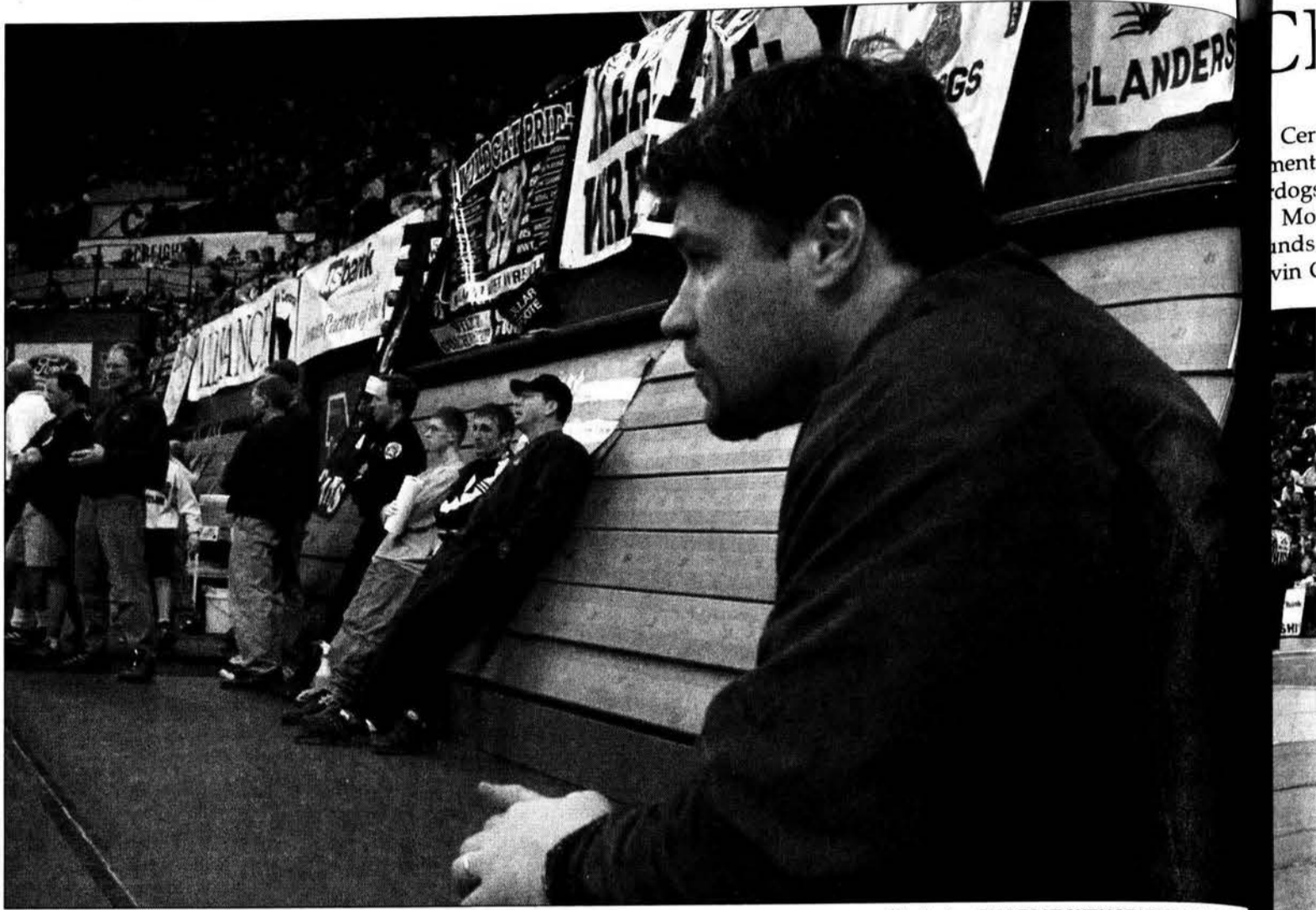


Photo by CHARLIE WENCE/ THE REGISTER

Assistant coach Ryan Murtaugh watches apprehensively as sophomore Cavin Cooper wrestles in the third round of consolation semifinals at the State tournament

## Team overcomes inexperience

By Charlie Wence

Central wrestling weighed in this year with a negative outlook, but finished the regular season pinning any skeptical anticipation with bright hopes for the future.

Sophomore Blake Gayer said that even though the team was young, it had a good season.

"We have done very well considering there is only one senior," he said.

Head coach Jimmie Foster said he thought the team would do worse considering some wrestlers are freshman with little, if any, experience.

"The team is progressing," he said. "We're only losing one senior next year. We should be more competitive next year."

This year, the wrestling team had a possible problem to overcome. Traditionally, rookies do not perform well at a high level.

However, this year the team's freshmen have risen to the occasion, Gayer said. Five freshmen wrestled for the team this year.

"They (the younger wrestlers) beat expectations this year," Ryan Murtaugh, the newly added assistant coach, said.

One of those wrestlers was freshman Brandon Nazeck.

Nazeck said he has done well for a freshman. He has been wrestling for five years, but going up against juniors and seniors really came down to experience, strength and endurance, he said.

"I can stick with those guys," Nazeck said.

With great success as a freshman, Nazeck is already looking to the future. Currently he is in the 112-pound weight class.

He said he would like to workout over summer to bulk up to 135 or 140 pounds.

"I'd like to place at State next year," he said.

Both Gayer and Nazeck hoped to go to State this season, yet they did not qualify at Districts. Gayer said since he did not go to State this year, he will definitely go next year and place.

Based on individual performance, Gayer said he has improved greatly on his game.

"Last year I was horrid compared to this year," he said.

Gayer said he plans to jump weight classes next year by doing heavy lifting during the summer.

## First-year wrestler temporarily kicked off team

By Doug Meigs

Junior Kendall Dorsey was kicked off the wrestling team for less than a day in the first year of his high school wrestling career.

He lost control following a loss in his first ever appearance at the Metro Tournament (held at North High School), sophomore Blake Gayer said.

