

Best in Show, Four in a Row

Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi

National Pacemaker Winner

Fighting the War
Some students are faced with the prospects of enlisting and going to fight on the front lines.
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Punked Out
The Register takes a look at whether or not punk is dead or if the sound has just been changed.
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Coach Retiring
Stan Standifer looks back on his teaching and coaching career at Central High School.
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Budget cuts argued at conference

By Paula Salhany

Diane Green, vice-president of the Omaha Education Association (OEA), posed a question to the people of Omaha at a press conference March 6 in Central's auditorium. She asked if they would make repairing Nebraska's roads more of a priority than the education of their children. The question was in response to what some would say was the dire situation that Nebraska education was in because of the proposed budget cuts of Gov. Mike Johanns.

The press conference brought together many important education officials, such as Omaha Public School's (OPS) superintendent John Mackiel, School Board President John Langan and the president of the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA), Duaine Obermier.

"We want to uphold our precious education and provide the highest quality education for our students," Green said. "But with the threat of the funding being slashed, we may not be able to do this."

Currently, Johanns said that if the proposed budget goes through, the school system is looking at a 10 percent cut from the previous year. Obermier said with these cuts,

(OPS) could lose \$21 million for the 2003-2004 fiscal year when it is already working with a small budget.

Statewide, education would be losing up to \$331 million over the next two years, he said.

"Nebraska is known for having very high standards and test scores," Obermier said. "We want to try to appeal to the state government to stop the cuts."

Senior Brian Fahey said he thinks it is unfortunate that the state government is so quick to cut from collegiate and secondary school systems, especially when many of the students in public schools don't have a vote.

He said he thinks it ends up cutting education money because it is easy.

"If it goes and cuts the farming initiative, you'll have the farmers protest- see BUDGET, page 6

School officials will measure parenting skills

By Katie Backman

Students are usually accountable for their own failures in school, but the administration of the Lebanon School District in Pennsylvania is considering evaluating the parents' involvement in their children's lives.

The superintendent of the school district, Marianne Bartley, said the administration decided to have a parent involvement checklist for the upcoming school year and the list will be used for kindergarten through grade 12.

"We (the administration) are wanting to see if there is an adult looking out for their student," Bartley said.

The areas that will be evaluated by administration include whether or not parents attend parent-teacher conferences, and whether or not they are aware of their child's attendance and disciplinary problems.

Bartley said the point of the policy is to see if the parents are concerned about their child's education.

She said that if a parent tries to prevent his child from skipping a class, the administration would give parents a checklist for participation.

She said in a situation like that, the administrators would offer a counseling or guidance class.

Central senior Ryan Haskins said he thinks a checklist would be more reasonable to have at an elementary grade level because the students at that age can still easily learn right from wrong.

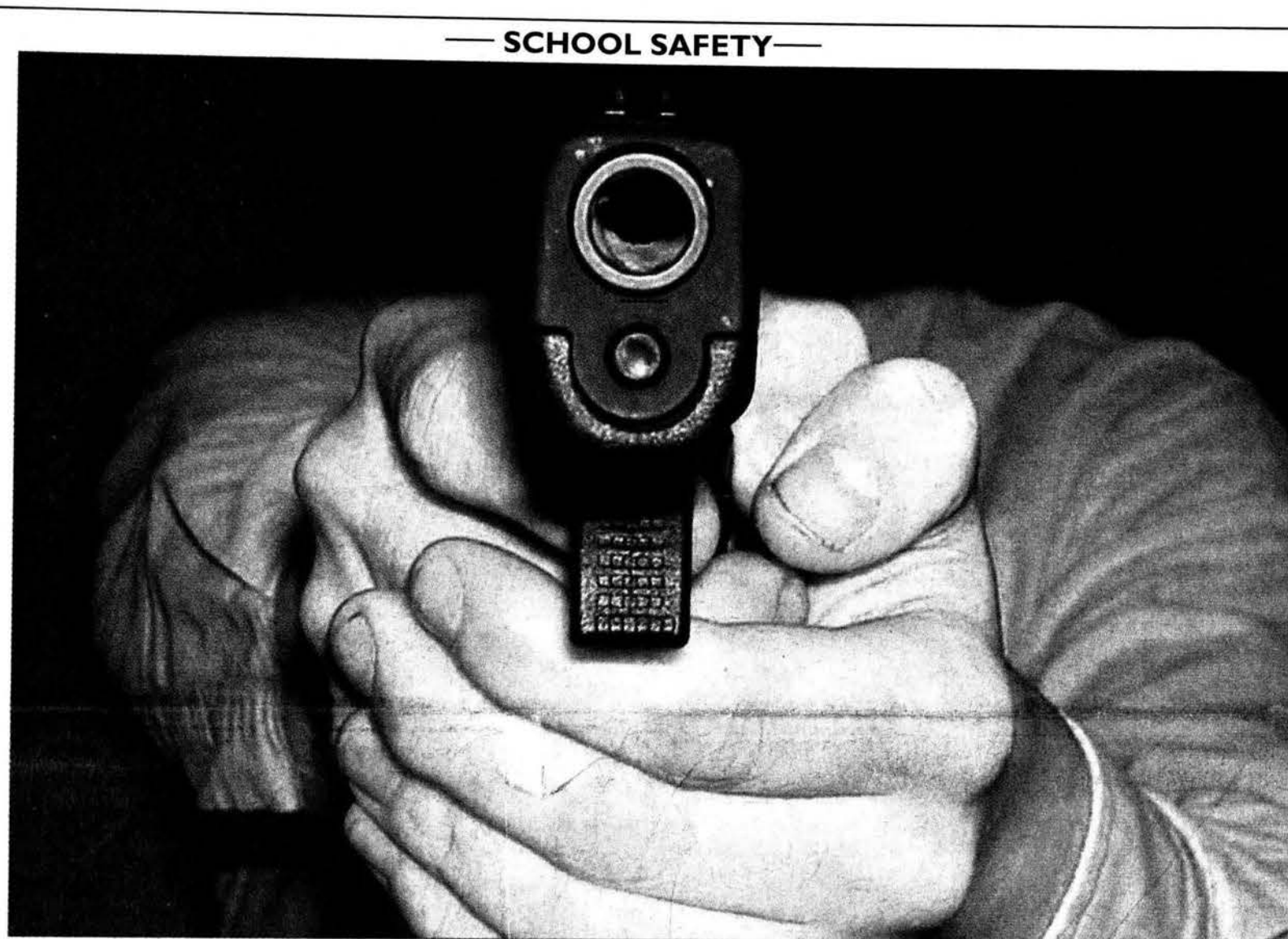
"I don't think parents should be responsible to set them up in high school," Haskins said. "It should be the parents' fault more than the school's fault."

Haskins' father Mike said it would be a good idea to give the high schools a checklist for attending conferences and other events parents should be participating in.

"Students should have a good base to begin with in grade school," Mike said. "But (students) need to continue it in high school."

Luanne Nelson, director of public information for Omaha Public Schools (OPS), said the district hasn't discussed using the parent involvement evaluation.

She said the board always encourages parents to stay see PARENTS, page 6



A few months ago, a student brought a gun into Central. Some people think that if a gun is found in the school that the school is automatically unsafe. When in reality, one incident does not necessarily reflect on the overall safety of that school. This illustration is designed to show how real and dramatic bringing a gun to school can be.

School safe despite perceptions, faculty says

By Paula Salhany

*Name changed to protect identity.

Junior John Smith has owned a gun since he was 12. It's a .22-caliber he got from his cousin before his cousin went to jail.

"I have it for protection mainly," Smith said.

He said because it's just for protection, he hasn't felt the need to bring it to

school and he doesn't think there's anyone in the school big enough to take him down, so he hasn't brought it, yet.

But he said he has seen guns and knives flashed in the bathrooms and halls.

"They (students) want to look cool," Smith said. "I don't think a lot of them bring them for anything more than to see SECURITY, page 4

Though some students fight, weapons have been seen and there have been bomb threats over the years, school officials say they work hard to create the safest environment for students to learn.



Turn to pages 4-5 for an in-depth look at school safety, including:

- An overview on school safety
- Student, faculty poll results
- A feature story on the new SRO
- What's considered a weapon at CHS

Former student fails to find challenges in traditional college, turns to car repair

By Nichole Tyrey

Many students think that college is more challenging than high school. Former student Liz Cramer, however, dropped out of college because she did not find it challenging enough.

Cramer went to Central for only one year. After she completed her freshman year, she said she was accepted into a school in Virginia for high school students who decided to go to college early.

Cramer said that after she took the ACT in seventh grade and scored very high. Colleges all over the country were recruiting her. Cramer chose the one in Virginia because it catered to students in her situation.

When she was halfway through her bachelor's degree in psychology, Cramer said she decided college was not right for her at that point in her life.

"The whole academics atmosphere was not for

me," Cramer said. "I learn better hands on."

She said that lack of interest and boredom were both factors in her decision.

"I was always pushed down the academic path," she said. "That is probably also why I didn't follow the academic path."

After quitting college, Cramer said she returned to Omaha and tried to reevaluate what she wanted.

She said she found the challenge she was looking for by working with cars.

"College was severely boring for me," Cramer said. "That's why I wanted to do automobiles because I didn't know much about them."

She said she is now taking classes to become an automotive technician and working at an automotive parts store. Cramer said she knows her choice was an odd one, but is happy with her decision for right now.



Former student Liz Cramer now works at Advanced Auto Parts after dropping out of college.

War forces 'real world' on students

By Charlie Wence

The bell rings as third hour begins in room 229.

Desks that were once filled by 18-year-old males in Ginger Riffel's senior English class are now empty.

They have all been called-up and sent to Iraq to fight in the war.

Is this real? Could this happen in the future?

Some say it that it's a possibility. If worst comes to worst, in a time when war is going on, situations like these could occur.

War forces many people to think of the possibility that students who walk today's hallways will fight on tomorrow's front lines.

Things can change very quickly.

Senior ROTC student Greg Merrill said if he was forced to go to war, he would. Although he is 18 and eligible to fight, he said he is in no position to leave for battle.

"I support the cause, but I'm just not ready to go," he said.

Junior ROTC student Melissa Miller said while she knows serving her country is the right thing to do, she would do anything to avoid combat.

"I'm terrified," she said. "Things like bio-terrorism could kill or make people ill for a long time. That really scares me."

Miller said she wouldn't mind serving in a position away from conflict in the United States.

"The military offers lots of jobs in the bio-technology sector," she said. "I'm kind of tossing around that idea right now."

Math teacher Susan Drumm said the last thing she would see PATRIOTISM, page 8

INSIDE

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40 pages



Safety Tightrope

Though administration has usually done a good job, safety at a school the size of Central is a feat in and of itself.

OPINION, 16B



Devon at Large

A Register staff member experiences the hockey rink and what it's like to locker box after a hard practice.

SPORTS, 33D



"Cradle 2 the Grave"

This action movie, with weak plot and superficial acting, dies before the opening credits begin to roll.

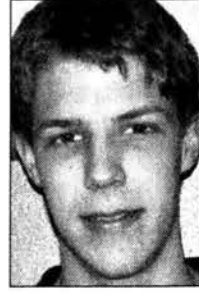
A&E, 18C

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Fifteen DECA students move on to nationals

Over 70 Central marketing students attended the Nebraska State DECA competition in Lincoln. Students competed in events covering every aspect of the marketing program.

The students competed in these events either individually or in teams of two in their competitions.



Marketing teacher Harry Gaylor said that out of 35 possible competitions to be entered in, Central was entered into 20.

Students then participated in various events for their competition.

Many students took one or two written tests, and then did a role-play situation that pertained to the event that they were competing in.

The written tests consisted of general subject tests and marketing math tests.

In the role-plays, students had to analyze a problem and present a solution to the judges at the competition.

Marketing teacher Alice Bunz said that she was pleased with the results.

"Consistently over the past 15 years, we have taken people to nationals from Central High," Bunz said.

Bunz said the top three students from all of the events, in their own separate category, will move on to attend the International Career Development Conference held in Orlando, Florida.

Senior Scott O'Dell competed in the financial services team-decision-making category.

"Last year, we ranked second in competition, and this year we placed first and were state champions in our category," O'Dell said.

O'Dell is now headed to Orlando, Fla. to compete in nationals along with 14 other students who also qualified for the national competition.

Students' work sent to national contest

Central students placed high at the Scholastic Arts Competition held at the Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) Teacher Administration Center (TAC) Building.

Larry Andrews, the head of Central's art department, said that each art teacher has the option of selecting 25 pieces of art from this semester and the second semester of the previous year to be entered into the competition.

"Teachers who have advanced art classes can submit portfolios, which consist of eight bodies of art for the competition," Andrews said.

He said that the competition is open to everyone in the country. He also said that the competition is an indication of the quality of the art program at Central.

"If the students win, they move on to the national competition in New York," Andrews said.

Every work of art chosen will be shown in the Corcoran Gallery in Washington D.C. The official awards ceremony is held at the Kennedy Center.

Andrews said that out of 5,000 entries, only five students were selected to win the American Vision Award. Senior Will Anderson was one of the selected five.

Central won 12 gold and silver keys at the event and received 28 awards all together in the competition.

International language honors new inductees

Over 150 students and parents attended the French, German and Spanish national honors societies induction ceremony held March 27.

The candle-light event was held in the Central High courtyard and was followed by a dessert reception.



Bev Fellman, international language department head, said that the event was special.

"It recognizes those students who have worked hard, and these kids will end up speaking the best because they have well-defined study skills," Fellman said.

Fellman said that students who were inducted had to have special requirements.

She said that some requirements included an average of the student's grade point average (GPA) and the grade they obtained in their international language classes the last three semesters.

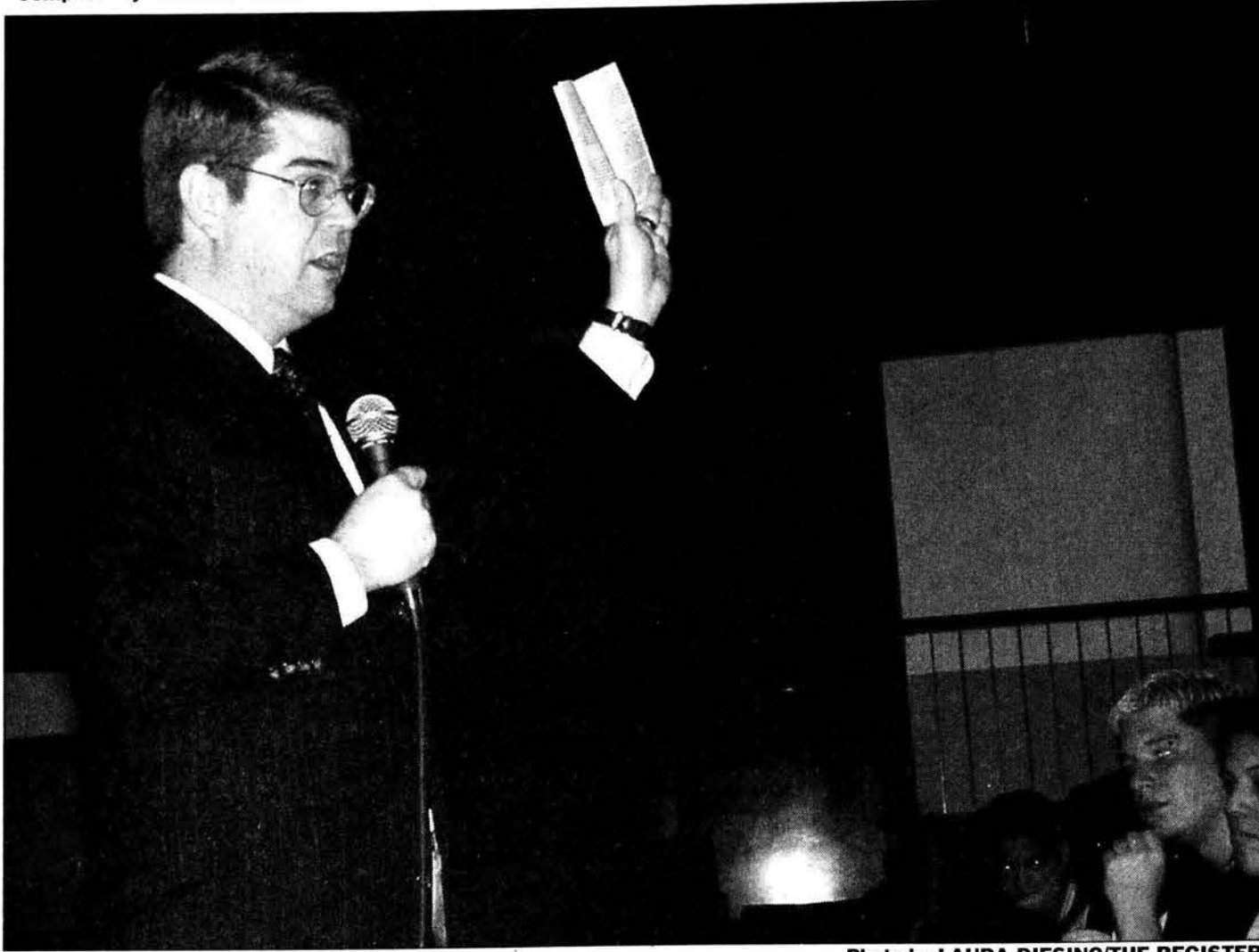
"The students are now inducted into the national chapter and are now on the national register," Fellman said.

Senior Vanessa Brutsche gave advice to the new inductees about the importance of how Americans need to know how to communicate with people throughout the world.

"Overall, the students were dressed nicely and enjoyed the evening with their parents," Fellman said.

Calendar

Compiled by Michael Smith



Nebraska Republican Congressman Lee Terry spoke to Central students about issues dealing with politics and students on March 13. Terry is serving his third term in the House.

Congressman Terry speaks to students

By Laura Diesing

Nebraska Congressman Lee Terry visited the Central auditorium in an effort to spark an interest in local and national politics among the students.

"He did a pretty good job," senior Brian Fahey, president of the Student Democrats, said. "I thought he was very informative about his opinions."

During Terry's last visit to Central, he was asked by Fahey and Patti Gatzke, Central's after school activities coordinator, to come back again to talk to the students if he ever found time in his schedule.

"We're always busy, but any requests from a high school take priority," Terry said. "I love going to high schools. So much more diverse questions are asked by high school students."

Right now, Terry is working on the energy and commerce committee to put an end to the United States' dependence on foreign oil and to clean up the atmosphere.

Before giving the students a chance to ask him some questions, Terry spent a large amount of time speaking enthusiastically about what the Constitution meant to him and its role in the lives of everyone today. He also briefly described his duties and what it was like becoming a Nebraska Congressman at such a young age. Terry was the 11th youngest Congressman at the age of 35 when he was voted into the House of Representatives in 1998.

"He spent 20 minutes on the Constitution," senior Adam Christensen said. "I wanted to hear about Homeland Security and the Aids epidemic in Africa."

Christensen said that he had many other questions but that Terry spent all of the time speaking about the same thing. Terry did take time to address Gov. Johanns' cuts to the education budget.

"I understand that Medicaid and education are two of the largest sections of the state budget," Terry said. "I would hope that the governor would look in different places, but I'm not sure what he's done to find it."

Several students brought up their growing concern about the United States' war against Iraq.

"I am thoroughly convinced there will be no change in Iraq unless we show force," Terry said. "We are not prepared. We need to team up with our first responders. It's a bizarre time."

April

12 (Sat.) ACT Exam

Juniors and seniors who signed up for the test will have an opportunity to take the ACT Exam. Students should be at school no later than 8 a.m.

12 (Sat.) Prom

The doors to the courtyard will open at 7:30 p.m. Students can dance under the beautiful decorations to music supplied by an in house DJ. The dance will end at 11:30 p.m.

16 (Weds.) Graduation Announcements Delivered

Seniors who ordered their graduation announcements through the Willsie Cap and Gown Company will be able to pick them up today if they missed the previous pickup date April 3-4.

17 (Thurs.) Spring Recess

There will be no school for students April 17-22. There will be a teacher inservice day on the April 22.

23 (Weds.) Fourth Quarter Progress Reports

Students will be receiving their fourth quarter progress reports. These help the students and their parents monitor the progress of their grades throughout the semester.

May

3 (Sat.) Spring Play - "Tom Jones"

The drama department's annual spring play, "Tom Jones," will be held at Central High's Auditorium at 7 p.m.

3 (Sat.) SAT Exam at Central

The SAT exam, which is necessary for acceptance into many colleges, will be held at Central at 8 a.m. Students must preregister for the test, which will last for about three hours.

4 (Sun.) Senior Recognition Ceremony

Seniors are recognized for their outstanding academic achievement during the 2002-2003 school year. Scholarships are given out to students at the ceremony.

5 (Mon.) AP English Exam

Seniors who have been taking Advanced Placement English this year will have the opportunity to earn college credit by taking the national exam.

6 (Tues.) Vocal Music Concert

The vocal music concert will be held May 6 in the Central Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., and will be the last vocal music concert of the school year.

6 (Tues.) AP Calculus Exam

Students who have been taking Advanced Placement Calculus AB or BC will have the chance to earn college credit by taking the national exam.

7 (Weds.) JROTC Recognition Ceremony

The JROTC recognition ceremony for the 2002-2003 school year will be held May 7 to recognize the JROTC students.

7 (Weds.) AP Computer Science and Spanish Exams

Students who have been taking either Advanced Placement Computer Science or Spanish will have the chance to earn college credit by taking the national exam.

8 (Thurs.) AP French Exams

Students in Advanced Placement French will have the chance to earn college credit by taking the national exam.

Phone-a-Thon raises funds for scholarships

The second annual Phone-a-Thon was a complete success, raising approximately \$15,000.

Last year, the Phone-a-Thon took the place of the Central Scholarship Auction and was significantly helpful in raising money for student scholarships as well as for teacher grants.

The profits were split up and distributed in thirds among scholarships for seniors, the PEP Foundation and the teacher grants.

The Phone-a-Thon was also closely related to several other activities, which also provided income for the scholarships and grants.

Included in these were both the Patron Party, consisting of dinner and oral auction, and the E-bay auction.

Nearly 30 students came in to help with the fund-raising and seemed to have fun helping out.

"The students did a really good job," Patti Gatzke said. Gatzke was the coordinator of the fund-raisers.

Also helping out were several students' parents including Regina Wilson, Marla Norton and Wendy Monbouquette.

"I had a great time helping out with the fund-raising, and I'm glad that I took the time to help out," junior Kathryn Johnson said.

The Phone-a-Thon took place from March 2-6. The Patron Party was on March 8 and the E-bay auction lasted from Feb. 2 through March 9. Organizers considered both a success.

War postpones AP Biology trip

With the coffee sales ending, the hopes of the Advanced Placement (AP) Biology class' trip to the Bahamas are almost gone.

Sandra McCreight, AP Biology teacher, said for the duration of the winter school year, the AP Biology class has been selling

chocolate and coffee with the hopes of raising funds for its school-sponsored trip to the Bahamas.

The proposed trip was to consist of visiting the native island of Eleuthera June 4-10 of this year. McCreight said that for the week, the students were to distribute books, which they had collected to help the children of the island.

Senior Kim Pitlor said if they were to go, they would get to familiarize themselves with the animals so that they would know what they are studying about in class.

A change may have occurred that is limiting the class from going on the trip to the island.

Luanne Nelson, spokesperson for Omaha Public Schools (OPS) said that due to the international crisis, the superintendent has requested that no Omaha Public Schools' students travel out of the country on district or school-sponsored trips for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year and the summer.

So for now, McCreight said that she will meet with the parents to look at other options.

On March 27 at 6 p.m. McCreight met with parents to discuss the matter, and brought their attention that students would no longer be going to the Bahamas.

She said that other trip possibilities would be going to a zoo out of state or to Sea World in San Diego. She said all they can do is wait and hope for the best.

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McCreight

ADVERTISEMENT

AP classes prove to be asset

By Aaron Maurice

Senior Christopher Gorga takes the usual walk to Advanced Placement (AP) European History after first hour every day.

This class is the first of his next four consecutive AP classes, a common trend among many Central juniors and seniors.

"The trend to AP comes at a high price for many students," AP history teacher Carol Hipp said.

The classes are designed to challenge students more than regular or honors courses. Another benefit is students can take tests at the end of the year that may earn them college credit, she said.

Gorga said he attempted three tests last year, but only received a high enough score to get credit for one.

He said that taking the classes was worth the time, despite his performance on the tests.

"I took them (the classes) because they were harder," Gorga said.

The problem with earning the credit, however, is it takes a considerable amount of time to prepare for the tests, math teacher Brent Larson said.

Larson teaches AP Calculus

BC. Larson said that it is expected that students put a lot of effort into learning so they have a higher chance of doing well on the test.

"Why take an AP course if you don't plan to take the test?" Larson said.

Hipp said one problem with some AP courses is that the students do not cover enough material before they take the test.

The result, she said, is disgruntled students who spent \$80 for a test only to receive a low score and no credit.

Larson said he thinks the situation at Central is different, however.

He said many students who sign up for the classes and extra work do this because they want to be challenged or earn credit.

"They (the students) came to Central for academics," Larson said. "It's a combination of high expectations and students."

This attitude is evident in most students who opt to take more challenging classes.

Senior Vanessa Brutsche said she takes her AP classes for the same reason that she plans to attend college; to simply learn more.

"It's intellectual curiosity," Brutsche said.

Senior Melissa Hepburn attempted five AP tests last year, two of which were not even offered as classes at Central.

She said that her motivation for taking the classes and tests was so that she could get an early start on college, earning credit while still in high school.

Hipp said Central students are successful in taking their AP classes because expectations have been established and demands are made of each student.

Hipp said Central was among the first of the OPS schools to adopt the AP program more than 20 years ago and the tradition has always been that the student takes the class to prepare for the test.

"Central teachers expect students to try for college credit," Hipp said.

She said the traditions established at Central create an environment that encourages students to take these classes with the structure to ensure success.

The results of this year's AP courses will be evaluated soon after students begin taking tests in early May.

If tradition holds, many juniors and seniors will receive the credit they worked for in this past year, Hipp said.

Central to be pilot school for new SAT

By Jim Schalles

Central was selected to host an SAT pilot program, for which several students eagerly prepared.

Counselor Lynda Molyneaux said she volunteered Central for the program for two main reasons.

The first and most important reason was to give students a chance to see the new format for the widely used SAT Exam, she said.

"It's good for us," Molyneaux said. "This way, the juniors will be able to see what the new format is like."

The parts of the test that have changed include the math section, as well as a new writing section.

The scores will be used for several things. However, since they are not official scores, they cannot be submitted to colleges or places of business.

The scores will primarily be used for the students to see how they compare to the national standards, Molyneaux said. Junior John Friend took the test and said it was a positive experience.

"It was harder than I thought it would be," he said. "But I think it will help out with my SAT scores."

Molyneaux said that questionnaires about the new SAT were sent out to several local schools and she quickly submitted Central's. Soon after, Central was accepted as the new testing

site.

The test didn't cost anything, which is why some students were so eager to volunteer to take it. About ten of the students who registered didn't show up for the 7:45 a.m. test March 15.

"I overslept, and by the time I got up, I figured it was too late to get anything out of it," junior Anthony Ewing said.

He said he thought it would have been worth while and regrets oversleeping.

Junior Alex Olson said he was surprised more of the people that signed up didn't end up coming.

"I thought it was beneficial," Olson said. "I think it was worth showing up for the early morning test."

Tuition for Nebraska universities may increase as much as 10 percent in fall

By Michael Smith

Senior Lindsay Coppock said that with the proposed tuition increase in Nebraska, it's going to be harder to come up with enough money to pay for the necessities of being in college.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents will decide in April whether or not to accept President L. Dennis Smith's plan to increase Nebraska's college tuition by 10 percent.

Coppock said she will be attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) in the fall.

"I'm choosing to go to UNL to have my own independence, but will still be able to come home on the weekends," she said.

But she said her parents find the prospect of tuition daunting even without the tuition hike.

Joe Rowson, director of communications for the Nebraska

University (NU) system, said that the increase was necessary because the university's funding was \$50 million a year less than its peer institutions.

Rowson said that the Nebraska Board of Regents sets the tuition rates for UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) and the University Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

"This year, as of yet, the Nebraska Board of Regents has not set the tuition rates for this fall semester," Rowson said.

Rowson said that, as of right now, the NU's proposed 6 percent budget cut would cause a number of things to happen.

Rowson said that if the NU system doesn't get the money from the state, then it has to get it from tuition.

"Current NU programs may

suffer without a tuition increase, but the university will not decide how to allocate funds until the amount of revenues from the state and tuition are determined," Rowson said.

College counselor Richard Servis said that it would hurt prospective students who might attend NU schools because it costs more money.

"But you are still going to get a good deal because it is still cheaper than other states," Servis said.

Servis said he thinks that the tuition hike will not discourage students from staying in state.

"When it comes down to it, in my opinion, 500 bucks is not going to make a real big difference in student's choices," he said.

Rowson said in 1998-99, UNL spent 60.7 percent of its budget on educational costs, which

included classroom instruction, technological support and libraries.

Smith said, in presentation to the NU Academic Senate March 6, these expenditures exclude self-supporting programs and departments, such as residence halls, bookstores and the athletic department.

Rowson said that NU allocates money differently than its peer institutions because it is a land grant school. Therefore, a greater portion of the university's mission is research and service that benefits Nebraska.

"But one of the university's goals is to increase the portion of the budget it spends on education," Rowson said.

Rowson said that if tuition would be kept the same, then student-recruiting programs, especially programs to increase NU's diversity, would also suffer.

Rowson said that another benefit of the tuition hike would be an increase in applications for admission to NU schools because students would perceive them as having higher-quality education.

However, James Griesen, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said an increase in tuition would cause a decrease in enrollment.

"Many students have trouble finding money for their NU education," he said.

Greisen said that when recruiting students for school, they have found that the cost of a school is a significant factor in the student's decision making process.

"The tuition increase would also improve NU's educational quality," Rowson said. "Even if there is an increase in tuition, it still will be a bargain. NU must pledge to keep the quality high of our undergraduate educational programs."



College Corner

Elizabeth City State University

Location: Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Admission: 71 percent admitted

Type: Four-year college

Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,866

Freshman Admissions: Recommended courses are 4 years of English, 3 years of math, 2 years of social studies, 2 years of science (1 must be lab), 2 years of foreign language, 1 year of history.

Application Deadline: N/A

Chatham College

Location: Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Admission: 78 percent admitted

Type: Four-year women's college

Undergraduate Enrollment: 567

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Biology, Performing Arts, Social Sciences and History, Psychology and Communications. Recommended courses are 4 years of English, 3 years of math, 3 years of history, 3 years of science and 2 years of social studies.

Application Deadline: None

University of Houston

Location: Houston, Texas

Admission: 79 percent admitted

Type: Four-year college

Undergraduate enrollment: 24,370

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Marketing, Psychology, Engineering Technologies, Social Sciences and History, Interdisciplinary Studies and Biology. Recommended courses are 4 years of English, 3 years of math, 2 years of social studies, 2 years of science (both must be lab), 2 years of foreign language and 1 year of history.

Application Deadline: Feb. 1

All information courtesy of the College Board



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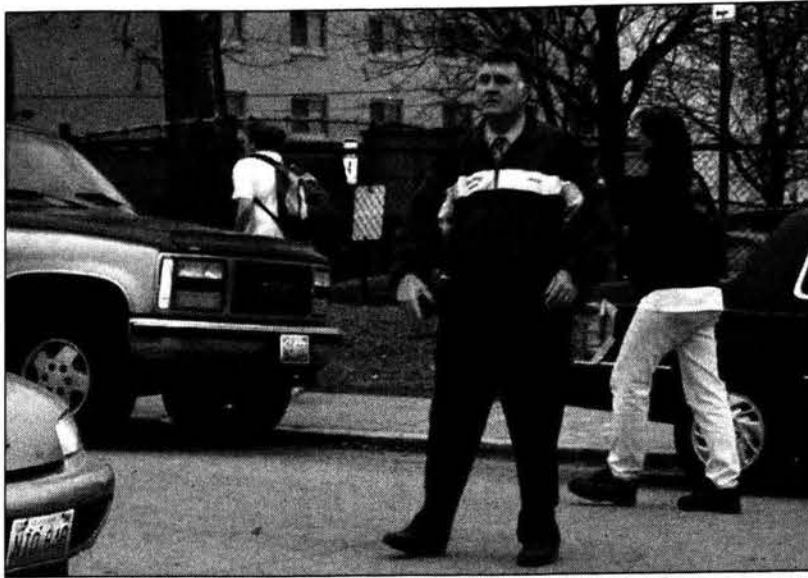


Safety in schools:

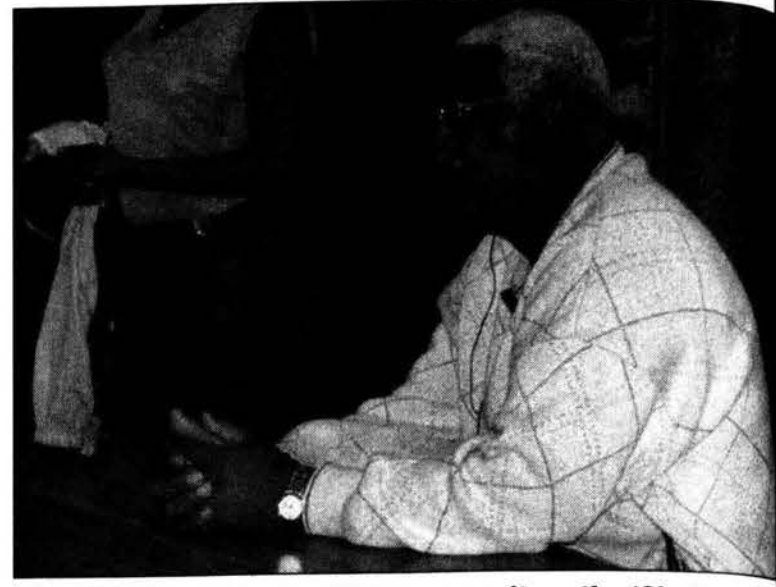
Weapons and danger in school are major issues. For the most part, people want to be safe. Over the last few years, schools have looked more closely at the overall safety of individual schools. From metal detectors and pat-down searches to security guards, measures have been taken to ensure the safety of students and faculty within the buildings. In this



Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson, and math teachers Angela Meyer and Lisa Probst patrol the two side before school. Anderson has a walkie-talkie in case she needs assistance.



Dean of students Dave Anderson stands outside during dismissal to monitor students as they leave school.



Security guard Charles Williams monitors the 'C' after school to make sure nothing happens.

All photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Overall, Central a safe school, principal says

from SECURITY, page 1

show off and try to gain respect from others."

Smith said he hasn't ever been in fights involving weapons while at school, but he has had a gun pulled on him outside of school. For the most part, he said he thinks Central is safe because most students have the common sense to keep "problems" out of school.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he thinks safety in the school can be attributed to students, teachers, administrators and security personnel.

He said one of the more potentially dangerous situations occurred on Jan. 9, 2003 when a student brought a loaded gun to school.

According to a police report, a student, whose name could not be mentioned because he is not of legal age, allegedly brought a black, 9 mm handgun with a full magazine into the school. The student then allegedly gave the gun to a second student in the bathroom.

"The gun was later found by a third student who was in the bathroom to get some toilet paper to blow his nose," Bexten said. "He couldn't get it out and pounded on the dispenser and the gun fell out."

He said the student who found the gun immediately informed counselor Cathy Hanrahan who secured the bathroom while the student informed Officer Jesse Randall, Central's Student Resource Officer at the time.

"It could have been really bad," Bexten said. "But it was handled exactly how it was supposed to."

Smith said he heard about the incident because the student who originally brought the gun was a close friend. He said he wasn't surprised when he heard who it was.

Junior Melissa Miller said the first time she heard about the gun incident

was on the news that night.

"I think it's crazy that kids our age are even able to get their hands on guns, let alone bring them to school," she said. Bexten said administration and faculty continuously discuss what to do when certain issues arise.

For example, if there is a bomb threat instead of evacuating the building, teachers are quietly informed by security and administration and told to make sure there is nothing suspicious in their classrooms.

Bexten said this procedure was recently put into action on when a bomb threat was found on a piece of paper in one of the first floor bathrooms. Though nothing happened, teachers were made aware of the situation.

"When I was at Lewis and Clark we had a few bomb threats where we evacuated the building and myself and two other administrators went around the building checking each room," he said. "But we realized that a teacher is going to know exactly what seems out of place in their classroom much better than I would."

Bexten said the goal is to make it so things like the gun incident don't happen in the first place.

Security guard Charles Williams said the security team makes a point to be visible in multiple areas of the building at all times to make sure things are going smoothly and without disruption in the halls.

All security personnel and administration carry around two-way radios so they can be contacted whenever they are needed.

Nicole Regan, dean of students, said the radios are very useful and are a necessity to the job. This became even more evident to her when her radio was stolen out of her office over the weekend of March 22. She said someone got on top

of the lockers, opened her window and crawled in. Some of her things were rearranged, but the only thing taken was the radio.

"It's a \$200 radio," she said. "It just goes to show that you can never be too careful."

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said she thinks Central is as safe as it can be with as many entrances and exits the building has. She said there is always the chance that people from outside the building could get in through doors other than the West Entrance.

"We can't be everywhere at the same time," she said. "But we do the best we can for the size of the building and the amount of students."

Kirksey said she doesn't worry as much about the students inside the school as she does the people outside of the building.

"Unlike some schools, which have a campus to act as a sort of buffer, Central is right in the middle of the city," Bexten said. "There isn't much protection from what could happen out on Dodge, Davenport or 20th street."

That is one of the reasons dean of students John Hammil carries around a video camera during dismissal. The camera acts as a way to document anyone on the campus who shouldn't be there. Hammil said it also acts as a deterrent to fights.

He is usually located halfway between Dodge and Davenport streets, so if there is a problem he can get to either side of the school easily.

He said students see the camera and tend to shy away from it. But in the case that something should happen after school, the video camera is there for documentation.

"It's a nice thing to have because it is difficult to refute a video tape," he said.

Senior Caleb Bentley said he thinks

the camera could deter some students, but on the other hand he said if students expect Hammil to be taping fights, they may just fight for show. Bentley said he thinks there are already an unusually high amount of fights in the school.

"But I might just think that because I'm not a violent person and I don't fight," he said.

He said he doesn't think there is a way to prevent many of the fights that happen mainly because of the amount of people in the school and the fact that some people simply aren't going to get along.

Some people resort to violence before they take the time to talk through an argument, he said.

Sophomore Jenny Pirruccello said she feels safe in the school because she doesn't think students want to hurt the whole population of the school.

"You just don't see a lot of students wanting to rob or shoot up the school," she said.

Bentley said he thinks security does a good job for the most part, but he still doesn't think he is that safe.

"I have to think how safe I am going to a school where there are cops walking around," he said.

But Student Resource Office (SRO) James Stokes said the SRO program was established in the schools to help break down negative feeling students have towards the police. It is also an asset for school officials to have an officer in the school in event of an altercation or incident, he said.

Stokes said he hopes to see the SROs stay in the schools, but there is still a chance the program will be taken out. Miller said she thinks it would be a bad idea to take the SRO program out of the schools because they do so much for the safety of the school.

"I would like to think Central is safe,

but every time I start thinking like that I hear about threats, fights and weapons being in the school," she said.

TAC school safety and climate program administrator Roddie Miller (not related to the student source) said she expects some form of the program to stay in the school.

"Because of the budget we still don't know the amount of police presence will be able to keep in the school," Roddie said. "I think the program is a good thing I don't want to see it go."

Physical education teacher Kevin Chavez said she thinks the SRO program is a positive thing that is just one of the things to keep the school that much safer.

She said she has always felt safe at Central, but that she is not a student who doesn't know how she would feel if she was.

"The students obviously see more than I do and may have more of a reason to feel unsafe," Chavez said.

She said she is more scared to go into her basement at night than she is to go down into the unlit locker room.

English teacher Deron Larson said though he has had to break up a few fights, he thinks Central is a safe school.

"It's odd to have to break up fights just because I don't have to break them up on a regular basis," he said.

Larson said he has never felt physically threatened even if a student lost his cool.

Senior Brandy Sherrod said though she has never seen a weapon in school she said if she ever did, the first thing she would do is report it.

"People in the school want to be safe," she said. "They are going to be selfish and tell on other students if they see weapons around."

Bexten said he thinks Central is as safe as it can be for an inner-city school with over 2,500 students.

Weapons according to the handbook

Students may not be in possession of weapons of any type. If at any time a student discovers that he or she has possession of a weapon other than a firearm/gun the student must immediately turn the weapon in to the nearest teacher, counselor, administrator or other school staff person. If the student immediately turns in a weapon, the student will not face the consequences for the weapon possession. If, however, the student continues to possess the weapon, to go on to further classes, or display the weapon to other students or otherwise does not take the immediate action of reporting, the student will be subject to expulsion.

Posted in all administrator's offices and in some places around the school is a notice to all students about some items that are considered weapons.

The notice reads as follows:

The items below are used as tools in some of your classes:

X-Acto knives, art knives, any item having a blade, blades of any kind, scissors, kitchen knife, awls, screwdrivers, punches hammers, vise grips and any other tool that may be used in a class.

Take the tools out of class or bring them from home and they become weapons. Possession of these items may result in expulsion for two semesters for knives and one semester for unauthorized tools.

Box cutters



Punchers



Anything with a blade



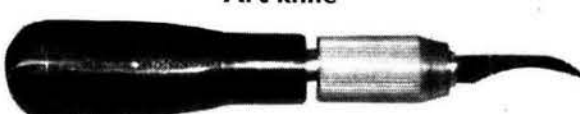
Needle nose pliers



Awl



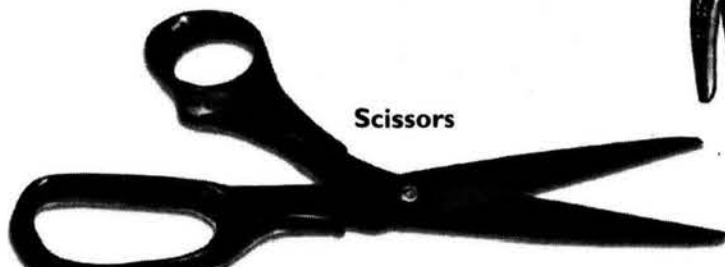
Art knife



Clip



Scissors



X-Acto knife



Vise grips



Razor Blade



Hammer



Screw Driver



Gun: Glock 9



Bullet



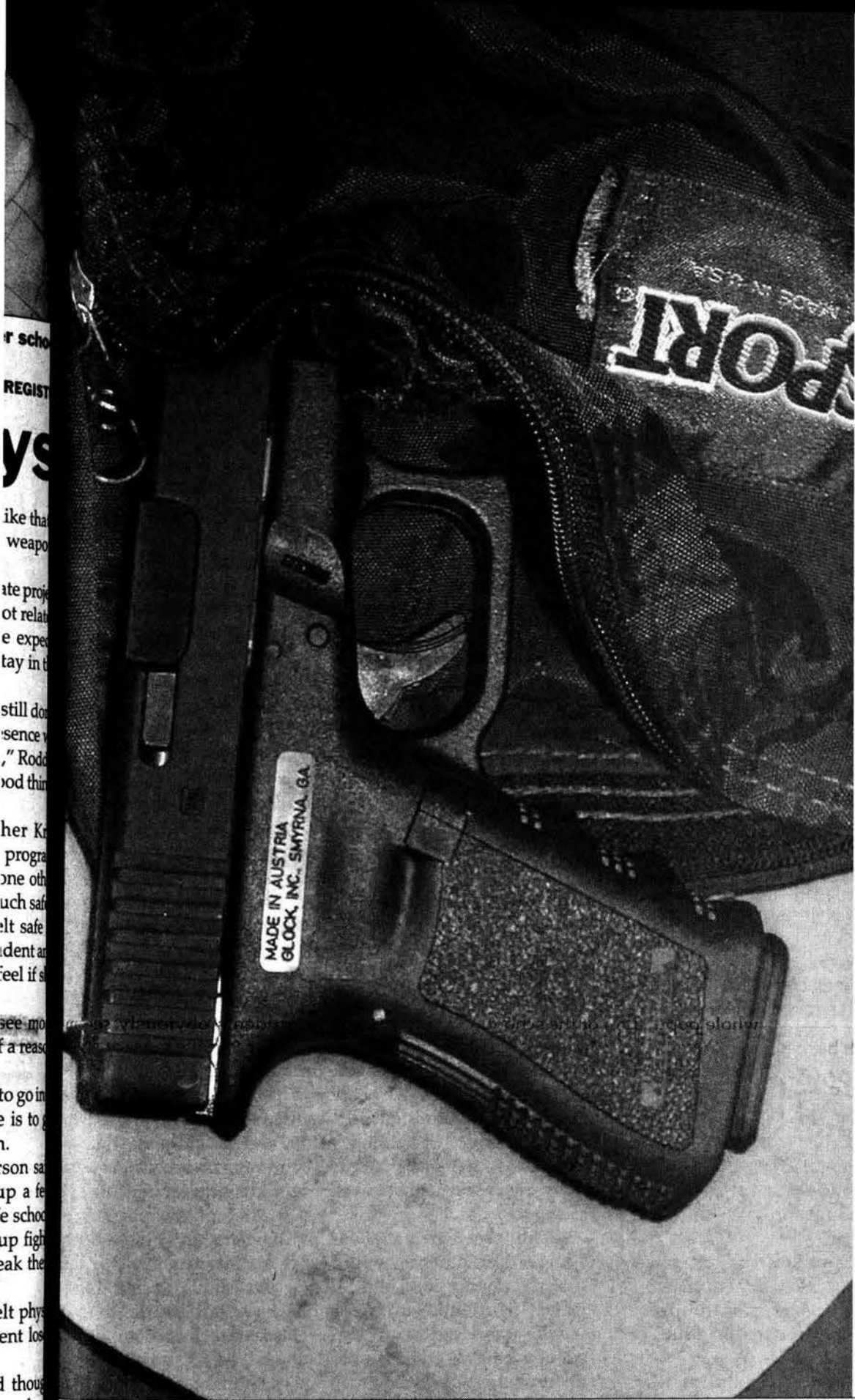
Is Central Safe?

In the few years there have been reports about school shootings around the county. This has made officials notify administrators with two-way radios and police officers inside the schools, certain measures have spread, the *Register* looks at how the most populated school in the state is kept safe.



Student and Faculty Survey Results

The Register sent out a school-wide survey asking both faculty and students questions about school safety.



STUDENT SURVEY

1. Do you feel safe at Central?
60% YES 40% NO
2. Have you seen weapons in school?
33% YES 67% NO
3. Do teachers effectively control students?
40% YES 60% NO
4. Do you like having the Student Resource Officer in the school?
71% YES 29% NO
5. Is it possible to make Central completely safe?
23% YES 77% NO
6. Do you think security does a good job?
79% YES 21% NO
8. How many fights have you seen at Central?
0: 8% 1-5: 32%
6-10: 25% 11+: 35%

TEACHER SURVEY

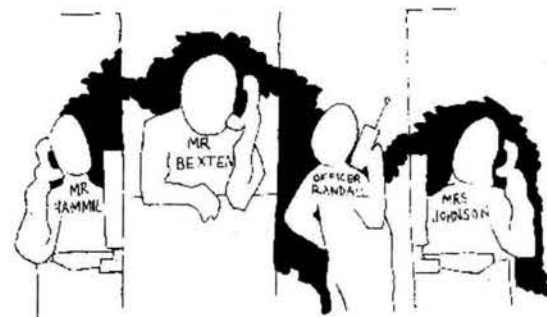
1. Do you feel safe at Central?
92% YES 8% NO
2. Have you seen weapons in school?
9% YES 91% NO
3. Do teachers affectively control students?
69% YES 31% NO
4. How available is security?
a. Always 52% c. Hardly ever 2%
b. Sometimes 44% d. Never 2%
5. Have you ever had to break up a fight?
77% YES 23% NO
6. Is it possible to make Central completely safe?
71% YES 29% NO
7. How well do teachers keep track of students?
a. Very well 34%
b. Adequately 55%
c. Poorly 12%
8. Do you feel safe in the classroom?
99% YES 1% NO

All Central students, teachers and faculty polled
Graphic by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

On Jan. 9, 2003 a student brought a loaded 9mm handgun to school. In the morning, administrators were notified that a weapon might be in the school. Below is an account of the events that transpired while officials tried to figure where the gun was and who the culprits were. Because of OPS confidentiality policies, names could not be published.