"I didn't wrestle to my potential and I was mad at myself," Dorsey said.

Gayer watched the whole ordeal. He said Dorsey had been under his opponent and the team could hear him swearing from the sidelines.

Then when he left the mat, Gayer said Dorsey threw his headgear at the ground and the referee deducted one team point from the team.

Gayer said the coaches went up to calm Dorsey down, but he continued to mouth off.

"I told them 'don't talk to me right now' in a snotty tone and coach Foster didn't like it, he told me I could go home," Dorsey said.

Dorsey left the gym and went home. As soon as he got home, he said he spoke to his mother about the turn of events.

He said he told her he still wanted to wrestle and felt bad for his actions.

"It made me realize that this is something I've always wanted to do in high school," He said.

He then went back to North about half an hour later to apologize to the coaches and team. Coach Jimmie Foster said Dorsey was out of line, but gave him the opportunity to return to the team if his teammates were OK with it.

Gayer said that as soon as he saw Dorsey swearing he thought Foster was going to kick him off the team and not let him come back.

"I'd like to be up to 145 or 150 pounds," he said.

Coaches and players can all agree that Foster is the best coach there is.

Nazeck said Foster is a great coach because of all his experience and knowledge of the sport and willingness to help athletes improve on their game.

"Sometimes he'll teach us new moves," he said.

Murtaugh said Foster is one of the best coaches out there because of his fantastic understanding of wrestling.

"I couldn't have picked a more knowledgeable coach," he said.

Early in the year, the season may not have looked positive, but Foster said the team finished the season strong. He led Central to its third consecutive .500 season.

Recruiting athletes to wrestle at Central would be much easier if the school had a feed program, meaning kids would follow a pattern of being fed from middle schools to a certain high school, Foster said.

"I'd like kids to come here to wrestle and not have us take them into wrestling once they get here," he said.

Gayer said he hopes that next year more people will join the team.

"Hopefully we can have a full Junior Varsity and Varsity team," he said.

This year the team ran into a fund raising problem that resulted in the wrestlers having to purchase their own warm-up outfits rather than have fund raising pay for them.

Gayer said the team has also missed out on having food provided for them after every tournament due to money problems. He said that this season each wrestler had to bring their own food if they wanted a post-game snack.

Foster said the money problem began with the team not selling as many shirts as anticipated. He said that next year he expects more effort and planning in fundraising.

Murtaugh said the team is brainstorming fundraising ideas for next year.

He said the Dash for Cash fundraiser that was done this year is a possibility for next season's fundraising options.

Foster said that if Dorsey ever erupted in a similar manner then he would be off the team without any more chances or put from his mother or teammates.

Gayer said he thought Dorsey should have walked off in a more mature manner, but was one of the team members who felt he deserved a second chance.

He said Dorsey returned in the same day and gathered the entire team together beneath the bleachers and apologized.

"We all put in our two cents and told him he was stupid," Gayer said.

Since then, he said Dorsey has cleaned up his act and come back as strong as ever. Although Foster said he did OK, Dorsey said he didn't perform up to what he may have been capable of.

"It's a learning experience," Foster said. "He's got to learn to control his anger."

Dorsey still qualified for State at Districts on Feb. 14 - 15, but did so with the minimum number of pins possible to continue on (2 of 4).

"Districts was a challenge and a new experience for me being a first year wrestler," Dorsey said. "I've had a pretty good year placing in every tournament except at Van Elkfelt."

Nevertheless, Gayer said he still expected him to go onto an excellent State showing the following week.

"He can last three periods unlike most heavy weights. He got a bag full of everything," he said.

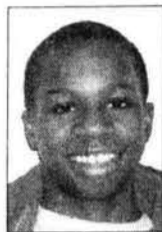
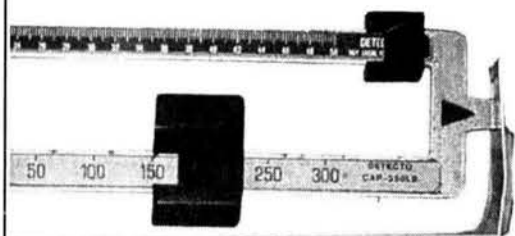
Foster said the main thing that Dorsey needs to work on is his confidence.

"He's not as confident as I would like him to be, but he's a lot more confident than the beginning of the year," Foster said. "The thing about Kendall is that he's got to stay focused."

Dorsey said Foster's assistance has helped him build a lot of confidence, which has been a problem for him as a first year high school wrestler.

## Measuring up

Central wrestling coach Jimmie Foster describes the top wrestler on the team in each weight class. There are 14 weight classes and the Eagle team has wrestlers in every one except the 119, 145 and 171 pound classes.



**Name: Cavin Cooper**  
**Grade: Sophomore**  
**Height: 5' 5"**  
**Weightclass: 103-pound**  
**Comments: He's very talented wrestler with a lot of potential.**



**Name: Brandon Nazeck**  
**Grade: Freshman**  
**Height: 5' 4"**  
**Weightclass: 112-pound**  
**Comments: He's a freshman not afraid to win.**



**Name: Blake Gayer**  
**Grade: Sophomore**  
**Height: 5' 7"**  
**Weightclass: 125-pound**  
**Comments: He's a grinder.**



**Name: Charles Mulligan**  
**Grade: Freshman**  
**Height: 5' 6"**  
**Weightclass: 130-pound**  
**Comments: He's a hard worker and very physical.**



**Name: Matt Johnson**  
**Grade: Sophomore**  
**Height: 5' 7"**  
**Weightclass: 135-pound**  
**Comments: He's overcome a great deal of inexperience.**



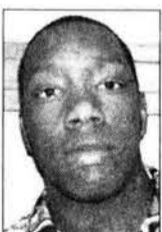
**Name: Terrance Harris**  
**Grade: Sophomore**  
**Height: 5' 7"**  
**Weightclass: 140-pound**  
**Comments: He's very dedicated to success.**



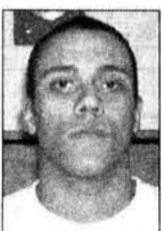
**Name: Nick Wright**  
**Grade: Junior**  
**Height: 5' 6"**  
**Weightclass: 152-pound**  
**Comments: He's a very intense returning State placer.**



**Name: Jose Cardenas**  
**Grade: Senior**  
**Height: 5' 7"**  
**Weightclass: 160-pound**  
**Comments: He's a very confident wrestler.**



**Name: Terrence Moss**  
**Grade: Freshman**  
**Height: 5' 9"**  
**Weightclass: 189-pound**  
**Comments: He's dedicated to improvement.**



**Name: Marchelo Moderow**  
**Grade: Junior**  
**Height: 6'**  
**Weightclass: 215 - pound**  
**Comments: He's made great strides through the season.**



**Name: Kendall Dorsey**  
**Grade: Junior**  
**Height: 6' 1"**  
**Weightclass: Heavyweight**  
**Comments: He's meaner than a junkyard dog.**

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

# THE BOTTOM RUNG

evotion, The Eagles climbed the rungs of Nebraska teams to soar into the State tournament with five wrestlers. The team consists of almost all underclassmen which provides a promising future for the team next year.

## CHS wrestler loses consolation semifinals

By Charlie Wence

Central went into the State wrestling tournament with five wrestlers. They were the underdogs.

Most of the team fell in the first early rounds of the tournament. But sophomore Cavin Cooper in the 103-pound weight class

went the farthest.

Cooper went all the way through the consolation round and pinned Jay Ingraham of Kearney in his last match to earn fifth place in the consolation bracket.

The previous year at State, Cooper was upset by his opponent in the first round. He

said he was thirsty to return to Lincoln and win this year as a contender to place at State.

The second day of the tournament included the third round consolation match. Since Cooper was in the lightest weight class, he was one of the first to wrestle in the Class A matches. In a very close match against Matt Lacey of Lincoln East, Cooper won 4-0 and advanced to the consolation semifinals.

Following his third round victory, Cooper said his confidence was very high compared to when he was at State last year as a freshman.

The rest of the State qualifiers fell shortly after the start of the tournament. However, junior Marchelo Moderow, in the 215-pound weight class, got off on the right foot by pinning Mike Burke of Creighton Prep in the first round in a little over two and a half minutes. Moderow went on to lose in the quarterfinals and was pinned in the consolation second round to eliminate him.

Sophomore Terrance Harris, in the 140-pound weight class, lost in the opening round to his Lincoln Northeast opponent and was eliminated after losing in the first round of consolations.

One of the team's best wrestlers, junior Nick Wright of the 152-pound weight class, went out early along with his teammates. Wright lost 15-0 in the opening round to Tony Duarte of Scottsbluff. Wright turned his game around and won his second match in the consolation round. Yet his season came to an end when Park Sloup of Lincoln Southwest beat him 4-1.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Junior Nick Wright wrestles an opponent at a home match early in the season.

## Junior aims high, finishes year with early State loss

By Andrew Neal

Junior Nick Wright had high expectations for his third year wrestling in high school, but was disappointed in an early first round loss at State.

Some would say that expectations that were placed on Wright were higher this year than before because of his consistent success.

He has gone from being a highly touted recruit during his years at Lewis and Clark, to trying to fulfill the predictions of his success in high school.

After a tremendous season last year, Wright was trying to pursue higher goals for his third year as a Central wrestler.

Last year, he finished sixth at State in the 130-pound weight division.

This year, he faced major challenges in surpassing last year's accomplishments, but his goals were never met.

On Feb. 20, Wright suffered a blow that ended his season prematurely.

He lost his first round match against eventual State champion Tony Duarte of Scottsbluff. The match was a 15-0 blowout in the first round 152-pound weight divisional match.

Wright then went on to win his first consolation match against Bob Kanne of Millard West 5-2. That victory would be the only one for him during the State tournament because he lost his second consolation match 4-1 against Park Sloup of Lincoln Southeast.

The poor showing at State was unfortunate, considering his success at Metro.

On Jan. 17 and 18, Wright went into the Metro tournament with a fourth place ranking in the 152-pound weight division.

"I just wanted to go in there and do my best," he said. "I really wanted to win my division."

He wrestled four matches and ended up third in his division.

Wright said that it wasn't too disappointing, but it wasn't what he was hoping for.

"Coach said that I did pretty well," Wright said. "He said I tried hard and showed up pretty well for those matches."

Head coach Jimmie Foster said that Metro was a good preparation for what could have been expected at State.

Earlier in the season, Foster said that Wright had a strong chance at placing in State because of his intensity in practice and his training over the summer and throughout the season.

"I did a lot of cross-training and weight lifting at first, but it is hard doing all of that, trying to keep motivated and trying to keep your weight down at the same time," he said.

When asked about what could be expected of Wright during his final year wrestling at Central, Foster said that he has a good future ahead of him.

"He knows what he's doing and he's a good little wrestler," Foster said. "He's been wrestling for awhile."

Foster watched him wrestle for the Westside Club. The successes that Wright had really impressed the Central coaching staff and they were excited to be expecting him to wrestle. Foster said that the only thing really hindered Wright this year was his mental preparation.

"He needs to work on mental focus more," Foster said. "He's coming around. If he can get in there and focus a little bit (he'll improve)."

Wright said there were areas that he knew he could improve on and he was disappointed by this season's outcome.