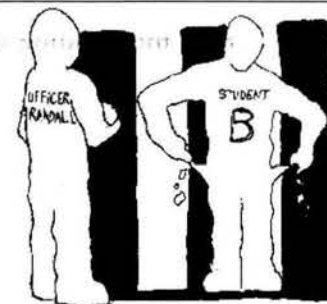


1 At approximately 8:55 a.m., Student A reported to dean of students John Hammil that he had seen a gun in Student B's possession.



2 Hammil informed Student Resource Officer Jess Randall, dean of students Julie Johnson and Principal Jerry Bexten.

3 Security brought Student B to Johnson's office.



4 Student B was searched as were his hallway and gym lockers. Nothing was recovered.

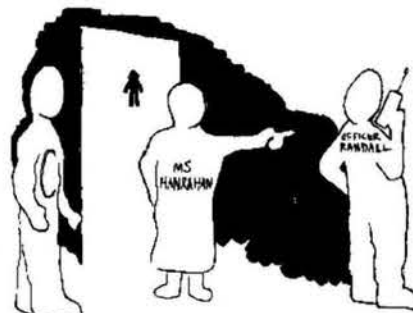


5 At approximately 9:20 a.m., Bexten was notified of the results from the search.

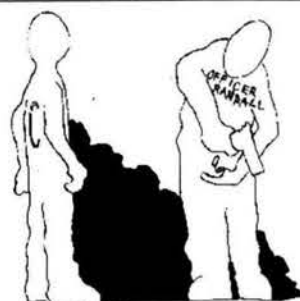


6 Administrators, security and Officer Randall begin to identify students associated with Student B to begin searching other lockers.

7 At approximately 10:05 a.m., Student C discovers the weapon in the bathroom on the third floor. He immediately tells counselor Cathy Hanrahan, who sends him to get Officer Randall.



8 Student C immediately notified Hanrahan who secured the restroom on the third floor.



9 Officer Randall secured the weapon.

10 The investigation then continued until school officials and police officers verified how the weapon was brought to school. The students were arrested and the code of conduct was applied.

Information courtesy of Jerry Bexten
Illustrations by CONNOR MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Resource officer happy to finally be at Central

By Paula Salhany

Though it may seem like a long shot to go from majoring in accounting to being a police officer, it was the logical path for Central's new Student Resource Officer (SRO) James Stokes.

"My buddy from high school, who I went to college with, had always wanted to be a cop and I wanted to be an accountant," Stokes said.

But after his best friend fell off the back of a motorcycle and died, he started to think about going into law enforcement. He said he wasn't enjoying accounting as much as he thought he would and he wanted to honor the memory of his friend.

Being in law enforcement had always intrigued him, and when he started to take classes in civil law, it became a passion.

Once in the police force, he said he worked the midnight shift of the uniformed patrol, which he said was a stressful, yet enjoyable job.

He said he enjoyed his late-night shift when the SRO program began. He and his partner were asked if they would be interested in going into the schools and furthering the education of students. They both agreed and had to go through training and an interviewing session.

"Central was actually my first choice," he said.

But because Officer Jerry Paul, Central's first SRO, was a graduate and already knew some of the students and faculty, Stokes said he didn't get his first choice. Instead, he was assigned to Blackburn, an alternative school

in Omaha Public Schools.

"I liked Blackburn a lot," he said. "Everyone makes it out to be the bad school, but because there are fewer students to each teacher, students don't get away with much."

He said after Blackburn he worked at Beveridge for a few weeks and then came to Central when he heard Officer Jess Randall was going back to the Police Academy.

"I'm really happy to be at Central," he said. "I enjoy working with the students because (students) still have dreams. Me on the other hand, I'm already grown up. I know what I'm doing. (Students) still have something to work up to."

Stokes said the whole point of the SRO's job is to get kids to trust the police and to get kids to stop thinking the police are always the enemy.

He said he thinks the program has been working well and he tries to make the students he comes in contact with feel comfortable around him.

"Some kids tend to think of cops as the stereotypical state trooper with the mirrored glasses, stiff hat and 100 percent business attitude," he said. "But I try to leave my tough-guy demeanor at the door."

He said he likes being able to go into the classes and teach students about the laws.

Though there is talk of taking the SROs out of schools, Stokes said he hopes to see them stay.

"I know from talking to administration and the police department that people would like



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Officer James Stokes stands in front of his cruiser. Stokes said when he began working as a SRO, Central was his first choice.

to see the program stay, it's just a matter of the budget," Stokes said.

He said OPS officials and the mayor's office have said that they would like to keep the officers in the schools.

"I think the SRO program brings a lot to the schools," he

said. Meanwhile, Stokes will be in and around Central helping administrators and building a rapport with the students.

"I'm looking forward to helping create a safe atmosphere at Central," he said.

EDUCATION 2003

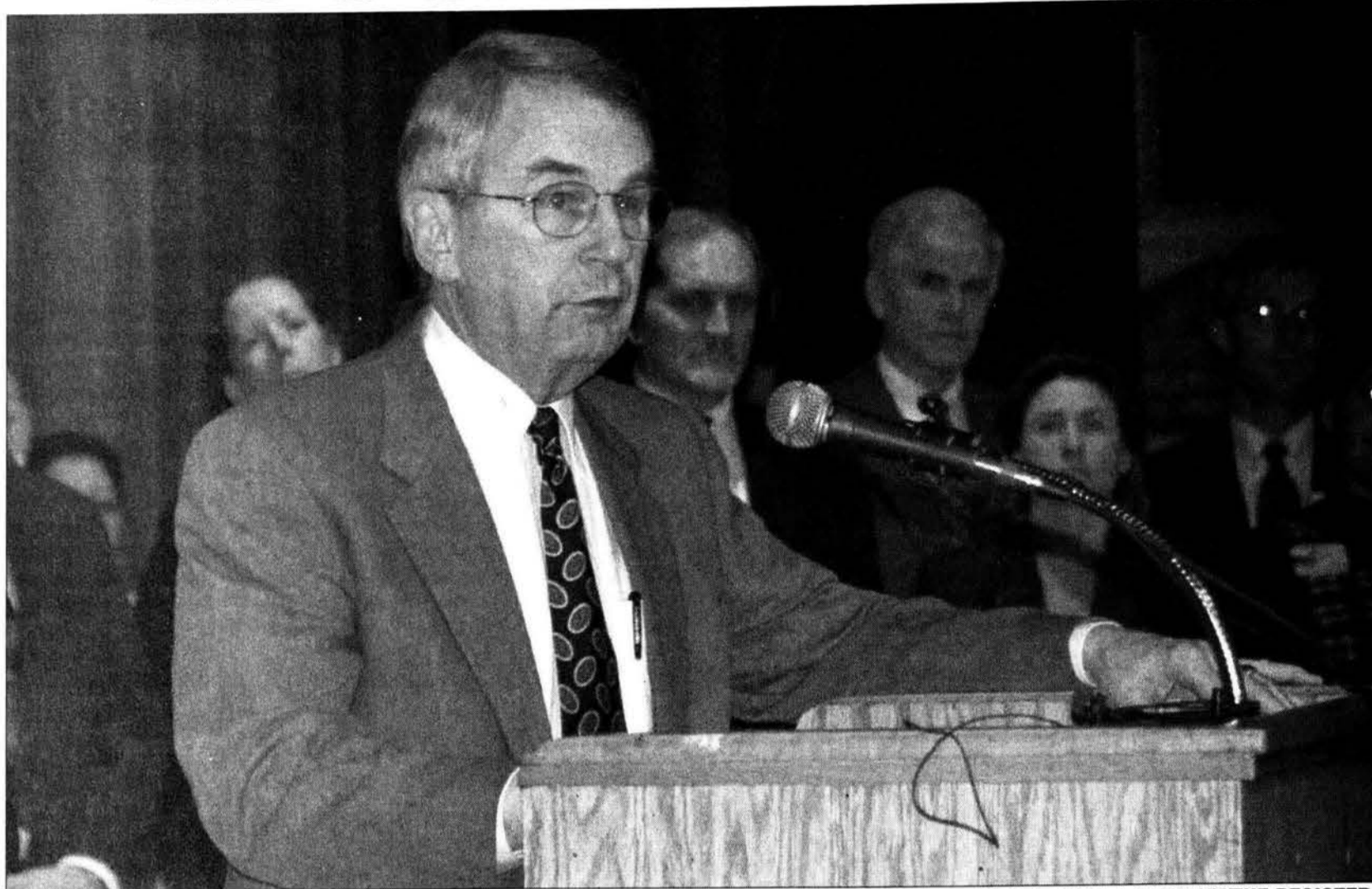


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER
School board president John Langan speaks at the educational press conference March 6 while several Central faculty members look on. Langan spoke at Central about the financial state of the Omaha Public School (OPS) district.

Budget questions raised at conference

from EDUCATION, page 1

ing. They will be up in arms," he said. "Even though I think the NSEA does a fine job supporting education, it is easy for the government to cut education funding."

Obermier said the state government had promised education money and now, not only is it taking it away, it is also adding mandates that have to be funded through the school districts' budgets.

"We could have to cut as many as 400 staff members and school programs could be cut,"

School Board President John Langan said.

Sophomore Mariah Bianchini said she thinks there are ways to cut other things like new buildings and monuments, before cutting education. She said she hopes that if the budget cuts go through education in OPS won't be compromised.

"I hope officials can find a way to cut minuscule things that won't impact students too much," Bianchini said.

"It's not just Nebraska with the budget problems," he said. "It's all over America. The

economy is simply not good enough and there is only so much that taxpayers will pay."

He said if he were talking to the average teenager, he would ask her if she had a never-ending allowance from her parents. He said Nebraska's budget is like any other budget and at some point, there is a limit to the spending.

"So far, education has been lucky," he said. "They have slipped by with few cuts over the past years, even though the state still has debt."

"I also think that if students are so frustrated with the situa-

tion, which I know many are, they need to do something about it," he said. "Voting isn't the only way to get a point across to the (state) government."

Langan said a budget cut of this magnitude would be devastating to the school district.

He said that even without the cuts, OPS will be going into the next fiscal year with a deficit and with the new budget cuts, it will be even worse.

Johanns said the budget is still not final, but that a more final version should cross his desk sometime in May.

Meeting gives chance for public to speak out

By Doug Meigs

The closest that the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) public input meetings came to Central was North High on March 18 at the school's Viking Center.

The meeting was the third of four gatherings for the school board to hear public suggestions concerning possible cuts in the new budget.

Other meetings were held at Burke, South and Northwest on different dates.

North junior Jerrid Kimball was the only student to speak at the meeting out of the 16 speakers there.

Although he said he felt somewhat unprepared compared to the other speakers that ranged from a former lawyer and current North teacher to a bus driver, he said it was a very informational experience.

However, he was disappointed that more individuals (especially students) did not take an interest.

"It's not of interest to young people," Kimball said. "They don't really care. They don't understand how it affects them."

OPS School Board member Richard Galusha began the meeting by introducing North's choir, which sang the national anthem, and served to point out his concern regarding possible cuts to music and arts programs in the schools.

"It's going to be difficult, but we're not telling you anything you don't know," he said before allowing speakers to suggest possible budget cuts.

Although the seating provided was limited to approximately 30, the room was packed.

Galusha said that he thought it was the most successful meeting that he had been a part of.

He said the attendance was greater than the previous meetings and the issues discussed covered a much wider array of topics.

He said only four individuals

spoke at the first meeting at Northwest and there were no more than five people in attendance total.

"I'm the type of person who loves to go out and meet people and hear what they have to say," he said. "Even criticism must be answered."

Among the issues raised, including perceived failure of the return to neighborhood schooling (which forced OPS to invest funds in renovating the schools), was the inefficiency of the current busing system and the inequity of the tax system.

One of the more vocal speakers at the meeting was Herbene Wax, a parent of a student in the OPS school district.

"If you're going to cut out art from the schools, you'll get graffiti on the buildings," he said.

The statement was one of many comments made by Wax, who addressed a wide variety of topics.

Animosities occasionally flared up between speakers and some-

times seemed to be directed at Galusha and some of the other board members in attendance at the meeting.

Ben Gray was sure to state that all the individuals present were in the same boat through their concern for public education.

Galusha said he and the 12 members of the school board will sit down and form a budget as soon as it is decided how much funding OPS will receive.

That could come at any time. Until then, he said they can only speculate what cuts will be made.

Once the budget is completed, he said the board will hold another series of public input meetings so that concerned members of the community can voice their opinion regarding the budget.

Galusha said he hopes for those meetings to take place sometime around June or July. He said only time will tell.

Alumnus plans to work in energy field after Harvard

By Charlie Wence

In his last semester at Harvard, Central alumnus Dave Rennard is almost ready to put his chemistry/physics major to work in the energy business. But first, he's going to take a year off to teach in Australia.

"After I teach math and physics in Australia, I'd like to get into wind energy," he said. "The California energy crisis and the war in Iraq really show that an alternative to fossil fuels is needed."

After finishing all of his required courses, Rennard is currently taking electives to enrich his knowledge in different subjects, he said.

In addition to his course work, Rennard participates in many different extracurricular activities at Harvard. He said he is involved in the Students for Space Exploration, Harvard Tetris Society, is head of the astronomy club and does improv comedy.

"I just tried out for the heck of it and they called me back," he said. "I've been doing it for three years now."

At the age of 16, Rennard developed his own mathematical theorem of representing factorials.

"It's not very useful, but it lets us know that not everything has been discovered yet," he said. "It gives hope that there's potential for all of us."

District attempts to improve with parent grading system

from PARENTS, page 1

involved. "Parents are involved because they love their kids," Nelson said. "Nobody can tell them to change their parenting."

Nelson said parents' involvement shows a value of appreciation for their child's work in school. Junior Sherry Wang said that her parents force pressure on her to do well in school.

Wang said when she was younger her parents would stress receiving good grades and paying attention in school. She said without her parent's guidance she would still apply herself just as much as she does now in school.

"I can get grounded for a two," Wang said. "But they try to teach me the importance of good grades."

She said she doesn't agree with judging the parents on their involvement with their children in school, because the administration won't really know the whole situation.

With one category being judged on is parent teacher conferences, Wang said that sometimes parents have other commitments.

She said they shouldn't be held at fault if they had to work during that time. Science teacher Meredith LeBlanc said parent teacher conferences aren't nearly enough time to tell the parents the circumstances with their child.

"Conferences only happen twice a year," LeBlanc said. "Phone calls home aren't even enough time to try to help them."

LeBlanc said before teaching here, she taught an Advanced Placement (AP) course in Rhode Island and can admit that parents were more involved when their children were in higher-level classes. Senior Luke Matyja said he forces himself to do better in his AP classes more than his parents.

While developing his theorem, Rennard worked closely with former math department head John Waterman, who Rennard said inspired him greatly.

"He was encouraging and gave me time and resources," he said. "He even gave me his office to let me work in."

Rennard said he went with Waterman to science fairs across the country, competing with his theorem.

While he was a student, Rennard did more than just study and develop a theorem. He said he started the Philosophy club, was Nebraska's president of the junior classical league, conducted concert band his senior year, was involved in speech and debate and appeared in Roadshow.

During his senior year at Central, Rennard decided to apply to Harvard. He applied early and due to rules with early action, he could not apply to other colleges until Harvard's decision came back.

"After I was accepted, I didn't really worry about anything," he said. "But if I didn't get accepted I probably would have applied to Stanford."

Rennard's family is much larger than an average family. He grew up with four older sisters and three younger sisters.

"I wouldn't trade my childhood for anything, well maybe a few things," he said.

He said he is willing to stay up late until his homework is completely done.

"My parents encourage me," Matyja said. "But I see my success in my own eyes."

Haskins said he works better when he is on his own because he is the only one disappointed.

Wang said some students who don't have strict parents wouldn't understand the importance of the parents' involvement until the students are in that situation.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said students in AP classes are forced to do well compared to students taking regular classes. She said most of the students push themselves harder.

"AP classes are for college credits," Kirksey said. "The students just take different routes and that comes with more discipline."

Bartley said the Lebanon School District's entire motivation for the checklist is just to have someone behind the students other than teachers encouraging the kids to graduate.

LeBlanc said the OPS district is filled with students which places a lot of stress on the educators to encourage the kids to graduate.

She said that a student needs a parent or guardian caring about her success in school.

"The parents are a great place to start for their (kid's) career in school," LeBlanc said. Kirksey said the checklist sounds reasonable, but not for a high school and especially not for Central.

She said that different school areas within OPS have different rules, since OPS is so large, one policy couldn't apply to everyone.

"There are too many students just in our school," Kirksey said. "We wouldn't be able to keep track."

Kirksey said high schools supposed to prepare the students for their future.

Need for financial aid has students lined up at colleges' doors

By Steve Packard

College is becoming more of a matter of money than in past years, but Central students still have options, state education resources said.

The college pinch is coming around primarily because of tuition hikes, the continued economic slump both in and out of Nebraska and outdated federal legislation, a University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) official said.

Deanna Unger, who is the associate director of Client Services at UNL, said the economy may have had one of the greatest effects as UNL officials are looking more into fam-

ily financial situations.

"We're looking at companies downsizing and parents being laid off," Unger said. "If things continue as is in Nebraska, the situation could continue to challenge students."

Yet with the recent tuition hikes proposed by several tenured faculty members and officials, along with the UNL Board of Regents' recent decision to hike tuition to an undisclosed amount, it seems to prove to some that the situation has already become worse.

It has already hit home for

one Central student.

Senior Nitasha Dickes is looking to a pre-med major next year and won't be able attend her number one, or even her number two pick.

Dickes is looking to her last choice, which is the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

Although Dickes can afford to attend UNO with federal money and scholarships, there's a \$10,000 difference between UNO and Creighton, which was one of her first choices.

Dickes said she is supported by a single mother who works for

a middle-class salary, and a father who "might" chip in.

In addition, she worked 50 hours a week over the past summer, and is currently working 20 hours, not to use towards a future education, but to pay off a \$4,000 car.

Dickes said it wasn't that she thought UNO was a bad school, but that she just wishes she could attend somewhere more selective, such as her number one and two picks.

"College is made out to be such an integral part of life, then when you get there, there's not enough money to pay for it," Dickes said. "The situation is ridiculous."

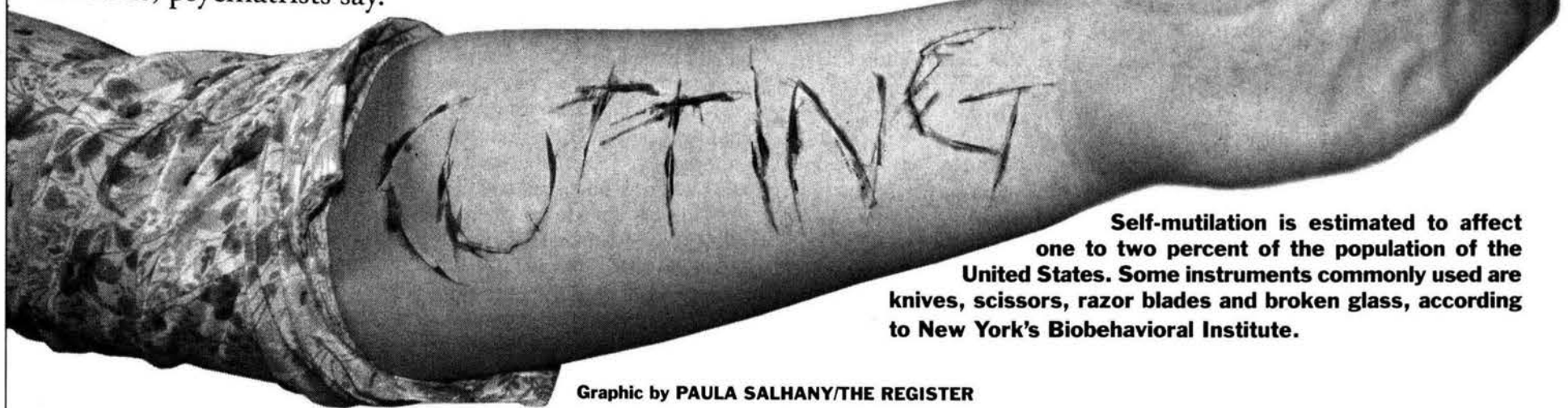
CURTIS Store Equipment
932-3650
Fax: 932-3531
Open 9-5 Monday-Friday
4626 Dodge St.
Omaha, NE 68132

*Gyros
*Burgers
*Phillies
*Specials
Every Day
Telephone: 553-3326
4409 Dodge
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-Roofing
-Gutter Cleaning/Insulation
-All Odd Jobs
Mike McAllister (402) 571-7345
3414 Cottonwood Lane
Omaha, NE 68134

DANGEROUS HABITS

With the stresses of everyday life as an adolescent, some choose to go the extreme to relieve it. Some go as far as to cut themselves on a regular basis. Self-mutilation is a frightening trend seen among high school students, psychiatrists say.



Self-mutilation is estimated to affect one to two percent of the population of the United States. Some instruments commonly used are knives, scissors, razor blades and broken glass, according to New York's Biobehavioral Institute.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Class requirements for science changes

By Michael Smith

The Omaha Public School District (OPS) yet again changed the district's school science requirements, making sophomore science by Cherek unable to take earth science next year.

The previous announcement that the earth science classes were not going to be offered has been reversed. Added to that, the OPS school district has chosen to change the requirements for current sophomore students. Senior Jason Hurlbut, who is enrolled in earth science this year, said he enjoys the labs at the class gets to participate in.

"I probably won't miss much of the class though," he said.

Frank Tworek, science specialist for OPS, said that a new change was that aspects of earth science are now imbedded into biology, chemistry and physics classes.

Cherek said she likes teacher Al Roeder and was not only looking forward to the class, but was sad that he was leaving.

"The juniors that are currently in the class said it was valuable material that they could actually use," Cherek said.

Science department head Jean Whitten said that earth science 1-2 will be a senior elective for the next two years and earth science will be offered as another senior elective.

Cherek said she might take earth science next senior year instead of an advanced placement course.

But, a new change has occurred for Cherek's graduating class.

Tworek said that current sophomores are told during their freshman year that they would need six science credits. That has been changed to four credits for graduation.

"Sophomores this year are not required to take physics classes next year," Tworek said.

"The Department of Curriculum and Learning, along with the Department of Human Resources got together and studied to find the best solution to the problem of loss of science staff, and the room availability in OPS's eight area high schools," Tworek said.

He said the best answer was to allow for a one-year delay on graduation requirements for current sophomores to allow the district to find physics teachers and allocate rooms.

He said that though many answers to the district's problems would be solved before next year, it was better to wait and stay with the planned initial one-year delay for the 2005 graduating class.

By Laura Diesing

*Names changed to protect identity

In the film of life, everyone wants to cut the bad scenes out.

Some people use alcohol. Some people use drugs.

Freshman *Sally Jones uses a razor blade.

Since Jones came out of the closet to her friends in seventh grade, she has been using cutting as a form of stress relief and escape.

"I started cutting myself around the time when I was worried about coming out to people," Jones said. "I stayed home one day and I was watching an 'Oprah' show about cutting. The way the girls talked about it, it sounded great."

At first, Jones would just scratch herself with her nails until she bled.

The first time she did it, Jones said, was at a friend's birthday party.

The girls were going around the table and telling each other what their faults were.

When it came to Jones, her friends told her she was different and criticized everything from her looks to her personality.

"My own friends were picking me apart," she said.

After her friends unleashed the barrage of criticism on her, Jones ran to the

bathroom crying and scratching herself with her nails.

Dr. Sharon Cannon, a licensed clinical psychologist, said that many people hurt themselves when they are very depressed, angry or when they are not good at conveying their feelings.

"Sometimes it is a misguided attempt at self-punishment," Cannon said.

Senior *Jane Doe said she was only a year older than Smith when she started to cut herself but has since stopped.

"I didn't know how to deal with aggression," Doe said. "It did help me take my mind off of things."

Jones said that when she does it, it is not during a state of rage or violence, but during a sad, crying downtime.

"It's usually what I did wrong and I blame myself, or it's when someone else did something wrong and I can't hurt them so I hurt myself," she said.

Since the night in the restaurant bathroom, Jones has moved on to more serious methods.

"I take either a razor blade or an X-Acto knife and carefully make straight lines," she said. "Then I pull at either side to make sure I can see the blood."

Cannon said that cutting generally only leaves scars or can occasionally cause infections, but sometimes people

can inflict more harm than they mean to and can cause serious damage.

"If you're not careful about it, you can really mess yourself up," Jones said.

For a while, she managed to keep her dangerous secret contained to just her friends by telling her mother she got the scars from falling, but eventually her parents found out the truth.

"Over Christmas break, I kept an Internet conversation with a friend of mine about cutting myself up on my computer and my mother read it," she said.

Doe said that it has been five years and her parents still don't know about the problem that she had with cutting.

"They knew most of what I was up to," Doe said.

She now answers phones for a help hotline to keep teenagers from making the same mistakes she did.

Jones' parents were both beside themselves and her father told her that she was a disruption to the family, she said.

Since her parents found out about her problem and her mother overheard her calling the suicide hotline for a friend, Jones has been in therapy.

"It's like being addicted to something," Jones said. "I'm not trying to kill myself. I have too many ambitions."

Cutting can be somewhat habitual

over time, like reaching for a cigarette when a person is stressed, Cannon said. Many people do not want to stop because that entails no longer giving yourself the option of falling back on the convenient habit of cutting.

Jones is now very open about cutting herself, but she said that even though her trans-gender girlfriend Seth, friends and family are very worried about her, she does not believe that she is harming herself.

"I left my purse in Seth's car and he knew where I hid my razor," she said. "He took it out and gave it to my parents. I know it hurts all these people, but if it's not hurting me, why should it hurt them?"

Jones said that going to therapy has not made her any less inclined to cutting herself when she is overwhelmed.

She said she was surprised when her therapist suggested holding ice to her skin and then rubbing salt on it as an alternative to cutting.

"I considered it, but I don't want to do anything else because that would really hurt," Jones said. "I am careful about cutting myself."

Until her parents threaten to take away something that really matters to her or if it would cause her girlfriend to hate her, Jones said that she will not quit cutting.

Congratulations

To the Metro North hockey team for winning the League Championship

Congratulations

To the Omaha Gladiators for lasting through a very strenuous season

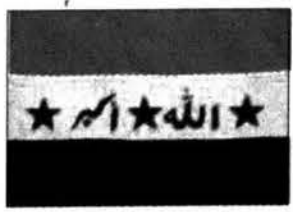
Congratulations

To Metro North for maintaining a first-place rank throughout the season

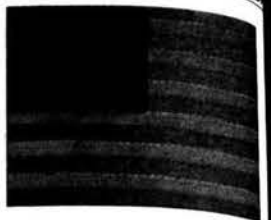
Congratulations

To the Gladiators who made the Iowa High School Hockey All-star team

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REACTING TO WAR



Pledge mandatory only in some districts

By Charlie Wence

Junior Jake Holst rises as the Pledge of Allegiance is being read over the loudspeaker. As Holst recites the Pledge, he notices his classmates sitting out from what he said is a sign of patriotism.

Ever since the State Board of Education voted to enact Nebraska's Americanism Law, the Pledge has been made mandatory in all Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

Sophomore Brandi Clanton said she doesn't stand for the pledge because of the way it was written.

"It says 'justice for all' but back

when they wrote it, blacks didn't have any justice," she said.

When the Pledge is being read, Clanton respects it by remaining silent.

In other states, however, the Pledge is nothing more than a distant thought from elementary school.

Jason Rand is a senior at Piedmont High School in Piedmont, CA. His high school doesn't read the Pledge of Allegiance. Rand said he is not a religious person and believes that God has no place in a public school and the Pledge shouldn't be required.

"Not saying it (the Pledge) doesn't make me any less patriotic," he said.

"We still have flags in our rooms."

Regardless of the state of society when the Pledge was founded, Rand said it is still unnecessary to have it read in hopes of spurring nationalism amongst high school students.

"I still have pride in America without the Pledge," he said. "I don't even know the words by heart."

Holst said he believes that people who say they are patriotic while refusing to recite the Pledge or any other American tradition are false patriots.

"They're being fake," he said.

Social studies teacher Carol Krejci said Americans have a Constitutional

right to criticize acts done by the government.

"You can protest anything and still be loyal to your country," she said.

Holst said he believes that if national leaders from the past were to come back today and see a controversy erupting from the Pledge, they would be ashamed.

"Society is making a big deal over nothing," he said.

Rand said that regardless of the war, the Pledge wouldn't do too much in helping the patriotism of American citizens.

"What difference does it make

between saying it or not?" he said. "The Pledge won't unify us or make a change in our thoughts of America."

In what is seen as a pointless war, the Pledge doesn't really seem more important than it did before, Clanton said.

Krejci said the Pledge is simply a symbolic message to students in school. "On a scale of one to ten, I'd give it a five on its importance in the United States," she said. "It could mean everything or it could mean nothing."

From a personal perspective, Krejci said the Pledge is a symbol of loyalty and patriotism.



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

More than 2,000 people gathered at the Heartland of America park Saturday, March 8 to celebrate being Americans.

Pro-America rally attracts thousands

By Laura Diesing

The flags at the Heartland of America Park flew high in the howling wind at the rally Saturday, March 8 for the American troops overseas.

"We were there for a mutual cause which was to show our appreciation for those giving their lives overseas," Central ROTC student Larry Coleman said.

Coleman, who is a senior at Central, was one of the many people to speak at the rally. Coleman wrote his speech for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy scholarship contest.

The speech was entitled "Freedom's Obligation."

He said his goal was to remind the people in the crowd of their duty to the country and what people went through so that the current generation could be free and have the opportunities they have today.

"Freedom's obligation is my obligation and your obligation," Coleman said.

Some of the speakers were former Mayor Hal Daub and former Sen. Bob Kerrey.

"I think that our country, president and troops need our

support," former Marine Brad Quedens said. "Every little bit helps."

Quedens was in the Gulf War during the cease-fire.

Coleman said the purpose of the rally was to support those in the war, not the war itself.

"It was just a lot of people showing their appreciation for the people willing to fight for our country," he said.

ROTC student Greg Merrill said he had planned on going to show his support, but was not able to attend.

"I'm in the process of joining the army," Merrill, who is a senior at Central, said. "When you're a soldier you have a duty that you know you have to do."

The girls of Mulberry Lane warmed the feeling of the rally with their rendition of "God Bless America." Several crowd members could not hold back their emotions.

"It was a very warm feeling despite the weather," Coleman said. "There was just a lot of unity."

As the rally ended and the crowd left with American flags in hand, "Proud to be an American" blared over the sound system.

Peace vigil observed as part of world-wide candlelight prayer

By Laura Diesing

Hundreds of people lined up along Dodge Street on March 16, along with millions around the world to stand for peace.

Organized by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the rolling wave of candlelit vigils began at 7 p.m. in New Zealand and continued in thousands of locations in every time zone, Steve Thyberg, member of the Act to Stop the War Coalition, said.

"It felt like a community because I was standing with many others who wanted peace, instead of a demonstration where you show people you're standing for something," Thyberg said. "It was all more inner personal, like meditation."

People with candles and signs in hand started to wander down Memorial Park's hill to the street at 6:15 p.m., and the crowd did not start to break up until 9 p.m.

"As soon as I went down to the street, there was this positive energy being put off by everyone there," senior Shelby Beck said.

Peace signs were thrown up from cars as they sped past to show their support for peace.

Some of the cars that passed displayed their disapproval of the gathering and showed it in many ways.

"That's always going to happen," Thyberg said. "They are afraid so they are going to yell at us and flip us off."



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Senior Adam Christensen and Burke senior Courtney Ketzler stand on the street by the Gene Leahy Mall in protest of the war during the anti-war rally on March 15.

Students protest war

By Paula Salhany

A large group of people chanted back and forth:

"What do we want?"

"Peace and justice."

"When do we want it?"

"Now."

The anti-war rally, which was at the Gene Leahy Mall on Saturday, March 15, drew people from all over the city, including some students from Central.

"I think war is intrinsically wrong," senior John DeMott said.

DeMott said this was one of the reasons why he decided to attend the rally.

He said his cousins had always talked about going to anti-war rallies and protesting the war and he wanted to see what they were like.

DeMott said he enjoyed it and that he thought it was well organized.

He said he was glad to see the large group of people that showed up.

At the rally hosted by the Act To Stop War Coalition (ASW), poets, ministers, former U.S. Congressmen and many other people spoke out against the war on Iraq.

Cindy Asrir from the ASW read a statement from Sen. Chuck Hagel expressing his views against the war.

After the speeches, which were separated by various chants, demonstrators also marched around the Gene Leahy Mall with a police escort so they would not be breaking any laws.

"We just want to get the point across that we are against the war," senior Adam Christensen said.

All throughout the rally, groups of people with buckets made into drums chanted and expressed their views through their music and their all black attire.

Some also stood on the street with flags and signs for passing traffic to see. Christensen stood on the street with a sign and said he thought the rally was a great thing.

"It's awesome that we (people of Omaha) are able to come together and express our views like this," he said.

He said he came to the rally because he didn't believe the war was for any of the right reasons, saying that too many innocent people would get hurt if America were to go to war.

The ASW also passed out flyers and programs informing attendees of future events and quoted many famous people like John Lennon and Sen. Robert Byrd.

Christensen said the official rally was peaceful, but after about an hour, a group of radicals broke off and marched through the streets of the Old Market, at times obstructing traffic.

Police intervened and eight people were arrested.

"I still think it was a great thing," he said. "There were a bunch of really inspiring speakers."

The ASW reported that there were about 700 people in attendance.

Love of USA seen in some

from PATRIOTISM, page 1
want to see is a student lost

war.
"I've lost students to car accidents, overdoses and cancer but never to combat," she said.

Drumm, who went on an educational trip with the Air Force and Navy to California and North Dakota in September, said she knew that the people involved in the military on the trip didn't want to go to war.

Junior Adam Ramirez said he wished that the violence would end.

"It needs to stop," he said.

Ramirez said he is not afraid of being affected by the war he is at home because he doubts the war will reach the United States.

War is also a cause for alarm for some parents across the nation.

Drumm, a parent of a freshman in high school, said she would never want her child fighting half-way across the world.

"I may sound selfish, but I really don't want my family over there," she said.

ROTC teacher Sgt. Sharron Cooper, who served in the Army for roughly 24 years, said she was very confident in the president and his decisions.

"He knows more about the situation," she said. "If I believe it's the right thing to go to war, then I back him 100 percent."

Cooper said she believed Bush's cabinet is very qualified and would suggest changes to one of the president's plans that didn't sound wise.

"If they (the cabinet) didn't think his decision was the right thing then it would most certainly be changed," she said.

Miller said that due to her grandparents' service duty in the Air Force, she is well informed of the situation.

"My grandparents always call my house and tell me to watch the news on T.V. so I know what's going on," she said.

Miller said because the topic of discussion in her debate class is the president and his actions, she gets a chance to voice her opinion almost everyday.

"We just don't have any business stepping in there (Iraq)," she said.

Cooper said an advantage that keeps her comfortable is the advanced technology that the United States has, such as weapons, aircraft and communications.

"Even though we have advanced technology, there is no way to guarantee eliminating fatalities and injuries," she said.

Cooper said she believed that every time a terrorist suspect is arrested and publicized on the news, her faith in eliminating the terrorist system is strengthened.

She said that's how war is supposed to go.

The more fragmented they get, the more their leadership weakened," she said.



After-School Activities
The loss of grant money for clubs and extracurricular activities is not a good thing for Central students.
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FROM STUDY HALLS TO WAR

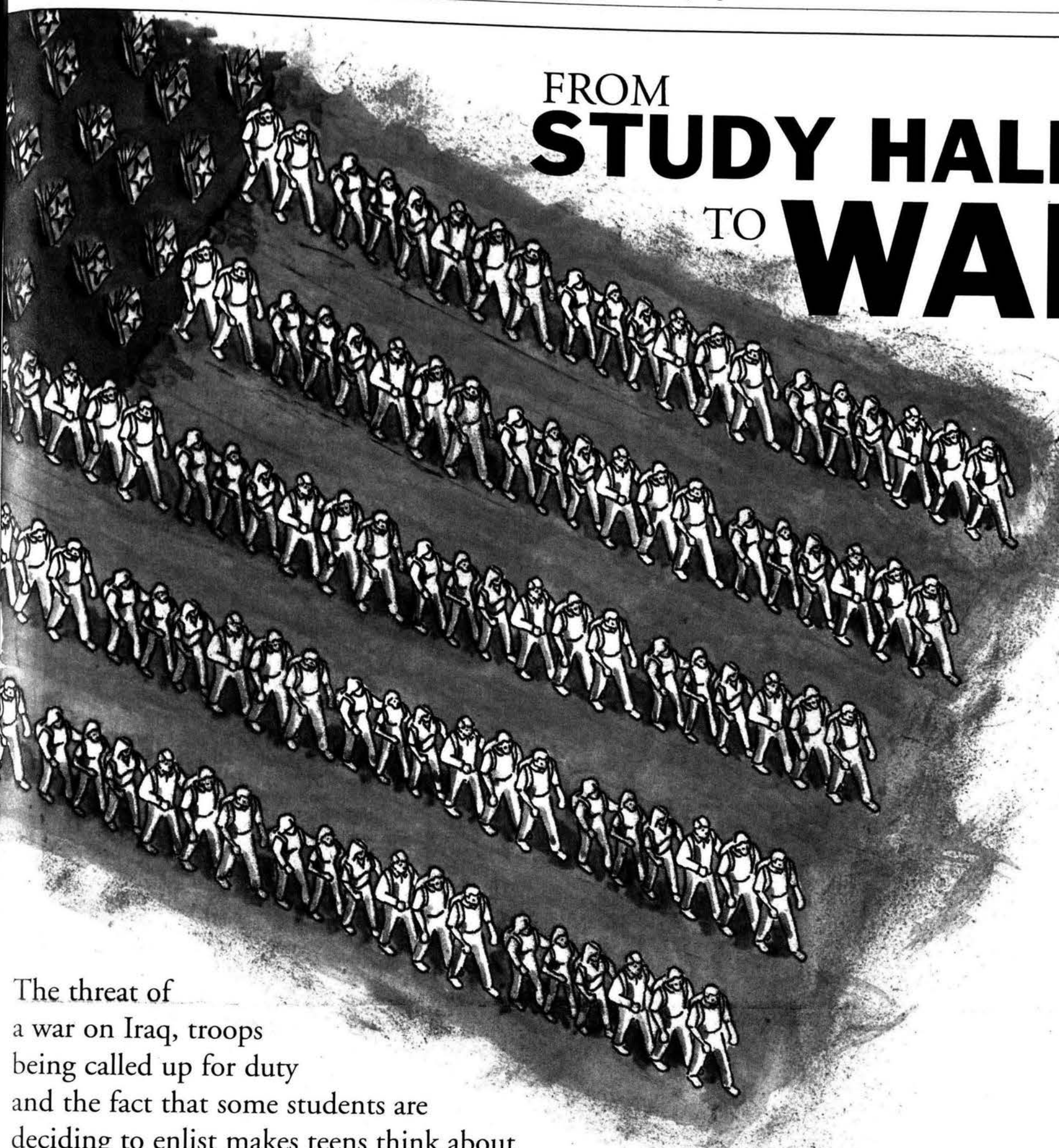


Illustration by CONNOR MEIGS/ THE REGISTER

The threat of a war on Iraq, troops being called up for duty and the fact that some students are deciding to enlist makes teens think about just how much they will be affected by war.

Look to the left. Now look to the right. The lives of everyone you see are about to change.

With the threat of war with Iraq growing every day, teenagers are starting to realize that this battle half a world away will affect everyone whether or not they get it yet.

Some of the students who walk Central's halls may find themselves enlisting in the military, fully aware that they may be deployed with very little notice.

Any young man at CHS must give a second thought to the threat of war on his 18th birthday when he registers for the selective service, making him eligible for the draft.

Re-enacting the draft is extraordinarily unlikely, especially considering the controversy over it in the Vietnam War. But still, it must dwell in the back of any 18-year-old male's mind when he fills out that card.

This is a scary time, even for those who are not considering military service. Almost everyone can name a family member, friend or acquaintance who has been deployed or will be in the future. This is especially true in Omaha, where so many people have ties to the Offutt Air Force Base.

While fear may be prevalent during these times, so is anger. Many students are very active in the anti-war movement and do not believe in the war.

Throughout history, young people are traditionally the rabble-rousers who protest the decisions of a government that they do not support. This generation of young people is no different. Teenagers can be seen at protest rallies, filling out petitions and brandishing stickers and buttons that assert their anti-war status.

Whatever students' outlooks may be, if a war starts, this generation will be affected the most.

It will be the students of Central today who will go to serve on the front lines. It will be these students who will have to make the decision as to whether or not this war is moral and whether or not it is right to serve.

Most importantly, it will be this generation that will have to deal with the consequences, no matter what happens.

If the United States prevails, it will be largely because of this generation's efforts.

If war does occur and it leaves the United States in shambles, it will be this generation's job to pick up the pieces.

If the country's international ties are changed forever, this generation will have to find a way to reestablish them or to forge new ones.

No matter what happens, the young people of today will have some serious baggage to deal with tomorrow. There is no pretending now that the world will not change drastically in the coming months. Ever since President Bush's "War on Terrorism" began after the Sept. 11 attacks, there has been no question that Americans are living in a changing world environment.

The only real question is how it will change and if it will ever be able to go back.

Stereotypically, youth is supposed to be a carefree time. But being young today comes with a myriad of concerns and the potential for war is a major one.

So for now, all teens can do is wait. There is a very real chance that everything will be different in a few months. But there is also a chance that things could gradually go back to normal. No matter what, the lives of everyone at Central High School are sure to change.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

Apathy towards school sets in as brainwashing wears off

To all members of the class of 2003: you don't have senioritis, the brainwashing has simply worn off.

I've come to a realization. We don't develop senioritis. Senioritis does not exist. From day one, on some primeval level, we just hate school and doing work and anything else not related to sleeping, eating or socializing.

We're just trained not to realize it. Think about it. From the moment students start elementary school, they're constantly getting "prepared for high school." By the time junior high rolls around, students are practically being force-fed propaganda about how glorious high school is and how it will end up being the best four years of their lives.

So of course by the time we all walked through the hallowed doors of Central, we were pumped. They had us believing

that we were in for something great.

There have been some really great times during high school. I doubt very few people could spend four years in any situation besides a Turkish prison and say there were no good times.

But for every good time, there is a not-so-good one. For every football game, there is a history test. For every party, there is an English paper. For every weekend, there is a five-day school week.

There is only so much we can take before our resistance starts to wear thin. Eventually the layers of "high school is fun!" propaganda is peeled from us like we are oranges. What is left is what we really feel.

The laziness, the apathy, the desire to

just go out and have fun, they've always been there, but hidden behind masks of academic excellence and extra-curricular involvement.

All of the so-called motivation that we've felt is a sham. Once we realize it, there's no turning back.

Very few people can wear a mask like that for four years. Most of us need a break and that break usually just happens to come sometime during the second semester of senior year.

My theory also accounts for those who claim to have had "senioritis" during their underclass years. They were simply not programmed as well as the rest of us. Their resistance gave out sooner and the apathy hit.

I cannot propose a cure for this because it cannot be cured. It can only be

accepted. It is simply a fact of life. Teenagers like having fun, they don't like structure, even if it is what's best for them, for a long period of time.

It is inevitable. By the time four years of hard work are over, a break is necessary.

We are about to embark on a journey into the "real world" and we should be able to begin it well-rested and relaxed.

Personally, I am doing my best not to slack off in any of my classes. But I am not perfect and I know at some point or another, I will be a pile in some capacity.

I can't help it, I'm human. All I can do is share what I've learned about the "motivational" process we all are put through.

To all the underclassmen, hold on to your brainwashing for as long as you can, at least until you get accepted into college.



EVERYTHING BUT THE SINK
Paula Salthany

Potential serial killer attempts home wooing

Maybe it was his stereotypical punk-boy appearance, or the fact that he said he was fascinated with the idea of the world ending. I don't know.

But when a guy I had talked to for no more than two hours asked me to come over to his house, I was less than comfortable.

I really don't think it was any of the excuses about his appearance or demeanor. I think it was just an instinct to protect myself. It's just not cool for a girl to go over to a guy's house after meeting him once.

Call me conservative or whatever you would like, but I don't want to die.

Don't get me wrong he was a nice enough guy, and it's not too far fetched to say that I would date him sometime in the future.

He was good at chess and we had an interesting conversation about views on the war. We had the love of art in common, among other things. But I still wasn't about to run over to his apartment and hang out with him there.

I don't have a problem meeting him at the coffee shop or even going to the movies. In fact, I would probably enjoy that a lot. But I don't know him well enough to go sauntering into his apartment.

I have good reason for it, too.

For all I know he could be an axe murderer or a cannibal. Especially after watching an HBO special, I'm paranoid of men eating me. I would like to stay alive.

When I told my friend about the proposition she said something along the lines of "Don't go, you could die. I can't stand another friend dying. If not for your own protection, don't go for my sanity."

And she's right. I don't know him that well. I only know what he has told me, which in and of itself is shady. He could be lying about being unemployed in Greenland.

I'm still not quite sure what he had in mind for our apartment rendezvous. It could have been anything from a simple place to meet to a plot of seduction.

To his defense, he doesn't seem like a murderous kind. But as my dad would say, "Ted Bundy did not look like a serial killer either."

I realize what I'm saying may sound a little extreme. There is actually a very small chance that this guy is really a serial killer or even that he would come close to hurting me.

I guess I just have trust issues.

But why would I take a chance like that?

I have to say, in the past, my judgment concerning character has been pretty keen. So far none of my good friends have gone to jail for any reason.

I'm sure this guy is harmless, but I don't know. Not yet anyway. I think I'll just stick to seeing him in public places and playing chess with him where everyone can see how bad I am at it.

And maybe after a while, I'll feel more comfortable with going to his house. Or maybe we'll just stick to playing chess.



LONG STORY SHORT
Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

— POINT-COUNTERPOINT —

A fair policy or reverse discrimination?

In recent years, affirmative action has become a controversial issue when it comes to college admissions. This policy can make it easier and more encouraging for a minority to apply for college. However, some non-minority applicants argue that they are not getting into schools just because admission offices place too much emphasis on race.

Affirmative action keeps admissions fair

Love may be blind, but bureaucratic processes are not. That's why sometimes things like affirmative action are necessary to give all students a fair shot.

Affirmative action is often unfairly labeled as reverse discrimination or as being extraordinarily biased in favor of minority students.

But that is simply not the case. Affirmative action exists because it needs to exist.

If every single student in the country was on an exactly even playing field, there never would be any sort of need for something like affirmative action.

By June the Supreme Court will have to decide whether or not the University of Michigan's affirmative action policy is fair.

Some Caucasian students have complained that they were not granted admission solely because of their race.

That is a rather flimsy argument.

College admission is based on a myriad of factors including grades, involvement in high school activities and race.

If a student really deserves to get into a college, he will get in regardless of his race. If a student's chances of getting into a school are so slim that one simple factor could completely erase his chances, then maybe that student does not deserve to get in more than any other student.

It seems very easy for students to blame affirmative action for cheating them when they do not get into a school.

For some, it is always easier to blame the system or someone else rather than admitting that maybe the problem lies with them.

When the words "affirma-

tive action" dare to even slip out of anyone's mouth, some people immediately go into a diatribe about how it's tantamount to reverse racism.

If those who condemned affirmative action would look at it from a logical standpoint, they would see that it keeps

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of the Register staff

schools more diverse and gives minority students a better chance at getting a good education.

Affirmative action gives minority students a slight edge when it comes to getting into college.

But this advantage does not only benefit them, it benefits the entire student population.

College students are on the very brink of entering the professional world. They need to know how to get along with people—no matter their race, gender, ethnicity or personality type.

By making college more diverse, affirmative action helps the people skills of all students.

It cannot be denied that the climate of American society has not always been very good for minorities.

Going this extra little bit to ensure that deserving minority students can get into college also shows that the people of America really are trying to change the way things have been so that everyone, regardless of race, can have a bright future.

Nothing should ever be decided because of race alone, but as much as people would like to avoid ever talking about it, sometimes it is an issue.

The bottom line when it comes to affirmative action is that only students who deserve it will ever benefit from it.



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Policy discriminates, discourages applicants

National Honor Society, check.

Valedictorian, check. Sixteen hundred on the SAT, check.

Community service, check.

White male, rejected.

That is not how life is supposed to work.

If affirmative action continues having as much effect on college admissions as it does now, this may be the way of the future.

Reverse racial discrimination is just as wrong as the discrimination of minorities.

However, when it comes down to it in some instances, if a minority student with the same qualifications as a white student is applying to the same college, the minority student will be admitted on the sole basis of race.

Using the system that most colleges do, a student can receive up to 20 points, which is a significant amount in the admissions process, just because he is not white.

It is not fair for a student's race to give that much of an advantage based on the color of a student's skin.

Before affirmative action became highly used, minorities found it difficult to get into many colleges. However, with the civil rights movement most schools were forced to allow minority students to attend.

This system was brought about to help reach out and encourage minority students whom in the past would have never considered college.

This system worked and was needed in the past. However, times have changed. It is now commonplace and very necessary for most people, mi-

norities included, to attend college.

For this reason, minorities should no longer be given points to persuade them to go to college.

These days, race should not be an excuse for anything.

America may have a somewhat spotty record when it comes to Civil Rights and racial equality, but now in the 21st century, we as a country have reached a turning point.

It is at the point where all races should be equal and processes like affirmative action should not be necessary, simply because there is no real need for them, at least not anymore.

Students should not be admitted to college based on anything but their grades and work ethic.

Too many students work too hard in very competitive high schools, taking extraordinarily challenging honors or Advanced Placement classes for their work to be diminished in the eyes of an admissions counselor.

It is just not right. Everything besides academic achievement and intelligence especially the student's race should not even be considered.

For this reason, college admissions should be handled with a code, much like CRE are graded in high school, to make sure everyone is graded fairly. This way the deserving will get in no matter what. That's the way it should be.

As unrealistic as this may seem, it is one of the only ways to keep things totally unbiased.

Affirmative action was created to keep things fair, not to push things toward reverse discrimination.

The Omaha Central High School Register

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of interest and importance.

The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all its proceedings.

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

The Register is a four time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix and Dallas.

The staff hopes to repeat this at the spring 2003 JEA/NSPA convention in Portland.

The Register staff is also responsible for the publication of the EDGE feature magazine, which has won a first place Best-in-Show award for specialty publications.

The Register has won multiple Pacemakers, considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhuskers from NHSPA.

It has also been awarded the Silver Crown award for its overall work.

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

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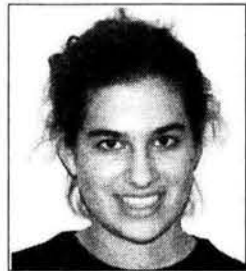
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The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy.

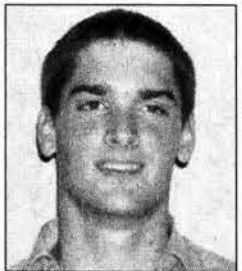
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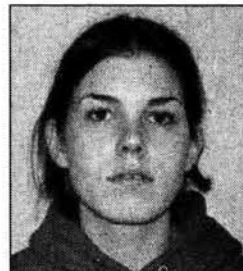
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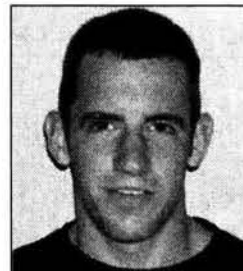
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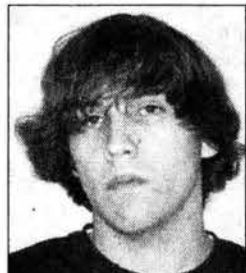
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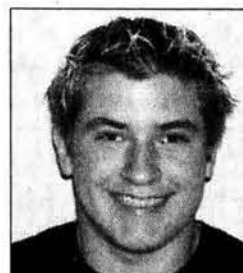
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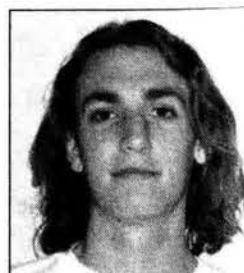
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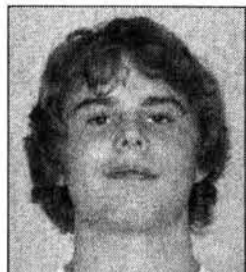
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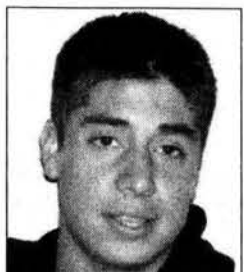
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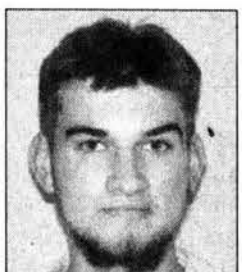
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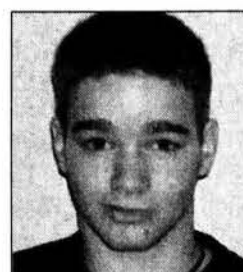
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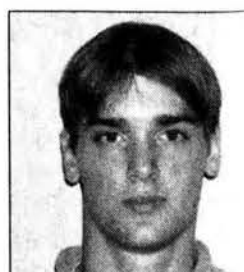
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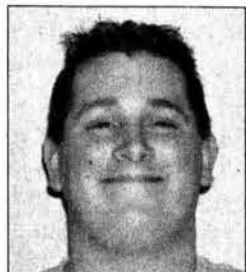
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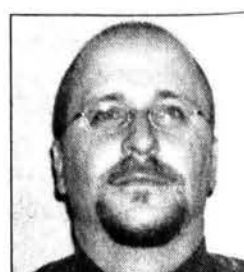
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Grants needed for all students

Central just lost \$120 thousand down the drain that was used for its after-school activities. This has to be one of the worst things to happen to the school in the past five years, if not longer.

This is the type of school where anything that sparks a student's interest, whether it be math, French, swing dancing, volunteering or singing, is probably available in some sort of club or after-school activity.

EDITORIAL

Over the past few years, the Register staff grants have made it possible to create more and more clubs at Central, allowing more students to get involved and keeping them busy during the afternoon hours when teenagers most often get into trouble.

But that all might change very soon.

In June of 2000, the AIM Institute and Omaha Public Schools applied for a federal grant.

The Central High School 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant included funding of all noncompetitive sports and after-school activities at Central.

The grant was for all Central clubs, including new and existing clubs and has affected all students in after-school clubs for the past three years.

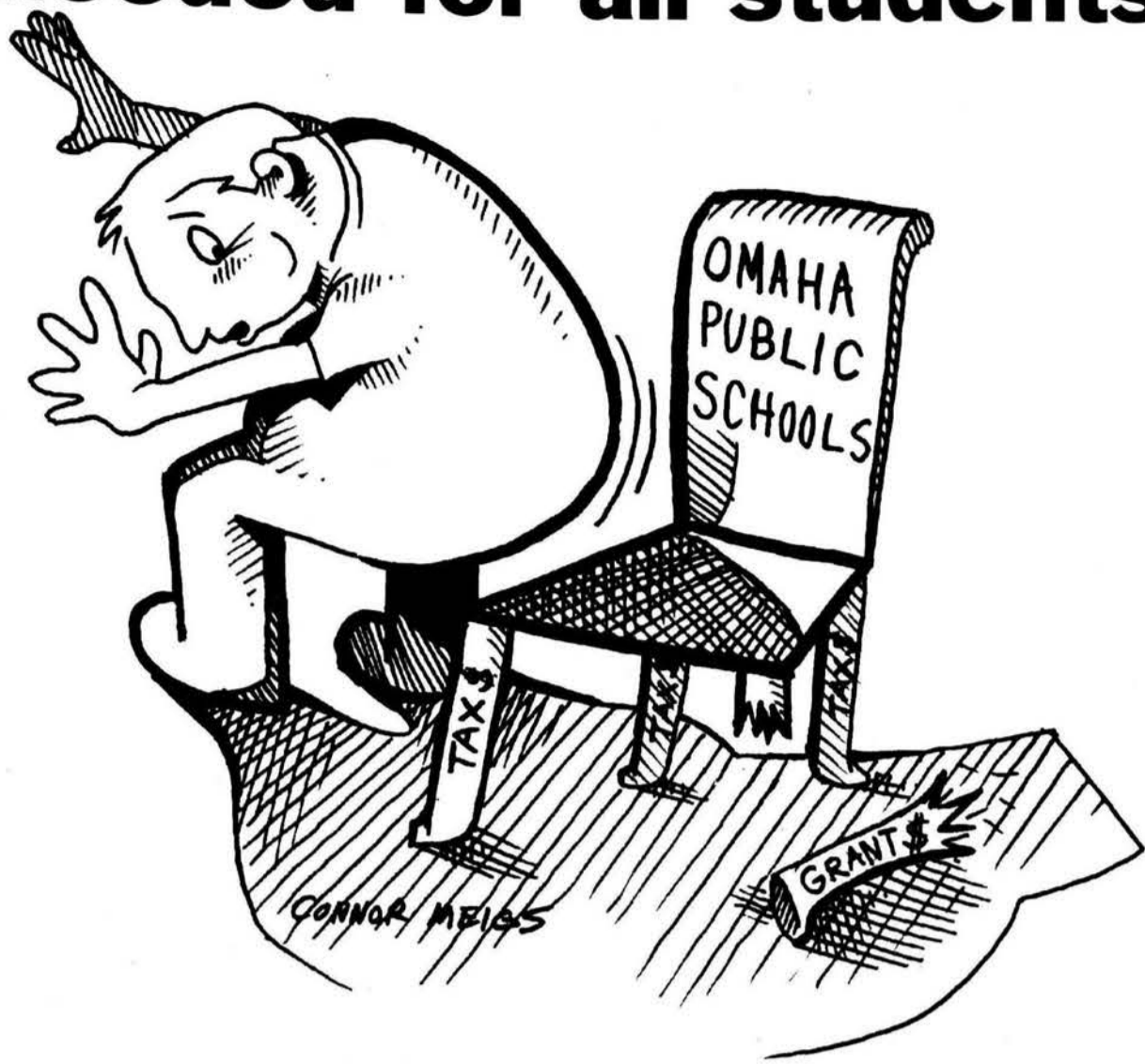
The money made it possible for the clubs at Central to function, and even exist.

Unfortunately, Central did not qualify for the renewal of the grant, because to qualify there has to be a 40 percent free or reduced lunch population in the school.

This year, Central has over a 40 percent free or reduced lunch population, but the federal committee requires it for the previous year, which Central did not meet.

Central barely missed the 40 percent cutoff for the 2001-2002 school year.

The politicians responsible for inspecting Central's clubs, like Sen. Chuck Hagel and Rep. Lee Terry should look long and hard



at the numbers that have to be met.

Sen. Hagel and Rep. Terry should introduce the possibility of looking at the current scholastic year in order to qualify Central for such grants as this.

Rep. Terry has visited the school several times, and should realize Central needs all the money it can get, specifically this money.

This qualification for the grant is similar to how the No Child Left Behind Act handles it, except the money for it goes to the general state fund, not the individual schools.

In this case, Central loses out on money that funds important clubs like Latino Leaders.

Clubs such as Youth Volunteer Corp and Tae Kwan Do are important to Central because they keep students out of situations

that they shouldn't be in by keeping them on campus and getting the students interested in new things to enjoy.

The money from this grant, that Central will now not be receiving, is responsible for funding every after-school activity other than sports.

This means that it's possible some after-school clubs will cease to exist next year or the year after that.

Central has many diverse students who should be kickboxing, singing and dancing instead of joining gangs and doing drugs.

When one takes a walk through the halls after school, they are not empty by any means. There are classrooms filled with students who are enjoying themselves and doing something positive at the same time.

After-school involvement is

vital not only to keeping students out of trouble, but also to getting them into college and helping them earn scholarships.

Everyone agrees with that, so why did the federal committee turn Central down simply because one year it had a certain number of people paying the full amount for lunch?

In the end, it is simply a matter of the bureaucratic process just not working in Central's favor this year.

It's a sad, but true fact that because of a set of numbers, Central students may lose the money that funds their clubs.

This grant was badly needed, it was a vital part of Central's funding.

Without it, Central will suffer by possibly losing its most famous, most successful and important clubs.

Prospect of war occupies student's thoughts, future

By the time you read this, bombs are probably dropping in Baghdad as the military invades the country.

Nearly every-day in the news a story is told about insecure Americans in this period of uncertainty.

Accounts of people who claim they are afraid to walk down the street in fear of a terrorist attack are now becoming commonplace.

But why are they scared? Why is the mightiest nation in the world cowering in the face of a few terrorists?

The United States now has a new well-funded department of Homeland Security to watch out for terrorist activities.

Airports check each traveler to the point of infringing on their rights to privacy. And the United States is taking the war to the terrorists abroad.

But many Americans are fearful of what might happen. Some feel they may be drafted to fight in WWII, or some other apocalyptic war.

But what they don't realize is that the United States is not fighting a country, but small individualized groups of terrorists.

There is no need for great armies to march across continents to their own self-annihilation.

The current trend of war is to place small numbers of specialized troops to eliminate threats and move on.

This happened in Afghanistan with only thousands of troops. These troops managed to eliminate a majority of the terrorist activity within months and have since began to rebuild the war-torn country.

While these actions are aggressive and are essentially engaging in hostile actions against other countries, the result will surely be safer for younger gen-

erations. In the immediate future, you may have a few small-scale terrorist attacks which may claim the lives of a few Americans.

But eventually the United States will get good at fighting this new kind of war.

Eventually the groups of people who insist on killing Americans will be attacked, and eventually they will not be able to fight back.

And then Americans will feel safe to walk the streets again. They will be able to fly in airplanes and work in buildings without first looking for the emergency exits.

Life will be like it was just a few years ago.

But even today, living in fear is useless. Less than 5,000 Americans have lost their lives to terrorism and the war to fight it. Five thousand out of 280 million. Do the math.

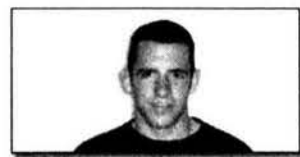
At this point, the United States has two options. Act now and risk the lives of the best trained and equipped members of the armed forces, or wait until the war comes to the streets of America. Wait until the United States becomes the next battlefield, another Israel with daily suicide bombings and retaliatory attacks.

Now that I have turned 18 and have a vote in society, I choose the first option.

I will take the risk that this new war may last a long time, but that one day it will be over. One day this will be only remembered in the history books as the world becomes safe once again.

However, now is the time for the next step. The next step so that one day peace will follow this war.

Waiting now will only ensure more conflict later.



MYSTERY WHITE BOY

Aaron Maurice

Webcams in school pose threat to privacy, will not increase security

Security cameras in school may serve a valid purpose, but having web cameras will pose more problems than they are worth.

A principal at Portsworld Primary School in Portsworld, England, wanted to connect all the security cameras in the school to the Internet so he could monitor the school grounds from home in the evening.

It was only a matter of time before something like this happened.

With technology getting more advanced every day, it was obvious that eventually some school would try to bring in some new technology to beef up security.

But having an Internet stream is not the way to do this.

The Internet is still fairly new and there is a lot that hackers can do that people who are not technology experts will not realize.

If anything, adding a webcam security system to a school would make a

school less safe, not more secure.

The camera feed would be put onto the Internet where potentially anyone with Internet access could get onto the website and watch the premises of the schools.

Even if the administrators think that the website is secure and guarded from outside access, there will always be someone, somewhere who will be able to figure out a way to hack in.

It is one thing to have security guards in the school watching the halls, but it is

quite another when some stranger could get access to this website.

With use of the cameras, foreseeable problems such as hacking and invasion of privacy that could surface.

There is always the potential for hacking whenever the internet is involved. Some student who is sitting at home with nothing better to do and hates the school could easily hack into the website and change things around.

The feed that the principal sees on his screen could be something completely

different from reality.

Though the school certainly has the right to monitor students with cameras, it seems as though monitoring them from the school and monitoring them from the privacy of one's home are two completely different things.

If a school wants to have surveillance 24 hours a day, administrators should hire more security to sit in the school. The principal shouldn't be sitting at home with live pictures of the school, especially when it is not 100 percent secure.

Stereotypes, misconceptions about neighborhood cause unfair perceptions

There are a lot of misconceptions about North Omaha.

Many people think that it is a big and bad yet really it isn't as dangerous and horrible as it is made out to be.

No place is perfect. Sure there is crime in North Omaha.

At times it may seem as if crimes may occur a lot more in that certain area than others due to how the media displays news to perceptions that people seem to have engraved in their brains.

Really there isn't that much

violence in North Omaha. Actually, most of the area is very safe.

Even if there is some crime, that should not taint everyone's opinions of the entire section of the city. After all, every single area within Omaha has some level of crime.

One of the many myths about North Omaha is that a person will get mugged if she looks at someone wrong, or she'll get shot if she's wearing the wrong colors.

That is absolutely ridiculous and it could not be farther from the truth.

North Omaha is anything but dangerous.

Compared to other cities like New York City, Philadelphia or Los Angeles, Omaha's ghetto is nothing.

Omaha's housing projects are like condos compared to other cities projects.

In some cities, you can't even walk at night in certain areas. In Omaha, if someone walked at night the only thing that might happen to her is that she might get cold or get bitten by a mosquito, depending on the season.

Some people say North Omaha is horrible and a poor part of town, when actually they

haven't even been in the area.

Many have not been further north of Dodge than Central because they are too scared and don't want to make their own conclusions about the area.

Instead, people would rather listen to myths that are far from true.

For many students, Central is as close to North Omaha as they will get.

What they see at Central and hear on the news makes up the vision of North Omaha that is only about a small fraction of what the area actually is.

Most residents who live there know that.

Central is supposed to be the city's most diverse school, but some students still use stereotypes when they think of places like North Omaha because they simply have never been there.

Yes, Omaha has a form of a ghetto, but what makes a ghetto? Is a ghetto where predominantly black people live?

If so, then yes Omaha has a ghetto.

Is a ghetto where poor people live?

Then that would not be North Omaha as a whole. There are other areas where a lot of financially insecure people live.

Some live in South Omaha,

downtown Omaha, West Omaha or in the Dundee area. So therefore, North Omaha couldn't be considered a ghetto entirely.

People need to visit North Omaha before spreading information about it that they know nothing about. North Omaha is full of wonderful people.

People should take a deeper look and make their own conclusions instead of making assumptions based on other peoples' opinions.

This is how it should be.

Then maybe Omaha as a whole wouldn't be so black and white as to what areas are safe and considered better than others.

New stricter tardy policy tough on students, teaches importance of good attendance

The new tardy policy is harsh, but it is greatly needed to stop students' apathetic attitudes towards class attendance.

It's about time.

The new tardy policy is something that Central desperately needed.

Kids were coming into classes late, not caring what was going on.

Not only were they coming in late, but they were coming in late in large, loud groups.

Teachers couldn't do much about late students coming into their class, but send them to their administrator or give them detentions.

Most of the time, detentions have

little, if any effect on whether the student will come in late again. Many students will not even show up for detentions.

Some students even tried to be late on purpose because they had a warped sense of what was cool or not and made a habit about it.

However, no more students will waltz into class late everyday repeatedly with the threat of this new policy hanging over their heads.

Harsh rules and bigger punishments have changed the way students perceive the word "tardy."

First semester, students would walk in to class late in big groups laughing and talking loudly, disturbing other students who were working and doing what they

were supposed to be doing.

Apparently, the late students did not think anything about it because they would do it in almost all of their classes.

Many students claim that the policy is too harsh and that there is not enough time in the passing period for them to get to class and to their locker or restroom.

Some students claim that the policy is just stupid because the punishments are too strict and you can get suspended over being tardy, and if anything, the punishment should be to stay in school, not be put out of it.

Another big issue for seniors is the fact that they can only have three tardies and five absences.

It's easier for them to be absent than to be tardy and use up all of their tardies.

Yes, the tardy policy is tough, but students need to get use to actually getting to class on time, and if the punishment for them not following the rules is harsh, then so be it.

It may discourage them from being late again.

Now, students are no longer intentionally walking to class, but are running to class to beat the last bell.

This is good.

People are supposed to come to school and learn, not come to be noticed or disturb the calm learning environment by coming in late and making a ruckus.

Of course some students will still come late, but now the punishment is worse and may discourage them from being late as often.

The tardy policy is good; it was something greatly needed.

If things had kept going the way they were, class time would keep getting gradually reduced by the steady stream of late students.

Students are now making more of an effort to get to class on time, and teachers don't have to waste valuable time in class to either start over, or assign late students detentions.

Now a 42-minute class period might actually have 42 minutes of useful time for learning.

This tardy policy has been something greatly needed.

Now is as good as any time to enforce it.

Maybe it should even be tougher.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff



GLASS HALF FULL

Jessica Womack

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



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Four-day weeks cheat students

Rolling out of bed way past noon on a Monday morning sounds nice.

Students in rural schools in Nebraska get to do just that. However, it is at a cost to their education.

These districts, like others around the country, are switching from five to four-day weeks in an effort to save money.

These may be lean times for public education in Nebraska, but it is a sad day when districts have to resort to taking valuable time away from students to save a few pennies.

Five-day school weeks have worked since public school was invented.

Practically every real job in America has a five-day work week.

Three-day weekends are very special to students right now. They only come along once every so often and they are treasured dearly when they do.

However, this may be a way of the past if all of Nebraska begins to conform to four-day weeks as a money saving mechanism.

Then three-day weekends will become the norm and students will have an extra day to waste every week.

A day to waste away is nice every once in a while, but if students have them every week, then their lives will just become a huge sinkhole of time and they will not learn as much.

This system was proposed earlier this year to help save money on teacher salaries and bussing costs. The four-day week has so far been successful when it comes to budgeting.

However, no child's education and future, for that matter, should be put into jeopardy just to save a few dollars.

Rural teachers already have lower salaries than

anyone.

Missing a day's paycheck will only make matters worse.

Though missing just one day of school may not seem like a lot in the short run, it really is.

One day a week adds up to four days a month and four days of month adds up to 36 days an average school year.

These missing days are in addition to the weekend, sick days and vacation.

Some people argue that students, especially high school students, get busier and more stressed out as the years pass and it would be better if they only went to school for four days a week.

If the government was using this plan for the betterment of students, then it would be all right. It would still be cheating kids out of their education, but at least it has good intentions.

The government is using this plan to save money, not to make anyone's life any less stressful or better.

Four-day weeks also do not prepare students for the real world. Everything works in five-day intervals and high school's purpose is to prepare students for real life.

During the Depression, there were five-day school weeks.

During World War II, there were five-day school weeks.

During Vietnam, there were five-day school weeks.

During every hard time in the history of America, nothing has compromised the traditional school week.

No matter what hard times American may come upon, nothing should compromise the country's future.

EDITORIAL

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The opinion of

the Register staff

HEROS & ZEROES

New SRO James Stokes

Central's new student resource officer James Stokes is a welcome addition to the faculty. Having a police officer in school is an important part of maintaining a safe school environment. With the future of the SRO program in jeopardy, having Officer Stokes around is a constant reminder of its importance.

Stop Sign on Davenport

The addition of the new four-way stop sign on Davenport Street right next to where students get dropped off and picked up in the morning is another step in making Central a safer school. Too many drivers seem to think that it is perfectly fine to speed down the street when getting to or leaving school. It was often treacherous for those walking to or from their cars to cross the street because of these lead foot drivers. Now that they are forced to stop halfway down the street, pedestrians can cross freely and not have to worry about being hit.

International Banquet

This year's International Banquet was one of the biggest Central activities of the year. Congratulations to those responsible for their success.

Shortened Spring Break

This year's spring break does not consist of a full week plus two weekends like others in the past. Instead it is a glorified weekend.

For some reason, those who plan out the school year decided it was better to shorten spring break and let students out slightly early than it was to give them a real spring break.

Though getting out early is always nice, students need a good spring break to relax and get ready for the rest of the year.

Renovations Interferences

The renovations and repairs going on inside of Central have caused disturbances for some classes.

On at least one occasion, teachers have been forced to move their classes into the courtyard because of the noise from the drilling.

Renovations may be necessary, but they should not interfere with the learning environment.

Midterms

Midterms caused a week of unneeded stress during the end of the quarter when many students were already occupied with other projects.

CHS quirks, 'defects' show charm of school

Sterile, hospital white walls, brand new carpet, unsmudged, unscratched tile floors, modern lighting, wide hallways and a room numbering systems that nobody gets.

That definitely isn't a description of Central. Almost every day I hear somebody comment on how Central is "raggedy" or "ghetto."

Much less often do I hear about Central's great character and personality.

Sure, door knobs fall off sometimes and yes, there are large holes in the ceilings all over the place, but it gives the school character, if anything.

Coming from Millard West, I can appreciate the creaking floors and the chipping paint here at Central.

I remember the first time I walked into Central's auditorium my freshman year.

Being used to the auditorium at Millard West, I felt like I had stepped into the Orphium or the Rose.

The balcony alone was totally amazing. I didn't even think that feature existed in high schools.

At Millard West, the balcony, if you could even call it that, was basically just a bunch of steps.

It wasn't even above the ground or anything.

The stage alone was probably half the size of Central's and was only a few steps off the ground as well.

To me, it was very plainly designed. It was boring and the carpet was so new you felt like you had to take off your shoes to walk across it.

It wasn't very relaxing and it made the plays seem more and more like those in junior high.

Central's stage, on the other hand, is up high and has beautiful wood and there are layers of curtains and the backstage area is more worn in.

The stone walls instantly caught my eye as I sat down in the creaking seats.

It's old, antique and makes the

performances come alive.

For anybody who has ever been in any other high school, be it a Millard or another OPS school, Central's numbering system is amazingly easy to understand.



RANDOM ORDER

Ashley Brown

Who designs these other schools?

You would be walking down the hallways passed rooms 350, 355, 360 and then all of a sudden you're at 650.

Why is it designed like that?

Were they trying to make it as hard as possible for the students to maneuver around school?

Were they trying to make all of the freshmen who don't know their way around late to class every day?

It really is ridiculous. Millard West was very much like that.

There was a hallway called the "green mile," and if you got stuck down there, it was almost a guarantee you would be late for class.

At Central, you have almost no excuse for being late. Not being able to find the class doesn't cut it as an excuse with most teachers.

The easy numbering system really goes unappreciated by most students.

Brand new isn't always the best. Ever hear the phrase "they don't make things like they used to?"

The schools out west are just like the houses, except perhaps a little like a cookie-cutter.

You can tell the walls and doors didn't have as much effort put into making them as the older OPS schools.

Sometimes at Millard West, I'd like if I slammed the door too hard that it was going to break.

Sure, the sinks were automatic and the cappuccino machines in the cafeteria totally ruled.

No, Central doesn't have any character, but sometimes having age character and a design that was collaged together by a bunch of morons can make a school a better learning environment.

Lessons come at every turn in life irritate those who need education

Why is it that everything in life has a lesson attached to it? It's practically impossible to have something happen to you that doesn't bring about the knowledge of a learned lesson.

Try as hard as you like, but there always seems to be a lesson.

If you drive too fast you will get into a car accident. You then learn not to drive as fast.

Doing a lot of drugs will make you end up like Ozzy Osbourne. The lesson? Doing drugs turns you into a stuttering, lost person.

Some lessons seem pointless and just a waste of precious time.

No one wants to learn the lesson that if you have fun at a party, most times you will be feeling it the next day. That's a lesson that neither helps nor hurts. It's inevitable, but no one wants to remember that lesson.

It is also true that some of the lessons we encounter are good lessons. The lessons of not touching a hot stove, not to drink sour milk and not to play with matches are always helpful.

These are all good lessons. Good lessons help to make our lives better. They, in some way, helps us from doing something damaging. It only takes one horrible knife juggling accident for you to learn that fingers do not grow back.

We can find lessons anywhere. Parents teach lessons both consciously and subconsciously. The lessons they teach help us to make our lives better.

Our friends also teach lessons, usually through their own follies. Through these mistakes, they are able to enlighten us.

Sports teach us as well. Athletics

teaches us that patience and endurance bring success. That there is an "I" in team, perseverance is the key to winning and it is all just a game.

Even television teaches us lessons. The lessons are usually through a sitcom some sort. Through

comical genius we learn that honesty is important, cheating is bad and that it all works out in the end.

But television doesn't always know best. Many children grow up with what television tells them.

Shows like "Sesame Street" promote good lessons, but that usually is not the only show that children watch.

Children like violence, cursing and other taboo things. Thus, shows like "South Park" and "The Simpsons" are appealing.

Movies and video games also seem to bring out the bad lessons. Of course war movies and games are fun, there will always be people who see video games as more truthful than not.

The people who bring video games and movies under scrutiny usually only want to see the good lessons in everything.

Even people who crusade for the good lessons and teachings can teach bad habits.

The lesson itself isn't bad. The actions done were poor. They teach a person not to judge a book by its cover.

So even though everything seems to have a good lesson attached to it, the truth is that most of the time the lesson helps improve our lives, despite our dislike for learning.



LIKE A PARASITE

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Letters to the Editor
Columns
Register your opinion
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OPINION

"The absence and tardy policy for seniors is very upsetting. Some senior might get invited to visit colleges and therefore should be allowed to miss more than five days."

Stephanie Schwinck, 12

The Big Issue: Tardy Policy

Tardy policy not realistic for some students

Dear Editor,
The new tardy policy is really not very good because some people have classes downstairs far from their last one. They don't really have time for other things like going to their lockers between classes. The restrooms have long lines and you end up being late to class if you need to use the facilities. I think there needs to be more time between classes.
Sindy Hueso, 9

New rules too harsh for college-bound seniors

Dear Editor,
The absence and tardy policies for seniors are very upsetting. Some senior might get invited to visit colleges and therefore should be allowed to miss more than five days. Missing more than five days results in taking finals. This policy is strict and sometimes hard to follow.
Stephanie Schwinck, 12

Tardies caused by traveling far to portables

Dear Editor,
I think the tardy policy is harsh. Some people have classes on the fourth floor and need to go to the portables right afterwards. Five minutes just isn't enough. They should be more lenient to children in those situations or just extend the passing period.
Nicole Wagner, 9

Saturday school not appropriate punishment

Dear Editor,
The new tardy policy is horrible. I have had 11 tardies to first hour and five Saturday school detentions. Saturday school is stupid because no one gets up at 8 in the morning on Saturdays. How does that teach a lesson?
Cassie Campbell, 9

Policy consequences not enforced by teachers

Dear Editor,
The tardy policy has taken a turn for the worse. Now since the faculty came up with the bright idea of waiting until the sixth tardy to have a consequence, many students are late to class. Only one of my nine teachers distributes consequences every time you are tardy. It is my only class with order.
Molly Mullen, 9

Suspension pointless for excessive tardies

Dear Editor,
The tardy policy is a stupid thing because by suspending people if they get to an amount of tardies that just make the matter worse.
Laquita Gates, 9



Policy punishes kids for other's mistakes

Dear Editor,
I feel that the new tardy policy is too severe. Even though I myself do not suffer from this policy, others do.
Some kids have stubborn parents who do not feel the need to leave until they feel they should.
If your ride won't leave, you cannot go and you're late.
Should students be punished for their parent's mistakes? The answer is obviously no. I feel that the administration needs to rethink this drastic rule and rewrite it more appropriately.
Ariel Ramirez, 9

Later starting time would solve tardy crisis

Dear Editor,
If school started earlier, then students would pay more attention in their earlier classes.
Wesley Johnson, 11

Traveling to locker makes students late

Dear Editor,
I am mad about this tardy policy because it is dumb. People have to go to their lockers and they can't

get to class on time.

They do it daily so I think it is stupid.
Robert Yarbrough, 10

Rule too harsh for occasionally late students

Dear Editor,
If someone is late to class a few times, then they get Saturday school or referral, etc. I think that a person can be a minute or two late to class and not get in trouble.
Matt Engler, 11

Referrals too severe punishment for tardiness

Dear Editor,
I don't like the new tardy bell because you shouldn't have to get a referral just because you're late. That is nonsense. Whoever made this new policy should rethink this or come up with something better.
Cameron Sullivan, 10

Policy makes matters worse, causes failures

Dear Editor,
The tardy policy is not a good idea. Sometimes people can't make it to class on time. You just make us fail. You must want to see a lot of those people again. It really comes back to you.
Laura Biggs, 9

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you feel safe at Central?



"I think they (the faculty) take care of things."

Amanda Stastny, 10



"Yes, I guess. I don't know why, I just do."

Paris Johnson, 10



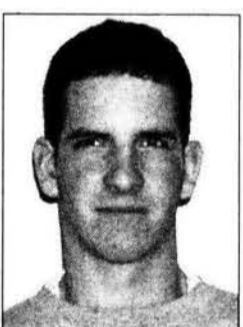
"Yeah, because we have a good selection of security guards and good teachers looking out for the safety of students."

Terrence Harris, 10



"Yes, because I think only people who make themselves unsafe should feel unsafe."

Robert Wesley, 10



"Yes, because we have security guards."

Joe Grady, 11



"No, because there is a whole bunch of fights and it takes a while for teachers and security to get there."

Jessica Wise, 10



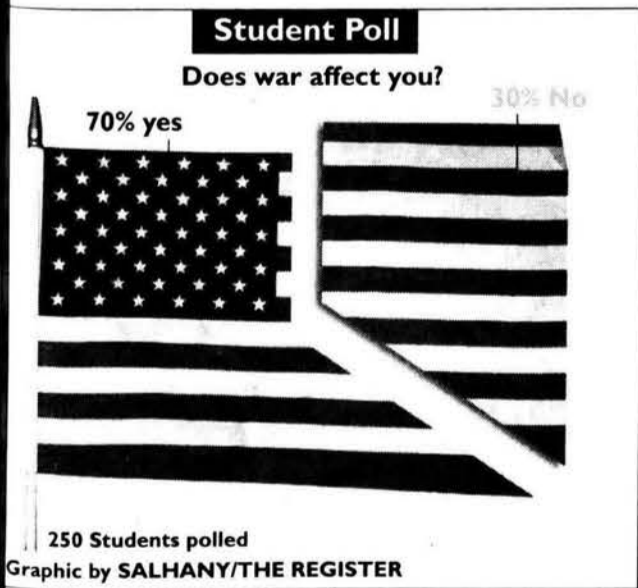
"I think it's pretty good. The security's pretty good; it feels safe"

Dominic Minton, 10

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Changes to school lunch need to be made

Dear Editor,
I really don't look forward to lunch because the food isn't always good. It is either burnt or doesn't look good enough to eat. It also seems as if we have the same food over and over again. I don't like it when we run out of juice and cookies in the middle of the week either. I think lunch should change and these problems should be fixed.
Tanika Cooper, 9



Dress code should not be used in spring

Dear Editor,
I disagree with enforcing the dress code in the spring. We should be able to wear whatever we want to wear. At least until the school gets air conditioning.
Niketa Thomas, 10

Nextwews best and enjoyable student band

Dear Editor,
Students in Central should know that Nextwews is the best band at the school. The article about them was pretty cool. I just wondered why Adam Nebel and Matt Schrad were not in the picture.
Abby Handlos, 11

Letters to the Editor Wanted

Letters to the Editor are gladly accepted in room 315, via e-mail at register@ops.org or in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office.

Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.

Student disagrees with newspaper column

Dear Editor,
People crowd at important walking places and make others late. Class clowns have grown in number trying to keep others from learning. Teachers do nothing. About the articles about the '80s coming back; it's the '60s. Someone needs to learn about his decades. The story about the ravers hanging out at Taco Bell was pointless. Who really wants to read about how stupid kids spend their Saturday night? Please write about interesting things and get your facts straight before you publish.
Missy Martin, 11

Lack of chairs in courtyard results in fights

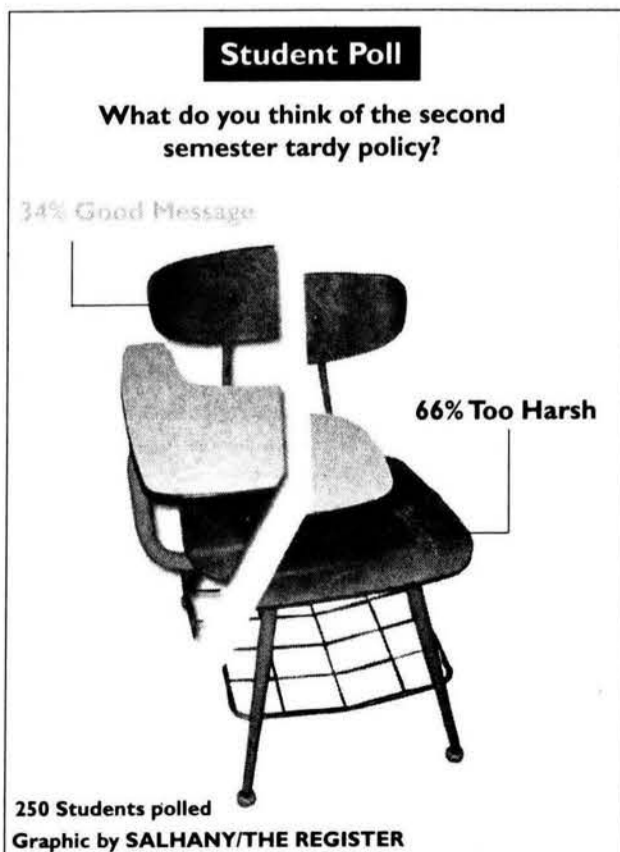
Dear Editor,
Those who eat lunch in the courtyard know the competition for obtaining a chair. Many people get defensive and angry over a seat. Should this really be a big problem? There is a table of mostly females who sit next to our lunch table. Today one of these girls tried to take a chair from us and we refused. It came very close to a fight which probably would have resulted in a bigger fight between both of our tables. The only thing that stopped it was someone volunteering to find her a chair. These problems are blown way out of proportion. Something should be done. We need more chairs in the courtyard or more people to eat upstairs. This problem will not solve itself. This problem shows a lack of respect for our fellow students. They have so much pride, they show nothing for anyone else. I don't understand why.
Patricia Dunn, 11

Security guards keep peace, need to do more

Dear Editor,
The security guards are unable to keep every thing under control. Maybe they should step it up a little and be more alert. Walk around more than sitting at the desk by the "C." Just one or two security guards walking around each period is not enough. We should feel safe at almost all times.
Normesha Reynolds, 12

New sign makes street safer, easier to cross

Dear Editor,
Surprisingly I haven't heard many comments about the new stop sign on Davenport. It is good because usually the only comments about the new developments in school are complaints. I think it's a good idea. This way cars waiting on 22nd won't have to wait 15 minutes for a good samaritan to let them in. Also, it will prevent cars from speeding over the hill.
Hollie Engdahl, 11



Love for cartoon persists despite adult-like humor

As much as I don't like the fact, almost every night I find myself in front of my television for at least an hour and a half.

to get acquainted with the "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" and "The Oblongs."



A BIZARRO PERSPECTIVE

Jim Schalles

In fact, if anything, Adult Swim has helped my family grow together, not destroyed it with reckless acts of violence copied from the shows.

It brings me closer with my brother by giving us a common program to watch.

Don't get me wrong, I think it's horrible when kids repeat the actions they've seen on a certain show.

But under the right circumstances and with the right maturity, Adult Swim can bring priceless entertainment.

For this, I give much credit to the writers of the shows. I bet that all through life they were told that they wouldn't amount to anything by teachers and peers.

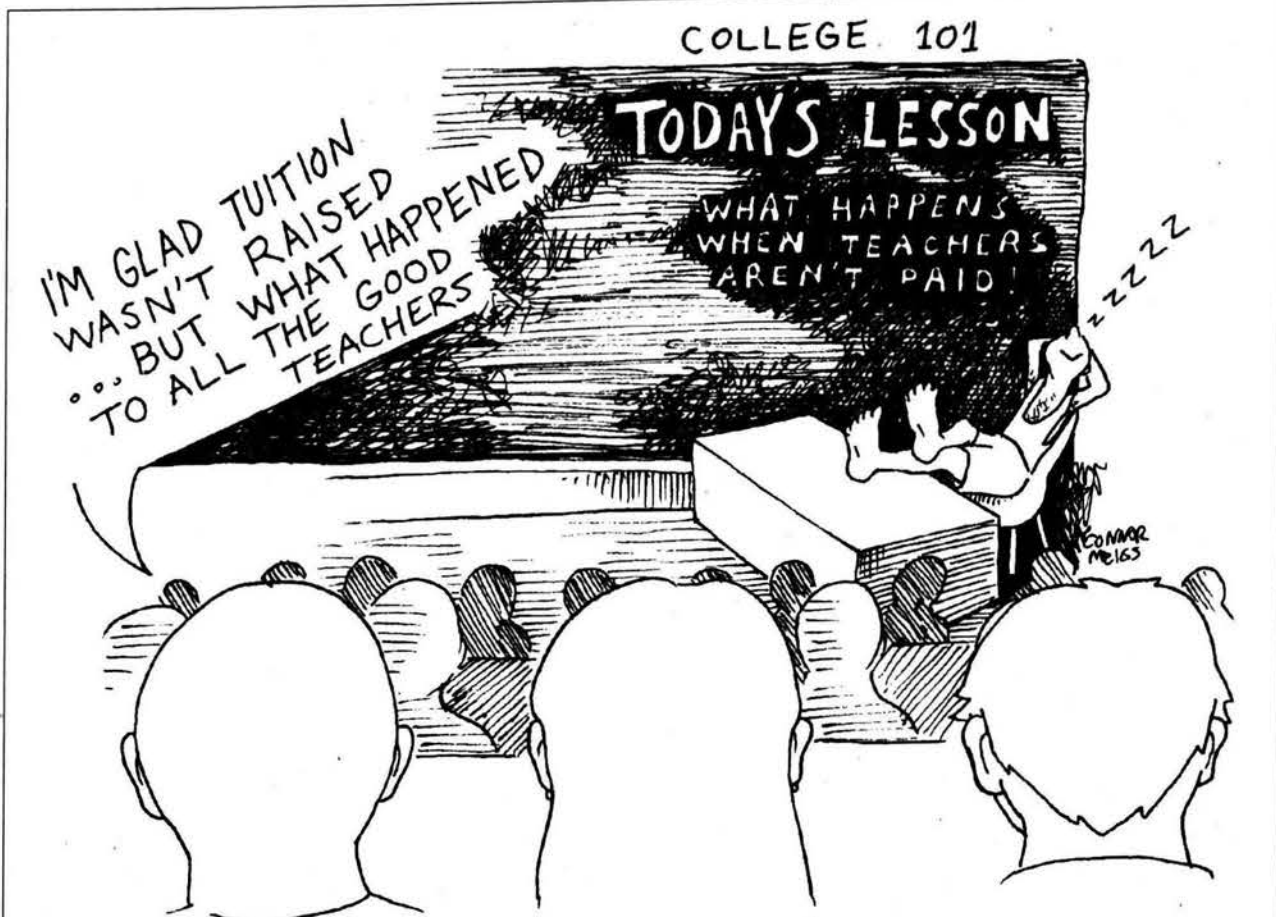
Who else could come up with such brilliant scripts? My only guess is frustrated drop-outs.

Recently, I have started taping the shows so that I can entertain my simple mind for hours on end.

To me, the episodes never get old. On New Years Eve, while everyone else was partying, where was I?

I was watching the New Years Eve Adult Swim Marathon. Laugh at me if you will, but my love for these cartoons is pure and true.

I only hope that some day, the shows played on Nick at Night like "Leave it to Beaver" and "Bewitched" will someday be replaced by random, hilarious cartoon sitcoms like "The Braks of Life."



Tuition cuts take from youth

Students planning on attending UNO, UNK, UNL or UNMC for college next fall will be experiencing an unpleasant, yet necessary tuition increase.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved an \$11.2 million budget cut from its two-year budget, which means the students will be making up that difference.

Tuition will increase 10 percent for resident students and 15 percent for nonresidents.

Expecting to generate \$14 million, the extra tuition money will be used to help pay off costs including faculty salary increases, operating costs and financial aid.

The choice is either to raise tuition or lay off teachers. Teachers are obviously a crucial element in the learning process, and

without teachers, enrollment would have to go down to avoid over-crowded classrooms.

A big layoff of teachers and staff would have a much larger impact on the school systems than it would be on the students just having to pay extra to attend.

Plus, with all of the teachers not being paid well, the education factor of the schools would also significantly decrease. Even though tuition is being raised, the cuts are resulting in up to 139 teachers being laid off.

The faculty will only be seeing raises of four percent at UNL and 4.6 percent at UNMC, instead of the 6.3 percent pay raises that the employees were scheduled to receive. UNO and UNK faculty will receive higher raises of 6 and 7 percent because of

union contracts.

The tuition increase is definitely a sacrifice, but with the recent budget cuts from schools, the Board did what had to be done.

Due to inflationary costs related to employee salaries, room and board as well as tuition normally increases over the years little by little.

Such a large percentage jump (7 percent higher than the last two-year budget cuts) will really hit the students, as well as the rest of the state, hard.

The tuition increase isn't as drastic as other states in the region such as Minnesota, which is enduring an 18 percent increase and Iowa's 16 percent increase.

The large increase definitely won't be easy on students, but unfortunately it is necessary in order to avoid a huge layoff.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff

Eliminating high school saves money, reduces useless knowledge

Save the arts, save music, save valuable education, but open your eyes to the excesses of public education.

After sleeping through 12 years of glorified day care, the answer to Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) budget problems is suddenly clear to me.

Eliminate high school.

Rather than picking your nose, learning how to finger paint or bang wooden blocks together, OPS should work the high school's curriculum into elementary and junior highs where students are still young, impression-

able and still care.

Elementary school prepares students for junior high, junior high prepares students for high school, high school prepares students for college, and college prepares students for alcoholics anonymous and the unemployment office.

Instead, OPS could cut out at least four years of learning how to prepare to learn, and focus on actual education.

Four less years of useless education allows students to become productive members of society,

sooner.

Students would be leaching from the budget for four less years, allowing schools to better utilize funds, allowing the government to collect more taxes from the increase in production, and allowing public education to receive more tax dollars per student.

Deleting high school will save the school district's endangered valuable resources.

Fewer students would need fewer schools and fewer teachers as well. Shortages of both teachers and schools would be solved.

Putting a larger emphasis on academic education earlier in a student's school career would make education more effective.

Maybe even extend the younger students school days to begin earlier in the morning. They might miss their favorite episode of the latest Japanimation, the new one with brighter strobe lights and more magical animals to catch, but that's not a major problem. Just give them an extra helping of their attention-deficit-hyperactive-disorder medication and they'll get over it.

Schools could start putting a larger emphasis on learning instead of over emphasizing the structure of learning.

Start compacting high school curriculum into junior high and elementary schools by eliminating classes not essential to the ad-

vancement of students' minds.

Unfortunately physical education and all the other classes where physical activity is a key component would be cut first. This would not only create more time for academic education, but also would save school administrators the time of listening to complaints concerning gym requirements.

To counteract the decrease in students physical activity after gym is taken out of the curriculum, schools could stop serving lunch. This would add yet another period to be used for educating while lowering school expenses and saving students from semi-cooked mystery meats.



AN OBJECTIVE SUBJECTIVITY

Connor Meigs



Top Ten Uses for Old School Supplies Once Secondary Education is Eliminated

1. (Left) Push mechanical pencils into each other's ear to see how far they will go and whether or not it is possible to touch one's brain.
2. Make a giant bonfire out of the old textbooks so students can read their favorite novels in the dark.
3. Use old gym uniforms as toilet paper. Be sure to wash them first, those sweat stains can smear.
4. Send old anti-tobacco campaign posters to tobacco corporations to recycle into cigarette wrappers.
5. Take all of the overhead projectors and use them to create a super-strong light beam strong enough to burn a hole in the moon.
6. Use school lunches as a biological weapon against Iraq. Forget about food anthrax, America will have the power of food poisoning.
7. Use staplers as the newest home piercing tool. They hurt so bad, but look so good.
8. Discarded compasses make great at-home labotomy kits. Just remember that practice makes perfect.
9. Styrofoam lunch trays can be compressed and melted together to make one huge non biodegradable shell to cover the Earth and prevent it from biodegrading.
10. Compile each student's discarded band equipment and melt it into a giant brass ball. It may not serve any real purpose, but it has to be better than the sound of tubas.

Brief glimpse of old friend in different light brings startling change in perspective

Have you ever walked in on a family member in the bathroom?

Yeah, it was kind of like that.

There are some people you dream about seeing in next to nothing. But there are also those that you would never want to see in anything other than a sweatshirt and pants. These are the people that you hope shower fully clothed.

So seeing someone that I practically consider my brother in nothing but boxer-briefs is something that will take a lot to erase from my memory.

This person is my friend Carl and being the supportive person that I am, I went to go see his play. Even though he had told me countless times what a horrible play it was and that no one should

waste their time with it.

He wasn't lying. The play was about the Great Depression and dragged on for an endless three hours, leaving the audience in their very own great depression.

Another friend and I were entertaining ourselves by pretending that one of the people in the play was our child. Every time he came on stage we quietly cheered for our young thespian. Little Rajiv is going places I tell you.

When my pride and joy was not onstage, I had to stay awake by trying to guess exactly where one of the actors was supposed to be from. Her accent sounded

like a mix of Irish, Scottish, and some sort of South American dialect. I guess she was supposed to be British, but I did not catch that.