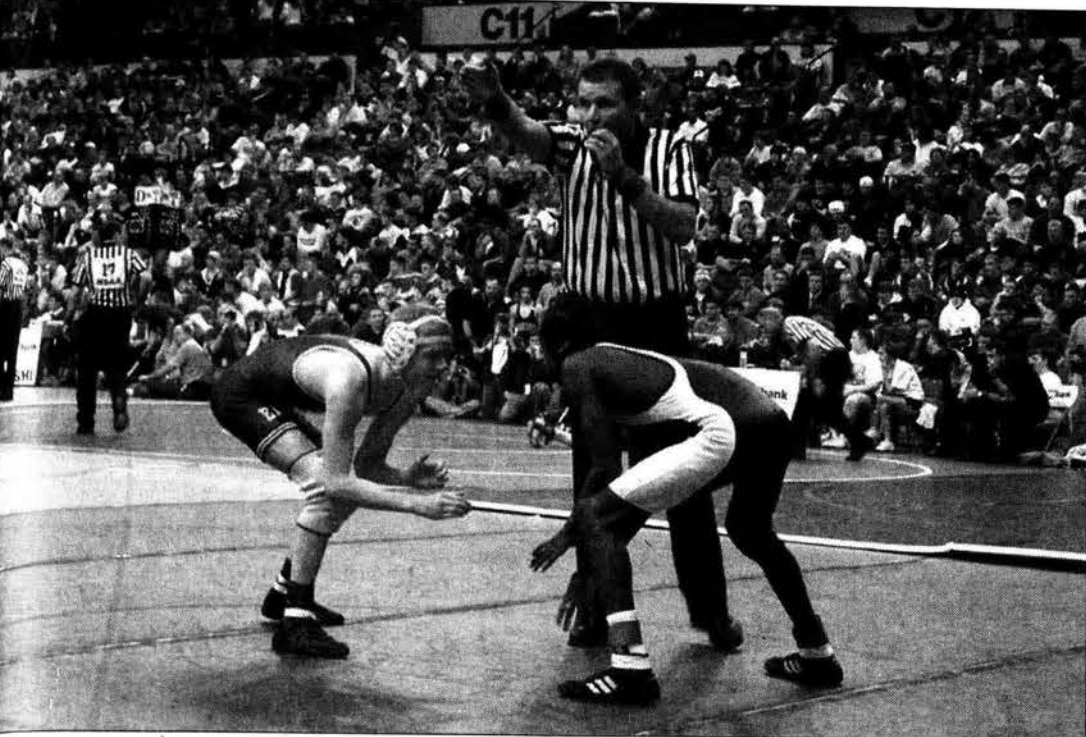


Photo by CHARLIE WENCE/THE REGISTER

Sophomore Cavin Cooper prepares to wrestle Matt Lacey from Lincoln East. Cooper went on to win the match 4-0 to advance to the semifinals which he later lost.

## Five Eagles fly off to State from District tournament

By Charlie Wence

Nine inches of snow didn't even stop the Eagles from sending five wrestlers to the State tournament.

The blizzard conditions only delayed the meet two hours from its original start at North High School and still boasted a rather large crowd on Saturday Feb. 15.

From 103 pounds to the heavy weight division, five wrestlers went to Lincoln to wrestle for the State Championship at the Bob Devaney Center from Feb. 20 through Feb. 22. The qualifiers included 103-pound sophomore Cavin Cooper, 140-pound sophomore Terrance Harris, 152-pound junior Nick Wright, 215-pound

junior Marchelo Moderow and heavyweight junior Kendall Dorsey.

Although the team had eight State qualifiers last year, this year's team made it through the season with only one senior, Jose Cardenas, and some freshmen without high school wrestling experience. Some of the eight State qualifiers from last year were seniors. This year, there were none.

Sophomore Blake Gayer, in the 125-pound weight class, said there would have been six state qualifiers had he not been ill with a 104 degree temperature.

"If I weren't dead sick I would have gone (to State)," he said. "But I still wrestled."

Gayer lost both of his matches at Districts but is looking to next year for success on the wrestling mat.

He said that for next year his goal is to go undefeated throughout the season. In addition to a perfect season next year, Gayer said he hopes to jump to a higher weight class.

"I'd like to get up to 140 (pounds)," he said. Gayer said that many wrestlers in the past have jumped weight classes and have shown success.

Since Central brought five wrestlers to State this year, all of them non-seniors, the team has a strong outlook for next season.

"Next year will be different," Gayer said.

## Wrestlers win Metro Duals, tie yearlong duals record of 3-3

By Charlie Wence

Benson's inflatable bunny had nothing better to do than crawl back into his rabbit hole as Central defeated Benson along with Westside in Metro Duals Feb. 6.

Inside the cramped confines of Benson's old gym, the Eagles crushed Benson with a score of 48 to 30 that included a thrilling overtime match with junior Marchelo Moderow on that mat.

Down at the start, Moderow, in the 215-pound weight class, came back strong to force overtime and an eventual pin. His opponent

stormed out of the gym, kicking the door open in frustration from losing such a close match. The team's "ooos" chant echoed throughout the gym.

Sophomore Terrance Harris, in the 140-pound weight class, set the tone for the duals by winning the first match of the competition.

Next up was a close fought duel against Westside that proved beneficial to the Eagles in a 30 to 36 score, evening their dual record to 3-3 this season.

Junior Nick Wright, in the 152-pound weight class, obliterated his opponent pinning

him early in the match. Wright showed no mercy and lived up to the expectations of him being one of the best wrestlers on the team.

Late into the Westside dual Moderow reappeared on the mat. Coming back from the overtime victory against Benson, Moderow was ready to win.

He overpowered his opponent, resulting in a pin. Moderow's victory propelled the Eagles to victory.

Sophomore Blake Gayer said the team did not wrestle up to expectations, but walked away victorious.

# Understanding the holds, learning the moves

Assistant coach John Whitmyre and heavyweight Matt Storm demonstrate some common holds in high school wrestling. Although there are many other wrestling moves, the particular ones demonstrated are universally used. Each has its own benefits as well as its own drawbacks.



Front Headlock

Definition: Wrestlers are face to face. The first wrestler takes the other and places him in his armpit. Wrestler can make use of this hold while on their knees.

Pros: If the hold is done quickly enough and with correct form, it can result in a pin.