I was getting really antsy and could not wait to grab my friend and get out of there.

After the play, my friends and I waited around for Carl to finish changing and taking photos and all of the other things people have to do after performances.

We had been waiting for 20 minutes, or so it seemed, so my friend Bridget and I decided that we were going to go find him because we were hungry.

Carl had disappeared backstage so

we decided to go in after him. We were standing around outside of the dressing rooms, which were actually just bathrooms without doors, and we could see shadows of people changing clothes and we could hear his voice.

All of a sudden, a boy walked in front of the door to grab his clothes. He was in nothing but his skivvies.

This was really not a big deal until Bridget and I realized who it was. There was Carl in less than what a bathing suit would cover.

All three of us realized what was going on and we all shrieked like little schoolgirls who had just seen a snake. After he threw on a shirt, he started to walk towards the door to talk to us. I was

still in shock and he was still in little more than his underwear!

I ran out the door laughing hysterically, my face was as rosy as the actor's rouge-covered cheeks.

Why was this such a big deal? Until that night I had never seen Carl in anything but long pants. I had never even seen him wear sandals.

Last year I saw him in shorts for the first and only time and it seemed so natural.

I didn't even know he owned shorts. I have regained my bearings now. Every time I see Carl or go to a play, little images of him running in front of the door in little boxer-briefs will dance around my head.



WHERE IS MY MIND

Jillian Risavi

Senior picks meatless diet to ease mind

Living in Nebraska, which is known for its corn-fed cows, hasn't made trying to stop eating meat easy. After all, there's a football team here called "the Beef."

Eating is a traditional part of daily life, and is one of my favorite things to do.

A big juicy cheeseburger or 12-ounce New York Strip steak were foods that I once drooled over when even the thought of them entered my mind.

I was a red meat and poultry lover up till the beginning of the year when I decided to go through a cleansing process.

During this process I wouldn't eat meat or drink caffeine for a month. So living off of vegetables, rice, water or whatever I could find was it.

That month passed and I had continued to not eat meat, but unfortunately I gave into my caffeine addiction.

Though I have slipped up a few times, I have found that I have a growing appreciation for vegetarians and vegans.

People asked me why I was stopping and the obvious answer was a spiritual cleansing, but looking back I believe there was an underlying issue.

The thought that an animal's flesh was being ground and torn apart by my teeth anytime I bit into a piece of meat, along with the body of an animal inside me began to disgust me.

Dairy products are still in my diet and they may remain there until I decide to become a true vegan, I'll keep on drinking milk and eating cheese.

Now, I totally understand why my not eating meat isn't going to save a cow or anything. I just believe that for me it isn't a necessary act I have to do everyday.

However, finding food that gives all the proper nutrition my diet hasn't been simple. The biggest thing lacking in my new diet was iron.

I needed to find a strong source of iron that I could actually stand eating.

After talking with a friend, I got advice on the different foods that would help me get the correct amount of nutritional value I needed.

She told me things like spinach and soybeans were best for iron intake.

Some people would say to take an iron supplement or multi-vitamin, but going through the hassle to find one that doesn't contain any toxins, speed or blood thinner was going to be difficult.

In recent years, Omaha has been blessed with acquiring Wild Oats Market which caters to the vegetarian and vegan world.

Wild Oats is known for carrying organic products and vitamin supplements for the non-meat eaters of the world.

Everyone's entitled to make their own decision when it comes to what they eat.

As long as a well-balanced diet and exercise is involved along with a yearly check-up, you'll be as healthy as a horse.



SURPRISE ME
Danielle Welty

Honors classes filled with too much talk

"I think it was the Chinese...what kind of cookies are they making today...on the way into school today, the boogers in my nose froze because it was so cold out...I got lost on the way to school today...I'm so confused...your hair looks so pretty."

These are just a few of the comments that I get to hear on a daily basis as I walk into one of my many classes. Yes, these people are completely random. Yes, everything they say really is a waste of perfectly good air, and yes, this is the setting of an honors class.

Honors classes are supposed to be filled with the best and brightest in the school. They are supposed to bring those who want to learn on a higher level up a notch. I ended up with the rejected batch.

It's never the guys in my class who refuse to shut-up and continue talking just to hear their own voices. It's all of the annoying girls. Many think it's cute to say dumb things.

They all feel the need to announce all of their embarrassing and stupid moments that we hadn't caught in any of their other conversations during the 40-minute period we are all together

The worst part is, after they make one of these unimportant comments, they all realize it was dumb and join together in one synchronized high-pitched laugh that has continued to do damage to my ear drums since the first day of freshman year.

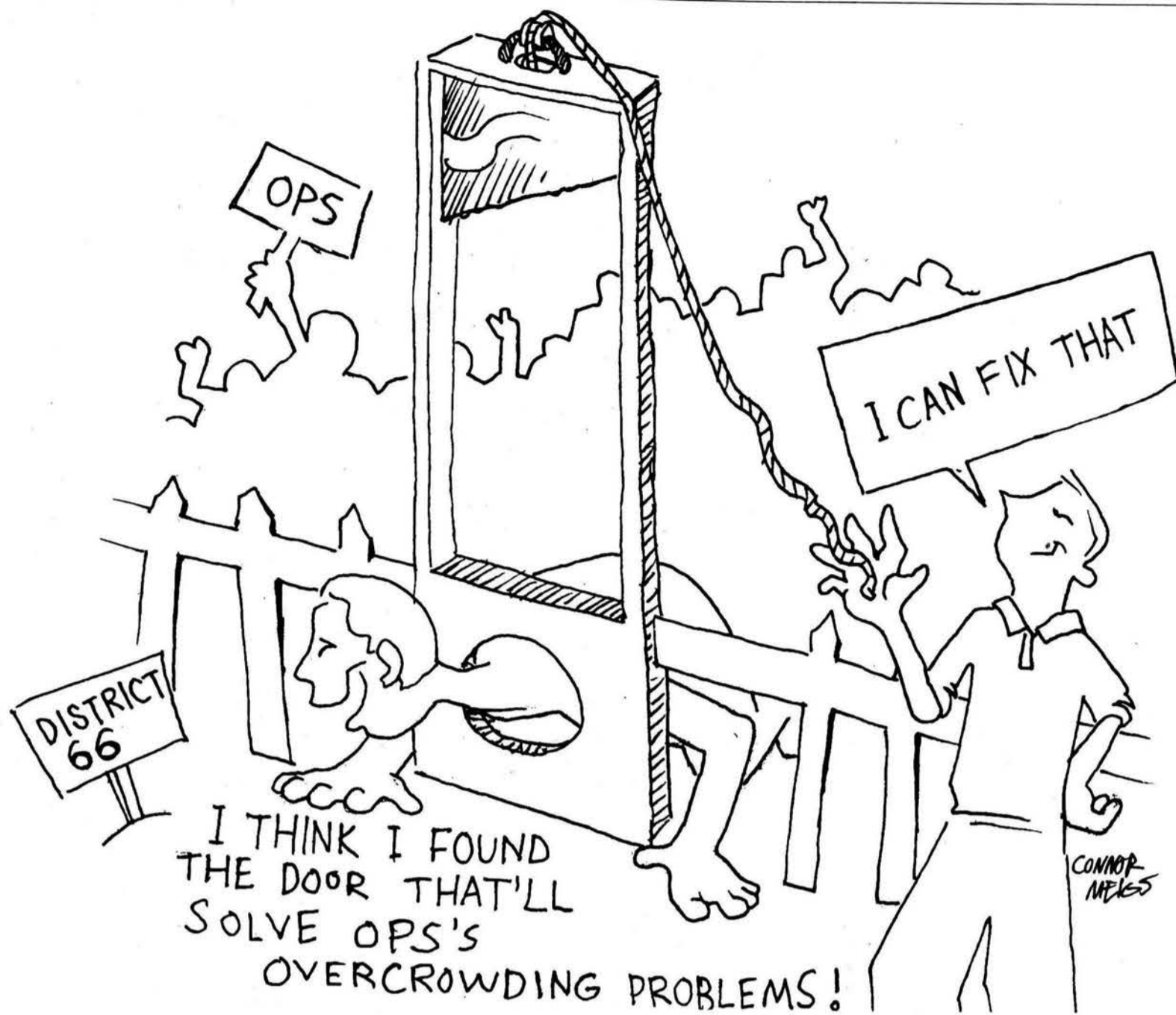
Whenever they begin to talk I say to myself: "Please shout out one more answer in class that makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. We're not even studying that chapter. Have you been awake the past few weeks? If you would please think for just two seconds before you open your mouth it would make all the difference."

The thing is, these girls don't realize that nobody cares what they ate this morning. What happened this weekend when they were drunk, really doesn't concern anyone but their own trivial selves. And just as a word of advice, if so and so really said that many horrendous things about you, confront them on your own time, not while I'm trying to learn about the Homestead Act.

For many months I have been contemplating the right moment to stand up and yell at one of them. Of course, there's still the question of should I yell at one, or all five of these giggling pests? Or would my words even have an effect on one of these egotistical people?

Normally I can block out the stupidity, but these people find it important to talk loud enough so the whole class can hear, and of course it continues to occur long after the bell for class to begin has rung and this affects what I learn.

The teachers tend to do nothing about it. We go through the ritual of four warnings, then they give the girls a stern look and they quiet down for a total of ten minutes at most. Eventually, I hope for the girls' sake, that they grow out of this phase and move on to better things in life, like becoming ambitious professional shoppers.



District keeps out those with desire to learn

The officials at District 66 seem to believe that the schools in the district are getting a little too crowded.

However, the district should not have anything to worry about when school board members vote on whether a cap should be placed on the number of students from other districts who are allowed to enroll at a Westside school next year.

They are trying to make it harder for students from these school districts to transfer into Westside community schools.

This is a horrible idea. Any student from the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) district who takes the time to go through all of the hassle, red tape and paperwork that is involved in switching from district to district is worth having.

Students in District 66 have no idea how good they have it.

Let them come to Central to really see what overcrowding is.

They don't have a clue.

What may seem overcrowded to them would seem luxurious to students in some OPS schools.

Take a look at Central. It has almost 2,600 students roaming the halls, and is about to go under heavy renovations.

Floors will be taken out one by one and since there is such a large number of students, the hallways will be even more crowded than they already are.

So far nothing has been done to help control the number of students at Central. True, some ideas have been proposed, but none of them have been decided on.

Something has to be done soon.

Official at Central have a hard time turning kids away.

District 66 may be one of Central's saying graces.

Although District 66 officials think that the schools are almost at the breaking point, they most likely have room for more students.

The high school currently has 1,780 students roaming the halls. That is almost 700 less than Central.

The open spots could be filled with some students from Central who have to go to another school or choose to go when floors start being torn out.

Furthermore, any student who wants to go to District 66 badly enough to change schools halfway through high school obviously really wants to go to a less crowded school.

District 66 will actually benefit from allowing outside students in because it will be gaining attentive, willing learners.

This year over 1,000 students have opted out of their home districts to go to Nebraska's most popular magnet school, Westside High School.

That was a sizable percentage of the school's enrollment. Five years ago, students from other districts made up about 13 percent of the school's enrollment.

Though allowing nonresident students to have brought the school millions of dollars in funding, school officials say that they now need to set limits.

Still, those who are in the school from other districts can stay, and their siblings can also enroll.

So far, 35 nonresident students have been placed on the waiting list for the next school year.

Under this plan, each grade level will have about 455 students which should help limit the extra number of bodies at the schools in District 66.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff



Candy store journey cheaply fulfills life's greatest dream of eating sweets

There's a place I like to go when I'm feeling down.

This is a place I like to go to when I'm out of money and have a sweet tooth.

Just beyond the shadows of downtown Omaha and Creighton Medical Center lies the J & J grocery store on 33rd and California Streets.

It may just be a little grocery store tucked away in a residential neighborhood to most people, but to me it is something more.

To me, it's pure nostalgia.

I am driven to this store constantly because of the delicious sweet candy sold for only a penny.

The candy is neatly organized into six baskets set in the middle of a cramped aisle.

My eyes light up with joy upon seeing the brightly colored candy.

But first I must ask for a small sack to put the candy in before I buy it.

Oh, the variety that is there: pink lemonade, green apple and probably some innovative flavors to come.

When the time comes to check out and pay for all this candy, one might believe that 300 pieces of candy would ring up a large bill.

But at only a penny a piece, I only have to pay \$3 for candy that will make me sick for the rest of the day.

There are very few places left in this country where a boy can eat himself sick for less than \$5.

Even at fast food restaurants, where food is supposed to be cheap, it takes at least \$8 to get enough food to truly eat yourself sick.

What's unique about J & J is that the candy is right out in the open and anyone can just dig right in.

Other boring, regular grocery stores have the conventional scoops that just get in the way and slow down the time for the customer to load up on the sugary treats.

While I am not sure what the letters in J & J stand for, and I'm sure I can find out easily.

Since I don't know, I have named it with the same initials as a sandwich shop in Columbia, MO and Chicago, IL, made famous by one of my friends: Jimmy John's.

The name may sound stupid, but someday it just might be pounded into your mind and soon you'll be uttering your quest to buy cheap, delicious candy that can only be found there.

In case one has an appetite for frozen sweets, this store offers frozen flavored sticks inside of a freezer for a very low price.

From traditional cherry to a strange watermelon flavor, the frozen ice sticks

can please anyone on a hot day.

These delights come in high demand with my friends during summer time.

Above the refrigerators that store soda and other drinks lay glass sculptures of animals.

Sometimes I wonder what it would look like if I had a sculpture like that in my bedroom.

If we had them, my mother would say they're tacky and would want them out of the house.

I wouldn't let that happen.

To her, they may be tacky, but to me they are true works of art.

I would greet the sculptures with a smile each time I passed by.

From statues of matadors to cheetahs, this store is just as good as any art gallery in town.

How many grocery stores do you know that can double up as an art gallery?

I would even bet that this one could rival any real art gallery like the Joslyn.

A little bit down 33rd Street is California Taco, often a predecessor to my candy bins.

California Taco is another lovely place where I can gorge myself on a budget.

On very special occasions, I might mix it up a little and go to both J and J and California Taco. The mix of tacos and penny candy may sound weird, but trust me, it is delicious.

If you've never tried it, you are definitely missing out.

During an ideal evening, I would travel two miles from my home to California Taco to get a delicious Mexican dish.

Then I would stumble across the street into J and J and somehow find my way home with 500 pieces of candy.

I could do this many times a week. Nobody could stop me from getting my candy.

Again, that is in a perfect world.

Stadium plans show promise, will bring much-needed addition to Central's landscape

It's about time.

It's about time Eagles athletes hold their heads high out of pride for their home turf.

Based on the most recent plans and diagrams, that a spectacular turf will be.

Home seating will accommodate 3,500

spectators and the visitor side will accommodate 1,600 spectators.

longer will fans have to sit on the stiff, uncomfortable benches at the almost archaic Berquist Stadium at Norris.

Members of the design meetings have come up with the ingenious solution of turning the stadium sideways to fit in its limited space.

The way the land exchange

worked out will provide 41 spots near where the old senior lot was plus 152 behind the bleachers

along with 40 parking spots guaranteed to Central by Joslyn.

The limited space surrounding the school has further been compensated for by plans to turn the parallel parking on davenport into diagonal parking.

Central has been fortunate to have the benefit of such kind partners in the land exchange and negotiation processes of such mammoth undertaking.

Joslyn's offer to share parking spots out of their own future lots is evidence of this. Meanwhile, Creighton employees (who are knowledgeable about Creighton's

own stadium) have been gracious enough to help out with the design meetings.

It's about time that Central has a stadium of its own.

Football and soccer teams will finally be able to play home games at home instead of at a junior high facility. Meanwhile, the thought of homecoming occurring at home will no longer be a dream.

Central has always been an architectural landmark for the downtown area. This will further add to the area's beautification and pride.

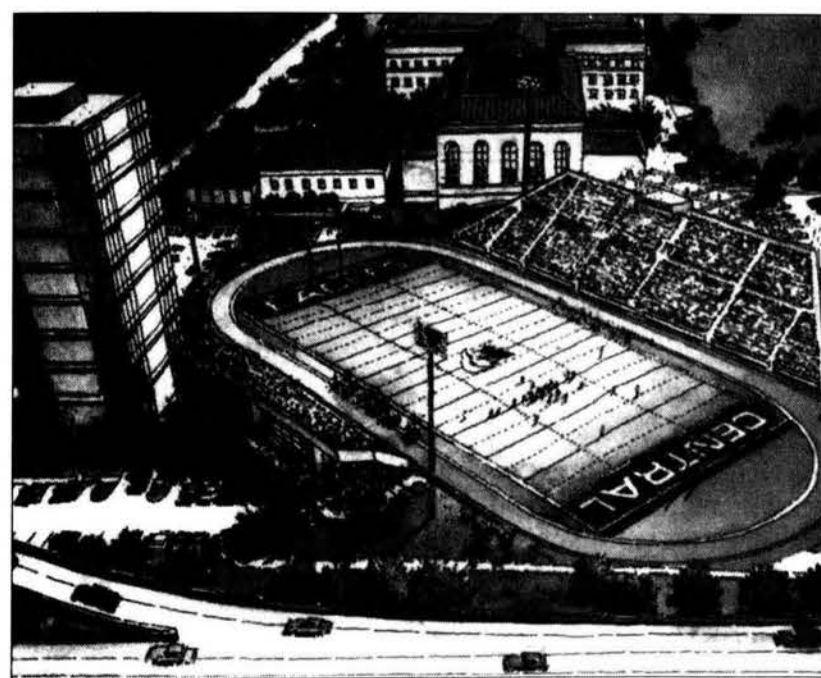
Furthermore, Central's campus will be further contributed to by Joslyn's plan to expand its green space that it will receive in the land trade so that it can expand its.

Not only is it about time that Central has its own stadium, it is about time for construction to begin. Come summer, it will.

Despite the economic troubles plaguing Omaha Public Schools (OPS), the stadium's final construction is still slated for August 2004.

The Eagles are lucky to have devoted planners such as director of OPS buildings and grounds Mark Warneke, who has been working around the clock to make sure that the OPS receives as much as it can out of the stadium construction, land trade and meetings.

With the stadium so close on the horizon, it's about time for Central to celebrate its good fortune.



Courtesy of DLR Group



THE FINE PRINT

Nichole Tyrey

Squirrel likely candidate for kid's evolution

After much deliberation and countless hours spent watching the Discovery Channel, I have come to the conclusion that the theory of evolution is a farce, when it comes to me anyway.

I don't think that I came from a monkey or an ape or any type of primate whatsoever.

I evolved from a squirrel.

I may not look much like a squirrel, but as my mother always told me, it's what's on the inside that counts.

I may lack the bushy tail, wet nose and goofy cheeks, but I am all sorts of squirrely on the inside. This conclusion first implanted itself in my little nut-shaped squirrel brain when the weather started to get chilly.

Suddenly, all of the squirrels in my neighborhood started to get ready for winter.

They shoved their little squirrel faces full of nuts and got ready to settle down for a long nap.

I, all of a sudden, got the urge to eat everything in sight. It didn't help much that it was Thanksgiving time and there was always food in the refrigerator.

As odd and confusing as it may seem, I believe the planning of these big food holidays is proof of my squirrel evolution.

If you think about it, all of the festivities that include lots of food and lots of hanging out inside are held during the winter, just when all of the squirrels begin to eat a lot also.

Though some may say this is just for logical reasons (for example, because it's cold outside).

I think it is because our brains evolved from squirrels and therefore, just like they eat a lot and hangout inside, so do we.

The similarities between humans and squirrels continues on into the spring. The squirrel-mating season is held in the spring, or at least I assume so. The squirrels drunkenly wander in front of cars and chase each other endlessly around trees.

This type of spring courtship is practically the same for humans. If you don't believe the mating section of my theory, then you obviously haven't hung out around the "C" during courting season at Central.

Squirrels are pretty goofy when they are giggly and in love, but humans are definitely on the verge of being worse.

Sure humans don't bolt out in front of cars or chase each other in circles, but they do some pretty dumb things during the mating season.

I am not at all innocent because I have been known to do some pretty dumb things in my short, yet fulfilling life. However, if any of these dumb things happened to occur during the spring, it is completely by coincidence.

I just hope that none of my friends who end up falling for that guy in math class, go chasing him out to the middle of Dodge Street and end up stuck to the road in a soup of their own innards. I would be forced to take action.

Though most likely not true, my theory does have some validity. No one believed Darwin at first either and stranger things have happened.

WALKING THE FINE LINE



Controlling inner-city schools like Central can be like walking a tightrope. And if school officials are going to live up to the expectations that schools can be completely safe, they have to be on their toes.

But for the most part, students say they feel safe at Central.

The key to running a safe, inner-city school is the same as the key to walking a tightrope. All that's necessary is to stay focused and to think about the end result.

The hundreds of students who walk through the doors of Central High School every day should feel safe.

There should be no fear of violence, of fighting or of any sort of crime being committed within school walls.

But some students do not feel safe every day. A few well-publicized, isolated incidents have made many feel that Central is not a secure place to be.

Looking at the number of students versus the number of incidents in the school, this is an ungrounded fear.

No school is perfect and Central has had its fair share of problems with fighting, drugs and violence. For the most part, however, it manages to keep itself from falling into that inner-city school trap.

As population grows and society changes, the school and its administrators must constantly keep adjusting the way Central is run to keep things going smoothly.

The way things were last year is not the way things are this year, and the way things are this year is not the way they will be next year.

Central is a safe school and will remain so as long as it is operated in a rational way. If students let one or two occasions of violence really affect their opinion of the school, the result could be mass hysteria.

The fact of the matter is that not every student at school takes school seriously. Those who do not take school seriously do not think bringing a weapon or drugs or anything else that does not belong on school grounds into school.

Those who do take school seriously simply have to trust that the teachers, administrators, student resource officer, security guards and their fellow students will do the right thing if a problem arises.

Often times after something major happens at Central, talk can be heard throughout the halls about how some students want to transfer out to a school with a better reputation.

A few negative incidences should not tarnish Central's image, at least not permanently.

Remember, this is also a school known for superi-

or academics and athletics. Central is called I-Back High, not Cell Block High after all.

When dealing with a school that is larger than many of the towns in Nebraska, one has to think of it as a community of its own. Every community has problems. If there were perfect utopian places, then there would never be a need for police, security guards or even crossing guards.

So if everyone would just take a deep breath and relax, it would be obvious that the general population of Central is not in any immediate danger.

However, the administrators must be careful and vigilant to make sure this remains to be sure. So far, Central has been lucky, there has never been a major catastrophe in the school.

But it only takes one to ruin everything that this school has gained in its over 100 year-long history.

One never knows how hard this will be or what challenges will present themselves next.

As long as everyone within Central acts in the best interest of students, then there will be no real problem. There will always be some students who don't, but as long as they are in the minority, there is no reason to feel that this school is not safe.

EDITORIAL

•••••
 The opinion of
 the Register staff

Loyalty to United States, desire to evade war unrelated

I am a gay communist, or at least that's what I plan on telling anyone affiliated with the military if America goes to war with Iraq.

Eighteen years has given me the right to vote, buy porn and cigarettes and a letter from the selected services.

The letter sat above my family's fireplace where my parents set it on my birthday.

I like America, but I don't want to go to war.

The 13 stripes and 50 stars sit in a neatly folded heap somewhere at the bottom of my family's coat closet.

My family used to take the flag out and fly it off of my house on holidays such as Memorial Day or Veterans Day. But unlike people who stick to specific flag etiquette, I haven't seen it unfolded and dusted off for years.

I like waving flags on the Fourth of July, grilling big juicy steaks and exercising freedom of expression and doing all sorts of patriotic things.

But I don't know if I would die for it. I don't know if I would be willing to kill and be killed for America, even though I believe it is the best nation in the history of human civilization.

I used to say I would die for America and democracy. In fact, I believe it is a worthy cause to die for. I just don't want to have to be the person to do it.

I could say that I disagree with President Bush' motives, that he's avenging his father's mission to kill Saddam and war mongering.

Or I could say that I don't believe violence and war is not the answer.

Rationalization aside, I don't want to

die. All of this comes from the infinite knowledge of a high school student who has never been across an ocean, seen war, or had a gun fired at him.

There may be a degree of validity to the argument of war. It may even be the economic stimulus needed to pull America out of recession.

But the threat of attacks seems far away in my mind. I wonder whether going to war is worth the insurance policies of however many dead American soldiers it would cost.

Yet I am still wary of waking up one day to chlorine gas tearing away my lung tissue or my eyes popping out of my head like what happened to the guy in "The Rock."

I am further wary of the perpetual barrage of international news stations reporting Iraq's probable production of biological weapons.

Reports of possible Al Quaida camps

within Iraq are no more comforting.

I don't know a single person who died in the Sept. 11 plane wrecks, Pentagon or World Trade Center attacks.

Living in the middle of the nation connects me from the tragedy of the events, but the terrorist attacks still bother me a lot, to say the least.

It bothers me that Iraq's blatant disregard for United Nations weapons regulations either completely discredits the organization or sets the world against America.

Then again, I'm just a high school student. All I really know is that I don't want to go to war.

If America ends up going to war (supposing I am enlisted despite heading off to college) I will probably go.

I feel indebted to the nation and despite my youthful mixture of apathy and idealism, I wish to defend it.

Then again, I may just run off to Canada.



Doug Meigs

EXTRANEIOUS PHRASES

'Cradle 2 the Grave'

Action flick starring Jet Li and DMX
rockets off the big screen.

Page 18

all the
young
punks

Ever since the founding punk bands of the '70s broke up, the debate over whether or not punk is still a vital subculture has been going on. In this issue, the *Register* takes a look at punk music, style and trends.

By Nichole Tyrey

Anarchy signs, Mohawks, loud music and face piercings are all symbols of punk rock.

Students said many of these things can be seen everyday while walking through the halls of Central or watching MTV.

Senior Carlos Garcia said he thinks a lot of people who listen to punk were first introduced to this type of music while watching MTV.

However, he said he believes that finding out about punk rock through mainstream channels makes someone a poseur.

"I guess I first heard of it (punk rock) on MTV and music videos," he said. "I don't consider myself a true punk though; I just like the music."

Christian Robinson, a salesperson at Hot Topic, said that punk style is very hard to define.

"The definition is individual to every person," he said. "But maybe that's the definition. It's individual and non-conformist."

Sophomore Sarah Stowell said she thinks punk has become more of a trend and less about individuality and rebellion.

"People used to look down upon their (punk musicians) music, but now since it is more mainstream, people accept it," she said.

Stowell said a lot of the bands that restart-

ed the punk revolution, like Green Day, have ended up selling out.

"Green Day used to be such a great band, but they ended up selling out and losing their credibility," she said. "It should be more about an attitude and how the band performs and what they care about."

Sophomore Nicola Heller said a lot of bands nowadays claim they are in it for the music, but then sell out to make lots of money.

Junior Taylor Billings said he thinks the point of being punk is to rebel and not sell out to mainstream society.

"It's impossible not to sell out and be in the music business," he said.

Robinson said that a lot of people who buy punk clothing from Hot Topic are more into the old style of punk rock and less into mainstream bands, as opposed to bands like Blink 182 and Avril Lavigne.

"There is a lot of sincerity in the new resurgence (of punk)," Robinson said. "The bands take it a lot more seriously."

Brian Sylvester, a salesperson at Homer's, said punk music is making a definite comeback.

"I don't think that the original punk, like the Sex Pistols and the Clash is (coming back)," he said. "But there definitely is a lot of poppy punk."

Sophomore Jenny Pirruccello said she thinks one of the biggest mistakes a punk band can make is to go on MTV and

see **TRENDS**, page 22

Below from left to right: the KGB, Unwritten Law, the Hippos and SR-71



Comedy successful due to nudity, stars

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

"Old School" is sort of the like the 4-year-old cousin who strips and runs around naked at family gatherings.

It's joyful, shameless, hilarious and chock full of nudity.

"Old School" is definitely trying to be an "Animal House" for the members of the aging

Generation X. However, that does not mean that viewers of all ages will not revel in this delightful comedy.

A trio of young comedians brings "Old School" to life and takes the script from merely

funny to hilarious.

The leader of the pack is Mitch (Luke Wilson), who comes home early from work one day to find his live-in girlfriend cheating.

Mitch leaves his girlfriend and moves into a house that borders a college.

Frank (Will Ferrell) is about to get married and settle down, leaving his heavy-drinking "Frank the Tank" days behind him. Bernard (Vince Vaughan) has already taken the marital plunge and is feeling restless and trapped by his wife and kids.

Bernard is the one who comes up with the idea to turn Mitch's house into the university's new party central. But alas, the crusty old dean of the university (Jeremy Piven) steps in and says the house is being annexed by the school and must only be used for school activities.

With nothing left to lose, the three turn the house into a fraternity. They recruit pledges of all ages and pledge to only party. That's when the fun starts, both for the characters in the movie and the members of the audience.

"Old School" is, in many ways, a very typical young adult comedy. What sets it apart from the rest is a wittier-than-average script, talented actors and the shameless sense of humor that the writers were not afraid to flaunt.

Ferrell is absolutely hilarious, but viewers should be warned that he runs around nude at several points throughout the film.

Vaughan is the perfect dry comedian with a crack sense of timing and sharp sarcastic edge.

Wilson is probably the most talented actor of the bunch and in some sense, he is probably wasted in a fairly simple movie like this.

But he does not seem to mind. While most actors who are playing roles too simple for them seem bored, Wilson seems like he is having a good time.

This is a movie meant to cheer up people in their late 20s and early 30s who do not think they are young, fun or hip anymore. But the humorous cast and script make it a winning pick for anyone who enjoys a good comedy.

'Tears' shows reality, raw brutality of war

By Sara Rips

War is not a glamorous thing as most movies portray. "Tears of the Sun" shows this in a way that even the most critical moviegoer will approve of. The movie's cinematography and soundtrack truly make it a success. These two aspects of the film save it from the poor acting

skills of the supporting actors.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Tears of the Sun"

Starring: Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci

4.5 of 5

Willis fills the role of the lieutenant wonderfully, despite the occasional cliché remark. Like most of his other action-oriented movies, he masters the role and is able to make the viewer feel like they are lost in the action.

While Willis steals the show, other actors seem to drag the movie down. The Navy S.E.A.L.s are able to pull off a tightly-knit unit in a believable manner.

However, Dr. Lena Kendricks (Monica Bellucci) is, at most, pathetic. She lacks the screen presence that could turn her into a convincing actress.

Bellucci's only selling point is her ability to convey a romantic connection between Dr. Kendricks and Waters, and even that is questionable.

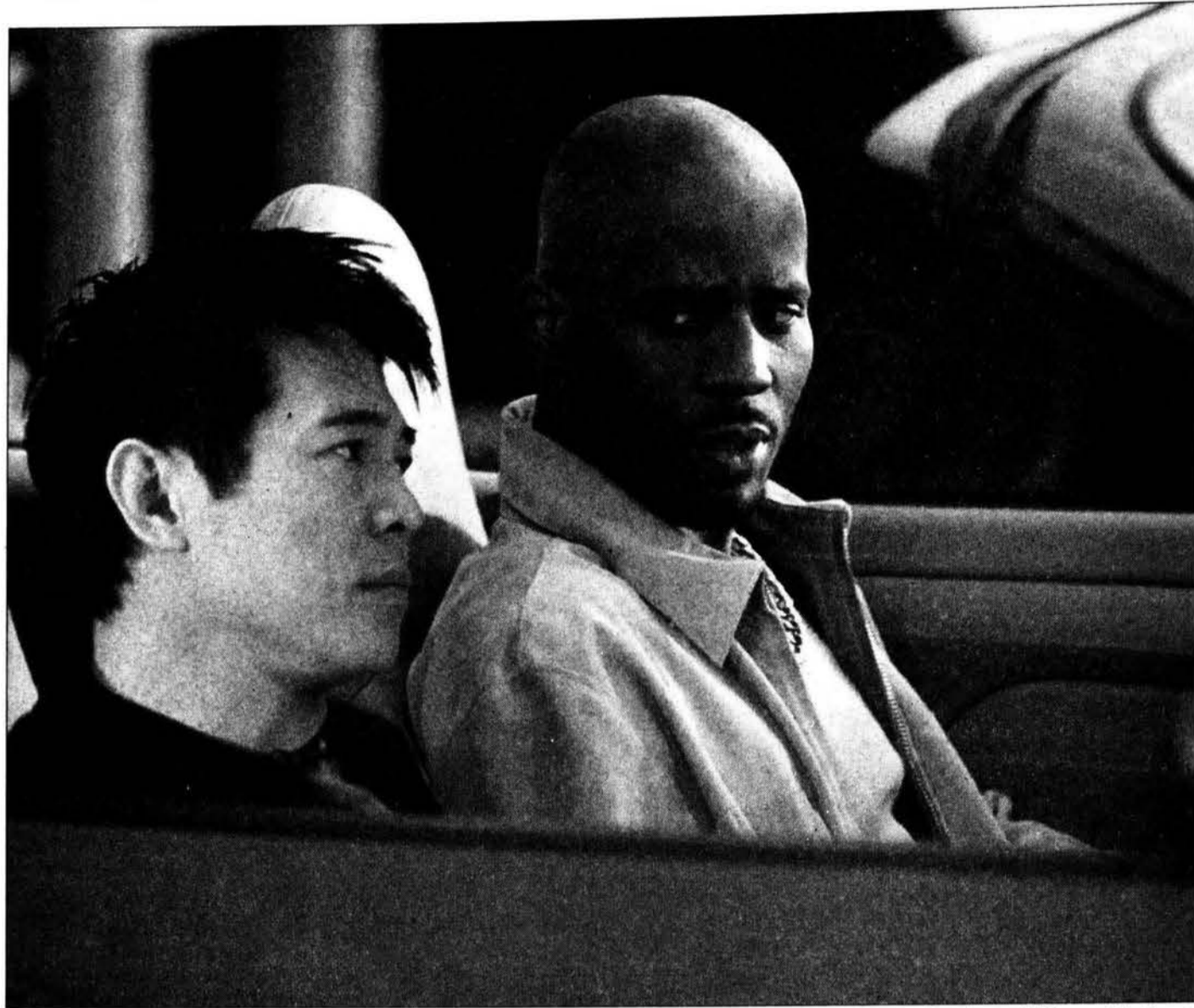
Director Antoine Fuqua's work is amazing. Fuqua goes into great detail to make the audience feel involved in the movie.

For example, he allows dark rooms to stay that way so that the audience must strain to see the action in the room. While this is an unconventional move, it keeps the audience involved.

Fuqua also chooses to not shy away from the graphic violence, but rather embrace it. It is through showing the shocking that he can convey how terrible war truly is. He is able to disgust the audience with the actions of men, showing the movie's power in drawing out human ability.

The battle scenes are wonderfully portrayed. They are able to show raw human emotion where most war movies do not show the emotions of the people. The feelings of the men bring out the true aura of war, not necessarily what is portrayed by the media.

Calendar



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

The two jewel thieves of "Cradle 2 the Grave", Jet Li and DMX, have a tense conversation. This action-thriller is not believable or remotely interesting.

Action film nothing but dead weight

By Nichole Tyrey

"Cradle 2 the Grave" was dead on arrival and should have come with "do not resuscitate" branded to the top of its forehead.

This movie may be good for a few cheap thrills, but probably only for those who are really big fans of loud, violent action movies.

The plot is most likened to a racist "Westside Story", minus the musical aspect, in which Asians battle with a group of jewel stealing African-Americans.

The story centers on a high-tech gang of thieves that pull off a complex robbery of a diamond exchange in downtown Los Angeles.

Led by mastermind Tony Fait (rapper DMX), the thieves scoop up handfuls of diamonds, but their real

target is a set of rare and priceless black diamonds they have been hired to steal.

Andrzej Bartkowiak, a noted cinematographer, morphed into the director of this brainless stunt reel disguised as an action flick.

Though impressive, the action scenes are too frequent to be appreciated and leave little suspense.

The plot pretty much lays out the ending before the movie is half over.

The overused stunts and battles between the good guys and the bad guys make the movie almost like a video game, during which the viewer has no control and therefore can not hit the reset button.

DMX only adds his celebrity to the cast and makes the movie worse with

his dry acting and overserious attitude.

Jet Li, who just shows up out of nowhere, has very few lines and is just mainly around to do some karate and stay out of the way.

On the lighter side, Tom Arnold, who plays a conniving pawnshop owner, gives the viewer a little much-needed comedic relief with his kooky schemes and racist remarks toward himself.

The movie is rated "R" due to violence and brief, unneeded nudity.

However, it would have been better received by a younger audience that still thinks that in a major struggle between good and evil, the good always wins.

"Cradle 2 the Grave" is kept barely afloat due to its fight scenes. However, it should quickly sink to the bottom of the box office.

Album Releases

All album release dates are on Tuesdays.

April

8 James Taylor "The Best of James Taylor"

Renowned singer-songwriter James Taylor releases an album of his best hits. Taylor is known for his personal songs like "Fire and Rain," but also for his infamous personal life, such as his tumultuous relationship with Carly Simon. This album comes less than one year after Taylor's last release "October Road."

8 Godsmack "Faceless"

The hard rock group Godsmack releases a new album. Godsmack became popular at the same time as many other metal groups, but had certain quirks that made it stand out. Lead singer Sully Erna's Wiccanism has always been a prominent theme in the lyrics and makes the band's songs sound different.

15 Uncle Tupelo "No Depression" and "March 16-23, 1992" (remastered)

Two of the best albums by one of the best alt-country bands will be re-released and remastered. "No Depression" is a remnant from the early years of the band's career, with highlights that include the title track, a reworking of a Depression-era Carter family tune, the punk-ish "Graveyard Shift" and the solemn "Whiskey Bottle." "March 16-23, 1992" was one of the band's last recordings before breaking up in 1993. This album features some great songs such as the haunting "Black Eye," the twangy "Grindstone" and an awesome demo cover of the Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog." For those who are interested in discovering alt-country or those whose interest was piqued when they picked up last year's Uncle Tupelo greatest hits disc "89/93: An Anthology," these albums are a must-buy.

15 Various Artists "American Idol: Greatest Moments Vol. Two"

This album of songs from the reality star search "American Idol" is perfect for those who could not help but tear up when people got voted off or when winner Kelly Clarkson sang her victory song. For those who did not watch or care about the show, this album is probably best left alone. "American Idol" fans should also look for the debut full-length album by Clarkson to be released on this day.

15 Fleetwood Mac "Say You Will"

The members of Fleetwood Mac, like James Taylor, are often associated with their tumultuous personal lives, especially the affairs of Stevie Nicks, Mick Fleetwood and Lindsay Buckingham, rather than with their musical legacy. Still throughout the band's history, it has left behind many memorable songs such as "Landslide." This is Fleetwood Mac's first release in quite some time, but after a renewed interest in the band after the Dixie Chicks covered "Landslide," this album is sure to draw in fans old and new.



Movie Releases

April

4 "A Man Apart"
"Phone Booth"
"Torque"
"Cet Amour-La"
"Cowboy Bebop: The Movie"
"The Guys"
"Levity"
"The Man Without a Past"

11 "Anger Management"
"Better Luck Tomorrow"
"Ghosts of the Abyss"
"House of 1,000 Corpses"
"Lilya"
"Marooned in Iraq"
"XX/XY"

16 "Bulletproof Monk"
"Chasing Papi"
"A Mighty Wind"

18 "Holes"
"Malibu's Most Wanted"
"Mondays in the Sun"
"Winged Migration"
"The Young Unknowns"

25 "Against the Ropes"
"Confidence"
"From Justin to Kelly"
"Identity"
"It Runs in the Family"
"Blue Car"
"City of Ghosts"
"Cremaster Three"
"A Decade Under the Influence"
"Dirt"

Concerts

April

4 Anchondo, Grasshopper Takeover and Swizzletree at the Ranch Bowl

5 The Show is the Rainbow, the Ghost Runners, roarbot, the Matt Foley at the Ranch Bowl

7 Mock Orange, Eighth Wave, Name Without Numbers at the Ranch Bowl

11 Les Savy Fav, Schneider TM and the Faint at Sokol Auditorium

12 Facecage at the Ranch Bowl

19 OK Go, the Donna and Whitelight Motorcade at the Ranch Bowl

19 Cat Power and the Golden Age at Sokol Underground

May

3 Queens of the Stone Age, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Mars Volta at the Civic Auditorium

Azure Ray sees bright future on Omaha label

By Laura Diesing

The musical butterflies of Azure Ray, Orenda Fink and Maria Taylor, have been going through a lot of changes lately. Not only have they formed a completely new band with a completely new sound, but they have changed their location from Athens, GA to Omaha as well.

The high school friends started out as members of the pop-rock band Little Red Rocket.

Their discontent with the upbeat style of the band began to grow. They needed a way to express the more somber experiences in their lives, Fink said.

"We started drawing on negative experiences because we already had an outlet for our happy times," Fink said. "Azure Ray is our darker outlet."

Fink said she and Taylor started writing slower, more introspective songs as a form of therapy while still in Little Red Rocket. The girls wrote under the name Azure Ray.

"Someone said we should play shows," Taylor said. "It seemed like we were getting more out of Azure Ray."

The girls eventually dropped out of Little Red Rocket and Azure Ray became their main focus.

Like their label and location, the sound of Azure Ray's music is ever changing.

The band's first two albums, "Azure Ray" and "Burn and Shiver," were released on the Warm label, even though the "November EP" was the upcoming album being released on the Saddle Creek label, Fink said.

"We're not really signed to either one," she said. "Bands aren't really signed to indie labels anymore."

Fink said the self-titled debut album was emotional, yet full of hope, while the second release, "Burn and Shiver," was obviously full of personal pain.

"Burn and Shiver" was our least accessible record," Fink said. "We wanted to create a mood rather than a record full



The members of Azure Ray, Orenda Fink and Maria Taylor, have undergone changes in sound, location and record labels since the early days of their band. However, they say they are happy to now be on an Omaha-based record label.

of pop songs. Some people just don't get that."

Azure Ray's lyrics try to focus on all aspects of the human condition, she said.

Fink said that the third album, which the band will be recording in May, will be similar to its first record.

"We're still in the process of writing," she said. "I think it's going to be different from 'Burn and Shiver.' It will be less acoustic based and more orchestrated."

Taylor said that the two were still in the process of finalizing their music.

"My songs always evolve," she said.

Taylor said after the album is released, the girls will pack their things and head on the road again.

"We're going to tour as much as we possibly can," Taylor said. "It is one of the most important things."

The tour will consist mostly of small venues.

"I think that we are better suited for smaller clubs because our songs are so personal and we like to relate to our audience," Taylor said.

She also said that there is one problem with playing small clubs.

"There has been plenty of times when the crowd will talk over us because we are so quiet," Taylor said. "I try to be professional about it and pretend like it's not happening."

Until the album is finished, Fink said Azure Ray will have its hands full with promoting it.

"We will be doing a mini-tour in April," she said. "It will be just the two of us."

The duo said that they will be playing at least one show in Omaha to test out the new material.

Courtesy of Saddle Creek Records

Band joins national tour to create suicide awareness, prevention

By Katie Backman

Red Animal War and four other bands signed on to the Too Young to Die Tour to help prevent youth suicide that, according to tour sources, claims one life every 18 minutes.

Deep Elm Records created the tour to provide information about suicide and raise additional funding for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Singer and guitarist Justin Wilson said he wanted to join the tour because some of his friends committed suicide. He said live music has a positive atmosphere that helps people cope with problems.

"Any chance we get to tour, we take it," Wilson said. "But this tour is for a good cause because 1,500 people attempt suicide a day."

Wilson said suicides in America have become a serious problem because 30,000 people commit suicide in one year. He said compared to other places, America has the highest number of suicide victims.

Drummer Jeff Wilganoski said he is extremely proud of the cause for the tour to the point where he has bragged about it to his parents and friends.

"It's a good reason to raise money, especially with the music that I am proud of," he said.

He said since being signed to Deep Elm Records, Red Animal War's tour opportunities have doubled. In the past year the band has gone on four different nation-wide tours.

At a show in Florida, Red Animal War performed and saw a fan in the front row with tears streaming down his face and screaming the lyrics louder than Wilson as he sang them. Wilson said this audience member found the band after the show and told its members that their music helped him cope with his father's death.

"Just one night at a show can give a person a good reason to be alive," Wilson said. "Because they will be having fun with their friends and listening to music all night."

When writing the lyrics for that particular song, Wilson said he was thinking about the death of his friend's sister. He said two weeks later another friend committed suicide.

He said the words just flowed out of his mind as if they had been written already and given to him.

"That's something that death does to people," Wilson said. "It takes so much to realize it."



The members of Red Animal War are touring to spread their message. They said they have all been personally affected by suicide and their message needs to be heard.

Wilganoski said he has always been happy with Wilson's lyrics and the way he continuously dedicates himself to the message of the song.

Wilson said Red Animal War's music is a heavier, funkier side of music compared to the other bands on tour with it.

He said the upbeat music has been influenced by bands like the Red Hot Chili Peppers. He said Red Animal War's songs have a cohesive sound that make people want to get up and move to the rhythm.

Red Animal War comes from Texas. Besides Wilson and Wilganoski, the band also has Matt Pittman who sings and plays guitar, Brian Pho who plays bass and Duane Deering who plays keyboards and percussion.

Wilson said when the band plays music, each person lets out his own emotions and personality through his instrument.

He said Wilganoski lets out his anger through his drums while at the same time Pho remains calm and plays the bass smoothly.

Wilganoski said members putting their own hearts into the music and the lyrics are what make a band real. He said people who copy other bands sound or messages will have a hard time succeeding.

"Ripping other people's songs off, or style of music

isn't going to save someone's life," Wilson said. "It's the band's own personal music that can save lives."

Wilson said a band has to love what it does so much and think of it as an art form to show its dedication and keep fans interested.

When life becomes overwhelming, Wilson said kids could just put their headphones on to zone out the world so they can work through their problems.

He said as kids grow up, they can see how everything in high school doesn't matter as much, like how students may harass others or just have an all around bad experience. Music is what usually helps people through, he said.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds is suicide.

At age 20, Wilson said he had a lot going on with his life, making the changes even more difficult. He said people were ending their lives, and he was moving and starting a life on his own all at once.

He said he hopes this tour will help many people and be a continuous tour.

"People shouldn't consider suicide," Wilson said. "But (instead) try to work through those (changing) years with music."

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BEST SPOTS FOR CHEAP TREATS

Now that summer is just around the corner, the mercury is rising and students may find themselves looking for something cold to eat. However, finding cool treats like ice cream at a low cost can sometimes be a bit of a hassle. To try and alleviate this, the *Register* sent out reporters to scour the city to find the best places to get an icy snack for a couple of dollars.

TCBY

For a variety of tasty ice cream and yogurt treats, one of the most flavorful ice cream places in Omaha is TCBY.

The varieties of ice cream and sherberts are packed with loud and tasty flavor.

The colors of the frozen yogurt are always fresh and sweet looking.

The cotton candy

ice cream has the exact same flavor of cotton candy from a circus that slowly melts inside your mouth, adding the surge of sugar.

Some of the flavors will bring back immediate childhood flashbacks.

Consumers will get a nostalgic feeling as they eat the smooth tasting cookies and

cream.

The ice cream experience would be worthless without the vanilla waffle cone. TCBY also has cones that do cost more, but are dipped in chocolate shell with scattered sprinkles.

If a host of a party is running behind and hasn't purchased a cake, TCBY offers a selection of ice cream cakes that can be ordered a few hours in advance.

TCBY also offers a wide variety of new cappuccinos mixed with generic candies such as Snickers and Butterfingers.

The cappuccinos are filled with sugar and will provide energy for motivationally-deprived people.

The employees will gladly fulfill your ice cream craving by offering two scoops of different flavors of ice cream.

Like any other restaurant, the service is not the best ten minutes prior to closing.

The 76th and Dodge location is clean and located in a great area for wandering around. When summer arrives, the business will increase, so don't be surprised if there is a little line.

Many of TCBY locations are also paired with a deli sandwich restaurant for more eating pleasures.

More locations should be built throughout Omaha, but the selected few should see a spike in their business as the weather gets hotter.

-Katie Backman

Zesto's

During the summer, nothing is better than a nice big banana split. Well, actually, anytime during the year a banana split is good, and Zesto's offers one of the best splits and the best ice cream in general in Omaha.

The summer months are the best time to go to Zesto's because the ice cream is very reasonably priced and tastes really good.

Zesto's offers everything that ice cream lovers could want. Whether it is sundaes with extra everything or a small dish of one of their main flavors, they have it all.

Zesto's also has quite possibly the best hot fudge sundaes in Omaha.

They are big, sweet and cheap, just the way Omaha likes them.

Summer time also gives Zesto's the chance to get national recognition.

Omaha is home to the College World Series. The series, which is held at Rosenblatt Stadium, is literally one minute from the Zesto's.

Every year because of the World Series, the Zesto's name is broadcasted throughout homes across America, which is free advertising for this ice cream nirvana. Zesto's is only open in the spring, summer and fall seasons,

but the wait during winter makes it all better. If ever in the need to go get ice cream, take a trip over to Zesto's. It is a blue-roofed building located just south of Rosenblatt Stadium.

Give the independent ice cream store a chance. It is one of Omaha's best kept secrets that has more national fans than local.

-Bryan Swotek

La Michoacana

For a twist on the traditional ice cream cone, try La Michoacana Ice Cream Parlor on south 24th street.

This is not the type of place to get cheap soft serve made by mixing some powder and cream together.

This is the type of place to get authentic ice cream with a bit of international flair.

This Mexican ice cream shop is easy to pass by, but if one eventually tracks it down, it will be well worth it.

It is a small, family-owned place where the servers are friendly and the atmosphere is relaxed.

The shop combines original tasty flavors and low costs to create one of the best stops for a cheap treat in town.

A small dish of ice cream with two heaping scoops costs only 96 cents.

Other ice cream treats are available for equally reasonable prices.

The flavors are fairly traditional, like vanilla, strawberry, chocolate and cookie.

But each one has a homemade twist that makes it totally different from all the other shops in town.

Many of the flavors have a surprising, unexpected flavor twist thrown in that enhances the ice cream in a pleasing way.

The chocolate ice cream has a cinnamon tinge to it that gives it a sharp, spicy edge.

The ice cream itself has a texture that is a mix of soft serve, regular hard ice cream and a fruit slush.

It is not really grainy, but has a definite granulated feel to it.

It may sound odd, but it is incredibly delicious when one actually tastes it.

The shop also offers a wide variety of sundaes, banana splits and other ice cream treats.

The menu boards are in both English and Spanish so people who speak either language will be able to order easily.

The first time one eats this ice cream, it will be a bit of shock.

But by the end of the first cone, there is no one who will not be hooked.

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Ted and Wally's

For those who like the antique feel of the Old Market, a large variety of flavors to choose from and indie rock music, Ted and Wally's

Ice Cream Parlor is the perfect place to spend a slow afternoon.

Unlike other ice cream parlors that seem to have the same ho-hum flavors, Ted and Wally's has flavors such as peppermint schnapps, Bailey's Irish Cream, grape soda, green tea and Dutch chocolate.

Not only are the flavors unique, they are all homemade, rich and extra creamy.

The ice cream and the atmosphere don't seem as mass produced such as that of a Goodrich or Dairy Queen.

The biggest difference between Ted and Wally's and any TCBY isn't that Ted and Wally's isn't a chain and has been around for a long time, but that it doubles as a music venue, hosting bands such as the Desaperacidos, Conor Oberst, Bombardment Society and Little Brazil.

The indie hangout doesn't exactly serve as a large venue, so it makes for a cozier, more personal show. The tile floors and tall ceilings also make for good acoustics, so the sound carries well throughout the chilly ice cream shop.

Customers can even make their own music on the old piano, as long as it's not the "Titanic" theme.

So while watching a local Saddle Creek band, diners can get one of the many flavors of ice cream in a variety of cones or cups.

If in a hurry, it is possible to get a pint or two to go in a neat little Chinese take-out style to-go box. Ted and Wally's not only has some of the best, most unique ice cream in town, but provides a relaxing atmosphere as well.

-Ashley Brown

Goodrich

The name says it all.

Goodrich is just plain good.

The ice cream shop serves every type of classic frozen treat, ranging from malts to banana splits. There are even some very non-traditional ones like the egg-nog shake during special holiday seasons.

The chocolate malts are even better. Filling and thick, they could serve as an entire meal, though not a very nutritious one.

The staff at the 74th and Pacific location, which is joined with a Subway, resembles one you would find in an old-fashioned soda shop.

Whether they are working the Subway side or the Goodrich side, they are always ready to serve up a conversation with your snack.

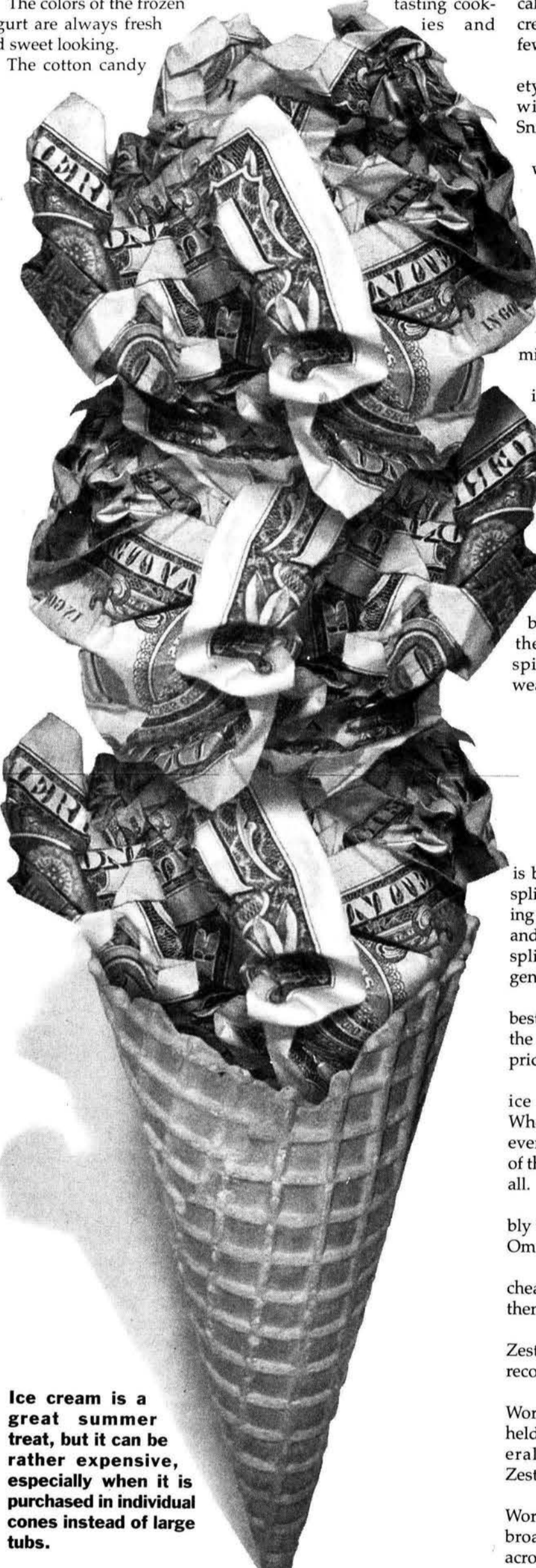
This Goodrich's only downfall is its atmosphere.

Atmosphere is not usually a big concern when one considers ice cream shops, and that's a good thing for Goodrich.

Not all locations are joined with a sandwich shop so there is no excuse for not visiting a Goodrich.

Grab a spoon and dig in to your favorite frosty treat.

-Laura Dlesing



Ice cream is a great summer treat, but it can be rather expensive, especially when it is purchased in individual cones instead of large tubs.

Graphic by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

The Shops

Store: Ted & Wally's
Address: 1120 Jackson St.
Best Buy: Unique flavors like green tea, grape soda and Dutch chocolate



Store: TCBY
Address: 668 N. 114 St. 5044 S. 108 St. 14506 W. Center Rd. 76th and Dodge
Best Buy: Vanilla waffle cone



Store: Goodrich
Address: 7812 W. Dodge 13th & Bancroft 120th & Dodge 108th & Maple 74th & Pacific Saddle Creek & California
Best Buy: Chocolate malts



Store: Zesto's
Address: 391 S. 13th St. 8608 N. 30th St. 20576 Hwy 370
Best Buy: Hot fudge sundae



Store: La Michoacana
Address: 4000 1/2 S. 24 St.
Best Buy: Chocolate ice cream



All photos by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

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Rilo Kiley makes up for weak opener

By Bryan Swotek

The Sokol Underground does not sell out often.

It doesn't even come close for that matter. However, on March 14, Rilo Kiley, the Good Life and Mayday came pretty close to packing the room full of people.

When one of the opening bands, the Good Life, got offstage, Rilo Kiley took the stage. As the band set up, lead singer Jenny Lewis took time to talk with some of the fans who came to the show and anxiously got ready for the first song.

The whole set was amazing. The audience sang the words with Lewis and it seemed to be just as loud. It was obvious that Rilo Kiley has been doing something right.

Guitarist Blake Sennet openly proclaimed his love for Omaha to the crowd.

A little over halfway into the show, Lewis announced that she was going to invite a couple of friends on stage to sing a song. Before the audience knew it, former Central student Denver Dalley, of Desaparecidos and his band mate, Connor Oberst, were on stage singing "With Arms Outstretched."

The song is simply indescribable. The only way to understand



Photo courtesy of Saddle Creek Records

The California-based rock band Rilo Kiley has been a regular in Omaha since signing with a record label in town. The band consistently puts on quality shows.

the song is to hear it.

CONCERT REVIEW

Rilo Kiley with the Good Life and Mayday

of 5

The show ended with an encore that was written about Lewis' mom. Then, the audience left with little to say. It was actually hard to find words to describe the show.

However, the entire night was not of this high quality. The show started off with a boring set from Mayday.

When Mayday was done, the audience, who spent most of its time at the bar or going to the bathroom, was ready for something else.

However, the band kept on playing.

The music was almost country western. It was a little too knee slappin' for this group.

When they finished, the audience came out of the other rooms and joined the rest of the floor for the Good Life.

The band was very good. It kept the audience's attention through all of the free-flowing songs.

Tracks could start out loud and filled with a lot of yelling, then could take a complete turnaround and become so quiet and soft that members could hear their neighbors talking.

For those who missed the show, go buy the album "The Execution of All Things."

Graduate's band foresees good future after packed first show

By Bryan Swotek

Though Central graduate Joseph Tingley said his new band, the Dollar Store, has only had one show, it's obvious that things are being done correctly.

A little over two months ago, Tingley said he joined the band after being a member of another band, Art's Got A Gun (AGAG), with former students Francis Rhoe, Brian Meehan, Zach Peterson and senior Grant Garrean. Some major differences between the Dollar Store and AGAG are making this band a lot different, Tingley said.

"First off, the structure is different," Tingley said. "It does not sound like utter noise."

With the new band, there is more organization, something which Tingley said was lacking in AGAG.

"Art's Got A Gun was horrible," Tingley said. "I think this band is much better."

There is also another major difference in the new band. All previous AGAG fans should be prepared for something new. Despite how much Tingley said he hates titles he referred to the Dollar Store as "indie rock."

"Yes, I hate that name, but that is basically what we are," he said.

In late February, the new band played its first show. The smaller venue, Ted and Wally's Ice Cream Shop in the Old Market, quickly sold out.

"I have never seen so many people inside of that place," Tingley said. "There were so many of them."

Tingley said the band is getting a slow start and has no plans for shows in the immediate future. He said the band members hope to have a record out when they get a few more songs written, but for now they are still working on a definite name.

Drummer Pat McGee said that the members decided on the Dollar Store on a trip home from California Taco, where they had previously been discussing the topic.

Though the band does not have any definite show dates yet, members said the band will be here for a while.

Trance gains popularity among younger people

By Charlie Wence

Techno music can only be described as a symphony to junior Zack Ruben.

"The way the music is mixed with the variety of sounds truly makes techno a modern-day symphony," he said.

The music is turning heads across the country and is gaining popularity through mainstream artists such as the Chemical Brothers, Prodigy, Fatboy Slim and Paul Oakenfold.

Ruben, who has been listening to techno for roughly two years, said his favorite artists are the Crystal Method, Paul Oakenfold and the lesser-known, Infected Mushroom.

Although the genre has gained popularity in Europe and has achieved some level of acceptance in American music, there are some individuals who do not like it.

Freshman Keenan Page said techno is too boring and lacks creativity and conventional song lyrics.

"Sometimes it's too hyper," he said. "It's drawn out, one beat can become too long."

Page said that while the music does seem rather annoying to him, some techno artists are becoming more appealing.

"I like most of Moby's stuff," he said. "But I can't stand Paul Oakenfold and Fat Boy Slim."

Page said that after listening to Moby's music more and more it began to catch on with him.

He said he acknowledges the fact that techno is popular in Europe and that it is inevitable that it will become accepted into the American mainstream music scene.

"More and more people are getting into it," he said. "I think it'll be a big deal in a few years."

In an effort to stray from the mainstream techno music, Ruben

said he searches on file-sharing programs to uncover new artists.

Ruben said he searches for new artists by simply typing in "techno" or any strange word that might yield a new Oakenfold or Prodigy.

Sometimes when people listen to techno music, they have no idea who the artist is or know what the song is. Junior Katie Peters, a fan of techno music, said when she listens to techno she rarely knows the artist.

Peters said she became a fan by friends giving her CDs and listening to music at parties.

"It's fun to dance to," she said. "One song goes on forever. You can lose yourself in it."

Peters, along with Ruben, said she searches for techno music on the Internet by typing in "techno" and blindly selecting songs to see if they are worthy enough to listen to repeatedly.

Techno has become a part of everyday life, including techno being played throughout department stores on any given day, Peters said. She said that she would not want it to become popular because of the trendiness that would tag along.

"If more people liked techno, it wouldn't be the same," she said.

Raves offer another way for techno to be heard. Junior Pearl Boyd said she likes techno because she has danced to it at raves.

"I thought it (techno) was stupid before raves," she said.

Boyd, along with Peters, said she would not like to see techno become more mainstream.

"Whenever something gets mainstream, it gets generic," Boyd said.

What may lead people to think techno is bad is the mainstream music that they hear first, Boyd said.

"They haven't seen better things," she said.

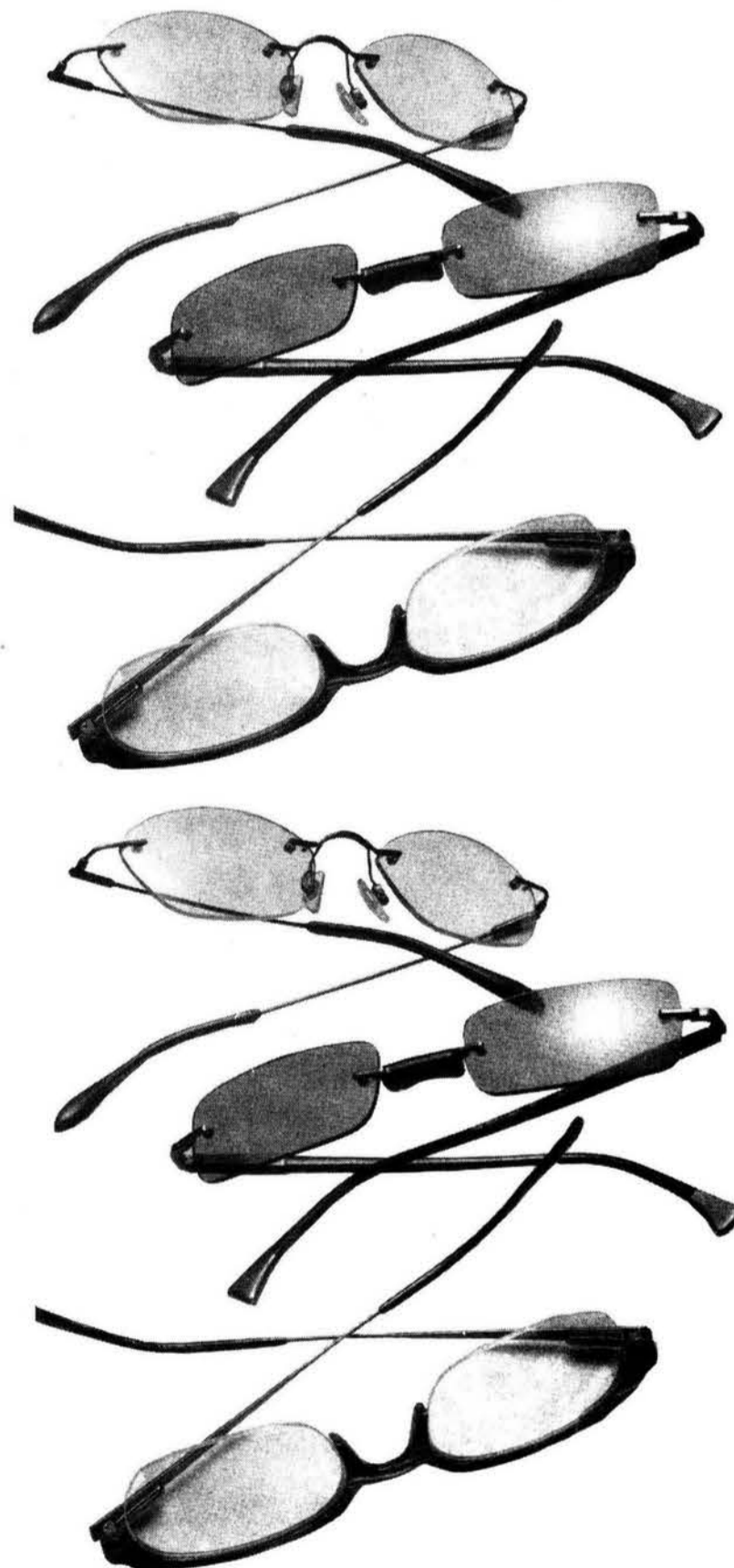
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Is PUNK Dead?

Ever since the demise of original punk bands like the Sex Pistols and the Clash, as well the classic '80s punk bands like the Dead Kennedys and Operation Ivy, the debate over whether or not the true spirit of punk is still alive has been going on. In this issue, the *Register* takes a look at punk, from new and old music to the style and attitude that went along with the movement.

Riddlin' Kids play Omaha show, bring trademark pranks

By Katie Backman

Live music always has a thrill, but the members of the Riddlin' Kids said their performance is more exciting because of its amusing pranks.

The band consists of the bassist Mark Johnson, guitarist and singer Clint Baker, guitarist Dustin Stroud and drummer Dave Keel who have been together for over three years.

Johnson said they just finished two months and a week-long tour across the country. During that time, the band had a chance to astound audiences with its music, but also with its sense of humor.

At a past concert in Pittsburgh, the band played with another band called Wakefield.

Johnson said the pranks began when members of Wakefield poured flour and water all over the members of Riddlin' Kids as they performed.

After that the members of Riddlin' Kids began their own fun, usually using silly string and duct tape.

"One time we had an entire crowd walk away when the next band got on stage," Johnson said. "It's all in good fun."

Riddlin' Kids has toured with bands like Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Goldfinger, Movieline and Zebrahead. Johnson said touring with those bands gave them the prank ideas with the other bands on stage.

Lead vocalist Clint Baker said live performances weren't always fun and games. He said his first performance was awkward because he was extremely nervous and only 15 years old. When Riddlin' Kids played its first live performance, it was after only three band practices.

"Our show was being videotaped," Baker said. "And we didn't tell Dave about it because it was his third time playing our songs."

Riddlin' Kids moved on from its first show and began to master stage performances to make it more entertaining than just a live music show.

Baker said the reason behind Riddlin' Kids' crazy style is partly based on the

fact that it has only cancelled two concerts throughout its years as a band. Baker said each band member must give everything he has because it is his only career.

"If any of us are sick or just tired, we have to stick it out for a concert," Baker said. "We won't ever cancel for that reason."

Johnson said the band wouldn't consider switching to seasonal tours.

"It's fun to be on tour all the time and be with my best friend," he said. "Problems do build up, and we may have a bad day, but we then always work it out with each other."

When Riddlin' Kids came through Omaha on Mar. 11, Johnson said the Omaha kids always seem to be so dedicated to the music scene. He said every time at his shows he usually sees the same three or four kids.

Baker said he tries to take a new approach to his songwriting.

He tries to base it off his life and his friends' lives as well. He said his songs are about relationships. But more specifically, he said they are mainly about the time a break up is going to happen or just occurred.

"Most (songs) aren't bitter," Baker said. "They are kind of a slap in the face instead of a whiny love song."

Baker said a recent song he wrote for the album, which is scheduled to come out in early winter 2004, is about a high school experience with a girl.

He said even though he is 26 years old now, he can still think back to when he was 16 when a girl broke his heart.

For the Riddlin' Kids' next album, Baker said he doesn't think the lyrics will all be about girls and relationships.

He said that lately his life has been a roller coaster, giving him more experiences to write about.

Baker said the future is going to be busy because the band is going to stay together until it can't play music.

After its six-week break and before the album release, Riddlin' Kids plan to hit the road again with Zebrahead.

Members said they might even make it back to Omaha.

Old trends return intentions change many students say from TRENDS, page 17

become mainstream.

"It all pretty much sucks," she said. "They need to make money in an original way."

Stowell said there are not many places to go and listen to local punk bands since the Cog Factory closed down last year.

"I think there could be more places to go," she said. "The Ranch Bowl, the Junkbox and Farnam Street are pretty much it."

Pirruccello said she thinks the true punk should not be mainstream and poppy.

"Omaha is a pretty good place for underground punk, not many people know about it," she said.

Sylvester said the reason pop punk has become so popular is because it is so catchy.

He said he does not believe that any current bands have the same motives as punk bands in the '80s.

"I don't see any original punk left," he said. "Sure, they have influences, but even rap has punk influences."

Sylvester said he has not noticed an increase in the sales of original punk records since more poppy punk bands have become popular.

Sophomore Ned Sariscsany said he does not think that anyone listens to real punk anymore. He said that is a thing of the past.

"Punk is more of a trend," he said. "If your clothes rock harder than you do, like Avril, then you're a poseur."

Sophomore Katie Krance said she thinks punk in the '80s and current punk bands are just in it because it is current music trend.

"It's (true punk) about being your own person and doing your own thing," she said.



Photo by KATIE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

Clint Baker, lead singer of the Riddlin' Kids, rips through a song at the band's March 11 show at the Ranch Bowl. The band's next album will be out sometime in 2004.

Punk Rock Style

Movie and Band T-shirts

T-shirts advertising bands have always been popular among punk kids. Many movies that epitomized the punk movement also become popular on t-shirts. Today they can still be spotted in the halls of Central on students who are fans of both old and new groups and films.



Straight Outta Junior High



Operation Ivy



"Sid and Nancy"



Rancid

Plaid

First spotted on the British punks of the 1970s, plaid has remained popular among punk kids. Its ties with the traditional school uniform made it even more rebellious to wear it with torn shirts and studded jewelry.



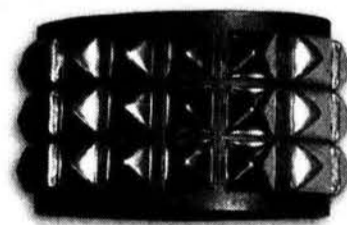
(left) Women's Plaid Shirt Dress



(right) Men's Plaid Pants with Straps Connecting the Legs

Accessories

From fishnet stockings to music buttons, massive boots to studded jewelry, accessories have always been essential to having the perfect "punk" look.



Studded Cuff Bracelet



Men's Black Motorcycle Boots



Fishnet Tights



Women's Tall Black Vinyl Boots



Safety Pin Jewelry



Buttons for Punk Bands

Classic vs. New

The Sex Pistols 'Never Mind the Bollocks...Here's the Sex Pistols'

From the opening riffs of the Sex Pistols' debut album (and only studio release) "Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols," it is obvious that whether or not listeners like what the album holds, it is definitely a groundbreaking piece of music.

The Sex Pistols were a Warhol-esque phenomenon. The band's time in the spotlight may have been short-lived, but the members certainly made the most of it. The buzz about the band was huge before it even released its debut album.

Its music was so new and raw that many people did not notice, or at least did not mind, that bassist Sid Vicious could not really play his instrument. Vicious earned to play by popping some coppers and locking himself in a room all night with a few Ramones' albums and a bass.

He never did learn how to play music properly, but that didn't matter with a band like the Sex Pistols. What mattered with the Sex Pistols was raw energy and a devil-may-care attitude.

The band was on the forefront of a cultural revolution and some clever planning by lead singer Johnny Rotten and the band's manager/stylist Malcolm McLaren helped to build up the band's image as a renegade, shameless group of young, wild anarchists. Songs like "God Save the Queen" and "Anarchy in the U.K." show off this wanton disregard for social standards and general public opinion. It also made the band such a force in music that it could be considered legendary after only one album.

A band like the Sex Pistols could never last long, especially considering "Vicious" infamous heroin addiction, tumultuous relationship with his girlfriend Nancy Spungen, his death by overdose and Rotten's legendary ego.

"Never Mind the Bollocks..." is truly the band's legacy. Besides a few singles and live albums, and a reunion album made in the '90s with the band's pre-Vicious bassist, there is nothing else to remember it by.

For anyone who wants to remember the Sex Pistols, this is the album to do it by. A band like this should not be remembered with a reunion album that paired all the members together when they were 20 years past their prime.

In the true Warhol tradition, the Sex Pistols should be remembered in the prime of its brief 15 minutes of fame.

-Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Operation Ivy 'Operation Ivy'

While most Central students were learning to walk, Operation Ivy (OPIV) was shattering the barriers of late '80s punk music. OPIV's 1991 self-titled release paints a perfect picture of the Gillman Street scene that evolved around them in Berkeley, CA.

"Unity" was a common catch phrase for '80s punk rockers.



Courtesy of Lookout Records

Operation Ivy

Whether it was in defiance to Ronald Reagan or overcoming racial barriers, America's budding punks seemed to have embraced the concept full bore.

No group single handedly brought about such an ideal more than OPIV.

No OPIV release had as significant an impact as the self-titled release from Lookout Records.

Before OPIV, ska and punk did not coexist. Horns weren't hardcore.

No one smashed trombones after punk shows, no one except OPIV that is.

Catchy melodies hammer over lyrics that range from the profound to the comedic.

Band member Lint's nasal cry pierces out over Tim Armstrong's gritty rumble expressing the group's defiant pearls of wisdom.

The self-titled album provides song after song of pure-unadulterated punk goodness.

The spectrum of subject matter ranges from the punk anthem to apathy, "Knowledge," to mocking police with "Officer," to a cover of Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots were Made for Walking."

Without OPIV, Rancid would not have existed through former OPIV members Armstrong and Matt Freeman.

Forget about Blink 182, MTV and every crybaby, blue-haired, publicity whore posturing as a punk. OPIV is the real deal.

-Doug Meigs

Dead Kennedys 'Frankenchrist'

Out of all the political punk bands to ever shout and preach on the stages and in the basements of tiny, dirty punk venues, the Dead Kennedys were the most to the point, raunchy and influential bands of all time.

Unlike some punk bands whose tracks were filled with arguable hidden messages and questionable innuendoes, the Dead Kennedys songs are brimming with in your face, almost idiot-proof lyrics.

Front man Jello Biafra saved the audience the trouble of thinking too hard and screamed his philosophies in the listener's ear while smacking them in the face and spitting in their eyes.

Although a lot of their lyrics are usually symbolic for something, they are still easy to understand.

When Biafra talks about the evils of "the corporation," he talks about it in an indirect way by talking about clowns. He doesn't sway too far from the point that the audience doesn't catch the "damn the man" message.

In one of the band's more popular songs, "MTV Get Off the Air," it is obvious that Biafra is pointing out an MTV brainwashing corporation conspiracy by using sarcasm the listener could catch by just listening to one line of the song.

This '80s band has been broken up for over a decade, yet it still makes a deep impression on modern punk bands today.

Newer bands can try all they want, but they will never be able to mimic Biafra's shaky voice and insightful lyrics.

-Ashley Brown

The Distillers 'Sing Sing Death House'

When a concert leaves ears ringing, then it is a good show. When an album leaves ears ringing, it is an amazing collection of work.

However, it is not often that music fans can find an album that does that.

The Distillers "Sing Sing Death House" is definitely one of those rare albums that can blow listeners away on the first listen.

The album was released with a lot of expectations due to the fact that lead singer Brody Armstrong is married to Tim Armstrong, frontman for the wildly popular '90s punk band Rancid.

"Sing Sing Death House" has lived up to and even surpassed those expectations. With so much musical talent and capability, it is no wonder the album can leave ears ringing.

It is loud, nonstop punk rock. It is a little different from the easily recognizable three chord repetitive songs that most modern punk bands churn out.

Armstrong's voice is like a garbage truck riding on only rims on a gravel road.

She sounds like she lives on whiskey and cigarettes. Her voice fits perfectly with the rest of the scratchy guitars and loud drums.

The members keep what is true to punk with the "whatever" attitude and not caring what people think.

Armstrong's head is donned with a mohawk that looks like a circular saw was freshly shoved through her skull.

"Sing Sing Death House" can make even the most diehard, hardcore punks think twice about messing with a female punk rocker.

Surely a woman who growls louder than a rabid dog has a lot to do with that.

-Bryan Swotek

Various Artists 'We're a Happy Family: a Tribute to the Ramones'

What is it called when some of the biggest names in music pay tribute to an even bigger name in music history?

It's a tribute to the Ramones: "We're a Happy Family." This album has everything music fans could want.

Rob Zombie covers one of the most recognizable Ramones tracks "Blitzkrieg Bop." This song has staying power.

Punk rock legends make appearances in this album also. Rancid covers the song "Sheena is a Punk Rocker."

Even those who do not like punk rock can appreciate this album. Indie rocker Pete Dinklage covers "I Wanna Be Your Boyfriend."

Then comes the best Ramones song ever, "I Wanna Be Sedated," which was redone by Offspring.

Unfortunately, the original Ramones are no more. Lead singer, Joey Ramone passed away last year of cancer.

Even before Joey's death, the original group had broken up and various other Ramone brothers had been brought in to fill up space.

But no combination could ever be the original foursome who just wanted to be sedated, have something to do and sniff some glue.

The album is amazing and the artists who performed on the album are even better.

-Bryan Swotek

MxPx 'The Ever Passing Moment'

Jesus and punk rock is a combination that, as odd as it seems, has worked out quite nicely for the members of the Christian

punk band MxPx, especially on the band's third album, "The Ever Passing Moment."

However, the more popular and mainstream that MxPx becomes, the less significant the band's Christian roots become.

The band's lyrics have never been traditional Christian lyrics, but ever since this album led the boys to fame, no one seems to remember where the band came from.

This album, much like most of the pop-punk albums of today, deals with common teenage dilemmas including high school love and how much responsibility sucks.

"The Ever Passing Moment" is very accessible and familiar to anyone who listens to punk, but is not afraid to listen to something that is played on MTV.

Though not very innovative or shocking, the band is the epitome of punk rock because the boys sound like what they want to sound like as opposed to what punkers think punk rock should be.

MxPx's "The Ever Passing Moment" was truly recorded in punk rock heaven.

-Nichole Tyrey

Blink 182 'Buddha'

Before they streaked naked across everyone's television screens on MTV, before they talked about boobies and farting, the boys of Blink 182 showed their sensitive side on their demo album "Buddha."

Since Blink 182 became popular in the late '90s, the original recording was remastered, though not very successfully, and put into CD form.

The album gives the listener a glimpse into Blink's earlier days, during which the boys were surprisingly more mature, but just as innocently silly.

The recording does not do justice to the lyrics or the pop-punk guitars. Lead singer Mark Hoppus' voice sounds as if he's going through puberty and has not learned how to use his vocal chords yet.

His innocent lyrics and goofy giggles support the all-over immaturity and inexperience of the band.

Though a lot better and less talked about than some of the band's more recent releases, "Buddha" is a good choice for someone who can look past a band's fame and realize that the band once not very good.

-Nichole Tyrey

Pennywise 'Pennywise'

Disclaimer: Pennywise's self-titled album is not appropriate listening material for those with sensitive ears, hearts, anytime before noon or anyone with decent taste in music.

This album is highly repetitive and overly enthusiastic. Though considered a classic in many circles, this album is just too loud and obnoxious.

This is probably just a sign of how much music has changed since the release of this album in the early '90s.

The lead singer whines about how horrible American society is and how much he hates everything. To throw a bit of constructive criticism into the mix, the only advice he ever offers is to move to England.

There is not one particular song on the album that sticks out as good or bad because each and every song sounds the same, full of anger and the same wannabe rock twang.

For those who want to find a classic punk album that influenced not only punk, but time itself, listen to the Ramones.

And as far as Pennywise goes, the band as a whole should quit trying to be hardcore and realize that punk died the minute this band stepped on stage.

-Nichole Tyrey

A New Generation: the Punk Bands of Today



Courtesy of Dreamworks

The K.G.B.



Courtesy of Dreamworks

Loudermilk



Courtesy of Atlantic

Simple Plan



Courtesy of Interscope

Unwritten Law



Courtesy of Interscope

The Hippos



Courtesy of RCA

SR-71

Senior finds hobby in 'Star Wars' collecting

By Jim Schalles

Senior Conrad Goetzinger said he has a love for "Star Wars" that far exceeds the average sci-fi fan's.

"I believe my father and I are the only father-son Storm Troopers in the country," Goetzinger said.

Goetzinger said that he has loved "Star Wars" as long as he can remember and has just recently found an interest in the old "Star Trek" episodes as well.

His memorabilia collection is enormous and includes a full Storm Trooper uniform, a "Star Trek" uniform, hundreds of action figures and sci-fi posters galore.

Occasionally he'll find that his passion for the programs carries over to his schoolwork.

Goetzinger said that last semester he wrote a sonnet to "Star Trek" for an English project.

Most people would think that someone in Goetzinger's position would have to endure a lot of harassment.

Surprisingly, he said people don't seem to mind and he only takes a little bit of grief from his friends.

Goetzinger's interest in "Star Wars" has taken him all over the country.

He went to a premiere showing of "Star Wars Episode I" in Denver, which he said was very exciting.

Lately, he said E-Bay has been an asset to helping him expand his collection. "I've bought a lot of my action fig-

ures, mostly "Star Wars" toys off of E-Bay," Goetzinger said.

Not only does Goetzinger collect the toys, but he said playing with them has also become a way of life for him.

In addition to all of the memorabilia Goetzinger has, he said he has met several famous sci-fi stars including Anthony Daniels, and Kenny Baker, who is the man who played R2D2. He's also met the person who made the costumes for C3PO and R2D2.

He said he just can't get enough.

After coming home from work around 2 a.m., Goetzinger said he often falls asleep watching his favorite episodes of "Star Trek" that he has taped over the years.

Goetzinger said he and his dad are both big fans of "Star Wars" and "Star Trek."

For Goetzinger and his dad, science fiction is not only a form of entertainment, but it also doubles as an outlet for them to spend more time together.

"It helps us bond sometimes, but he can take it too seriously," Goetzinger said.

Goetzinger said "The Empire Strikes Back" is his favorite film because of the sad note that it ends on.

Goetzinger also said that if he wins prom king, he wants the "Imperial March," the theme song of Darth Vader, to be played when he walks up to receive the crown.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Senior Conrad Goetzinger sorts through his various "Star Wars" toys and collectibles. Goetzinger said "Star Wars" collecting has been a hobby of his for a long time.

Freshman tours country with band, looks forward to future as musician

By Brian Lee

Freshman Cord Pablonis said his downtime is occupied by his role as the lead singer of the local heavy metal band Staircase, which opens for national bands like Godsmack, not pulling pranks, hanging out or skateboarding like other 14 year olds do.

"Music is what I do, it's what I love," Pablonis said. "It's pretty much my drug of choice."

Pablonis said his life has revolved around music. He said he started singing at the age of 4 and has been expanding his vocal abilities and overall musical knowledge ever since.

Pablonis said that through chorus classes and all sorts of past musical experiences, he has unknowingly been prepar-

ing for Staircase his whole life.

"I think it's insane that it all just fell together like this," Pablonis said. "I love what I have found in Staircase."

He said he is the first person in his family to ever really show interest in music, and has found and fallen in love with the world of rock.

Pablonis said he has never been shy about expressing himself in any way, especially in music, and has always dreamed of making it big in a band and being famous.

"I like the fact that it happened this way," he said. "I always figured I'd go through bands like girlfriends, but then Staircase came along and proved me wrong."

He said being a part of Staircase and

seeing it succeed is a dream come true.

He said it seems surreal when he realizes that this is happening to him when he is only 14.

Pablonis said he was chosen to replace the former lead singer of the band about seven months ago. He said bassist Chris Magnuson asked him to come to practice several times before asking him to join the band.

Pablonis said he was just watching the band practice from the side when he was offered a chance to join in.

"I was really enjoying the atmosphere of Staircase and listening to them rock out," he said. "Then, out of nowhere and to my surprise, Chris offered me the mic."

Pablonis said being a member of Staircase is different from being a part of a regular high school band because the

other members are 19, 21 and 23 years old.

"People like to lump me in with all the high school bands," he said. They don't realize that this is real."

Pablonis said the band has moved beyond playing with other local bands and has started opening for national acts. "We recently performed with Godsmack and Tool and we are scheduled to perform with Disturbed on May 28 in Minnesota."

The band has toured through several states including Nebraska, Texas, Minnesota and Colorado. The members are also looking forward to releasing an album, Pablonis said.

"If everything works out, we hope to release an album sometime after our second performance with Godsmack," he said. "It's all just a matter of time."

Pablonis said he loves being on stage

and feels that it is sort of like meditation.

"It's relaxing and it gets me pumped at the same time to prepare for a performance; I just get in the mood," he said. "It's all about getting yourself comfortable and feeling the music the whole time you're on stage."

Besides singing, Pablonis said he also writes some of the band's music and plays acoustic guitar when needed.

"The lyrics are basically all me and do a lot of the actual music, but it's a mutual feeling that we all get when we know it's right," he said.

Pablonis said he feels like he was meant to be in Staircase, but is still slightly amazed when he thinks about the last seven months.

"(I feel like) this is the type of thing that only happens to the other guy, right? Well maybe not, but still, wow," he said.

Students start dancing club, draw in members with stylish moves, phat beats

By Jessica Womack

Harlem shakin', b-boppin', old school moves with a twist, new school dances, original choreography and group dances are just a glimpse of what one could see at the breakdancing club after school in the courtyard.

Earlier this year, a group of sophomores started the dance club.

The main person who was able to get the club started was sophomore Bryson Rollins.

Sophomore member Tera Henrich said she remembers coming down into the basement one day after school and seeing students breakdancing.

She said she decided to jump in and

start dancing with them and learn new moves.

At that point in time, the club was not considered a legitimate club and security told all of the students that they must have a faculty sponsor to monitor them while they dance.

Rollins said there were a few initial problems with finding a sponsor.

"Everybody wanted one, but nobody did anything to find a sponsor," he said.

After putting in a request for a sponsor, ESL teacher Sara Timpleton responded and volunteered to be the faculty representative for the new club.

The club was started in October.

Timpleton said she loves

breakdancing and sometimes dances with the students.

So far, Rollins said the club has been good, but there have been a few setbacks.

Two examples would be practice being cut down to once a week and people distracting them by looking into the courtyard and bothering the club members.

But otherwise Rollins said the future looks bright for this new club.

"The hottest thing out now is poetry and breakdancing," he said. "I don't care about rap; I care about lyrics."

Rollins said breakdancing is more like an art than a regular form of dance.

He said he believes that if people are

not dedicated they won't do it.

Rollins said that if he's good enough he might dance professionally.

Henrich said the club members are very friendly and that anyone is welcome to come. She also said that students come in without experience and people will teach them.

"It gives kids a place to dance," Henrich said. "They could be somewhere else causing problems."

The breakdancing club meets every Monday for an hour in the courtyard where members work on their moves. The last ten minutes they all showcase their moves.

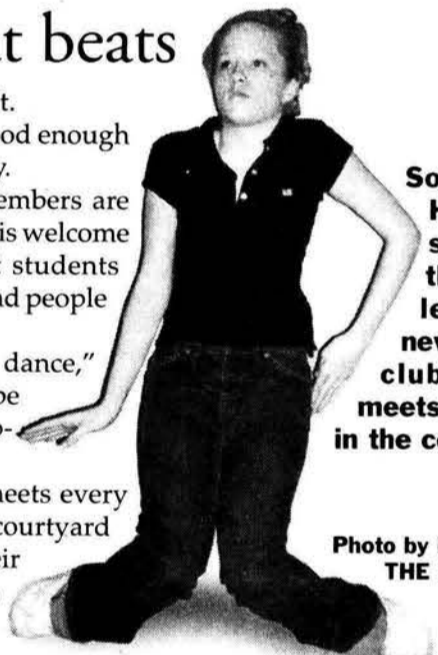


Photo by KATIE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

Sophomore Tera Henrich demonstrates one of the moves she learned in the new breakdancing club. The club meets every Monday in the courtyard.



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Rapper's debut overhyped, still worth money

By Doug Meigs
 "Get Rich or Die Trying," 50 Cent's debut release hits like a bullet blowing through speakers across America, selling crack to little brothers and blasting the stereos that blast tracks. Hip-hop has been seriously overhyped, still worth money.

ALBUM REVIEW
"Get Rich or Die Trying"
 50 Cent
 4.5 of 5

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Courtesy of Saddle Creek

Cursive's new album "The Ugly Organ" takes shots at other musicians that the band members do not think are worth their salt. The group has been receiving national attention over the past few years and this new album is sure to increase that.

Cursive album rocks, mocks

By Connor Meigs
 The only thing missing from Cursive's most recently released record, "The Ugly Organ," is a Russian organ-playing peddler with a dancing monkey.

ALBUM REVIEW
"The Ugly Organ"
 Cursive
 4.5 of 5

Compared to the band's previously released records such as "Domestica," with its tracks emphasizing religious themes ("The Martyr"), the "Ugly Organ" contains relatively few religious references, yet after listening to it one feels as if he's been caught relieving himself in the holy water.

"Art is Hard," which was released as a single earlier this year, is an especially obvious criticism. The line that refers to an angry drunk immersed in "regurgitating some sorry tale" is a most definite slam on some indie or emo musician, exactly who can be left up to the listener's imagination.

Cursive goes on, indicting artists of being more concerned with record sales. Tim Kasher and Co. do not let up for the entirety of the album, continually criticizing melodramatic and repetitious pity whoring.

When "The Ugly Organ" isn't bashing bad music like in "Butcher the Song" or "Some Red Handed Slight of Hand," it is relating somber tales of passion for unreachable females.

These rich musical parts are brought to life by the album's multilayered instrumentals, beautifully-crafted cello riffs and moving, cutting guitar chords that sink to the beat of the drums and organ.

This mix of Kasher's intense voice with equally intense music is what really makes Cursive come together. This is how a band should be. All of the anger and emotions that are expressed in the lyrics are backed up by the crashing, soaring musical parts.

In the end, "The Ugly Organ" is anything but ugly.

Evanescence mixes elegant vocals with hard rock sound

By Katie Backman
 The debut album "Fallen" from Evanescence has songs filled with the hard rock of guitars and drums accompanied by the elegant voice of the lead singer, Amy Lee.

ALBUM REVIEW
"Fallen"
 Evanescence
 4.5 of 5

An entire male band backs Lee, but she easily surpasses other popular leading lady vocalists, like Avril Lavigne. Lee's lyrics are more in-depth and personal. She sings from the heart about love, loneliness and confusion. Evanescence music is similar to P.O.D.'s softer songs. As for their harder rock songs, the band creates a new sound because of Lee's voice combined with the other band members doing backup vocals.

The listener hears the drums, bass and guitar softly in the background. The album begins with the hard punch of rock, with Evanescence's first single "Bring Me to Life," which was featured on the movie "Daredevil." Evanescence can be enjoyed by anyone who enjoys rock music.

Lee's lyrics can make listeners escape their own life long enough to see the entire picture and put their problems into perspective. The album functions like human emotions. With the beginning comes the raging anger, which flows to the twisted rock with soft orchestra sounds representing Lee's solitude. "Fallen" perfectly ties up her emotions about falling in love with the music and lyrics.

Evanescence easily captures the listener because the artists put their hearts into the music. "Fallen" will win over listeners because the band's music deals with common feelings that universally relate to the listeners.

One-man band makes fresh, new atmosphere of sound

By Doug Meigs
 Take Eminem, lose the bigotry and references to poor parenting, add some wit, a little artistic integrity and you've got Slug - the one-man band of Atmosphere.

ALBUM REVIEW
"God Loves Ugly"
 Atmosphere
 4.5 of 5

Atmosphere's recent release, "God Loves Ugly," is a multi-leveled experience in underground hip-hop. On the surface, the album is a verbose blend of wit and vocabulary. Upon further examination, it proves to be a truly deep exploration of society and Slug's personal side. Much of the album is Slug's commentary on rap culture. He expounds what he sees other rappers doing, what he sees wrong in contemporary rap and what he wants from it.

situation where he meets a female groupie after a show. The two fall in love, but end up dying in a car accident after the drunken woman drives through a red light and into a moving truck.

Love is a constant theme throughout the album. Even when love isn't necessary to the plot of a particular song, he includes the concept in the track's rhyme scheme in some way.

Slug seems to be similar to rapper Dr. Octagon. Although Dr. Octagon's nonsensical medical jargon isn't a direct simile to Slug's thematic use of love, both display a knack for quirky rhyme constructions. The title track, "God Loves Ugly," relates Slug's heartfelt introspections covered by a sheen of offensiveness. The plea seems all the more relevant coming from a goofy looking white guy such as Slug. Any fan of hip-hop will love this record.

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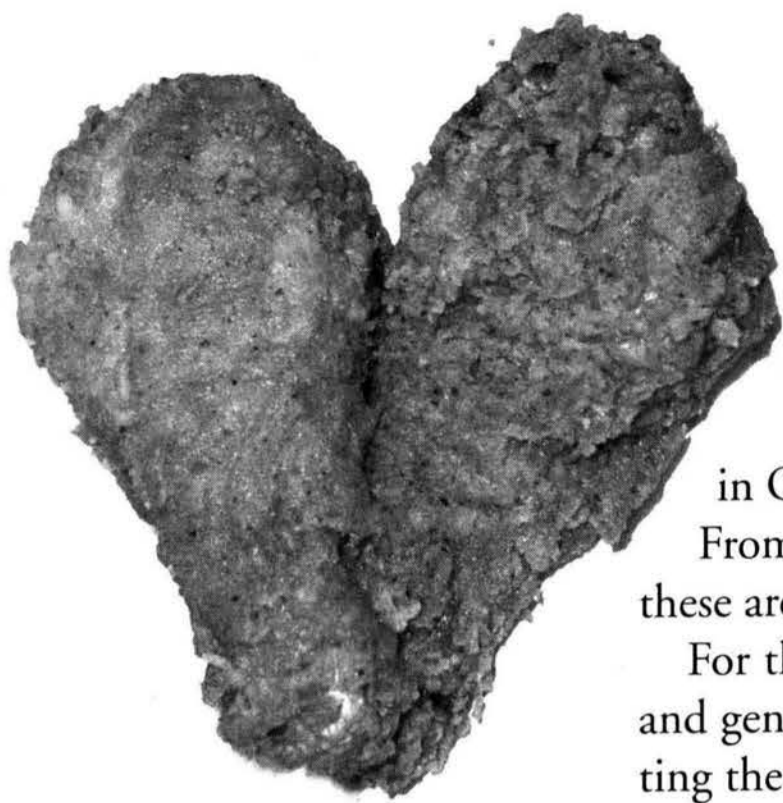
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Fried Chicken

A good plate of authentic fried chicken is sometimes hard to find. But if one can manage to find a place where the chicken rivals Mom's secret recipe, it is most definitely worth it.

The *Register* sent out a reporter to rank the various fried chicken sold in Omaha to see which was the best.

From the grocery stores and fast food chains to little family-owned places, these are some of the best and worst places around town to get fried chicken.

For those who enjoy the occasional meal of fried chicken, despite the grease and general unhealthiness that make it what it is, this should be a guide to getting the best Omaha has to offer.

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Fried chicken is fried chicken, but Colonel Sanders and his Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurants offer the best variety of side orders in Omaha.

With a secret blend of 11 herbs and spices, KFC gives customers a selection that can't be found in other restaurant of its kind in Omaha.

KFC offers a variety of home-style side dishes and hot, fresh biscuits that beat out the chicken by a long shot.

With low-priced meals ranging from \$4.99 to \$12.99, KFC is the place to eat the sides, but not the chicken. The side orders are completely out of this world.

KFC's chicken is not necessarily bad, it is just average. The tasty side dishes help make up for this culinary shortcoming of the chicken.

KFC is also known for offering a variety of family meals that are inexpensive. They also let you choose what side orders you want.

KFC is certainly the place to go when one wants to eat takeout because the décor in the building is absolutely pathetic.

The chicken is a bit greasy, but let's face it, it's fried chicken.

KFC still takes pride in doing things the Colonel's way, utilizing only the highest quality ingredients and innovative recipes.