Cons: There are virtually no cons associated with this hold. However, it is one of the most universal of the following five holds.



Double Leg Hold

Definition: One wrestler grabs both of the other wrestler's legs. There are many variations associated with this hold. The takedown must be done right away for a pin. The hold also has a history of crowd-pleasing.

Pros: This hold can result in a pin. However, it rarely occurs.

Cons: The opposing wrestler could sprawl and get two points. The other wrestler could counter the hold and pin the other.



Single Leg Takedown

Definition: One leg is grabbed by a wrestler. This hold can turn into a double leg hold. This hold is said to be painful.

Pros: This hold can result in a pin. It is like the double leg hold, but puts a similar yet unique spin on another relatively common wrestling hold.

Cons: Wrestlers must be careful when attempting this hold. It opens the opportunity for the opposing wrestler to easily pin the other.

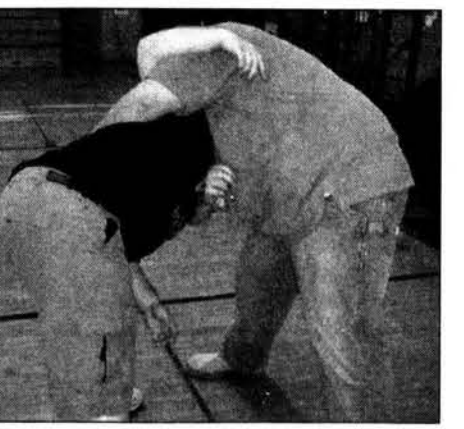


Snake

Definition: This hold is similar to the front headlock, yet utilizes a underhook. The snake hold is said to be one of the most fun holds.

Pros: This hold has the potential to pin the opposing wrestler in a manner that is different than the other holds.

Cons: If the wrestler performing the snake hold is not careful, they could be taken down by the other wrestler. It can leave the wrestler open if he is not paying attention.



Near Side Cradle

Definition: The wrestler performing the hold must work hard in order to keep control of this hold. The near side cradle is said to be a fun hold for wrestlers.

Pros: The near side cradle offers many variations of ways for a wrestler to take over.

Cons: The opposing wrestler could be strong enough to get out of the hold and turn on the individual trying to pin him.

# GOLF TEAM TEES OFF FOR STATE

With the entire Varsity squad returning, team members expect to have a very successful year and State showing. They said they will still have to face some tough competition, but are confident in their abilities



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Senior Tony Driscoll practices at the Chilli Green's Dome. Driscoll goes there frequently throughout the winter to keep his skills sharp for the upcoming spring season

By Steve Packard

Boys golf may contain the strongest core of players out of any 2002-2003 Central team with the entire Varsity squad returning from last season, senior Tony Driscoll said.

Driscoll said the team has been looking forward to the upcoming season since the beginning of last year. The promise of a first place finish at State has been dangling over the team since the State tournament last year where they received a disappointing eighth place finish.

"We all played the course blind," Driscoll said. "It was kind of a disadvan-

tage. The two teams that won played on their home course."

Lincoln East and Lincoln Southeast (the respective first and second place finishers) were the only teams to use of the course prior to the tournament, not to mention practice there frequently.

"All in all, I think we had a pretty good season," junior Justin Muhammad said. "We accomplished our goals and it gave us a lot of confidence for what we could do and what we needed to improve on."

Although team members said State

wasn't a total disappointment, junior John Pryor placed sixth individually at State, and the team finished three of seven invitational tournaments as champions.

Although junior Steve Hogan, another returning letterman and national tournament-grade golfer, did not do as well as he had hoped, he still thought that the experience had helped the team.

Either way, Muhammad said the loss was something the team was able to recover from

"We succeeded," he said, "We exceeded our goals."

Following State, Driscoll said it was a major priority to stay active in golf over the off-season.

"Steve, Justin and I got right back into it," Driscoll said.

The three rolled from the golf season into a very active summer golf program, headed up by Hogan's father, Steve Hogan Sr. The players ended up spending most of the summer golfing.

By the early summer of 2002, the lettermen were back on the courses and driving ranges, looking to a better season for the upcoming 2002-2003 year, Driscoll said.

Hogan, Muhammad and Driscoll all attended at least two major regional tournaments over the summer in Des Moines and Grand Island, Muhammad said.

Hogan said both tournaments were successes.

Muhammad said the real difficulty for the upcoming season will be maintaining the skills and desire to compete at State.

"We do push each other to stay on top of our game," he said. "We know the strengths and weaknesses of each individual on our team."

Those strengths and weaknesses will be the new focus for this year, Driscoll said. As long as they can maintain and polish the skills for the season, he said the team may be set for a State title.

"We just know it's going to be very competitive and challenging for the State title," Muhammad said.

The team has faced the first challenge of the upcoming season already after head coach Jim Galus was put into surgery for back problems in mid-February, with assistant coach Matt Shafer temporarily taking the reigns as head coach.

Galus won't be able to golf for two years, Shafer said.

However, Driscoll said the absence will only serve to further motivate the team members.

"We really hope to improve as State approaches," Galus said.

It's a concept that's all ears with the team, Galus said. A State title may be in the balance.

# Winter training thaws off-season sports teams

By Andrew Neal

Winter was previously out of bounds for many sports, but it has now become a time for preseason training. Students like Scott Miettinen spend their winter nights training for baseball while official practices are four months away.

Every spring sport has instituted some practice or training schedules for the winter. Even girls tennis formed a winter league to practice indoors at Hanscom Tennis Center.

Most returning Varsity members are expected to play, even if they are involved in other activities. Some athletes are currently taking private lessons from tennis professionals.

Varsity tennis coach Larry Andrews said he always tries to get his athletes to play a few times before the actual season starts.

"Most girls play other sports or are in other activities, so they are always busy, but we encourage them to get out and play more," he said.

Senior Lauren Freeman is a tennis player who is involved with many activities, but still manages to find time to practice during the fall and winter.

"I'm in swimming and Pom Squad, so I'm pretty busy, but I love the sport so I make time to play," she said.

She knows that the hard work pays off later in the season, and when everyone plays during the off-season, it makes practices easier when the real season actually starts.

The girls soccer team has been playing in an indoor league, while the boys team has been conditioning since the middle of November.

Marc Monbouquette, a junior who has been playing soccer at the Varsity level for two years, said that intramural teams and "open gyms" have helped the team prepare for another season.

"Just practicing with the guys and getting to know them better really helps unite the team," he said.

Monbouquette said the soccer team has been participating in conditioning drills on Monday and Thursday, and most athletes participate in an intramural team on Wednesday nights.

"The conditioning impacts our speed and endurance which is important in beating the top-ranked teams," coach Tim Herbert said.

Herbert also noted that all of the practice so far has been optional, but recommended.

"We all understand that some kids may play a sport during the winter," he said.

The boys have also been involved with an indoor soccer team sponsored by Burger King. The games have become very popular.

The girls track team has already started conditioning because its goal is a State championship this year, head coach Trent Lodge said.



Photo by PAULA SALHAM/THE REGISTER

Freshman Daniel Albrecht runs around the third floor while training for the upcoming track season.

"We have a very talented team and all of the girls are dedicated enough to practice even before the season starts," he said.

Head baseball coach Scott Hodges encourages his players to play fall-ball and train during the winter, but he does not force them to choose between another sport.

"They're in high school now and opportunities only come about so often, so if they are involved in another sport that's fine by me," he said.

Junior Abby Franklin has been on the Varsity soccer team since she was a freshman, but says that she is still pressured to give up other activities.

"Central keeps saying that they want people involved in a lot of different things, but athletes don't have time anymore because we have practice and training the entire year," she said.

Franklin said that there can be other consequences for not showing up to conditioning and other team functions.

She said she feels like she is not bonding with the team as much as she should be.

As Miettinen gets home from practices, he said he finds himself throwing on his gym clothes to get ready for football weight training.

He said that he loves both football and baseball and would never give them up.

Franklin does not know what she would give up if it came to choosing between soccer and another activity.

"I just don't know what I would do if it got to the point where soccer took up all of my time," she said.

# Landmark gender legislation may change following reevaluation

from TITLE IX, page 21

reason about World War II. "As far as OPS and Central, I have not been aware of any issues relating to Title IX," he said. "For some reason it was never an issue here."

Pennington said the closest Central has come to conflict with Title IX was this year after an anonymous person filed a suit against one of the OPS schools. That was it.

He said the Office of Civil Rights came here for two days to do an investigation.

He said they interviewed all girls basketball and softball coaches and players.

"They left us and went to Bryan, South and all the other schools and I never saw anything reported on it," he said.

Pennington said that he doesn't think Title IX will affect Central High School right now.

"We're being team players and doing what we need to do," he said.

Social Studies teacher Lisa Donahoe was coaching softball and teaching in Fremont when the school district ran into conflict with Title IX.

She said she came into the coaching position in the midst of a Title IX suit.

Softball had previously been a club.

The stress and drama of the suit was one of the reasons that she left and began teaching at Central.

"I feel the purpose of Title IX is great because it's trying to bring equality in sports," she said. "As an athlete and coach I want that, but because of the situation I was in, it was sometimes taken too far."

Some people said they believe that could not happen here.



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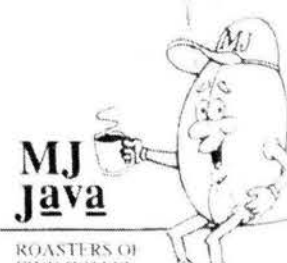
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ROASTERS OF FINE COFFEE



All photos by CHARLIE WENCE/THE REGISTER

Left) Reporter Jim Schalles struggles against assistant coach John Whitmyre (Top right) Junior heavyweight Matt Storm approaches as Schalles prepares for the beating of his life with open arms. (Bottom right) Storm pins Schalles, again.

# WEATHERING STORM ON THE MAT

Register reporter Jim Schalles took on junior heavyweight Matt Storm to understand the high school wrestling experience. After being pummeled for only a few rounds, Schalles ended the day with a very different perspective.

By Jim Schalles

Imagine the heaviest thing you've ever carried, then take that number and double it. This only begins to describe what I was lying under, stuffed between a thin foam mat and a nearly 300 pound junior Matt Storm.

Weighing in at 135 pounds, I was clearly the underdog.

I've never had a whole lot of respect or interest in wrestling. I've never even been to a wrestling meet. I certainly have never curled up on my couch and watched a good match on ESPN.

My encounter has not only changed my perspective about the sport, but it has given me a closer look at what these athletes take part in every single day of their lives.

I was welcomed into the "practice" with several smiles and lots of harassment from a coach and several wrestlers. From that moment on, I knew I was in over my head.

"Storm, get over here!" I heard the coach say as we rolled out the lower quality wrestling mats because we weren't allowed to use

the good ones.

I barely had a chance to gather my thoughts and mentally prepare myself for the unholy beating I was about to receive as I shook hands with my opponent.

Instantly, I felt my shoes losing contact with the floor as I was swooped up and brought back to the ground as quickly as I had left it. The difference was that this time I was on my back, not my feet.

I could feel my breath forced out of my lungs as my arms and legs quivered with terror and pain.

"Had enough yet kid?" I distinguished between my constant shrieking.

"Of course not," I replied, trying to salvage as much dignity possible.

I was let up and given a second to catch my breath. I stared at my massive opponent and once again realized I had no chance.

Once again, within a few seconds I found myself pinned to the ground in an unmistakable amount of pain.

I gasped for air, but I knew I didn't have a

chance. With the little amount of oxygen I had flowing through my body, I managed to squeak out the words, "I can't breathe" but was quickly reminded by the coach that you can only talk if you can breathe.

Soon after, I found myself on my feet again and ready to go.

Once again, within a matter of seconds, I was picked up, this time being grasped at my stomach and waist. I noticed that my view had been flipped and I was upside down.