Do not trust the Colonel's chicken, but make sure to order the mashed potatoes and gravy.

Baker's To Go Deli

If you're looking to experience good old-fashioned supermarket chicken, Baker's is not the place to get it.

If one is looking to fry his own chicken, Baker's might be the place to pick up frozen poultry.

However, it is definitely not the place for anyone looking to sit down and eat a warm plate of deep-fat fried chicken.

But, that comes as no surprise, after all it's a grocery store chain and not a restaurant.

The service that Baker's em-

ployees offer to their customers has declined over the years, and it really shows in the deli department.

Baker's should get a clue not to let their chicken sit out all day because the taste and the value of the chicken go way down.

The chicken that Baker's offers somehow manages to be both dry and soggy at the same time and tastes like it has been sitting out all night.

Chicken has never been Baker's specialty. It still isn't and probably never will be.

Baker's is no longer even in the competition with chicken restaurant chains because the quality is not up to the challenge.

Popeye's Chicken

Taking a drive out to the nearest Popeye's is certainly worth the trip and the money.

The restaurant chain specializes in mild fried chicken and spicy New Orleans-style fried chicken.

Customers have the choice of

experimenting with the flavorful Cajun recipes that Popeye's has to offer to add to their lunch or dinner menu.

Popeye's employees surely beat out their competition with their people-pleasing skills. It's nice to go to a place where the people are nice.

The atmosphere, the fried chicken and the side orders are all certainly crowd pleasers.

Popeye's is also one of the best places for a cheap meal. The prices, ranging from \$3.99 to \$9.99, surely won't put a strain on anyone's pocketbook.

Its Cajun cuisine is served fresh every day, and is also mind-blowing.

If you eat at Popeye's, you will most definitely not be disappointed.

The chicken, the macaroni and the mash potatoes are to die for and are certainly a must on the menu.

Even though it is a chain restaurant, Popeye's still manages to serve up quality, near-restaurant

style fried chicken.

Customers have the choice of experimenting with the flavorful recipes to mix and match to their lunch or dinner menus.

Popeye's has some of the best spicy chicken in town and it is safe to say if there is a Popeye's anywhere nearby, go find it and get some.

Richie's Chicken

Possibly the best chicken in the world is located at the Richie's Chicken restaurant located at 35th and Center.

With chicken that is possibly the best flavored and best cooked in town, Richie's stands above the rest of Omaha's chain and independent restaurants.

Letting customers watch how the chicken is cooked makes them feel at ease to see what the product actually looks like when it's being baked.

The homey atmosphere puts diners at ease who are eating what tastes like a home-cooked meal.

The restaurant itself isn't that

spacious, but that's what the takeout part of the establishment is for.

Overall, the cleanliness of the restaurant is good.

The courtesy of the employees is much appreciated.

The chicken is deep-fat fried and that is obvious in the taste and feel of the food.

But greasiness is one of the characteristics of fried chicken and it cannot be avoided any place one goes.

The side of French fries goes very well with the chicken and side salad comes drenched in delicious Italian dressing.

Richie's offers a variety of lunch and dinner meal plans that are out of this world to say the least.

The prices range from \$3.99 meal to \$18.99 for special party orders.

When in the mood for fried chicken, Richie's certainly serves up the perfect home-cooked meal.

—By Michael Smith

Recent club tragedies around country show importance of safety at local concerts

People fighting, being stepped on and being burned to death.

That definitely does not sound like a concert to me. It happened at clubs in other cities. Could it happen here?

There have been times when people were stuffed into Omaha venues and clubs, breaking fire code laws. Was anything done to prevent that from happening?

From what I recall, no.

Considering the recent club fires and overcrowding dilemmas in other cities, I think Omaha should seriously crack down on the maximum occupancy law and take into consideration the people

who attend the venues.

Across the street and next door to where I work, used to be the home of two clubs. Both of which were closed down after many neighborhood complaints arose. Although the maximum number of people in the clubs seemed to be doubled sometimes, little was done to try and control the large crowds.

For the club across the street, one exit was used for crowds of three to four hundred people.

After all of the people vacated the building, they stayed on the sidewalks and in the streets.

The club-goers waited to get into

their cars and leave. They sat, argued, fought, sold drugs and every once in a while, had public sex, even leaving condoms and underwear littered in the streets.

At the same time, the club next door to my place of employment was doing the same thing—admitting way too many people and going through the same mess with parking and loitering.

Since Omaha law prohibits any establishments serving alcohol past 1 a.m., both of the clubs let out at the same time.

So at one time, there could be anywhere from eight to ten hundred people crowding the area of Tenth and Pacific Streets.

For three years, the people who live and work near the area I work at were

worried that something would happen to them or to the area around them.

My mom and people I work with wrote letters to the newspaper pleading for something to be done about the large number of people in these local clubs.

Would something that tragic have to happen here in Omaha before more safety precautions were being created and enforced?

While in Kansas City a friend and I wanted to go to a show. The show in Kansas City was two days after the club fire in Rhode Island.

My friend's mom told us to locate all of the exits and stand as close to one as we could.

After heavy rethinking, we ultimately decided that it was in our best in-

terest not to go to the show.

Omaha's venues really worry me. Sometimes too many people are stuffed in before a show is called sold out.

Something needs to be done. Whether it be lowering the number of people who are admitted into a venue or by using bigger places for shows with high fan turnouts.

Whatever gets chosen, something needs to be done.

Granted these bands and clubs are trying to make money, but what matters the most, safety or money?

Between Rhode Island and Chicago more than 100 people are dead.

Hopefully, the tragic events of recent months will ensure that Omaha officials will make the right choice.



OFF THE WALL

Bryan Swotek

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PROM RESTAURANTS



You have a date, you've gotten your dress or tuxedo and the tickets are bought. Now all you have to do is figure out where you are going to go for dinner before the dance. Some people like to go the fancy route while others like to go some place elegant but cheaper. The *Register* staff sampled some of the more popular places for prom dinner to give you insight on where to go.

QUICK HIT Restaurant Reviews



BUCA di BEPPO

3309 Oakview Drive

Most Expensive Dish:

Linguine Frutti Di Mare \$23.45

Least Expensive Dish:

Small order of Spaghetti Marinara or Marinara Pizza \$9.95



The Greek Islands

3821 Center Street

Most Expensive Dish:

Combination Dinner \$11.75

Least Expensive Dish:

Hamburger \$4.50



P.F. Chang's

China Bistro

Westroads Mall

10150 California Street

Most Expensive Dish:

Oolong Marinated Sea Bass \$17.95

Least Expensive Dish:

Vegetable Chow Fun \$6.95



V. Mertz

1022 Howard St.

Most Expensive Dish:

Grilled veal chop with a Roquefort-Pancetta caramelized onion cream sauce and potato croquettes \$34.95

Least Expensive Dish:

Almond-encrusted fillet of Atlantic salmon with a Tahitian vanilla bean beurre blanc and an asparagus risotto or Cognac and honey-marinated breast of mallard duck with a plum coulis and whipped Peruvian blue potatoes \$24.95



Grisanti's

10875 West Dodge Rd.

Most Expensive Dish:

Steak dinner \$20

Least Expensive Dish:

Unlimited salad \$4.95

All photos by STEVE
PACKARD/THE REGISTER

Vivace's offers dishes with contemporary twists

By Paula Salhany

If you are looking for a fancy downtown restaurant to take your date to for prom, Vivace's is the restaurant to go to.

From the outside, the restaurant looks like a nice, refined restaurant.

As you walk through the outside patio seating and into the restaurant, you can already tell you are in for a nice meal.

Though its prices are a bit high, it is more than made up for by the amount of food you get.

The plates the waiters serve are almost overflowing with pasta and delicious sauces.

Many of the meals come with a side salad.

The menu is full of delicious Italian foods.

If you get the right entrée, it can

suffice for two people with leftovers.

Vivace's claim to fame is its wide variety of pastas and pasta sauces.

Patrons are served everything from fettuccini to couscous with a wide variety of different sauces, which are delicious and add a lot to the already tasty pasta.

The restaurant has everything from angel hair pasta to rigatoni.

They also have many dishes with chicken and elegant meat dishes.

But if you don't want pasta, don't worry. There are many other entrées to chose from.

The service is par for this class of the restaurant.

The waiters are all dressed in black and white and always have the menu and specials down pat.

They are quick to refill drinks and take your orders, but do not impose on

the diner's meal.

The atmosphere is pleasant.

The walls reflect the old market atmosphere with exposed bricks and pleasant art strategically placed.

The restaurant itself is quite large, which is convenient for large groups. If you have a party or a group that is larger than 15, it is possible to reserve a smaller room in the back at no extra fee.

Vivace's is also fairly close to Central so there is no need to worry about traffic after dinner on your way to the dance.

It is also in the Old Market so you and your date are able to look around in the many small shops and stores before heading off to the festivities at the school.

So if you are at a loss for where to go for prom dinner, consider Vivace's.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Vivace's chef Sid Grassbaugh cooks some vegetables for a chicken dish. Vivace's offers a wide array of modern Italian dishes at reasonable prices.

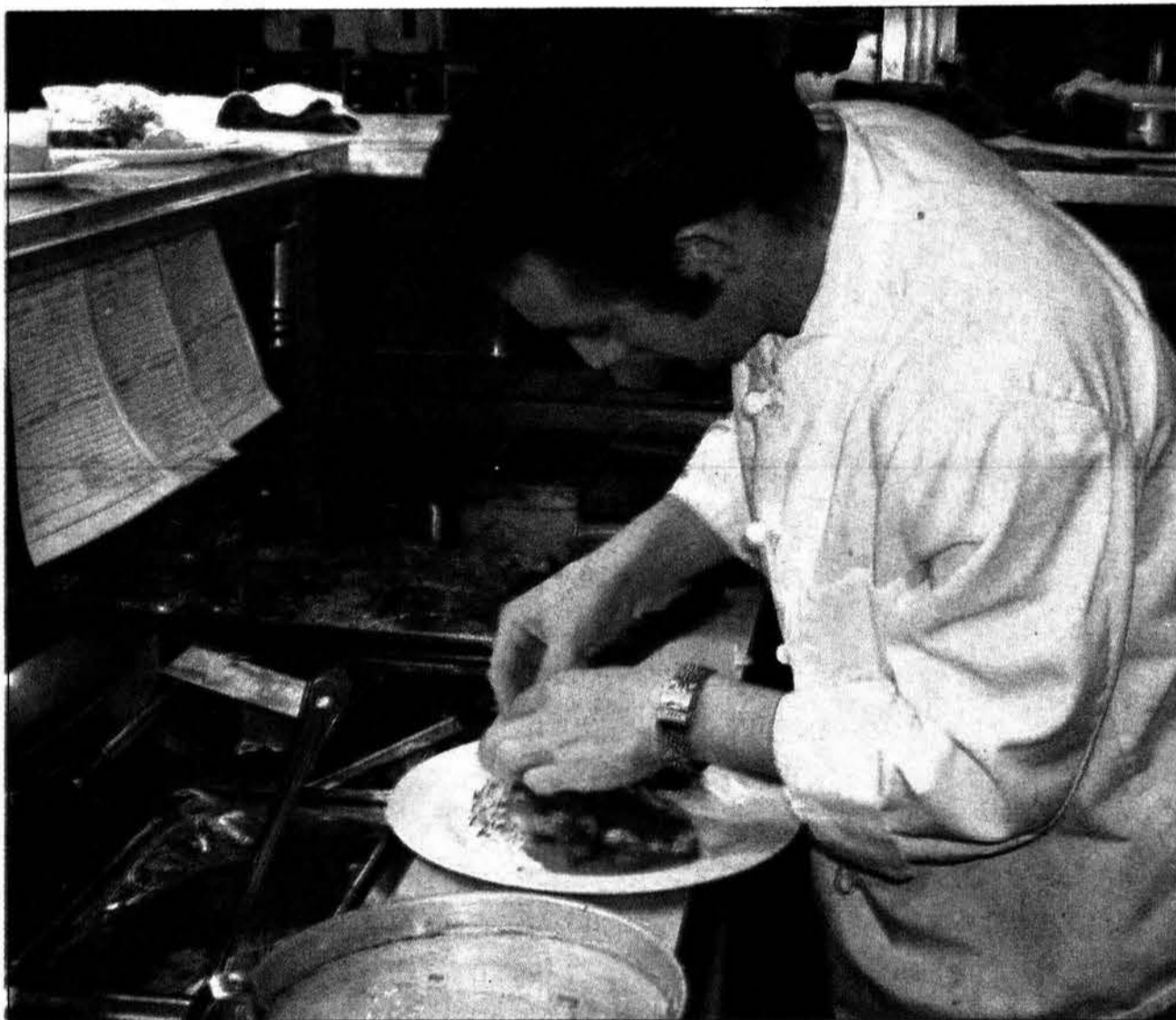


Photo by CHARLIE WENCE/THE REGISTER

Chef Thomas Koles prepares the dinner special at the Press Club restaurant at the top of the First National building. The food tastes scrumptious and is elegantly prepared.

Omaha Press Club

Elegant restaurant provides delicious, well-presented food, a magnificent view and a fun atmosphere for a great prom night

By Charlie Wence

If eating New York Strip 22 stories-atop the old First National Tower sounds like a good time, then the Omaha Press Club (OPC) just might be a desirable prom restaurant.

The menu goes from the traditional New York Strip to pricey Maine Lobster. All the dishes are well-planned out and they don't give you an enormous amount of food. Overall, the OPC offers a wide array of dishes.

Although the menu is slightly pricey, the work of Chef Thomas Koles makes the money spent worth while. He prepares the plates so that each one of them is a work of art.

However, if money is a problem on prom night, then the OPC should be avoided.

Upon walking into the bank building's unimpressive lobby, patrons are rushed to the top of the black tower by a well-decorated elevator, which is for the specific use of OPC.

When stepping out of the ele-

vator's doors, visitors are greeted with a mini-exhibit dedicated to Omaha's history of journalism. There are also different rooms where people can sit and socialize before they sit down for their meal.

OPC has a reputation and rich tradition of having journalists dine in the restaurant. When the patrons finally are seated at the table, which has very white table clothes and neatly arranged place settings, they should notice that the lights are low, which makes the view of Omaha and its skyline more enjoyable.

Beneath the building lies a quiet downtown Omaha with the Missouri River as a backdrop.

On the walls are paintings and drawings of famous people who once dined at the OPC.

The humorous caricatures of many famous journalists from years past adorn the walls and offer a light atmosphere and provide good conversational pieces.

They are also a way to depict the celebrities who were once

there.

Guests must remember to ask for the "one night stand" pass in order to dine at the OPC because it is technically a members only restaurant.

However, if a patron's family belongs to OPC, they can charge their entire meal to their account and leave with a pocket full of cash.

It can sometimes be nice to not worry about the bill and be able to pick up the tab later.

The parking situation at the OPC may appear difficult at first glance, yet if handled properly it will go smoothly.

Visitors should park in the Double Tree/First National Bank parking garage.

Although the garage can be pretty crowded at times, a parking spot on the roof has a beautiful urban landscape.

For a special prom night at a refined restaurant that overlooks the up-and-coming Omaha skyline, look to the OPC to fulfill your desires.

Small restaurant offers big tastes

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Malara's is an easy place to drive right by without taking any notice. It is tucked away in a south Omaha residential neighborhood, in between a few houses.

But passing up this restaurant would be a major mistake. Malara's is the perfect tiny mom and pop restaurant. The atmosphere is nice, but not stuffy or pretentious. The food is tasty and plentiful and the prices are more than reasonable.

The restaurant is much bigger on the inside than the outside would lead diners to believe.

Once diners get through the waiting area, they are ushered into the dining area which has a nice, pleasantly dim lighting scheme.

Malara's menu is comprised of fairly traditional Italian fare. One of Malara's specialties is its spaghetti carbonara.

The sauce is absolutely delicious, though diners can actually hear their arteries clogging as they eat it. But for a once-in-awhile special occasion like prom, something as unhealthy as the carbonara is excusable.

The restaurant also offers a wide variety of side orders, appetizers, salads and desserts to complete the dining experience.

For a prom dinner that is delicious, quiet and affordable, Malara's is a great choice.

Just be sure to get there before word gets out and everyone is clamoring to go there.

Romantic Italian setting perfect for prom dining

By Michael Smith

Lo Sole Mio's romantic Italian atmosphere is sure to bring joy and romance to all couples who go there on prom night.

This restaurant specializes in authentic Italian cuisine, ranging from Pasta Alfredo to Pasta con Aragosta e Gamberi.

Lo Sole Mio's menu ranges from different combination platters to chicken, veal, steak and fish specialties all ranging from \$11.95 to \$21.95.

This restaurant is a perfect place to take a prom date, not only due to the fact that it is set in a romantic Italian oasis, but that the mood that is set is unimaginable.

The building looks grim on the outside, but on the inside it is decorated festively in dark Italian colors and graced with the presence of overgrown shrubbery and bushes.

The mood and the atmosphere are very formal.

That should not scare any diner who has not been to a fancy restaurant before. Just relax, be comfortable and enjoy the food.

The building, which is located near the field club area, is close to where prom will be. Remember that this year's prom will be in Central's courtyard.

It takes less than five minutes to get from Lo Sole Mio's restaurant to Central's courtyard.

The service at the restaurant is almost perfect.

The food is served diligently and the hostesses, waitresses and waiters are quick to serve your every need.

Everyone truly will be treated like a king and a queen on this magical night.

Getting a table at this prime event may produce a challenge.

Make sure there is plenty of time to spare.

Rarely does one find service this good and at such an affordable price for the Italian cuisine that is being offered.

Lo Sole Mio is certainly the place for you and your loved one to share in this ideal magical night of prom.

No reservations are accepted so make sure to arrive early, and enjoy the food on prom night, Apr. 12.

SPORTS

Friday, April 4, 2003

C

Page 29
The Register**Basketball**

This year's team made it all the way to State then choked in the first round after having a substantial lead over the Lincoln High Links.

Page 32

Construction causes move for practices

By Doug Meigs

Senior E.J. Falkner will practice for his last run at State this year at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and the Lewis and Clark Middle School because renovations have made it impossible for athletes to use Central's track.

"This year I think it's good we're here," Falkner said. "It would have been nice to have a full track at Central, but we have one at UNO. It's a change for the better."

He said it would have been nice if the new stadium and track had been completed before he graduated. But then again, athletic director Paul Pennington said people have always been saying that about different aspects of Central (air conditioning for example).

"I feel sorry for the juniors and seniors," he said. "The sophomores are the first class that will get much use out of it."

Pennington said school officials knew the track would be useless for practice as soon as they decided to place portables on the field.

Such became visibly evident when renovations forced pedestrian traffic to take a detour across the track between the school and Davenport street.

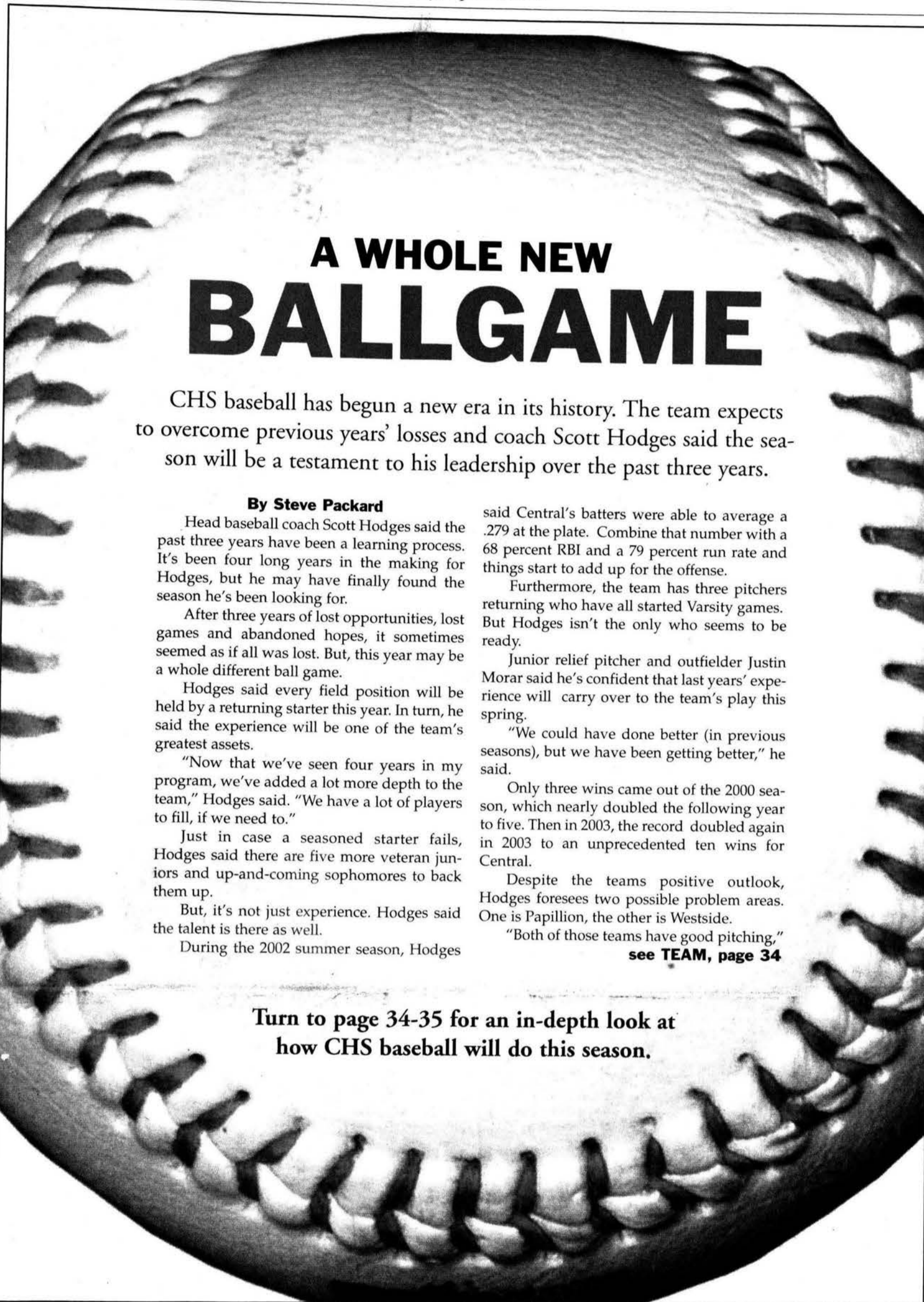
But by the time most Central students had a chance to wonder where the track team will practice, Pennington said various options had been considered for over a year.

He said Omaha Public Schools (OPS) had planned to buy a former alternative high school, Flanagan, for the purpose of track practices, but for some reason the plans fell through.

Then, Pennington said they began considering junior high facilities as alternative practice areas. Norris was an option, but Mercy and the Norris were already practicing there daily.

Lewis and Clark turned out to be a more suitable facility as one of only a select few junior highs that doesn't have high

see TRACK, page 37



A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

CHS baseball has begun a new era in its history. The team expects to overcome previous years' losses and coach Scott Hodges said the season will be a testament to his leadership over the past three years.

By Steve Packard

Head baseball coach Scott Hodges said the past three years have been a learning process. It's been four long years in the making for Hodges, but he may have finally found the season he's been looking for.

After three years of lost opportunities, lost games and abandoned hopes, it sometimes seemed as if all was lost. But, this year may be a whole different ball game.

Hodges said every field position will be held by a returning starter this year. In turn, he said the experience will be one of the team's greatest assets.

"Now that we've seen four years in my program, we've added a lot more depth to the team," Hodges said. "We have a lot of players to fill, if we need to."

Just in case a seasoned starter fails, Hodges said there are five more veteran juniors and up-and-coming sophomores to back them up.

But, it's not just experience. Hodges said the talent is there as well.

During the 2002 summer season, Hodges

said Central's batters were able to average a .279 at the plate. Combine that number with a 68 percent RBI and a 79 percent run rate and things start to add up for the offense.

Furthermore, the team has three pitchers returning who have all started Varsity games. But Hodges isn't the only who seems to be ready.

Junior relief pitcher and outfielder Justin Morar said he's confident that last years' experience will carry over to the team's play this spring.

"We could have done better (in previous seasons), but we have been getting better," he said.

Only three wins came out of the 2000 season, which nearly doubled the following year to five. Then in 2003, the record doubled again in 2003 to an unprecedented ten wins for Central.

Despite the teams positive outlook, Hodges foresees two possible problem areas. One is Papillion, the other is Westside.

"Both of those teams have good pitching,"

see TEAM, page 34

Turn to page 34-35 for an in-depth look at how CHS baseball will do this season.

Charity golf to help out Eagle sports

By Doug Meigs

Senior Tony Driscoll has played in a number of charity tournaments over the course of his golfing career.

But he's never played in one specifically benefiting Central's athletic department.

That's because one hasn't existed until this year.

Central's first annual golf outing will be held June 2 at Shadow Ridge Golf course to benefit the Eagles athletic department.

"It's a good idea, especially if it starts well, then it just gets better," Driscoll said. "Usually they're pretty fun and they make a lot of money."

Athletic director Paul Pennington said he hopes to raise between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for the school.

The money raised will then go toward extra expenses involved with the stadium construction and gym renovation.

"We figure there are a lot of things that will come up and we want to be ready," he said. "Basically, it's for things not covered by the bond."

Pennington said the school is considering using funds from the golfing event to fund extra materials that would not be covered though the construction money.

Some of these things will be putting padding at the ends of the court, lines on the court and painting the floor purple inside of the three-point line and outside of the free-throw line.

He said some of the funds may go to a "gator" (a four-wheeled vehicle) that would haul equipment around the football field.

Any money raised will also go toward the machinery for the three concession stands slated for the stadium, as well as seats for the press box.

Pennington said he's not sure about the ticket booth or the scoreboard yet.

He said they will try and obtain a sponsor to put it up with advertising if the money is not available.

Players who have already registered range from Green Bay Packers running back Ahman Green, to booster club president Dan Blanke, to Pennington himself.

Entry fees for each golfer are \$125, while the fee per team is \$500.

Pennington said the price might seem high, but the golfers are receiving lunch, dinner, cart usage and etc.

In addition, door prizes will be provided and Stan Olson Auto World will give away a 2003 Miata for the first hole in one on hole 17.

Pennington organized much of the event with Dan Van Metre, who donated the new weightlifting equipment to Central last year.

Pennington said he and Van Metre met with people from Shadow Ridge and formed a committee for the event.

They have been meeting every two weeks to organize the fundraiser.

"We'd like to have a lot of corporate sponsors, but it's a really tight time right now with the stock market and all," he said. "This year will be interesting to see how Central alumni responds to the event."

Pennington said the alumni association came up with the concept for the golf event. However, there are a number of other schools around the metro that have similar fundraisers.

Powerlifting motivates athletes to train harder, coach says

By Charlie Wence

The silver bar bends as senior Tarrell Burrell begins to squat 365 pounds. Wedged between football and track seasons, Burrell said the powerlifting team offers a chance for him to compete with other lifters while conditioning for track.

"It (powerlifting) helps me run better and faster," he said.

Head coach Joe McMnamin said the team offers a more challenging way to train for other sports when athletes would otherwise be on a hiatus from activity.

"It gets them motivated," he said. "Training by yourself can sometimes get stale and boring."

Despite the team's existence since 1978, it is often left in the shadow of other winter sports like basketball and wrestling and does not receive as much publicity as participants wish. McMnamin said the reason why powerlifting isn't well-known is because it is not sanctioned by the state.

"It's nothing more than a club," he said. "It runs on the same system that chess club runs under."

This year's team had eight qualifiers for the State meet at Bellevue East. However, only three placed. McMnamin said he expected more out of the team at State, but some of the team members were not able to attend.

"Our best guys weren't able to be there," he said. "But stuff like this usually happens anyway."

State qualifier Jake Mixan in the 123-pound weight class could not make it to the competition because he was ill, McMnamin said.

"Jake was deadly sick," he said.

In addition to Mixan's absence, Brandon Teamer could not compete in the 275-pound division because he had to attend a funeral that day. Teamer was the outstanding lifter at the Abraham Lincoln meet during the regular season.

Freshman Andre McIntyre raised eyebrows when he placed second at State in the 220 pound-weight class. Furthermore, he was the best freshman lifter at State, determined by the Schwartz Formula, which takes the total amount of weight lifted multiplied by a number relating to body weight.

Powerlifting is much more difficult than regular weight training because in certain lifts lifters are required to do more work, McMnamin said.

For example, on the bench press lift, once the bar is lifted it is then brought to the lifter's chest and must be held there for a given amount of seconds until the judge gives the go ahead to lift the bar.

Powerlifting, similar to wrestling, operates under ten different weight classes. In wrestling the highest any wrestler can weigh and still be eligible to play is 275 pounds, powerlifting sets aside a heavyweight class for anyone over the weight of 275 pounds.

When choosing how much weight to lift, a mistake can be made by trying to lift too much. Powerlifting rules say that once a desired weight has been chosen, the lifter cannot go below that given weight, McMnamin said.

The lesser-known deadlift is the last lift, along with squat and bench press, which is competed for. The deadlift is a true test of how much one can lift, McMnamin said.

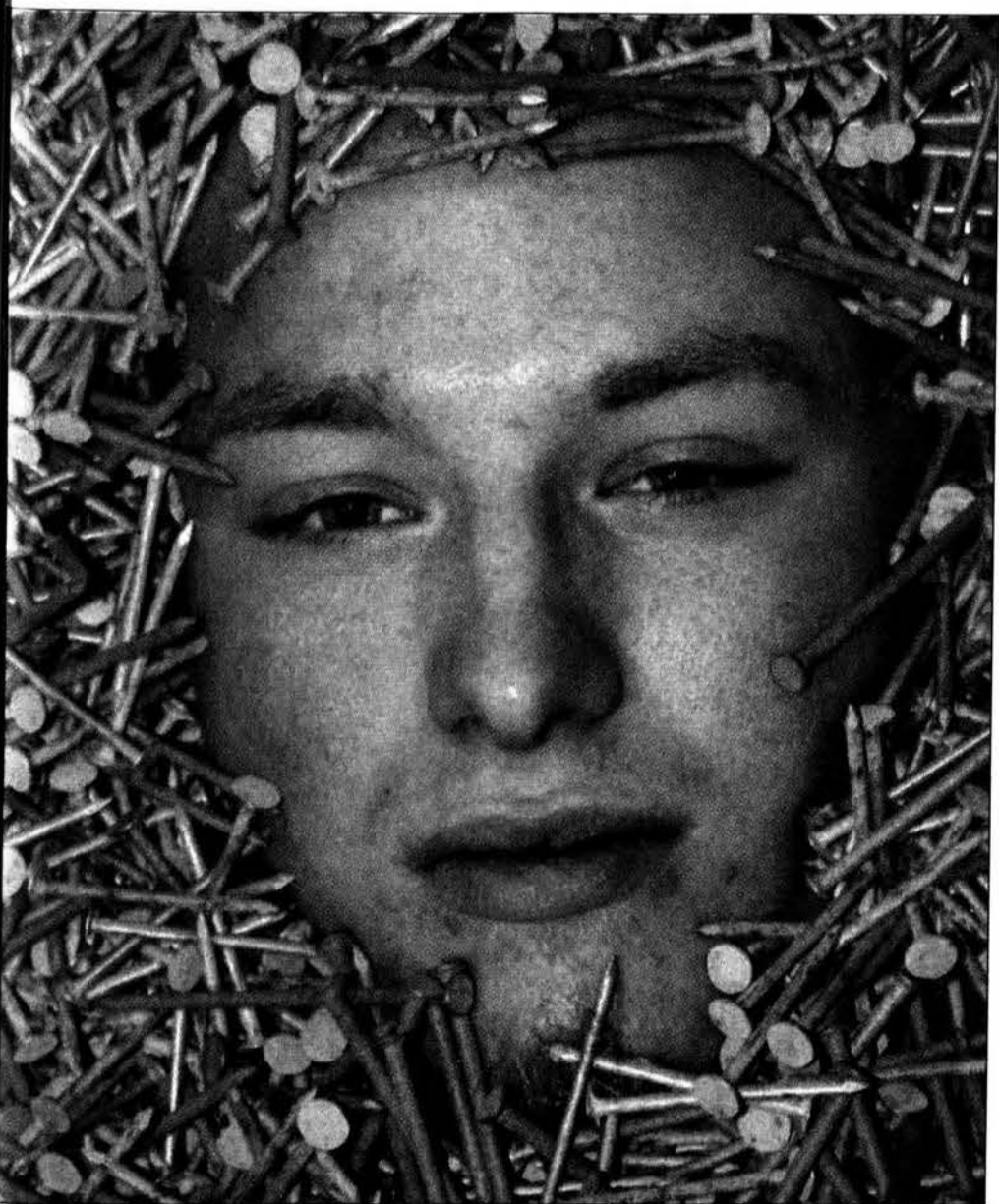


Illustration by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Senior Paul Hildebrandt, who is a member of the powerlifting team, is buried in a pile of nails to convey the toughness required for the activity. The team has been in existence since 1978.

Injury ends senior soccer star's career

By Devon O'Connell

Senior Tyler Klusaw is one of the best soccer players to pass through Central in some time. However, after suffering several concussions, Klusaw said he probably won't be playing competitive soccer ever again.

Head soccer coach Tim Herbert said that Klusaw was one of the best players he has ever coached.

"With Tyler and a couple of other guys we picked up this year, I thought we had a real definite shot for State," he said.



Klusaw

Because Klusaw is left-footed, Herbert said it makes him a rare commodity and is very difficult for opposing players to stop.

He suffered two concussions in one week, early in last year's season. Nevertheless, he came back strong after a month of recovery and helped the team win four of its final six games.

During the summer, Klusaw played for Viva Ozymandias, one of the most successful club soccer teams in the nation. Last year, the team went to nationals and lost in a shootout. It ended up finishing fifth in the country.

In the course of the club season, Klusaw had two more concussions. His doctors had repeatedly told him that the concussions were dangerous. By the fourth, he said they were urging him to quit. They said he was running the risk of suffering serious brain damage or even death if he had another.

He said he had heard stories about players who had too many concussions and ended up with severe problems, so he took the advice to heart.

"After my first one, I sort of just told them I didn't care. But after four, I just made the decision," he said. "I didn't want to take chances."

This season, Klusaw is assisting Herbert train the team. He helps them out with conditioning, drills and running. Klusaw said he may also come back next year as an assistant coach if he attends the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Even though he had to quit, he said it didn't affect him as much as he had thought it would.

"It didn't really hit me at first. Once tryouts started, it kind of hurt a little more," he said.

Klusaw said that several players would be stepping up to fill the gap he left. Some of the players that he expected to take leadership roles included senior Mitch Swee and junior David Rangel.

CHS player anticipates promising soccer future

By Charlie Wence

Even though girls soccer began last season with a loss to Mercy in the team's first game, it was a success for sophomore Elisa Berzins because she was playing Varsity as a freshman at the school of her choice.

Berzins lives in west Omaha, but she chose to play for Central rather than Burke. In turn, the decision has benefited the team greatly.

"Both of my brothers went to Central and I guess I wanted to follow in their footsteps," she said.

In addition to following family tradition, Berzins said there were some things that made her not want to go to Burke.

"I went to Beveridge (Middle School) and grew up with those kids," she said. "I didn't like the atmosphere. I wanted something new."

When she turned down enrolling at Burke, she missed an opportunity to play for a talented Burke soccer team, she said.

"Burke does have a better team," she said. "But academically, Central is better."

However, after the second game of the season, Berzins suffered a severe setback. She tore ligaments in her left ankle while playing Westside. She could not play for almost three weeks.

While recovering from the injury, she underwent physical training to rehabilitate the ankle.

Coming back from the injury, Berzins said she immediately returned to playing games, even though the torn ligaments put her at a slight disadvantage.

"I was a little out of shape and my ankle was still swollen," she said.

Berzins' head coach, Joe White, said she displays superior soccer skills.

"She really has the desire," he said. "Her competitiveness is her edge."

White said Berzins' true strength is her ability to keep control of the ball.

Berzins said the outlook for this year shows promise. She said the team should do well, despite losing players from last year.

"We have a lot of new freshmen that are pretty good," she said. "That should overcome the seniors lost from last year."

Berzins said another advantage to the team is that its district is much easier compared to previous years.

"We have a chance to go to State," she said. "Marian isn't in our district this year."

Looking to her junior year, Berzins said it should be tough, but because of other schools losing seniors, she is optimistic.

Then by her senior year, she said there will be five or six club players who are currently sophomores and freshmen.

"We should be getting better while other teams are losing players," she said.

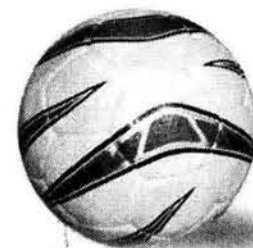
Calendar



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Senior James Boatright dives for a ball at practice. After years of playing on the Varsity squad, he has finally secured his spot as top goalkeeper following the past three years' tough competition for the spot. Boatright is one of the many returning Varsity players who have contributed a great deal of experience to the spring soccer season.

Athletic Events



April

5 (Sat.) Varsity Track

The Varsity track teams will participate in the South Invite on April 5. Central traditionally does well at the meet.

8 (Tues.) Boys Varsity Golf's first game

The golf team will begin its season at North April 8. This year's team is shaping up to be one of Central's best.

10 (Thurs.) Girls Varsity Tennis' first game

The girls tennis team will begin its season at Bryan April 10. The team had its first selective tryouts this year.

15 (Tues.) Varsity Baseball Doubleheader

Varsity baseball will host Nebraska City in the team's first doubleheader of the year at Seymour Smith April 15.

17 (Thurs) Varsity Track's Dick Jones Invite

The boys and girls Varsity track teams will participate in the Dick Jones (Central) Invite hosted at Burke High School.

17 (Thurs.) Metro Varsity Baseball

Varsity baseball will compete in the Metro Tournament April 17. Metro is the first big tournament of the year.

18 (Fri.) Boys Varsity Soccer

Boys Varsity soccer will play in the Benson Cup. The team won the cup last year and hopes to repeat this year.

22 (Tues.) Boys Varsity Soccer

Boys Varsity soccer will play against Bellevue West. The game is a home game and will be held at Bergquist Stadium.

24 (Thurs.) Girls Varsity Tennis

Girls Varsity tennis will play against Papillion/LaVista on the team's home court at Dewey April 24.

29 (Tues.) Boys Varsity Golf

Boys Varsity golf will play Creighton Prep April 29. Prep has a traditionally solid boys golf team.

May

1 (Thurs.) Boys and Girls Varsity Track

Boys and girls Varsity Track will compete in the North Invite. The invite is the last track competition before Metro.

1 (Thurs.) Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer

Boys and girls Varsity soccer will host the Central Invite. The invite is the last before each team goes on to Districts.

6 (Tues.) Boys Golf's last game

Boys golf will participate in the last match of the year against South on the Eagle's home course at Shoreline.

8 (Thurs) Boys Soccer Districts

Boys soccer will participate in Districts. The team will be at a disadvantage due to the loss of senior Tyler Klusaw.

8 (Thurs.) Varsity Baseball's last game

Varsity baseball will compete in the last game of the regular spring season against Millard West May 8.

9 (Fri.) Girls Soccer Districts

Varsity girls soccer will participate at Districts and hopes to make it to State for the first time in a number of years.

10 (Sat.) Baseball Districts

Varsity baseball will compete at Districts and hopes to go on to a strong State showing the following week.

Junior skates through year's disappointment

By Steve Packard

For junior Chad Riley, the past hockey season has been a time to keep faith.

Riley is one of three veteran hockey players at Central who play for one of two of Omaha's select high school travel teams (the Gladiators). An unusually poor season this year has Riley doubting the potential for next year.

It's an unfortunate circumstance for Riley, who only joined the team last year after wanting to play travel hockey since he was six.

After his 2001 season playing with the Omaha Metro Amateur Hockey Association (OMAHA), Riley said he was convinced to try out for the Gladiators after his teammates and the head coach Darin Schumacher approached him.

Riley tried out and made the team. Even though the past season was filled with losses, he said he has been happier playing for Gladiators than with OMAHA.



Riley

"There's not the aspect of winning or losing (in OMAHA). It seems to be more focused on the fun part," Riley said. "I like the competition of the travel hockey more."

In its 2001-2002 Varsity season, the Gladiator's managed to keep a 12-18-3 record and a relatively full roster.

This year, it's been a different story.

It's been a 3-29-1 season, and Riley said the team was drastically short on players.

"The problem is we had 12 guys versus 20," Schumacher said. "The kids played fine. We just didn't have fun."

However, it's just that aspect that's begun to brew more and more trouble for Riley and Schumacher.

Schumacher said OMAHA coaches claim the league is simply an easier alternative to the stress of travel hockey.

The OMAHA league consisted of six teams in 2001, but it's since grown to a total of 11 teams.

Between this season and last, Schumacher said he's lost nearly 18 players due to players switching to the house league.

Riley said he stood by helplessly as a domino effect seemed to hit his former Gladiator teammates. Schumacher said there are two kinds of players, kids who play hockey and hockey players.

He said hockey players are the ones who can be counted on to play every day.

As far as next year, Schumacher said he thinks he can only count on five to come back.

"We lost a lot of players from last year who went to house hockey (OMAHA)," Riley said. "We (the team) knew we could make it. We weren't sure how it'd turn out, but we'd make it."

Riley said he didn't think the team did as well as it could have this season. But, there was at least one improvement.

"For the team, it was an unsuccessful season," Riley said. "For me it's been more successful."

Riley said he's experienced major improvement in his individual hockey skills and team play, even though the team lost many of its games.

He said he is even beginning to consider options for a potential college hockey career.

Riley said he's hoping to join the Mavericks after he graduates. If not, he said he's looking at Michigan University, but he said it all comes down to how many scholarships he gets.

Schumacher said the past season may bog down Riley's chances for playing at college, but Schumacher said he is hoping for the best.

"I assume it's going to go much better," Schumacher said. "I think we're going to have more guys and more wins."

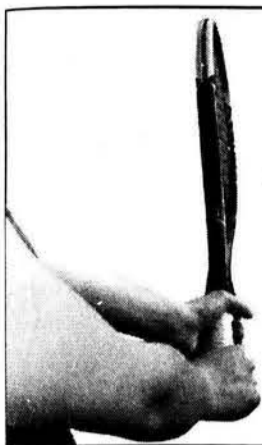
GETTING A GRIP

To play tennis, an athlete must understand the sport's various strokes as illustrated by junior Jenn Yin (below right). However, to truly master the sport, a tennis player must learn various grips to achieve maximum control of the ball, as demonstrated by senior Katie Musick. By using a different grip, it is harder for opponents to return serves and volleys (below and to the left).



Serve: A tennis player starts out each point by serving the ball to the other player. A serve is basically the same as an overhead stroke, but the player throws the ball to him or herself.

BACKHAND

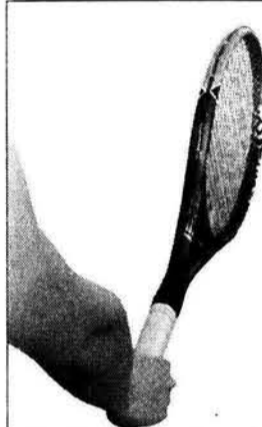


Regular grip: The regular grip on a backhand stroke as shown by this volley is a very common stroke. However, it is easily predicted by opponents.

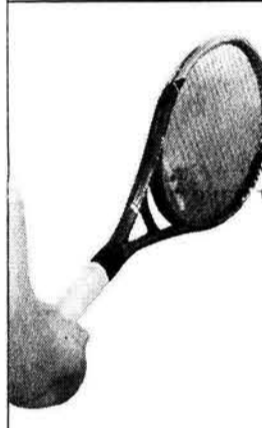


Different grip: Senior Katie Musick's variation on the regular grip of a backhand stroke as shown by this volley makes the ball harder to return.

FOREHAND



Regular grip: The regular grip on a forehand stroke as shown by this volley is one of the most natural returns for tennis players to use while playing.

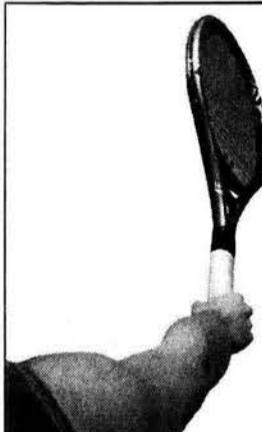


Different grip: Musick's variation on the regular grip of a forehand stroke as shown by this volley makes a ball bounce erratically due to the spin put on it.

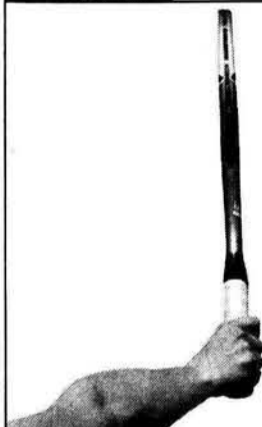


Volley: A volley is a stroke used to return a ball when the tennis player is further away from the net. Otherwise he or she would use a groundstroke.

OVERHEAD



Regular grip: The regular grip on an overhead stroke as shown by this serve demonstrates a very simple way for a player to serve the ball to opponents.



Different grip: Musick's variation on the regular grip of an overhead serve offers a unique way for her to begin a match with a possible surprise.



Groundstroke: Groundstrokes are used by tennis players when they are closer to the net. The stroke offers a more precise movement and quicker reaction time.

Information courtesy of senior Katie Musick

Infographic by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Senior returns for State success

By Doug Meigs

For the past four years, Katie Musick said she has been looking forward to her senior tennis season. Now it's finally here.

Although Musick has been playing since fifth grade, her passion for the sport didn't manifest itself until high school.

"I started to get really into tennis my freshman year so I was really excited to improve every year," she said. "I hope to do really well. I know of four girls that can beat me in the Metro area, but other than that, I had some really close matches last year and I think I could beat them now." Musick said she has high hopes for the year after looking at her schedule early in the season and plans on winning 75 percent of her matches.

She said she began playing tennis through group lessons, then progressed to private lessons and various leagues and clinics over the years.

Her current private coach, Noel Hoig (Marian's head tennis coach), has been working with Musick for the past two years during the winter.

"It helps you focus on certain things," she said. "You try and get as much hitting in as you can. But more than that, it helps precision and accuracy."

Musick said she changed the way she holds the racket and has learned to use different grips in different situations to make the ball harder to return.

"I've used a lot of different ones, but the ones I'm using now are the best," she said. "I use a different grip for my serves and my overheads than everything else."

Last year was a good year for her, but this year promises to be even better. She said her season culminated last year at State. After winning her first match, she went on to play the number two ranked girl from Marian and lost.

Musick said the fact that she was playing another pupil of her private instructor only served to make the match more exciting. She said Hoig wished her luck in the morning when she found out she would be competing against a Marian player.

"He was really supportive," she said. "It was a really good experience."

She said the Marian player was an extremely difficult player to compete against. But, she said she really enjoyed the fast pace of the match and the chance to get her adrenaline pumping.

"She plays tennis in the spirit of tennis," coach Larry Andrews said. "She plays with passion and integrity and a sense of fairness."

Andrews said Musick wants to be sure she does her best, but also wants strong competition.

He said tennis is a sport all about good sportsmanship, fairness and working hard. He said she exemplifies such qualities. Musick said she hopes to continue her tennis career with more matches similar to the caliber she played at State last year.

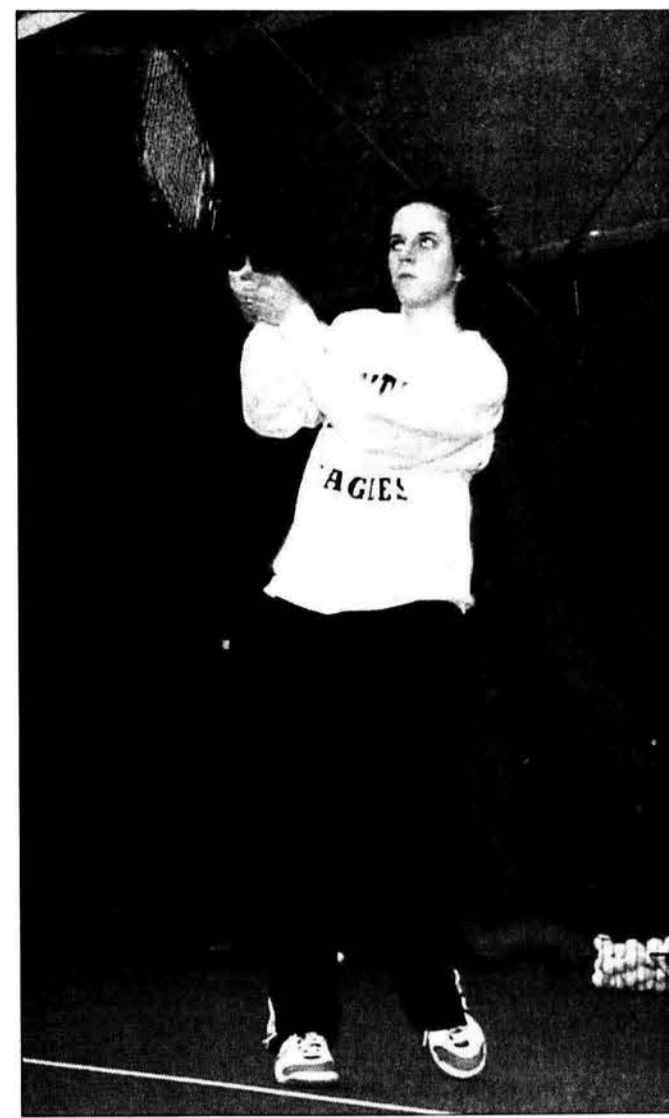


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

Senior Katie Musick practices her swing for the upcoming season indoors at Hanscom Park.