This was my finishing blow, a pile driver to the thin, ruthless mat left me light-headed and sore.

As I limped out of the gym, a grin came across my face. Sure it had been a tough battle and one that I had unbearably lost. But it was a good kind of pain.

Thanks to my opponent, my view on wrestling has been forever changed.

No longer will I see wrestlers as the people not good enough to make the basketball team. I will see them as true athletes who can severely inflict pain on me.

# Next great Eagles' I-back confined in puny senior

I could have been the next Gale Sayers, seriously.

In this five-foot, ten-inch, 155 pound white boy rests the athletic ability of a six-foot, two-inch 195 pound running back who looks strikingly similar to Walter Payton. But, in my

Well, the first thing I noticed about Billups is that he could hit hard, really hard.

Whenever I tried to run by him, he would have some crazy sort of dive-and-take-you-out-by-the-mid-section move. I found myself easily



YES, I'M WHINEY  
Devon O'Connell

supreme ignorance, I quit freshman year, depriving Central of its next great I-back.

I've been playing football since I can't even remember. It may not seem like it, but the guys that I play with are actually pretty good. After all, we have been playing the game for over ten years. That's why it was a pretty big surprise a couple of years ago when Ja'Maine Billups, the former All-State running back and current safety for Iowa State, decided to tag along to play a game of two on two with us. This was during his senior year and my sophomore year.

I could totally run a 4.5 forty, or break through defenses packed with 300-pound linemen, or stop a fullback with a full head of steam running straight at me. I just choose not to. Billups may have done it all the time, but I was pretty optimistic heading into the game.

Watching Billups play in high school was something pretty special. He was one of those talented running backs that you're lucky to see on a team once in a decade. He knew what he was doing, he knew how to make good decisions in a split second, and had the athletic ability to back it up. On top of all that, he was a nice guy, somebody you would want to hang out with. But then again he's no Gale Sayers; I could take him.

couple of times. He probably wasn't that hard to tackle by himself. Then again, you can't touch what you can't catch, and Billups was fast; so fast that he was on the 1999 State championship 4x400 relay team.

He also was a fan of lifting massive amounts of weight every day, much more than I could ever hope to lift, but still, I could take him.

To be perfectly honest, the game wasn't that lopsided. We kept up with Billups and Colin, his teammate, the entire game. When the score was tied at six touchdowns a piece, I made the biggest error of the game. On the ensuing kickoff, I saw Billups running straight at me out of the corner of my eye.

Unfortunately I was looking at the ball, too. I fumbled right into his hands. The fact that I was standing on the ten-yard line didn't help matters much either. Two plays later, he scored off of a two-yard run.

That was the moment when my path toward superstardom was skewed. I had lost, and it was my fault, too.

Who knows what would have happened if I wouldn't have fumbled that ball. Maybe someday they would have uttered "O'Connell" in the same breath as Sayers, Green, Horne, Billups, Jones, among others.

It really could have happened, seriously.

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## SPORTS

Friday, February 28, 2003

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The Register

## FLAME BROILED SOCCER

Many Eagles soccer players have joined an indoor league with Burger King Soccer. Despite late night games, the excitement of the league has attracted a large fan base over the soccer team's nearly three years of existence.

By Steve Packard

It's 1 a.m. on Sunday morning, and nearly 100 young people from around the Metro area have assembled at the Off The Wall Indoor Soccer center for one thing.

It's time for Burger King (BK) soccer.

Organized by alumni Colin Boatright and Matt Miller in the fall of 2000, BK soccer is currently in the middle of its third season.

In the beginning, the team was originally known as the "Shrews", a team of about 12 amateur soccer players, most from Central, who would get together for a game of wild soccer at the soccer center.

Only after Simmons Restaurant Management, a company which owns a chain of Burger Kings around the Midwest, agreed to sponsor the team, was it changed to a simple, Burger King, with one team color that team leader senior Dan Cavanagh only described as a "brilliant, pumpkin orange."

Today, BK soccer is in many ways the same team it was even before Simmons. They are a group of about 18 Central students who get together for soccer games that are considered by some of the team's biggest fans, to be truly "hardcore."

"The crowd seems to get into it as much as the players do,"

Cavanagh said. "I'd say physicality is part of it, but I think it's also a fun factor."

The physicality of the sport seems to be one of its most popular aspects.

Co-team leader, senior James Boatright (Colin's brother), said he has no reservations about it.

He said it can be very physical. Like the time

Colin came into contact with an opposing player, and ended up getting kneed in the crotch, sitting out on the bench to recover, then

coming back in to the game only to get a ball to the crotch again, Boatright said.

It can be painful, junior BK member Joe Medeiros said, but it has to be taken as part of the game.

"The Bad Bounce: you either take it and drop to the ground crying, or do it right back at them," he said.

It's a theory Medeiros had the chance to practice before.

During one game, Medeiros said he punched through the opposing defense and began a break-away towards the opposing goal, only to get pushed over by the last defender.

Of course, the defender received no red card, so Medeiros pushed back, and received the red card himself.

Boatright said it is definitely a physical game, and that's what keeps the fans coming back for more.

Many of the fans are good friends with members of the team.

They come to support the team and have a good time.

"It's fun to watch," Boatright said, "and if people come and cheer, it gets us motivated. The more people that show, the more we get pumped up."

And if there was recognition for the most valued fan, senior Alex Jochim would more than likely be in the running.

Jochim is a former BK player, having played last season, but not this season due to his "soccer skills."

He said he even feels a little guilty about missing a couple of the games this season.

He said he comes back to experience the adrenaline.

"It's riveting," Jochim said. "It's very entertaining, lots of energy and action. It's also a great social event and it's great to cheer with other supporters of the team."

The team itself has no official coach or order.

"We have a line of players and we play four or five minute quarters, so as soon as one player gets tired, we send the next one in, usually on the quarter marks," Cavanagh said.

Even if the structure is a bit choppy, Boatright said the talent is in the bag, and that he's happy with the overall makeup of the team.

But the BK players all know they're not playing for the competition. In the end, Cavanagh said, it's about fun.

"Yeah, there's fierce competition," Cavanagh said, "but it's all about enjoying the game."

With Central soccer fans flocking to Burger King Soccer games, it seems that the Eagles have soccer on the brain

Illustration by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER



## Students help others while volunteering

from OLYMPICS, page 21

pates in is basketball games Creighton.

This is where the athletes compete in different skills while the volunteers cheer them on.

Studer said the volunteers build relationships with the athletes because they see them at multiple events and socialize with them.

In addition to the socializing the volunteers do with the athletes, they also award them with a ribbon if the athlete does well in a competition.

Once summer rolls around and school is out, the Summer Games start.

The Special Olympics athletes partake in events such as track and field, relay races, walking relay, long jump and softball throwing competition.

"They show them (the athletes) lots of encouragement, she said.

Lately there has been a problem with those who actually participate in the club.

Studer said a sign up sheet was passed around for anyone who was interested in the club at the beginning of the year.

"Some kids I haven't seen since the first day," she said.

Studer said she will determine who is and who isn't in the organization by the attendance at each event.

Just like the Olympics, the Special Olympics is a private organization and must raise money without help from the government, Studer said.

Similar to the Olympics, the Special Olympics also have sponsors.

Another way to help out the organization is through fundraising events.

The fundraisers are held in order to purchase shirts for the athletes and volunteers as well as pay for the events in which the athletes take part, Studer said.

## Mercy student stars, performs well on Central's diving team

By Devon O'Connell

Alisha Kellen, the best diver on the combined Central-Mercy diving team, is one of the top contenders for the State diving title this year.

Last year, she was ranked first, pretty impressive, considering she was only a sophomore.

Kellen is currently a junior at Mercy, but through the joint team, she and other Central divers compete together. She said that she likes representing both Central and Mercy.

"Mercy doesn't really get any of the credit, but it's still a great program," she said.

At the Metro tournament this year, Kellen placed fifth. She said that she would have won easily, but her feet accidentally hit the board on her third dive.

"She should have been lower considering she hit the board," Kellen's coach Jim Huelskamp said. "But she dived well and got back up there."

Huelskamp has coached for over 15

years, and has coached Kellen for three. He said that she is one of the best divers he has ever seen at the high school level.

"I've coached Metro champs, State champs, everything, and she is easily one of the best I've ever had," he said. "A talent like hers is very rare."

Kellen's other coach, Steve Guinn, has been coaching for around five years.

"She isn't really weak on any dives," Guinn said, "She is just a really solid diver."

Surprisingly, Kellen has only been diving for three years. In fact, before her freshman year, she hadn't even really been in the pool that much. She said she started her first year of high school, and has been hooked ever since.

"I saw one of my friends diving for a club once, and it looked fun," she said, "I talked to the coach and it just took off from there."

Prior to high school, Kellen had been doing gymnastics for 11 years, which she said could be the reason why she took to diving so well.

"I left gymnastics on kind of a bad note," she said. "After that, diving just seemed natural to me."

Kellen and the other divers practice at Burke's pool, due to the lack of facilities at Central or Mercy. Huelskamp said it is perfect for diving because it is the only high school pool in Nebraska that has a separate diving well from the swimming lanes.

During the summer, Kellen dives for the Metro Omaha Swimming and Diving club. Huelskamp and Guinn still fill the roles as her coaches.

"I love my coaches, I wouldn't be anywhere without them," she said, "They really know their stuff."

Kellen said her hopes for State this year are high. She said she knows that she has the talent to win, it's just a matter of how much she wants it.

"You have to take it one dive at a time," she said.

Junior Katie Lydiatt and Sophomore Elisa Berzins, both from Central, also dive on the team.



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Even though junior Alisha Kellen goes to school at Mercy, she is still on Central's diving team. Kellen was one of the top contenders for State.

## Stadium meetings continue through end of year; completion slated for 2004

from STADIUM, page 21

contain 41 spots along with the 152 behind the home bleachers.

In addition, 40 spots have been guaranteed by Joslyn.

Although the parking behind the bleachers is supposed to be completed by Aug. 15 so it will be able to be used in the upcoming school year, Pennington said he doubts that it will be completed by the scheduled date. Whenever the parking comes, he said it will be very beneficial.

Warneke said the stadium will also be slanted northwest by southeast rather than the originally proposed north by south alignment.

After experimenting with a number of possi-

bilities, he said someone finally had the idea to place the field sideways.

"There were a lot of different plans that were thrown out," Warneke said. "One of the difficulties is trying to meet the needs of the different entities in such a small piece of property. It seems to fit there very well."

He said that much of the meetings are brainstorming sessions. They will bring in individuals who are knowledgeable about various topics.

Principal Jerry Bexten has also been involved in the meetings. Former principal Gary Thompson had originally been, but Bexten was worked into the discussions as soon as it was decided that he was going to be replace Thompson.

For example, Pennington said while considering the details of the track, they brought in Creighton employees who were knowledgeable about fields.

"We're not ready to bid the thing yet, and were still talking about design issues," he said.

In fact, Warneke said that they have yet to determine what type of material to use for the field. Some of the options include either astroplay or field turf.

"OPS is paying for the track and field surface and the rest of the funding is coming from donations and fundraising," he said. There's a lot of private funding going into this."

Pennington said Kiewitt has the contract with

the tack and stadium, but that is because it was part of the construction guidelines set by the donor.

Hawkins, who has been employed to complete the rest of the school's renovations, didn't have an opportunity to bid on it.

Warneke said he wants Central's stadium to have the same facilities as any other school. He said he wants parking, track services, concessions and handicap access, while balancing the aesthetic appearance.

"Since its going to be ours I'm making sure it meets our standards," he said. "I'm trying to look out for the best interests of Central High School and OPS."