"At college I expect a more competitive level and tougher coaching, but I think it will be fun, too," she said.

Musick said her two options for college include William Jewell and Hastings. She said she likes the schools because she wants to guarantee herself a chance to get good playing time in at college and also wants to go to a smaller college that was close to home.

She said she has athletic scholarships lined up at both schools, but has also already received one of Hastings major academic scholarships.

William Jewell has a better tennis program and went to nationals the past couple years, so she said she is leaning toward that school.

Musick said that she hopes to practice with the teams sometime in the spring before she makes her final decision.

Girls tennis prepares for best season ever

By Doug Meigs

In 13 years as coach, Larry Andrews said he has never seen as much interest in girls tennis as this year.

Andrews said 38 students attended the initial meeting, then at least four more showed up at the tryouts.

"It's probably the largest that I'm aware of, but we had to make cuts this year," he said.

Andrews could only take nine players for the Varsity team. Meanwhile, he said the Junior Varsity (JV) team coached by Dr. Jurgen Shawver could only take 15.

Over the past few years, the team has been steadily increasing its numbers. Andrews said that this is the first year that the team has held tryouts where players were actually cut.

He said the Varsity team's size can be very limiting, but Central has never had a problem with it before.

If anything, he said too much interest is a good problem.

Andrews said the attendance at tryouts dwindled as the days wore on.

However, he still had to cut between 12 and 13 players. Some of the players who were cut had even played JV last season.

However, Andrews said that Central didn't even have a JV team within the last five years. Now it's cutting players.

"When the numbers were down, we could keep most of the girls," he said.

Senior Kim Elliot said she was surprised by the interest shown at tryouts. Elliot said before this year, Varsity always took the seniors and because the team can only take between eight and ten varsity players, it often hurt the team competitively.

Anderson's team is no stranger to talent; Central has had strong players in the past.

Andrews said he has had his share of star tennis players over the years, but this year is shaping up to be as promising as any he has been part of in the past.

"The years that those girls (his former star players) were here, they played year-round, they were pretty dedicated to tennis," he said.

However, Andrews said this year there are girls that play year round and have shown a lot of dedication through similar commitment to the sport.

"They're not just girls who come out when the tennis season comes around," he said.

In turn, Andrews hopes this season will be one of the best ever at Central. He said the team was one of the average teams in the Metro last year. It beat most of the OPS schools, but had trouble with the west Omaha schools and ended the year winning about half of its matches.

"I'm really optimistic about the interest in tennis and the enthusiasm they've shown," he said. "It's really nice to see that tennis isn't dying."

Even though Elliot has only been part of Central's tennis program for two years since she transferred from Westside, she said she is excited about the prospects for the season.

"I think we'll be better than Central has ever been," she said.

In addition to a strong core of returning Varsity players, Elliot said there are also a number of talented underclassmen coming up.

The main teams that Elliot said pose threats for Central include Westside, Burke and Marian. All three schools are traditionally very good teams.

In particular, she said the second game of the year against Westside will be interesting because she will play against many of her former teammates.

Because Westside has such a deep talent pool, she said she probably wouldn't have had a chance to play Varsity for two years if she had stayed at the school.

"Westside's more like an army," she said.

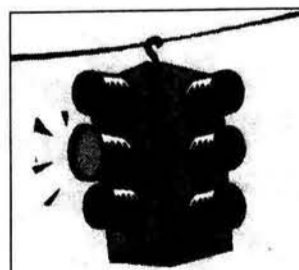
Elliot is the third ranked Eagles tennis player. Senior Katie Musick is first, senior Kim Pitlor is second and senior Lauren Freeman is fourth, while junior Jenn Yin is fifth.

Depending on how good the opposing doubles team is, Elliot said Musick and Pitlor will compete together. Otherwise Freeman and Yin would play.

Because Elliot is ranked third, she said she is often the odd-woman out.



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Rollercoaster season leaves team reeling

By Charlie Wence

With 1:54 left in the State game, Central led Lincoln High by nine points. The game was in the bag, or so it seemed.

In the end, Lincoln High somehow came out seven points over the Eagles in overtime. The State Tournament and the season was over, having ended like most of the team's games, by a small margin in the final minutes.

The Junior Core

(Background)

One senior was all it had. With a team consisting of mostly juniors, it was imperative that the younger players stepped up, head coach Eric Behrens said. Assistant coach Chad Burns said the youth of the team was no disadvantage.

"I thought we'd be a pretty good team," he said.

In the last few seasons, many of this year's juniors gained experience by playing in Varsity games. Sometimes the younger players stepped up to lead the team. For example, junior Karl White led the Eagles in scoring last year in Districts.

However, Burns said consistency can become a problem with the younger players.

"I didn't know how consistent we'd be," he said. "If we start to lose, people start to lose faith in us."

Traditionally, basketball teams have seniors who guide the teams through difficult games. But, the fact that the majority of the players are juniors with experience from previous seasons makes being a senior less important, Behrens said.

"They're good players," he said. "Age doesn't really matter, they're a confident group."

The Holiday Tournament

(How it started)

While students were on winter break, the Eagles were hard at work at the Holiday Tournament.

The team was on a hot streak. It won the Holiday Tournament and came out of it strong with extreme confidence.

White said he was prepared to face the challenge of teams giving him their best shot.

"Everybody gave us their A-game," he said. "They tried to knock us down."

Following their victory at the Holiday Tournament, Central came out ranked number one in in two local polls.

But coaches were expecting opponents to play their best following the tournament.

"Teams were going to be gunning after us," Burns said.

He said the reason why he expected everyone's best game after the tournament is because traditionally the team that wins the Holiday Tournament is the team to beat early in the season.

The prerequisite to being permitted to play in the Holiday Tournament is to win four regular season games prior to the start of the tournament.

"It's hard enough to win four games at the beginning of the year against good teams," Burns said. "Winning the Holiday Tournament is very impressive."

The Slump

(The problems start)

Following the success of the Holiday Tournament, the team began to sink into a hole. One game after another, Central fell by a margin of one or two points.

"Coming off of the tournament with high hopes, we were very disappointed," junior guard Courtney Grixby said. "We had chances to win. If a couple of breaks went our way, we could have taken it."

Grixby said the team lost because of technicalities that should have gone in its favor. But all they could do is hope to rebound the next game.

"We played well, we just didn't finish the game," Burns said. "I wouldn't call it a slump; we didn't lose by a lot."

Burns blames the losses on small mental errors that were made by some of the younger players without experience.

White said the small mistakes ranged from turnovers early in the

games to balls going out of bounds and countless losses of possession.

"The close games teach us to do the little things," he said. "In the close games, the little things really count."

However, Grixby said that most of the close losses came at the hands of the number two, three and four teams in the state.

The Rebound

(Back on track)

In order to go to the State Tournament, Central had to win its District. In what might have been another disappointing loss by a low point margin, the Eagles defeated Bryan in the first round of District competition.

The stage was set. It all came down to one game against Lincoln East. The players had two choices, win or go home.

"All the records were thrown out, this was the game we had to win," Grixby said.

Expectations were met. The Eagles ripped apart Lincoln East 78-59 and along with seven other teams, they advanced to the State Tournament.

"We always play well with a goal in sight," Burns said. "We'd do anything to keep playing."

Coming out of Districts, Grixby said he was very confident and was determined to play well at State.

White said one of the key reasons for the team to rise up to the challenge at State was that the defense became much stronger and more dependable.

"Our defense became our offense," he said.

Behrens said while the close losses during the regular season were a letdown to the team, they were all but history when the team qualified for State.

State Hangover

(The problems return)

With three seconds left in regulation, the score was tied, 55 all at State. Junior Rico Washington caught an inbound pass and went up for the shot. The ball went off the backboard and the game went into overtime.

After playing an overtime period dominated by Lincoln High, the Eagles came out on the bottom and took a long bus ride home.

"All I can say is that we were disappointed," Grixby said. "Our goal was to win and since that wasn't accomplished, it was a failure."

Grixby said Central's playing style is aggressive compared to other schools' style of play.

The Eagles get in the opposing team's face and some referees may not have been used to that style, he said.

"They called a lot of touchy fouls," he said. "But we can't change the way we play. It's the only way we know how."

Grixby said many of the State referees are used to officiating games with smaller schools. He said that if the Eagles could have received referees that officiated the team during the regular season, the outcome would have been much different.

"Those refs wouldn't have called so many fouls," he said.

White said the referees called a fair game up until the third quarter.

"It wasn't a fair game in overtime and the fourth quarter," he said.

In retrospect, Grixby said there were a number of things that could have been done to prevent an early elimination from the tournament.

"Better clock management, less mental mistakes and getting in the position to make the big shots would have made things different," he said.

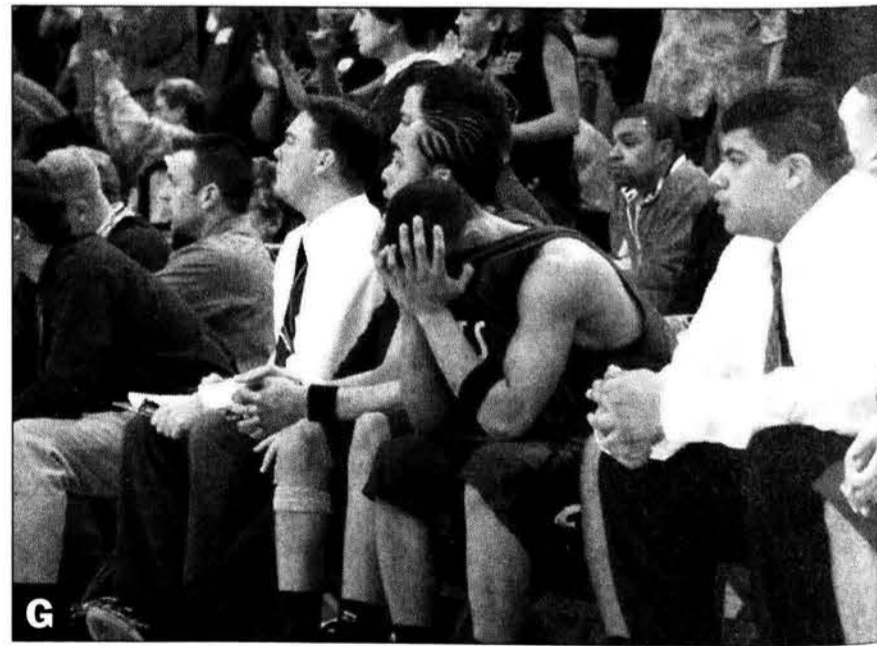
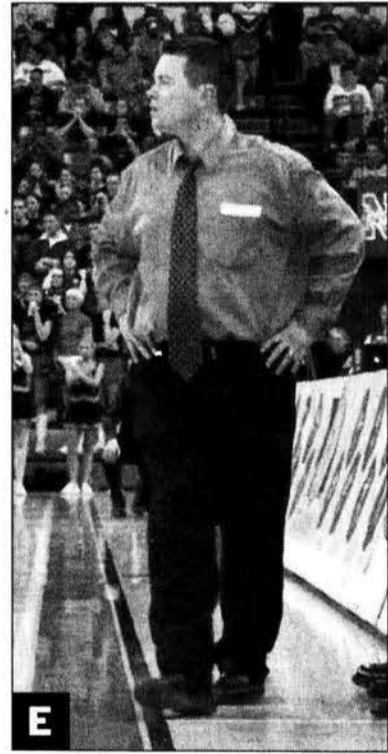
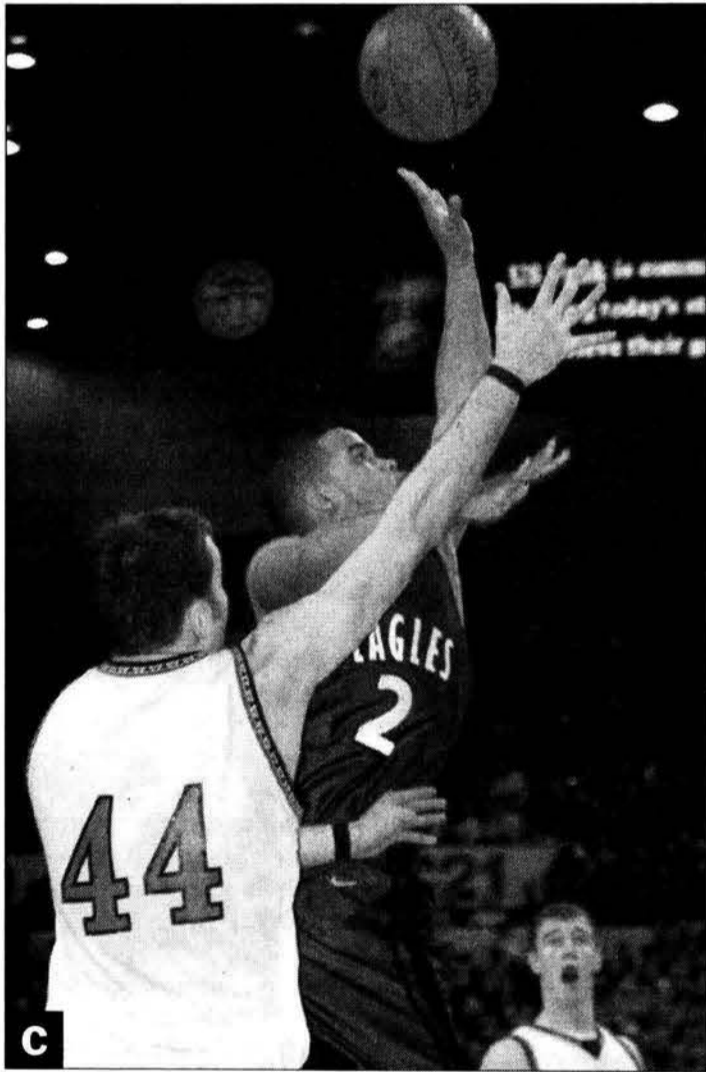
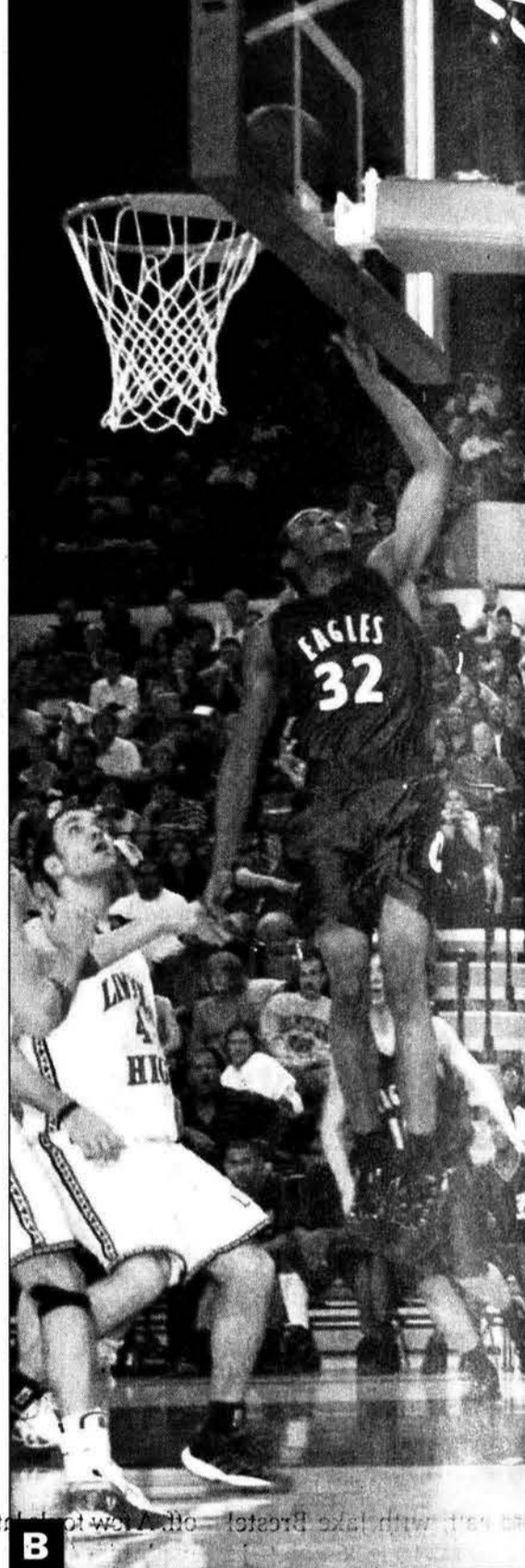
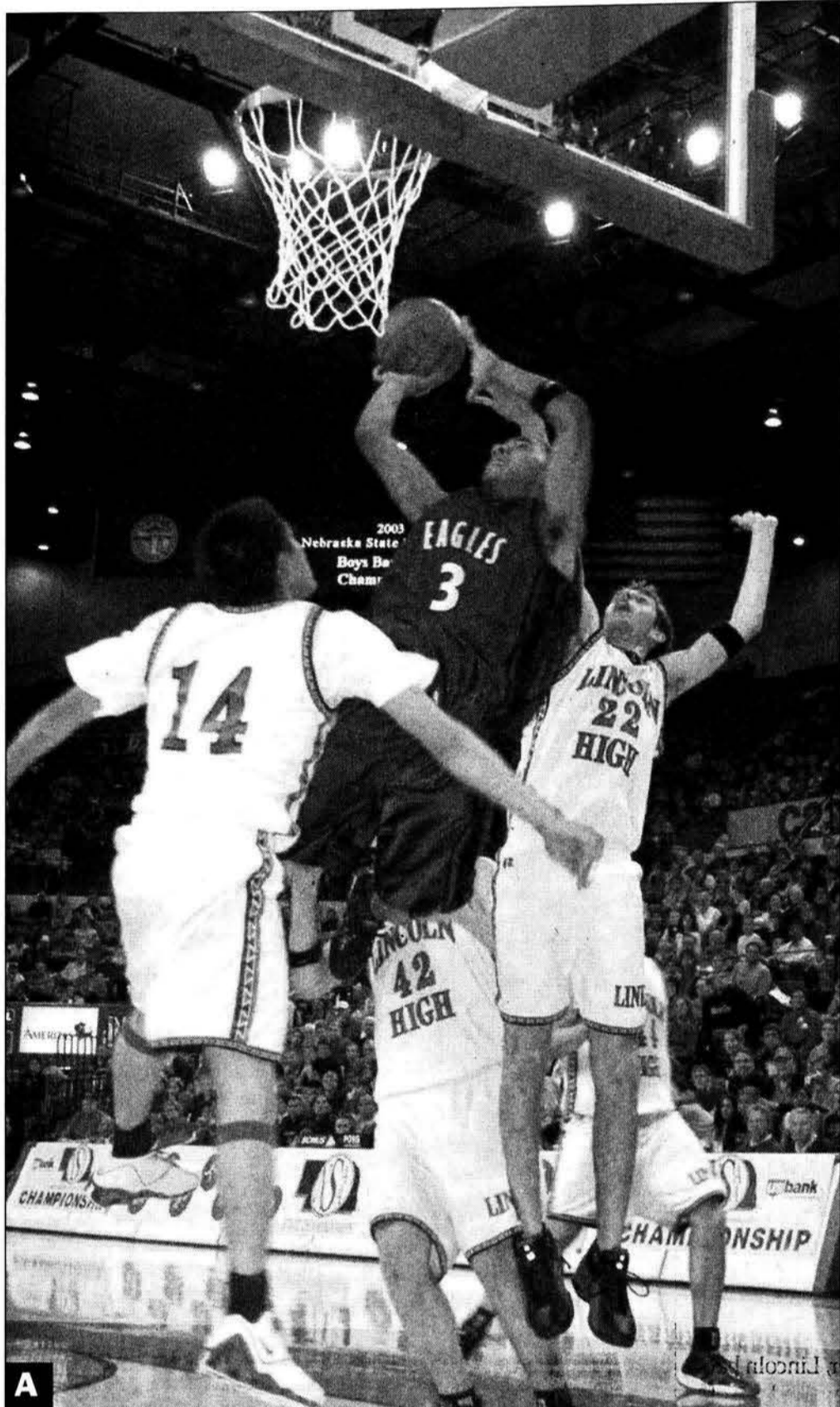
After losing in the post-season the saying usually goes, "there's always next year."

With only one senior graduating, Adam Olsen, next year looks brighter than ever, White said.

"We have high hopes. We'll be even more hungry next year," Grixby said. "Everyone's eyes will be on us. We're ready to play."

COMING OFF

Eagle basketball began the season with disappointment. After going into the first game against Burke championship. However, the team fell into a slump that lasted for most of the rest of the season.



All Photos by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

(A) Junior Courtney Grixby leaps through Lincoln High traffic for the point. Lincoln beat Central 68 to 61 and went on to win the State tournament. (B) Junior Rico Washington displays his amazing vertical to the awe of Lincoln opponents. (C) Junior Brandon Gunn stretches himself to maintain control of the play. (D) Junior Karl White tries to keep from dehydrating in the overtime game. (E) Coach Eric Behrens watches anxiously from the sidelines. (F) Gunn consoles Grixby after Grixby fouled out in overtime. (G) Grixby hides his head in his hands following his removal from the court. (H) Behrens motivates the team in the close State playoff. The team was winning most the game.

OF THE REBOUND

Expecting an easy win, the team lost 53 to 49. But the team came back strong with a six-game winning streak that included the Holiday Tournament. Nevertheless, they ended the regular season strong against Lincoln East in Districts. In State, Central played well, but lost a close game to Lincoln High.

THE SEASON'S BAD BOUNCES

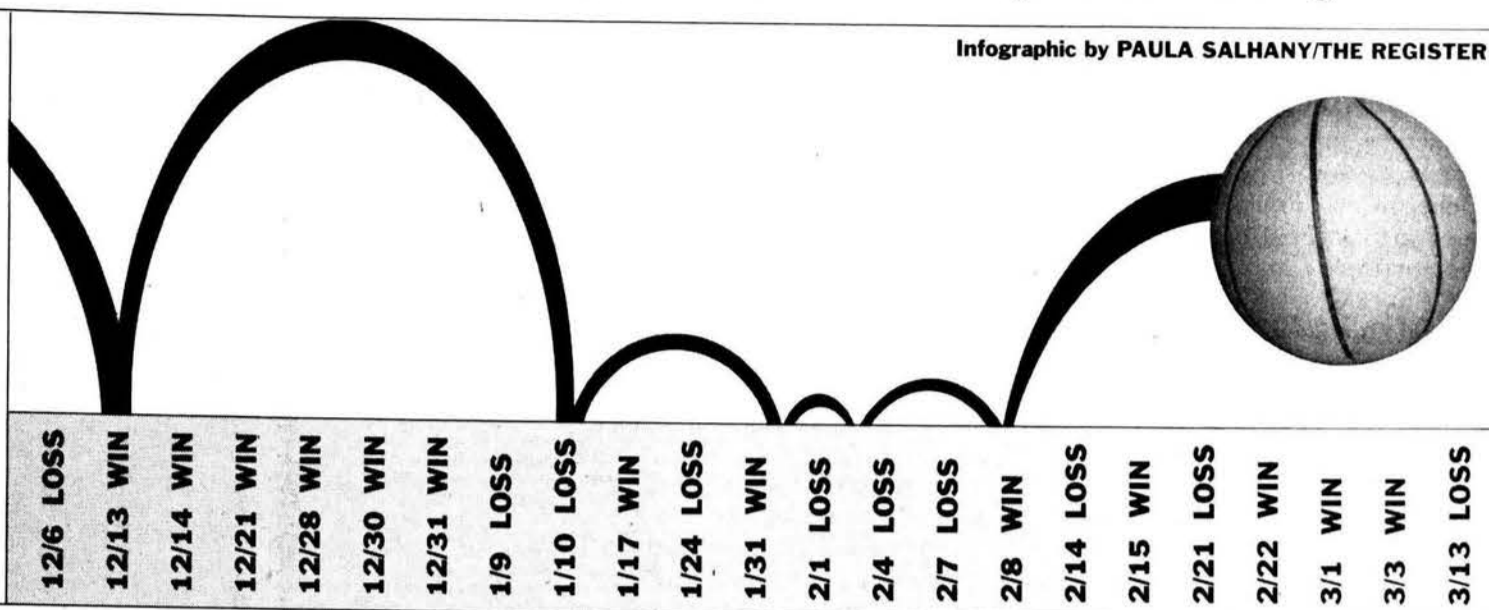
Bounce #1: The team took an unlucky loss in its first game against a Burke underdog team. However, the Eagles were quick to bounce back with a six game winning streak.

Bounce #2: The winning streak came to an end after the team won the Holiday Tournament. The Eagles then went through a rough mix of close wins and losses.

Bounce #3: The Eagles came back late in the season, in the second to last game in Districts, by crushing Lincoln East 78 to 59. The team then went into the State Tournament confident and ready to go.

Bounce #4: The team lost the first State game in overtime. The Eagles were winning for most of the game, but poor reffing and tough opposition sent the Eagles home heartbroken. Their opponent, Lincoln High, went on to win the State tournament.

Infographic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER



Links chain down Eagles in dramatic overtime loss

By Devon O'Connell
Lincoln High seemed to have guardian angel. For the second year in a row, the Links topped the Eagles in overtime in the first round of the Class A State Tournament.

In a game that seemed to lock Central's topsy-turvy season, Lincoln High won a painful overtime shocker 68-61 in front of nearly 4,000 fans at the Bob Evaney Sports Center on March 3 in Lincoln.

The Eagles dominated the Links almost the entire game. They scored first and quickly jumped out to a 9-2 lead within the first two minutes.

Central seemed unstoppable in the first half. Junior Karl White scored 18 of the team's 34, including a three at the halftime buzzer put Central up by 12, 34-22.

Lincoln came out firing in the second half, with Jake Brestel bringing most of his 26 points in the third and fourth quarters, following his fourth foul.

Late in the fourth quarter, the Eagles led 55-46 when Brestel fouled and went to the line. After he made both free throws, Central turned the ball over and the Links added two more.

Following a missed lay-up, Lincoln forward Seth Sharpe pulled a three to pull within two, making the score 55-53.

Junior Cortney Grixby was

fouled, but couldn't capitalize on the one-and-one. Seconds later, Central grabbed a Lincoln board, but turned the ball over after a very questionable travelling call. Another foul was then called on White. The Links made both their shots to make it 55 all.

In the final seven seconds, Grixby and White both missed desperation shots. After that, everything fell apart.

"We just lost control," Grixby said. "Lincoln always kept coming and the fouls kept adding up."

One by one, the key Eagle players began to foul out in overtime.

First went White, then junior Brandon Gunn followed, and finally Grixby was gone. Four of Central's starters all had four fouls by the fourth quarter.

In overtime, Tynon Canby sank a quick lay-up to start things off. A few fouls later, Lincoln had made nine free throws and ran off with the game.

Next year's team looks promising however.

The Eagles most explosive players, Cortney Grixby, Brandon Gunn, Rico Washington and Karl White will all be returning. Only senior Adam Olsen will be leaving.

"I think next year we'll definitely be the team to beat," head coach Eric Behrens said. "You'll see us back at State next year."

Freshman hopes to see State championships in future career

By Doug Meigs
Words can't express how freshman Tim Kanger felt at the State Tournament in front of about 4,000 screaming fans.

"It was an amazing opportunity that most freshmen don't get and I was glad to be a part of it," said.

Kanger said the jump from middle school to high school was enormous. He said everyone is bigger, stronger and faster. But in Kanger's mind, it was just another reason to work harder to compensate for the age difference.

"You have to change your whole way of playing," he said.

Although Kanger said he hoped to make the team as a freshman, he didn't expect to. As it turned out, Kanger's wishes came true. But that didn't surprise assistant coach Chad Burns.

Burns said he saw Kanger as an eighth grader and knew he would make a major contribution to Central's basketball program if he joined the Eagles.

Since he has, Kanger has joined the ranks of fellow standout freshman players Deron Russell (who played a number of Varsity games this year), Drew Meier and Avery Tyler (who stepped up for the State Tournament along with Kanger).

Kanger said he eagerly anticipates next season and expects to see the State Championship on his side next year's returning players (juniors Cortney Grixby, Rico Washington, Karl White and Davon White).

Although he said there will be a major gap in two years, when the current juniors graduate, he said the team should be able to compensate through a strong group of underclass players and hard work.

It's a winning mentality that Burns said has taken Kanger a long way.

"He's one of the hardest workers on the team," Burns said. "He's got a lot of potential to do a lot of different things. He's just a smart, hard-nosed player."

Kanger said he plays anything. He started a few games over the season and performed a primarily defensive role on the team.

He said he was usually a forward or small forward and would be sent out to block players, shots and etc.

He may be a defensive player now, but Burns said Kanger will eventually have to step up as one of the team's big scorers. But because he's only a freshman, he said he sees Kanger stepping up into the role with ease.

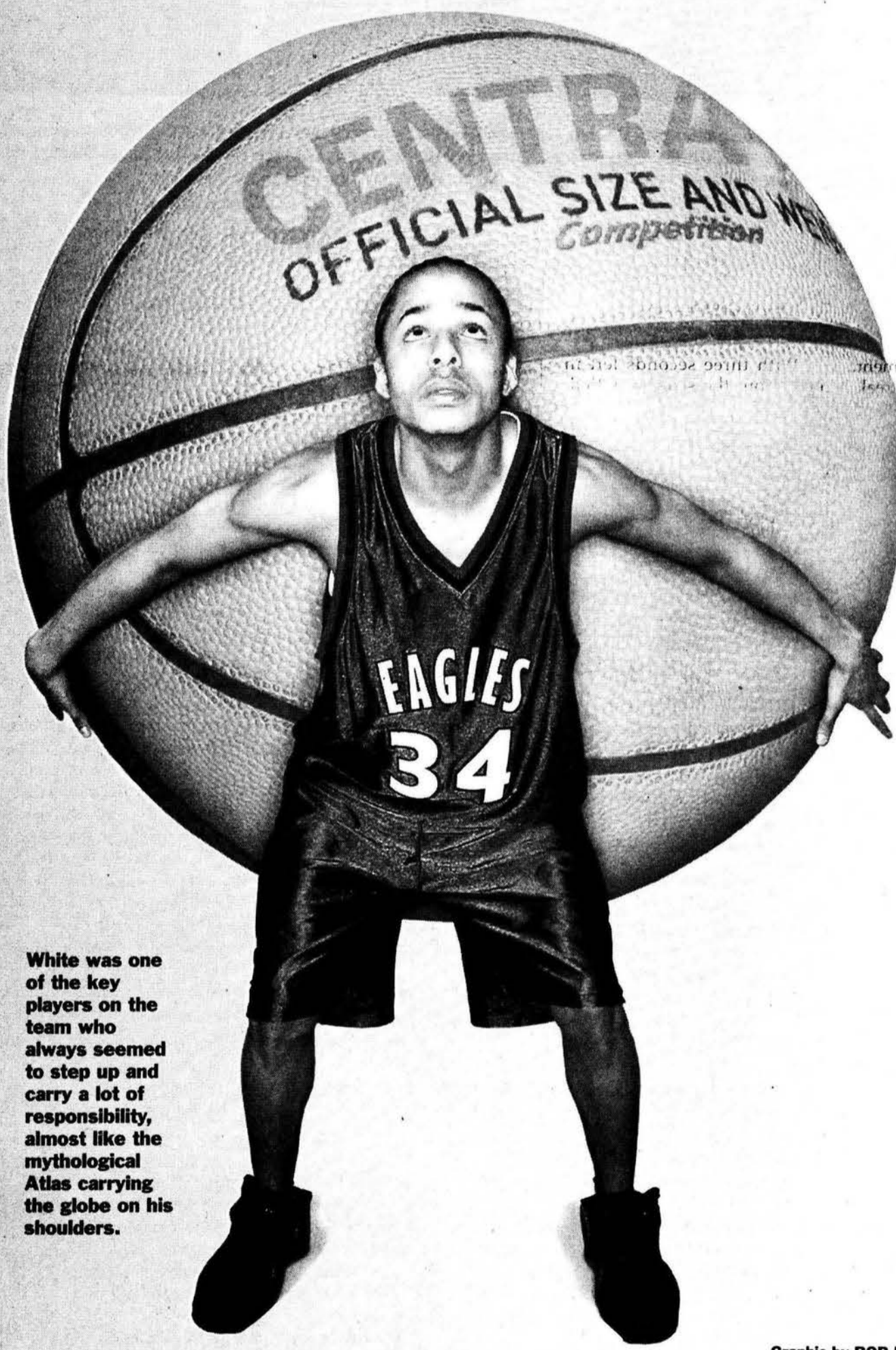
Burns said he has seen dramatic improvement in Kanger's basketball play and expects a lot of improvement down the road.

"Right now he's not really a scorer because he doesn't need to be," he said.

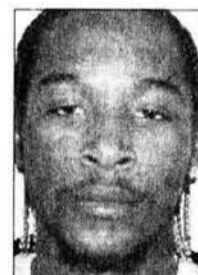
Burns has been coaching for three years and said this was the first time in his memory that the team started freshmen. Furthermore, the team had four such Varsity-caliber freshmen this year.

WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

Over the course of the year, each of the team's key players (juniors Rico Washington, Karl White, Cortney Grixby, Brandon Gunn, Davon White and senior Adam Olsen) have all had to step up at pivotal moments. At times, it seemed as if the weight of the world rested on their shoulders. Whether it was key passes, shots or free throws, each had a major impact on the team and season.



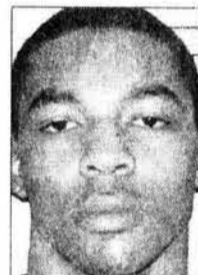
White was one of the key players on the team who always seemed to step up and carry a lot of responsibility, almost like the mythological Atlas carrying the globe on his shoulders.



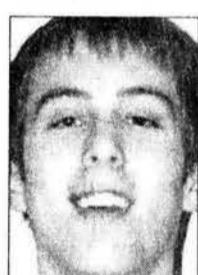
Washington



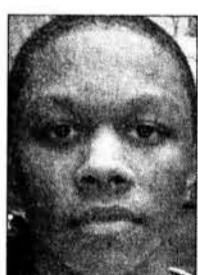
Gunn



Grixby



Olsen



D. White

Graphic by ROB HUNTER/THE REGISTER

Central smashes Spartans, goes to State

By Devon O'Connell
Lincoln East literally couldn't keep up with Central as it was annihilated by 19 points, 78-59. Nearly 1,500 fans were in attendance at North High's gymnasium on March 3 to see the game.

The Eagles played East earlier in the year in Lincoln, and pulled out a 61-57 win.

"We just played hard this time," head coach Eric Behrens said. "We set the tone rather than letting them do it."

On top of out rebounding East, Central made over half their shots.

The Spartans never had control, even from the opening tip-off. Junior Karl White got the game started with a quick lay-up, and two plays later, White dunked the ball over East with authority.

White scored 10 of his 20 points in the first four minutes of the game. East didn't manage to score a point until Central had seven of their own.

In the second, the Eagles kept on pounding away at every part of the Spartans' game. They led by as much as 19, until East went on a 7-0 run into the half.

The second half held no changes for the Spartans, as Central still dominated. The Eagles went on run after run, burying East under a volley of field goals and threes.

Lincoln did manage to go on a short run however. Led by Benjamin Buhr, the Links came within

12 points of tying with just under four minutes left.

Junior Cortney Grixby made sure that it was as close as they came, as he topped off an 8-0 run in the fourth to put Central up by 22.

Grixby and White, along with juniors Rico Washington and Brandon Gunn, combined to score 69 of the Eagles' 78 points.

The Spartans also had 21 turnovers in the game, and only shot 42 percent from the field.

Junior doubles as pitcher, QB

By Doug Meigs

A few years ago, it took about a week and a half for coach Josh Montzingo to convince John Friend to play freshman football two weeks into the season.

"I came late because I was going to focus on baseball," Friend, who is currently a junior, said.

Nevertheless, Friend has managed to balance both sports over his past three years of high school.

"I could see some athletic ability," Montzingo said. "I could tell he might be a good fit (for football). He's a natural athlete. He's explosive, extremely fast and very agile."



Friend

He played football the year before in eighth grade, but that was his first competitive involvement in the sport.

Some of the teammates on his junior high football team competed along with him during baseball and are the reason he became involved in both sports.

Friend said he started playing baseball in fifth grade and began football in eighth grade. He said most of his teammates on Central's baseball team have been playing since they were five or six, and his football teammates have been playing since they were eight or nine.

"So I haven't been playing either sport very long," he said.

Friend said he started his first couple games with football on defense then played running back for a short period before starting as the freshman quarterback. He started his first game in the position still early in the season. However, because he had joined the team late, there were only three games left.

Then, when spring rolled around, he began his first year on the Varsity baseball team as a freshman and began playing his current positions (center field and pitcher).

Next year, he said he will be switching his football position from quarterback to receiver.

"Cortney (Grixby) pretty much had it locked down and I wanted to play something other than just defense," he said.

Even though he has been playing positions in baseball and football that both focus on throwing, he said the two positions have more differences than similarities.

"In football you throw the ball differently," he said. "Football is more of a short arm throw, baseball is more of a long arm."

Furthermore, he said the two sports are different because he has to throw to moving targets in football. While in baseball, players are relatively stationary.

Friend is one of about three students at Central to play both football and baseball. Although Montzingo said that most Eagle athletes who participate in football and another sport compete in track, it is not always that way.

"Traditionally it's not unusual," he said. "It's just at our school we don't."

For example, Montzingo said he played both football and baseball.

He said many schools across the nation have athletes who play both football and baseball, it just happens that Central's football players seem to focus on track.

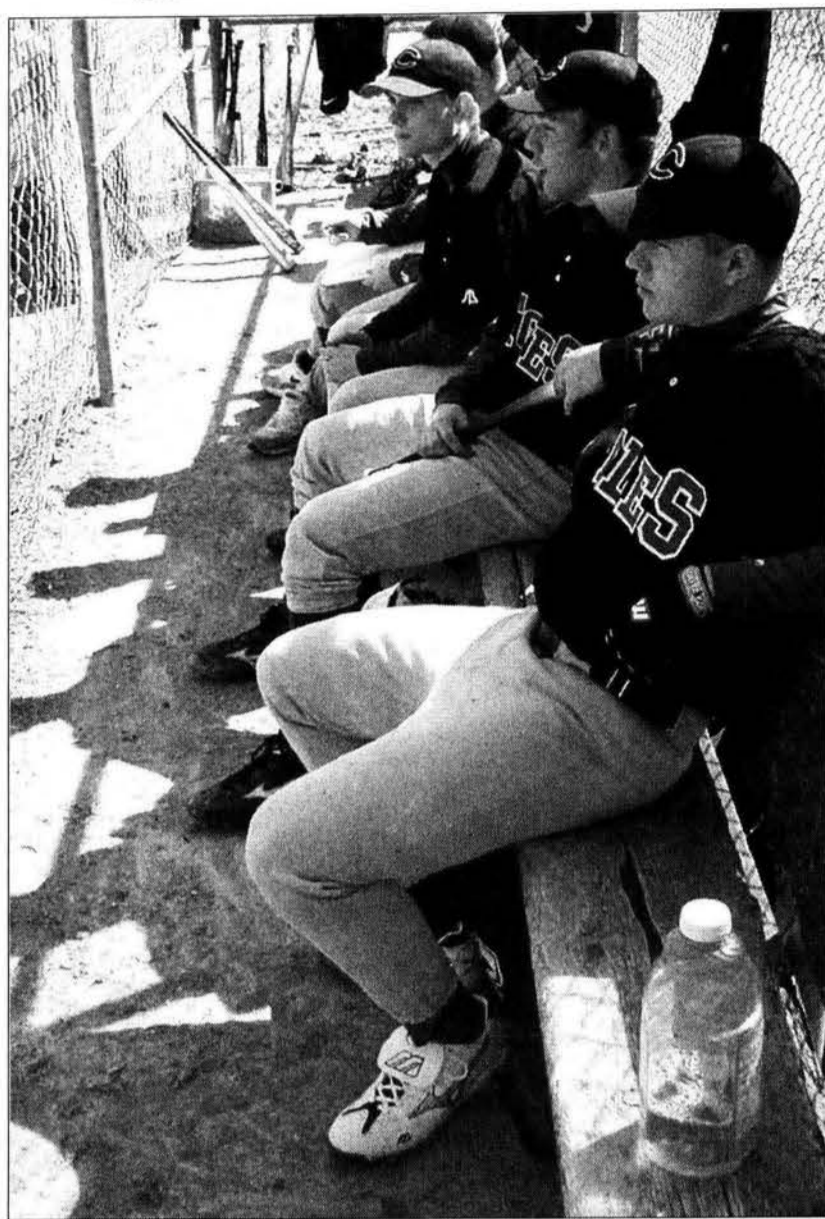
He said Friend is gifted in both sports and has the potential to go onto play either one at college.

"Baseball is probably his meal ticket. However with football, he could definitely play at the next level," he said.



IF THE GLOVE

The baseball team has been plagued by a series of unsuccessful years, but the team has...
With the current senior players marking the first class to have been with Hodges their...



(Left) Eagle baseball players sit in the dugout awaiting their turns at bat during a scrimmage held at Lynch field. The scrimmage held March 23 was the first of the year. (Right) Sophomore Dave Cleveland throws baseballs to junior Brett Gilchrist who is practicing batting in Central's old gym. The team frequently set up batting cages in the gym in preparation for the season.



Photos by DOUG MEIGS/ THE REGISTER

Underclass players step up to support team

By Andrew Neal

A handful of underclassmen have put themselves in position to play a larger role in the baseball team's pursuit of its most successful season in school history.

Some say that's exactly what's going to happen.

With a junior class of six returning starters and more underclassmen beginning their first Varsity year, the team will strive for its best season yet, head coach Scott Hodges said.

Hodges said he believes that the team will have one of its best seasons ever, which will help to build the program.

"I believe that we have a lot of upcoming talent and have a lot of potential to do well this year and also next year," junior Kyle Soares said.

Other teammates like junior Scott Miettinen have pointed out that with players like juniors Bret Gilchrist, John Friend and Thad Thomas, the team will be full with a lot of athletic ability.

Even with an abundance of younger players on hand, Hodges

wants to make sure that the team is united this year, and most players agree with him.

Since there are only four seniors playing this season, the juniors will have to play a major role, but Hodges said he doesn't expect them to overshadow the seniors.

"When you have one or two players who try and be the main leaders, problems can develop," Hodges said. "We want 17 leaders on this team. That would prevent any individualism."

The past few years, some players were concerned more about themselves than the team, which hurt the baseball program.

"Unity will not be a problem going into this season for us," he said. "These guys have been playing together for a few years now."

Hodges said he believes that the lack of unity in the past has diminished as more players have forged friendships during the off-season.

Soares said he agrees that unity will not be a problem this year and he said he plans on let-

ting the seniors have their due respect.

He also knows that this year will be a season for him to lead by example.

"We (juniors) are a bit more talented because of our numbers, but we need the seniors for leadership because they have been through the routines and patterns before and have developed the skill necessary to help the team," he said.

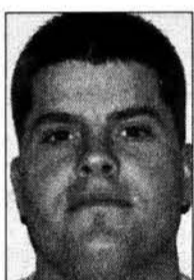
The fact that the underclassmen are full of athletic potential cannot be overlooked.

Some have said that the future seems bright. Hodges said that he will try to have the whole team step up during tight games instead of just a few key players.

Junior Scott Miettinen said that most players were willing to sacrifice personal success for reaching the entire team's goals.

The goals that most players have set are high, but Miettinen said he believes that they are very possible.

"We want to go to State," he said. "We all understand that we have to win games to get there, so we're going to play them one at a time."



Hodges

Eagles prepare to soar high, end annual losing streak

from TEAM page 29

Morar said. "They have good leadership, too."

Morar said both teams have higher batting averages and more unity than the Eagles.

Junior Zach Ruben said he is not just worried about Papillion and Westside. Burke and Prep may also turn out to be more than Central can handle, he said.

"They have better coaching and better leadership," Ruben said.

However, ignoring such critical games, Hodges said he expects relatively easy competition.

"Offensively, we should be pretty good," he said. "I'd say we're capable of beating anybody else on any given day."

Despite the team's strengths, Hodges said internal weaknesses are still apparent. The most significant of them being the team's youth and the team's reputed trouble with overcoming adversity.

Hodges said although the starting team will have its share of experienced seniors, the team, as a whole, is composed of mostly juniors.

He said he hopes the lack of experience won't become the problem that it has become on previous years' teams.

Hodges said he still believes that the team can prove its ability. He said that mental mistakes have consistently come back to make a resounding mark on each season's record.

However, he said he doesn't think that Central's traditional reputation means that this year will be a disappointment like the last three seasons have been.

"We had a lot of mental problems in the past," Hodges said, "It doesn't really scare me, though."

It doesn't scare Morar either. Morar said he's looking at this year as a completely fresh start.

"A lot of last year's players screwed around and didn't take the game seriously," Morar said, "This year we have more dedicated and harder-working players to make for a winning season."

Ruben said there's no doubt about the fact that the team does have some problems, but he will not focus on whatever negative factors may play into the team's future either.

"I think we have a shot of making it well into Districts, maybe even into State," he said.

This year, Ruben's looking much higher, but it seems there's a changed attitude, too.

"I have a changed outlook," Ruben said, "Last year, it wasn't to embarrass ourselves. This year, it's to win."

THE FUTURE IS NOW

The baseball team goes over countless different scenarios at practice every day. The team is preparing for what could be Central's best baseball season in a long time.

Seniors Colin Rinaker, Colter Ripton, Ryan Haskins and Zach Kruse have been through a great deal of hardship during the past three seasons and have learned a lot in the process.

The three players said they expect to win every game. Although they acknowledge that such is not likely to be a reality, it is the mentality they will have before each game.

The games that the seniors said Central will have to play their A-games against include Millard South, Westside, Prep, Millard West, Burke, Bryan, Papillion and Northwest.

Furthermore, every game against teams in Central's District will be must-win games.

However, they said this year's District will be particularly difficult including Fremont, Prep, Burke, Gross and Lincoln Southeast.

FITS, WEAR IT

has made major improvements each season. This season is shaping up to be the best ever. Entire high school careers, the season looks to be a breakaway year for Central baseball.

Seniors mark turning point in Hodges' career

By Doug Meigs

Coach Scott Hodges said the four remaining senior baseball players are the benchmark of his coaching career.

Ryan Haskins, Colin Rinaker, Zach Kruse and Colter Ripton all began their high school baseball careers the same year that Hodges began coaching.

"When you don't have kids that have come up through the program, you don't have any testament to your coaching and what you've been able to do with the kids," Hodges said.

It has been a hard road to the team's current situation from the approximately 15 who started as freshmen. Along the way the team was plagued with players quitting, transferring and season after season of subpar performances.

However, this year is shaping up to be one of the best seasons in a number of years.

Last season the team's record was 10-18 and Hodges said that was the best season the Eagles have had since before he began coaching.

"They've really gelled as a group and the young kids coming up have become a part of that unity," he said.

The four seniors were the ones to come to all the open gyms from November to January then persevere through the regular seasons and summer seasons. Unfortunately, he said Central hasn't had a winning tradition in previous years, so each senior has endured a lot.

"I think they are all nice kids and am glad that they were the ones that made it through the program," he said.

Ryan Haskins

This is Haskins' first year playing Varsity in the spring season. He is a right-handed pitcher and played last summer on Varsity as a closer with junior Pat Venditte, while juniors Brett Gilchrist and John Friend started.

Haskins said he is a bullpen pitcher, so he has to earn his innings, but he likes it.

"He's not going to beat a lot of people on his overall skill, but he's a kid who comes in and gives everything he has," Hodges said.

Hodges said Haskins has held that mentality from day one and that's why he has been able to make it through the program as a pitcher.

"I think that even when I was a little kid, I worked really hard at everything I did," Haskins said. "Maybe it showed everyone else how important it (baseball) was to me."

Over the years, he said he would get down on himself, but he always kept his head up and has come out on top in the end. He said he tries to lead by example, by working as hard as he can at all times.

Zach Kruse

Kruse quit the Eagles basketball team to devote



Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER
The four seniors (from left) Colter Ripton, Colin Rinaker, Zach Kruse and Ryan Haskins are the only seniors on the Central baseball team.

his time to baseball. He is a returning Varsity player and outfielder. He was also the second leading scorer last season.

"I do regret quitting basketball and not going to State and playing in Districts, but I had to do what I had to do," he said.

Hodges said Kruse has the same attributes as all of the seniors, which is a tremendous work ethic and personality.

He said neither Kruse nor any of the seniors exhibit the discipline problems that plagued the team in the past.

"He knows how to play and has been in the program and has seen it progress," Hodges said.

Kruse said many of the players seemed to quit after their sophomore year. He said it made him feel bad that so many former teammates left.

"You miss a lot of the guys that were there when you were a freshman, but only four guys have stuck with it," he said. "I guess it's a character builder. You just got to learn how to lose sometimes."

Colin Rinaker

Rinaker was a pitcher his freshman year then transferred to outfield and then first base following a rollerblading accident where he fractured his left elbow his freshman year.

"It's kind of been a long road back," Hodges said.

Rinaker said he didn't even think about his baseball career following the injury. But, as soon as he started to worry, he said the doctors told him it wouldn't be career threatening.

"I was just upset, then it all started coming to me," he said.

He played Varsity last year. But prior to playing, he had to go through rehabilitation for his arm to recover.

Rinaker said Hodges wasn't too mad when he found out about the injury.

He said Hodges knew he still had three more years to recover and step up onto the Varsity field.

Even though he isn't playing the same position as freshman year, Hodges said Rinaker has become one of the team's most vocal leaders.

"I found my pace in the field," he said. "I enjoy first base a lot. There have been some down times, but it has been a positive experience overall. The years have built a sense of camaraderie between the four seniors."

Colter Ripton

Ripton is the only one of the seniors not to have spent four entire years with Eagles baseball.

He joined the team after moving from Blair and played the summer season following his freshman year.

He said his high school in Blair didn't even have a baseball team, but he has been playing baseball for as long as he can remember.

"I was glad there was a team, but it wasn't a very good team," he said. "We've gotten better."

Ripton said the spring season of his sophomore year was a turning point for this year's seniors.

He said all the teammates were very accepting after he joined the team and the year served to unite them.

"That was when we first started winning some games," he said. "We had a good team and atmosphere."

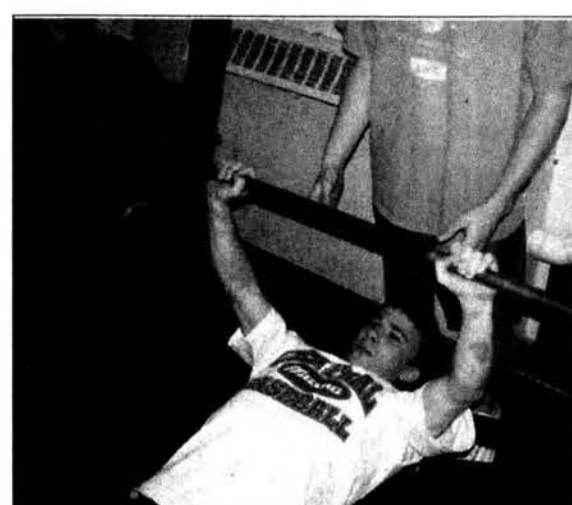


Photo by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER
Sophomore James Rico warms up before lifting in his first hour weight training class.

Player close, ready to break old record

By Devon O'Connell

For sophomore baseball player James Rico, appearances are deceiving. At 5 feet 6, 124 pounds, Rico is poised to break the Central bench-press record for his weight class.

Anthony Brown, who graduated in 1992, holds the current record for the 123-pound weight class that he set his senior year at 245 pounds. Rico is only in his first year of weight training.

This year, the only sport Rico is playing is baseball. After never having played for a team before, Rico made the Reserve squad.

Rico said that he competed in gymnastics for four years, which helped him to develop his physique. In fact, he said that he was only a few levels away from trying out for the Olympic team.

At the State gymnastics tournament a few years ago, he placed first in the parallel bars and vault. At the regional competition the same year, he placed second. He was planning on attending the national competition in Florida, but couldn't come up with enough money to go.

As soon as high school started however, Rico said that it would have been too much work to continue gymnastics.

"It required me to train every day for hours," he said. "I didn't think it was worth it."

Head powerlifting coach Joe McMenamin said he has urged Rico to join the team several times.

"It's so rare to have a guy that strong," he said. "If he would lift, he could place first in at a lot of meets easy."

Rico said that he didn't really want to get into lifting this year, but he would definitely do it next year. His progression since the beginning of the year has been impressive. He said he started out at 205 pounds, and just kept working and adding on every day.

"It was easy to start out," he said. "I never thought I would get two plates up, but I just kept trying and I got it up."

He said he's not sure how he would feel if he broke the record.

"Whenever I look up at that chart in the weight room, and see Ahman Green's name up there, I just think 'Wow, I could be up there with him.'"



Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

THE VARSITY TEAM

This year's Varsity team consists of 17 players. The team is made up of a number of strong underclass players, led by a four-player senior core. Hopefully, this year's team will take Eagles baseball further than it has gone in a number of years. It will also be the first year that coach Scott Hodges has coached players through their entire high school careers.

Players listed clockwise from top left

Brandon Schrader - junior - outfield

Joe Grady - junior - pitcher/ third base

Ryan Haskins - senior - pitcher/ third base

Zach Kruse - senior - outfield

Chris Hallgren - junior - pitcher/ outfield

Thad Thomas - junior - pitcher / shortstop/ second base

Scott Miettinen - junior - second base/ outfield

Dave Cleveland - junior - pitcher/ first base

John Friend - junior - pitcher/ first base

Robbie Garvin - junior - pitcher/ outfield

Pat Venditte - junior - shortstop

Colin Rinaker - senior - first base

Justin Morar - junior - pitcher/ outfield

Brett Gilchrist - junior - pitcher/ third base

NOT PICTURED - Zach Ruben - junior - catcher
NOT PICTURED - Kyle Soares - junior - pitcher/ outfield
NOT PICTURED - Colter Ripton - senior - catcher

Eagle athletes ponder college paths

Signing On

A number of Eagles athletes will be heading off to play at various universities next fall. However, the following six are the only ones who have committed as of March 26.



Robyn Sorenson



Elizabeth Davis



Jenny Miller



E.J. Falkner



Becca Pauba



Brandon Teamer

By Andrew Neal

From the College of the Ozarks to Northwest Missouri State, Central athletes are looking to make an impact on collegiate teams across the nation next year.

There are many differences between collegiate athletic programs. It is important for athletes to find out where they fit the best.

Different athletes prefer different colleges and that is why Central's diverse athletic population is so well-represented in the various programs across the country.

Out-of-State vs. In-State

Out-of-state is one of the most popular choices for athletes, but it doesn't always work out. Because there is a lot of competition for many of the more prominent out-of-state collegiate teams and there is a lot of publicity associated with them, head football coach Joe McMenamin said it can be quite selective.

Depending on what sport an athlete is going to play affects where he will probably go. Because McMenamin coaches football, a number of his former players have gone on to play at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln as well as other Nebraska schools.

"It really depends on the program they like," he said. "One major concern is how close it is to home. Some athletes may want their family to go and watch their games and location factors into that."

Different schools also specialize in different sports. For example, the University of Minnesota is widely regarded as a school that highlights its swim team, while Duke University prides itself as being one of the nation's top basketball teams.

McMenamin said another reason some players choose to go to a certain college is that they think they can start playing right away. Sophomore Sean McCall plans to swim in college, but said he believes that there are only a few places that have good programs.

"Minnesota and UCLA are probably the best two schools right now," he said.

Even though swimming is not the only sport at the two schools, the program has a history of attracting some of the nation's best swimmers. However, McCall said some schools are starting to drop their swim teams.

"You can look at UNL, they just dropped their guy's team," he said. "It's being repeated around the nation."

There are fewer Division III colleges with swimming programs than ever before and McCall said he believes it is because of how expensive it is to have a team.

When it comes to playing a sport that may not be as popular as football, most Central athletes have a history of attending colleges outside of Nebraska.

McCall knows that to get a scholarship at either Minnesota or UCLA, he would have to be more than just a State champion.

"It is getting harder and harder to get on a swim team with a scholarship," he said. "You have to look outside of Nebraska now. Not many schools carry a swim team with them."

The past few years, many members of the UNL coaching staff have stepped up recruiting in Nebraska because some of the state's best football players have been going out of state (for example, Central graduate Ja'Maine Billups went to Iowa State).

But, McMenamin disagrees and said that most Nebraska football players are staying in the state because they grew up with the Nebraska program. In addition, he said he likes it when they stay relatively close.

"If they go to Lincoln, I can check with the coaches and see why they aren't playing or if they are injured," he said. "Also, it helps to stay in the state because, un-



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Senior Jenny Miller signs her letter of intent to Bellevue University with her parents. Miller is one of a number of Central students to go onto athletics at the college level.

fortunately, some coaches lean more toward the guys that are from the same state."

There are three different divisions of college athletics that are controlled by the NCAA. They are Division I, II and III. All have major differences and some similarities. When deciding between colleges, athletes must look at the differences between each division.

Division I

Division I is the most publicly recognized level of college athletics. It is where the elite teams play for highly publicized national championships. Universities like Miami, Nebraska and Texas dominate many sports at this level.

The requirements for a school to be a Division I program is very specific and can be demanding for smaller colleges.

According to NCAA regulations, a Division I school must sponsor at least seven sports for men and women, with two team sports for each gender. There are also very detailed scheduling criteria that a program has to follow in addition to strict scholarship rules.

Many former Central students have made a big impact on Division I teams over the years. From Gale Sayers to David Horne, there have also been many Eagles who have received Division I scholarships.

For some, the scholarship never comes and they choose to walk-on. McMenamin said he believes that no player should overlook another scholarship to walk-on at a Division I school.

"We try and tell the kids that they should probably go to the college where they are offered scholarships. Our goal is to get their education paid for first, wherever that might be," he said.

Sophomore Cameron Knowles said that he would like to go to a Division I university to play tennis.

"I most likely will go to a major college like Texas or something, but the idea is for me to get a scholarship to a good college," he said.

It seems that many athletes believe that Division I is the only way to get noticed and possibly start a professional career. Sometimes big-name colleges provide big-time publicity for their athletes, but not always.

Athletes who walk on to a Division I program in hopes of getting a scholarship are sometimes surprised.

"It is a lot harder to walk-on to a program, especially if expenses are tight and there are only a few scholarships

available," McMenamin said.

Division II

A Division II school must sponsor at least four sports for both genders and at least two team sports for each. Again, there are strict guidelines for scheduling, but there are no attendance requirements.

The monetary amount provided by athletic scholarships are often less and fewer athletes actually get scholarships at Division II schools. Most students afford college through grants, loans and employment earnings.

As opposed to Division I, Division II schools hold more traditional rivalries with regional schools because teams are forced to play the same opponents each year.

Former Central football player, Nick Lemek, decided to play football for the University of Nebraska in Kearney. He had the chance to walk-on at a number of larger schools, but decided that UNK was a better fit for him.

"UNK offered me more and it made sense to stay in Nebraska instead of walking on somewhere else," he said.

Lemek said he likes playing for UNK and that there is little difference between his team now and some larger colleges.

Division III

Division III game play differs greatly from Division I. It is less strict, and the teams go more unnoticed. There are no guidelines of how many games need to be played, or against whom schools are to play each year.

Schools have to sponsor at least five sports for both men and women. Of those five, there have to be at least two team sports. There are no mandatory attendance numbers.

The major difference is that there is no financial aid related to a student's athletic ability and athletic departments are funded and staffed just like any other department in the university's system.

"Division III is where many low-profile players go if they want to continue a sport while in college. It is a place where athletes can just go for the enjoyment of the game, not the other pressure that comes with a major university," McMenamin said.

William Gregory, who graduated from Central in 2000, attended a Division III college in Iowa, McMenamin said.

Gregory went on to play football for two years, for the Ginnell College Pioneers. He then gave up the game to continue his education, McMenamin said.

Michelle Marsh wishes the best to all of Central's students & faculty as the 2002-2003 school year comes to an end

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FILLING THE SHOES

Central lost a lot of experience from its jumpers when former jumping star, Kris Kuhn, graduated last year. However, the current season's team is quickly filling up the void. Players who are stepping up to fill Kuhn's shoes include juniors Clinton Skanes and Leron Williams.

By Devon O'Connell

Central's jumping team has several promising athletes stepping up to fill the shoes left by Kris Kuhn, who graduated last year.

Kuhn, who went on to play basketball at Robert Morris University, was a two-time State triple jumping champion at Central.

"Kris was tall, fast and really strong," head Track and Field coach Jeff McCune said. "With his skill there was really no one that gave him any competition."

McCune said that juniors Clinton Skanes, Leron Williams, Cortney Grixby and Karl White will make up the core of the team this year.

"Cortney and Karl keep busy with basketball, but Leron and Clinton have been working hard all year," he said.

He said that Skanes, who qualified for State the past two years, is one of the team's top jumpers.

"It's pretty tough to follow in his (Kuhn's) footsteps," Skanes said. "Sometimes I feel like people expect a lot from me, but I always try my best."

During his freshman year, Skanes placed ninth at State in the long

jump. He qualified again his sophomore year, but placed ninth once more. Although he came in the same place, he said his jumps were much better.

"The second time around was about a foot longer than my freshman year," he said.

Junior Leron Williams is another athlete trying to fill the shoes of Kuhn. He and Skanes will provide the foundation for the jumping team.

Williams said that he was four inches away from qualifying for State last year. This year he is determined to make the State Tournament along with Skanes.

"I like to think of me and Clinton as the Dynamic Duo," he said. "We are a really great one-two punch."

Although Skanes and Williams will still compete in the long jump,

McCune said that they

would also work

much harder on

the triple

jump.

The triple jump is considered to be the most difficult jump of all, mainly because of the degree of technique involved.

Skanes and Williams said they worked with Kuhn all the time to get the technique down.

A new coach, Elliot Evans, was also hired specifically to train the jumpers.

"Coach Evans is pretty intense, he has some really tough workouts and he really knows what he's doing," Skanes said.

McCune is confident that the jumping team will continue to perform well, even after key athletes graduate.

"Central's been pretty lucky the past few years. We've had some really great jumpers pass through here," he said.



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Junior Shauntel Vaughn practices the 4x4 relay in preparation for the first meet of the year.

Relay runners lose key senior

By Charlie Wence

Senior Norma Reynolds was supposed to be the leader on the girls 4x4 squad. However, a serious back injury from her sophomore year has prevented her from competing this spring.

Even though her absence will affect the team, the squad members said they hope that they will still have a good year despite Reynolds' departure, junior Kayana McCants said.

McCants said the loss of Reynolds was a major blow to the team.

"She kept everything together," she said. "Kind of like a mother."

Nevertheless, the expectations of this year's 4x4 squad are high. McCants said that she along with the rest of the team members want to win every track meet during the season.

Last year at State, the girls track team finished ninth place, ten places up from 2001. Lodge said he is hoping to finish in the top three for girls track this year at State.

He said that the relays, including 4x4, are always an Eagles stronghold in State competition.

"The field events were a huge draw back," Lodge said.

This year's 4x4 squad is the best squad Lodge has seen in his eight years of coaching track at Central.

"They can definitely contend for a State championship," he said.

Junior Stephanie Williams also said she is hoping to win State this year, but will also try to improve her individual events.

Williams, who ran once on the 4x4 last year at State in place of junior Auriel Blake, said she did well filling in, but must do better this year.

"Last year we finished second to Burke a lot," she said. "We should take first this year (in regular season meets)."

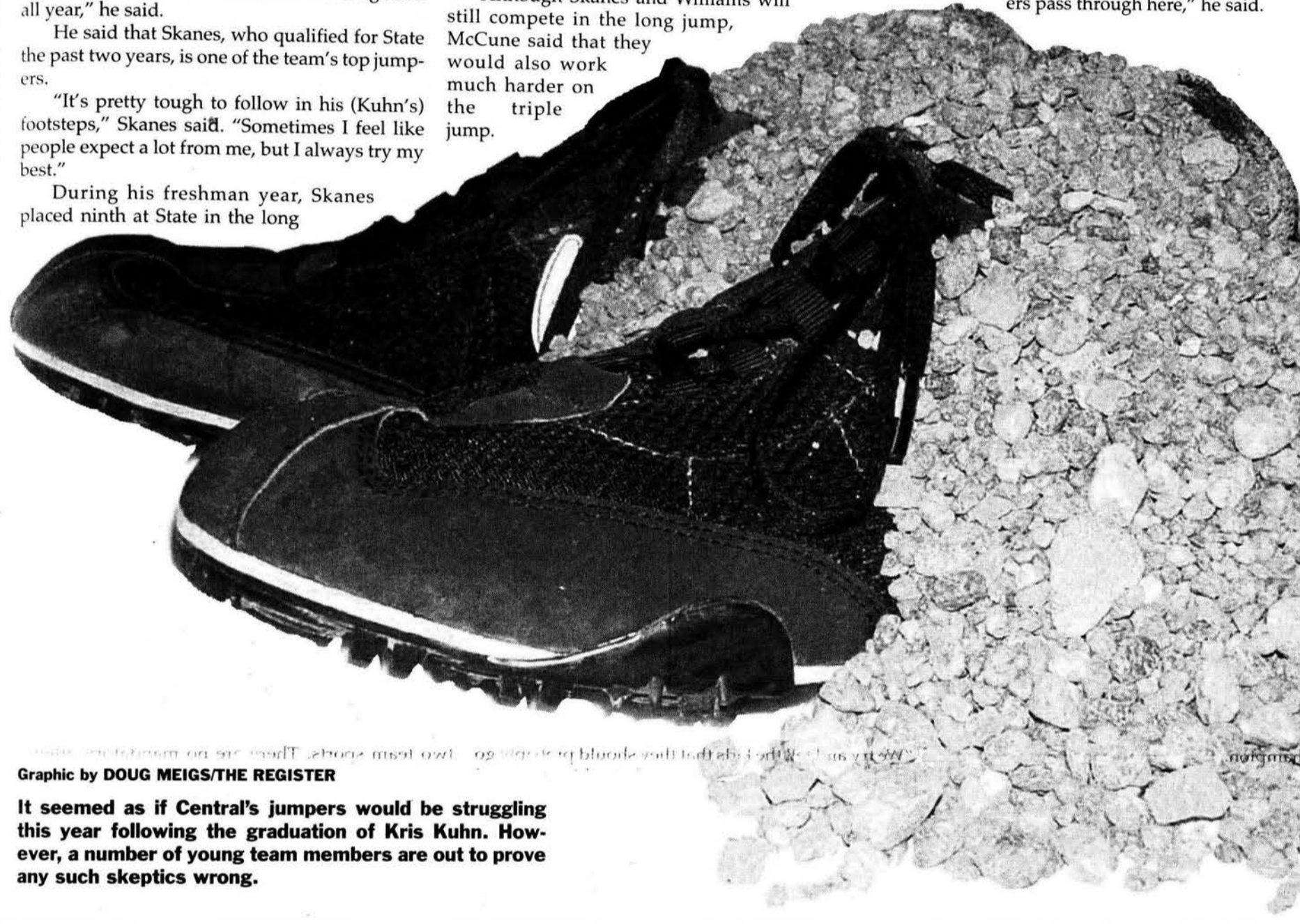
Since the 4x4 squad is made up entirely of juniors now, they still have one more year left at Central. Williams said the 4x4 and girls track as a whole should do very well next year at Districts and State.

"We'll be really strong next year," she said. "Hopefully we'll take State and set some records, too."

Lodge said he agrees that the 2004 girls track team, along with 4x4, will be a very strong team.

When this year's team finally graduates, a major gap will be left for a new core of players to come forward in place of the current squad. Lodge said that there is a very good sophomore and freshman class that he hopes will fill the void.

"The younger classes are very athletic," he said.



Graphic by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

It seemed as if Central's jumpers would be struggling this year following the graduation of Kris Kuhn. However, a number of young team members are out to prove any such skeptics wrong.

Track practice moves to different facilities

From TRACK, page 29

schools participating at the me facility. Although he said the team will use Lewis and Clark between March 24 and April 25, that's only because UNO won't let Central use its track during spring football conditioning.

Pennington said the Central booster club paid a fee for use of the college's track and he

hopes they can work out a similar arrangement for next year.

He said if the decision were up to him, track would be using Norris or Lewis and Clark, but the coaches requested to use the UNO facilities. Because he used to coach basketball as well as baseball, he said he understands their wishes.

Girls track coach Trent Lodge said the team's use of

UNO has been wonderful. The only issue that has posed a problem for the team has been the weather not cooperating. In turn, they were unable to make use of the facility for much of the first two weeks of practice.

"It's a nice facility so the kids like it," he said. "The only thing we have to worry about is scheduling the buses."

Lodge said that it has been

nice to get away from the school and the distractions surrounding it. In addition, he said it's a large area so runners don't have to worry about getting in each other's way.

He said it will be nice when the team is back to practicing everyday after school at Central. But as long as the team is practicing at UNO, he isn't complaining

Furthermore, Lodge said he is looking forward to Central's future renovated facilities. He has been involved in the stadium design meetings and helped decide where to put things, like the long jump area.

"The pits will be a lot nicer and easier to maintain," he said. "They listened to the coaches and worked with them."

New distance coaches keep track team running strong through coaching shortage

By Andrew Neal

Four new coaches were added to the track team's staff for this season.

All four are long-distance coaches who have had previous experiences with the sport.

"We needed some more coaches to work with the distance kids, and there were not enough coaches to go around," head boys coach Jeff McCune said.

One of the additions to the coaching staff is John Stenger, a substitute teacher at Central.

He has been working with the members of boys long-distance team since they first started conditioning over two months ago.

Stenger said he ran all throughout high school in a small Iowa town. He then at-

tended Iowa State where he was a captain on the cross country team.

"Running has been a part of my life for a long time now," he said. "I guess that is why I wanted to help the team out."

The other new boys long-distance coach is Chad Harling.

He said he does not have as much experience with competitive running as Stenger, but loves the sport.

"I just ran Varsity in high school, but never really did go out for the team in college," he said.

Harling said that he wanted to contribute as much as he could to the team.

He said that he had goals for himself and for the team this year, and hoped to achieve all of them.

"I want to help these athletes better themselves," he said. "I also want to get something out of coaching, too. I guess that is why I do it."

Both coaches have been working everyday with the long-distance runners, McCune said.

They have also been designing their own workouts and teaching more techniques.

"It is a lot better to have them around because we couldn't work with all of the runners with the limited staff we had last year," McCune said.

Freshman Eli Bloom said the results are paying off.

He said he likes the idea of having two coaches to work with a group of runners.

"There are only about ten

of us and with two coaches, we get to interact more with them," he said.

The girls track team also added two new long-distance coaches for this season.

Melissa Sandshew and Mikala Rubino, who are both seniors at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), were added to the team.

Sandshew said that she liked to work with the runners because she could help them, and also got a workout in. Sophomore Kaitlin Monahan said that both coaches have already been a big help to her.

"Coach Rubino told me about how to conserve my energy and different starting approaches," she said. "I really think I can apply them to my races at the meets."

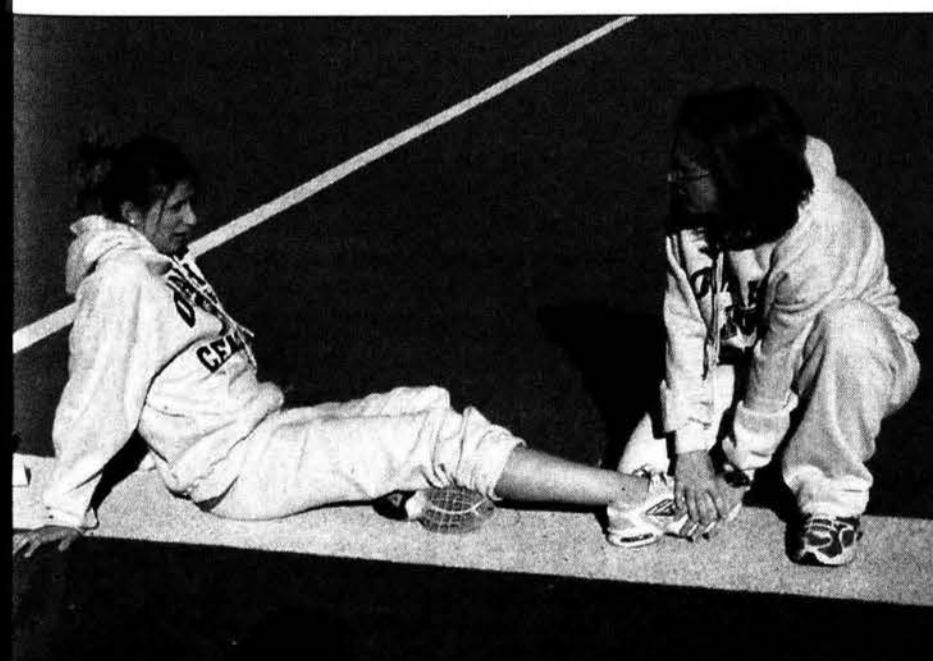


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Distance coach Katie Tierney helps sophomore Sarah Umland stretch before track practice. Tierney attends the University of Nebraska Omaha.



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Photos by DOUG MEIGS/THE REGISTER

(Top) Register reporter Devon O'Connell locker boxes with Gladiator player John Lawyer. (Bottom Left) O'Connell raises himself off the ice after being knocked off his feet. (Bottom Right) O'Connell sits on the bench with the other players. The coach wouldn't let him back on the ice so he took his top equipment off.

Senior fails to impress hockey team



DEVON LARGE

By Devon O'Connell

Register reporter Devon O'Connell spent a practice with the Omaha Gladiators hockey team. Despite the fact that O'Connell had close to zero skating experience, he still went out for some drills. After having his head nearly ripped off a few times, he spent the rest of practice warming the bench before going to the locker room for some old-fashioned locker boxing. O'Connell said he was able to gain a better appreciation of how hard this sport could be.

Most of the time the Gladiators were practicing I spent on the bench. The coach didn't want to waste any ice time on my pathetic self.

I finally got on the ice to do one-on-one drills. In the drill, a player near the goal would attempt to take the puck to the other end of the rink and score. A defender in the middle of the ice would try and stop him.

As soon as I saw a couple of guys do it, I knew I was a dead man. The offensive player would speed past the defender, and then the two would go at it, sometimes one of them scored, sometimes not. It was all so fast.

Eventually my turn came up. I slowly handled the puck out a little way. I soon lost track of it and began frantically looking around. I forgot about the 6-foot-3 guy coming straight at me. He seemed to be hesitating, but the echoing chant of "Kill him, Kill him," didn't help my situation much.

I picked my head up just in time to see a black jersey blast me off my feet and back a few yards.

For a brief second, I had that feeling of not really knowing what was going on. The next thing I knew, my helmet was almost off my head and I was flat on my back. It didn't hurt as much as I thought it would, but it gave me a really bad migraine.

One of the kids who hit me was junior Chad Riley, although he was no more than a blue blur of pain to me.

On the bench, I started talking to some of the other kids on the team. They were a salty and unsavory bunch

to say the least, but all in all they were a good group of guys.

After the practice was done, I participated in another hockey ritual, "locker boxing." This takes place in the locker room, after players put on helmets and hockey gloves, then pummel each other.

I ended up fighting a really tall, skinny kid named John Lawyer. During practice he was wearing a jersey that said "Sexual Healers." He really didn't look that intimidating, so I was almost excited.

"Is this kid pretty tough?" I asked one of the players.

"No, he's weak, he's just really crazy," he said.

Five minutes later, he stormed in wearing nothing but breezers, gloves and a helmet. We started to box and he wasn't too tough, but he was more of a challenge than I expected. It wasn't really boxing either; he just came after me swinging like an animal.

Everybody on the team was in the locker room, and they kept yelling to Lawyer, "give him the crazy eyes."

We went about four rounds. I didn't really know who won, but I was told it was a draw.

Walking out of the rink with my trash bag, I felt changed. I had participated in one of the most physically challenging sports I can think of, and actually had fun.

In hindsight, I wish that I could actually skate. Believe it or not, I actually had fun getting the tar knocked out of me.

Society misplaces praise in high school superstars

If one day, a \$50,000 Hummer H2 rolls down Dodge holding one of Central's star basketball players, something has gone wrong.

The same goes with LeBron James. The 18-year-old high school basketball phenom received that vehicle for his past birthday. His mother actually took out a \$50,000 loan to cover its cost.

Not only that, but the senior also has Adidas and Nike fighting over him for a shoe contract as soon as he goes to the NBA. And he will go to the NBA.

James is predicted to be drafted as the first pick.

He will probably forgo a college career to try and make millions playing professional basketball.

No offense, but I hope the kid becomes one of those guys who goes professional for three years, then you never hear of them again because they are busy warming the bench for some last-place team.

When a kid (yes a kid) is willing to give up a college career and a great education to go and play professional basketball at the age of 18, there is something wrong with high school sports.

I admit that if I had the same offer that James has, I would probably go for the instant cash and fame instead of rationalizing what would actually be best for me in the future.

Why wouldn't you? The kid has people on SportsCenter calling him the next Michael Jordan and predicting that he could start for any NBA team during his rookie season.

His high school games are even being televised on Pay-Per-View and some have been shown on ESPN2.

His school has even taken up a basketball tour to let the public know more about LeBron James. The "Scholastic Fantastic LeBron James Tour" has made its way around the country these past few months.

He arrives at hotels to find shirts on his bed that say "King James." His autograph sells on eBay (\$42). Tickets to a game of his sell for insanely high prices (\$100).

Don't tell me that all of this fame doesn't get to his head, even though most of it may be deserved.

After all, if he is that good, he should be given some extra bonuses that regular

basketball players do not have; but not to the extent that he is treated like a professional at the age of 18.

He may not have even picked out a pro date, let alone graduate from high school and people are expecting too much out of him.

He has been told countless times that he is going to do well in the NBA and those expectations can only bring more stress to an teenager.

My guess is that he will get there and unfortunately get injured during his first couple of years and have no college background to fall back on.

That is why high school students should not be allowed to be drafted for any professional sport. It should be mandatory that athletes go to college and compete.

The risks are just too great for any high school athlete. There is a major chance of injury to such a young athlete.

That is why professional football does not draft high school athletes.

When a high school athlete does get drafted and injures himself permanently, there is no college education or degree to fall back on.

He has nowhere to go and no place to work.

That is the dim reality of high school students becoming professional athletes, sometimes before they are even old enough to vote.

Besides, there are very few superstars who were drafted at an early age. In baseball, a senior may go in the 250th round, but common sense would tell him to go to college and work on his game instead of going and playing farm ball for the rest of his life.

I think that it is safe to say that female sports have a little more common sense than male ones.

You don't see the WNBA drafting an 18-year-old girl.

Male professional sports seemed to have missed something.

And that is the fact that it's not safe to the athlete as a person or to his future career/life to get his hopes up about becoming a teenage sensation playing in a league with 35-year-old men.

So, if someday you find a Hummer sitting in your driveway, the president of Nike fighting with an Adidas representative outside your house, and two million fans telling you what good skipping college would do for you, hopefully you will understand that there is more to life than trying to be a teenage superstar.



THE LAST LAP

Andrew Neal

Teamer prepares to play at UNL

By Andrew Neal

Senior Brandon Teamer is counting down the days until he can walk onto Tom Osborne field at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL).

Ever since Feb. 5, when he signed a letter of intent to play at Nebraska, Teamer said he has been anxiously waiting to get on the field and play.

"I've been lifting a lot harder and I'm trying to improve my maxes," he said.

Coach Joe McMenamin said that Teamer has shown improvement since the end of the football season and that he has a strong desire to be physically and mentally prepared for college football.

"Ever since his season ended, Brandon has been working hard in the gym to gain some more weight," he said. "The coaches at Nebraska would like for him to put some more weight on and that is why he has dedicated so much time to lifting."

Teamer was a member of the powerlifting team, but had to miss the State finals for personal reasons. He is also on the track team and hopes to win a State championship in the shot put.

"All of the sports that I do from here on out are going to just be to help me at

NU," he said. "My goal is to go there as the most prepared person in my position."

McMenamin said that Teamer takes a zero hour weight-training class and then lifts after school in the weight room.

Another thing that he is doing to get ready for Nebraska is to start learning the types of plays run in the program's system.

When practices start, McMenamin said he believes that Teamer will be ready to play the best football of his life. If he keeps working hard over the spring and summer, McMenamin said he knows that Teamer will make an impact on the football team right away.

"His size shows that he could play right away, but not just that, his mental game is very good for someone of his age," McMenamin said.

In June, he will step onto the football field for the first time since an overtime play-off loss to Westside. Teamer will be playing in his first-ever Shrine Bowl Classic, which matches the top players from eastern Nebraska against players from western Nebraska.

"I am really excited to play in the Shrine Bowl. It has a huge legacy of being a showcase of the talented football players in Nebraska," he said.

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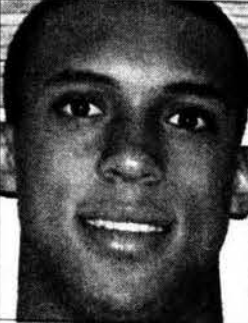
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The Register's Sports Star Cards

The Register asked the participating sports coaches who they expected to be the most vital player to the team.

The coaches chose the following players based on their expected roles leading their teams to successful years.

As the season wears on, the coaches expect to see these players stepping up to the front and helping each respective team on to victorious State tournament performances.



SPRING 2003
E.J. Faulkner

He performed very well last year, looks to do the same this year.

Boys Track

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

The Team

Coach: Jeff McCune

Returning Starters: seniors E.J. Falkner, Brandon Teamer, Ryan Shaw, Chris Gorga and juniors Brandon Gunn, Clinton Skanes.

Season outlook: If the boys work to their potential, we should have a high finish at State.

Key meets this year: Millard South, Central "Dick Jones" Invitational



SPRING 2003
Kayana McCants

The most experienced player and played well during the off-season.

Girls Track

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

The Team

Coach: Trent Lodge

Returning Starters: seniors Meredith Grunke, Nikita Warren, Kate Trerice, Holly McCarthy and junior Katie Lydiatt.

Season outlook: The team looks to be more competitive this year.

Key games this year: Metro, Districts, State



SPRING 2003
David Rangel

He has the potential to be an All-State athlete and lead the team this spring.

Boys Soccer

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

The Team

Coach: Tim Herbert

Returning Starters: seniors Vicente Ozuna, Mitch Swee, James Boatright, Aaron Maurice and juniors Kevin MacInerney, Marc Monbouquette.

Season outlook: Should definitely improve on last years 5-11 record. If they stay healthy, the team could win 12 or 13.

Key Games this year: Lincoln East, Millard South, Burke



SPRING 2003
Mary Michalak

The most experienced player and a very strong team leader.

Girls Soccer

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

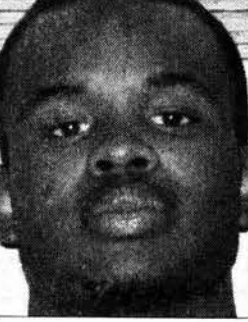
The Team

Coach: Joe White

Returning Starters: seniors Mary Michalak, Cassie Dalrymple and sophomores Elisa Berzins, Anne-Marie Lind, Casey Bigsby.

Season Outlook: Young team needs to get more playing time and experience. It has the potential to make a run for State.

Key meets this year: Burke



SPRING 2003
Steve Hogan

Hogan is a returning medalist who will lead the team.

Boys Golf

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE


The Team

Coach: Jim Galus

Returning Starters: seniors Tony Driscoll, Luke Matyja and juniors Adam Ramirez, Justin Muhammad, John Pryor, Steve Hogan.

Season outlook: The team will go far with everyone returning from last year's state qualifying team.

Key meets this year: Central and Skutt Invites



SPRING 2003
Katie Musick

She worked hard during off-season and developed a stronger game.

Girls Tennis

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

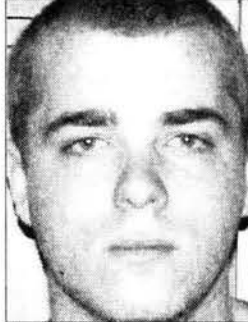
The Team

Coach: Larry Andrews

Returning Starters: seniors Katie Musick, Lauren Freeman, Kim Pitlor, Kim Elliot and junior Jenn Yin.

Season outlook: Good returning players and a solid group of younger players will make for an interesting season.

Key meets this year: All duals



SPRING 2003
Colter Ripton

Colter is one of four key seniors to stick with the program.

Baseball

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

The Team

Coach: Scott Hodges

Returning Starters: seniors Colin Rinaker, Zach Kruse, Colter Ripton and juniors John Friend, Brett Gilchrist, Justin Morar, Chris Hallgren, Scott Miettinen.

Season outlook: Expectations are at an all-time high.

Key meets this year: Papillion, Westside, Millard South

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Soccer puts goal at going to State

By Doug Meigs

Senior Mary Michalak said she usually goes to the State soccer tournament to watch her friends and teammates from select clubs compete.

However, she said this year Central actually has a chance to go on to State for the first time in the four years that she has been starting on the Eagles' Varsity field.

"Normally you'd never say that about a Central team," she said. "We would shock everyone."

She said this is the first year that all the starters are going to be club players. Furthermore, because the team only has two seniors (Michalak and Cassie Dalrymple), she expects an even better team for next year.

"We have the talent to do it, but we have to find a goal keeper first," coach Joe White said.

The team began the year with the goalie position uncertain. However, White has been developing an increasingly positive outlook since three girls have stepped up into the position.

White said the Central's girls soccer teams are traditionally under-performers. He said there have been a number of years where the team has had its share of club players who should have done well, but didn't seem to care.

White said the year is dependent on how well the team's club players can gel with the other players. For that to happen enough for the team to beat some of the top schools, he said it might take until the end of the year.

Even though the team looks like it's going to have a strong field, he said the fact that the goalie position was up in the air makes him skeptical. White said he had been trying to recruit basketball players for the position.

He tried to convince junior Crystal Howard to come over last year, but she said she didn't want to. Then this year, he said senior Jenny Miller probably would have been the keeper, but was prevented from participating because of her recent surgery.

"The key is playing together and playing hard," he said. "If we don't, it doesn't matter who we put out."

White said many of the players are participating in indoor soccer with him in the off season along with club soccer teams in addition to the regular season.

As a result, he said some have a tendency to burn out.

"A lot of our girls get beat up by the end of the spring season," he said.

Junior Fallon Leahy said she has seen a lot of the burnout factor while she played soccer at Central.

"It (the difference between select and school soccer) is really different," Leahy said. "People still have the drive, but the girls who play select push themselves so much harder."

However, she said this can often lead to the players slacking off due to the year-round commitment.

Michalak said she expects the team to be able to go out and beat most of the Omaha Public Schools teams. The only public school that she said might be able to beat Central is Burke.

She said she also expects the team to do well in Districts. It is slated to compete against Bryan, Northwest, and Millard West.

"Millard West is good but beatable," she said. "We can beat them; we actually have a shot at winning our Districts this year."

STANDING STRONG

After 32 years of working at Central, coach Stan Standifer is retiring. Standifer grew up in the Omaha Public Schools system and will now retire after a vivid teaching career that followed a brief stint in the NFL.

By Doug Meigs

Coach Stan Standifer was at Central before many current students' parents even graduated. His coaching career has lasted since the birth of Title IX and he's been at the school longer than any other Eagles coach.

But it all ends this year. After 32 years working at Central, Standifer will be retiring.

Head football coach Joe McMenamin said the school will have to hire another coach eventually, but it won't post the opening for a while.

"It will be hard to find someone to take his part," McMenamin said.

Junior Matt Barr played football under Standifer's guidance for the past three years. Barr said he knew he would enjoy working with Standifer since his first impression.

"I could tell despite how big he was that he was a nice guy and liked to have fun," he said.

Barr said he will always remember the practice last year when Standifer was wearing a pink, blue and purple shirt with a koala on it.

Another player went up to Standifer and told him he thought it was very pretty. Barr said he couldn't stop laughing.

It was an image that didn't correspond with his background as a tight end for the Oakland Raiders. Someone who almost made it to the Superbowl and is a State title holding coach.

Barr said one of the things he will miss most about Standifer will be the ever-changing nicknames that he gave to various players on a weekly basis.

"I think we're going to be losing a lot of experience and a very enthusiastic coach," he said. "He's very encouraging all the time and he focuses on the basics."

McMenamin began working at Central in 1978, seven years after Standifer began.

In the time they have coached together, he said Standifer has demonstrated himself to be a magnificent coach who is extremely knowledgeable of football.

"He's been in the NFL so he knows what it takes," he said. "He understands the intricacies of the game."

Standifer was drafted out of college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) in 1970. He said he received a call from the Oakland Raiders two days after the draft and signed with the team as a free agent.

He only played for a year, but over the course of his time there, he had a chance to play with Hall of Fame greats.

Some that stand out in his mind include Hall of Fame quarterbacks Daryl Lamonica, Ken Stabler, Willie Brown and Hall of Fame wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff, as well as Hall of Fame lineman Gene Upshaw, and not

to mention was coached by John Madden.

Standifer said his most memorable experience from his brief professional career was his first game.

He stepped onto the field as the tight end and looked across the line to see his childhood idol, Johnny Unitas.

Although he said there was no doubt in his mind that he would play in the NFL, he said he was surprised that the Raiders picked him up.

He said he expected to sign with the Dallas Cowboys because they were the team that had sent him all the information about the draft. Nevertheless, as soon as he was released, he returned to UNO to finish his teaching degree.

"The only reason why I didn't go back was because I almost made it with a Superbowl team," he said.

If it wasn't as good a team, he said he might have stuck with it to try for a better season. But as it was, he was content. Regardless, he said he has no regrets.

"I made the right decision because I decided to teach and coach. And now, 32 years later, I am retiring as a teacher and a coach," he said.

Standifer said students used to ask him about the NFL constantly when he first came to Central, but over time, the idea has become less of a shock to them. As soon as a student finds out, he said they always want to know if he had football card.

Something that many students may not know is that Standifer grew up in the OPS school system and went to North High School.

He said as soon as he decided to become a teacher, he wanted to work for OPS.

After coming to Central, he proceeded to coach nearly every sport offered by the school, ranging from gymnastics, to girls basketball, to track and field and football (the two sports he played at North).

He has been on a total of three State title teams.

He went to State two years in a row as coach for the lady Eagles in 73-74 and 74-75 while he was only 25. Then the next time he went to State was in 1984 with

the football team. It was the first time the team had won State since 1920 and it hasn't won one since.

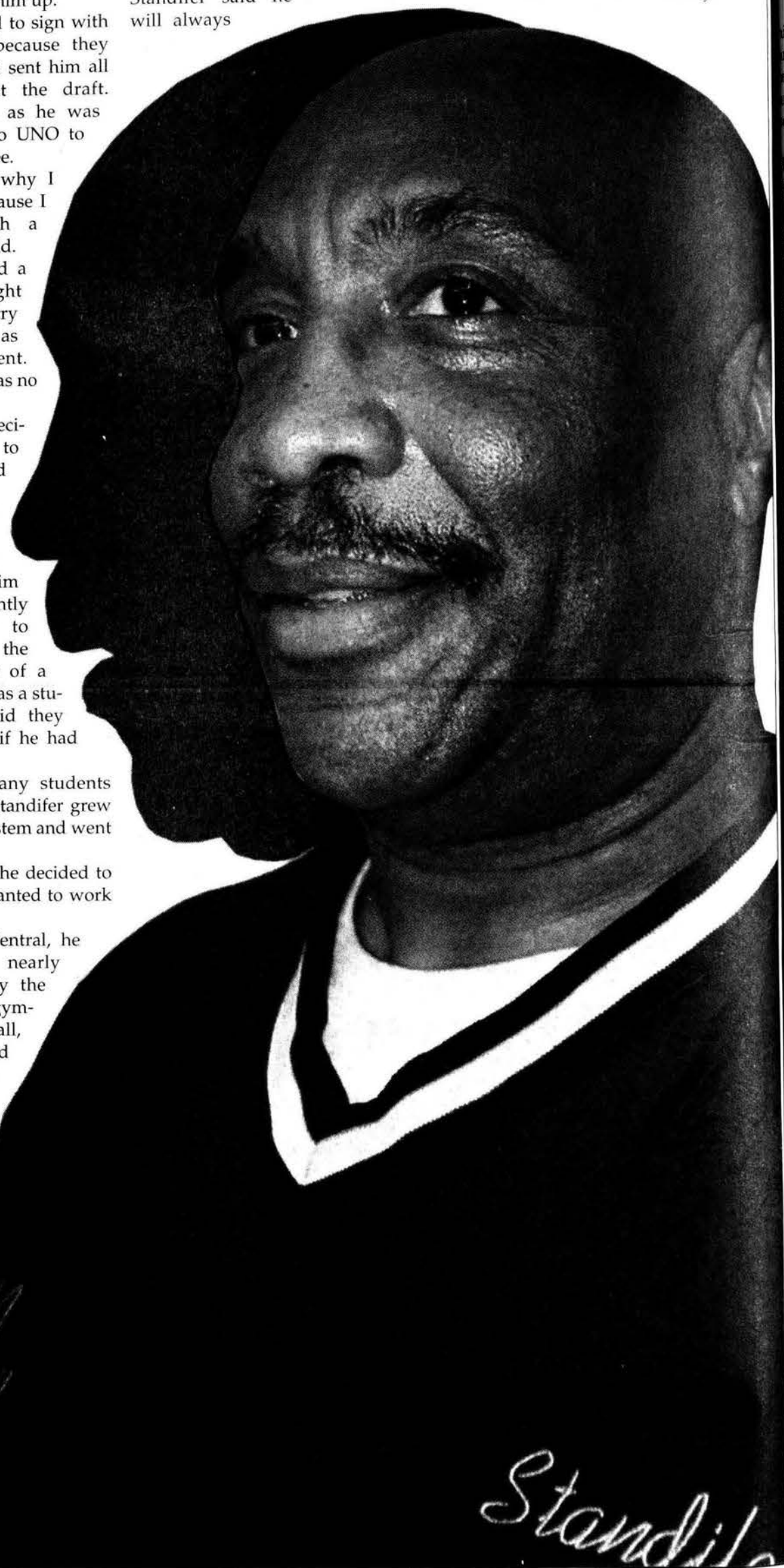
As soon as he started approaching retirement, he said he became interested in reviving his father's business, Standifer Janitorial Services.

He said he already has clients lined up including Interstate Batteries and Home Baked Hams among others. Just like his first game in the NFL, Standifer said he will always

remember his first day at Central. He said he felt like he was walking into a school that was rich in tradition, not to mention the number ten school in the nation academically.

"Walking into Central high meant that I was part of that tradition," he said.

He said his greatest accomplishment in the 32 years at Central has been that he stuck with it and endured whatever came his way.



Coach Stan Standifer has been coaching at Central for 32 years. Coach Joe McMenamin said Standifer will be missed.

Graphic by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Metro North hockey team beats Westside in low-scoring game to end season

By Connor Meigs

Central and North's combined hockey team, Metro North, shut Westside out 1-0 to win the league championships for the second year in a row.

North senior Dan Wilwerding, scored the game-winning goal with assists by Central junior John Raftery, and senior Neal Bierman, the team's captain.

"I just started jumping around," Raftery said. "It was such a relief when the puck went in."

With two minutes remaining in the third peri-

od, coach John Thomas called a time out to organize his team for a crucial face off in the offensive zone Wilberding said.

Raftery said he was scared, but he managed to win the face off back to Bierman who then tipped the puck to the point.

Wilwerding cut across to pick up the puck and released a lightning-quick wrist shot that went ringing off the top left post and into the back of the net.

Mark Hasebroock, Omaha House League Commissioner, said it was a very close game that could have gone either way. Hasebroock said that Metro North's solid planning and strong defensive plays were major factors in the team's victory.

For most of the game, Metro North was able to clog the neutral zone dis-

abling Westside's star players, including Andy Olsen, Peter Venerstrom and Zach Tanahil, from getting a head of steam.

Metro North almost always had one or two players shadowing Westside's star players.

"Our defense is really good," North senior and goalie Griff Watson said. "I just stand there."

However, Olsen escaped Metro North's defense twice, with two nice breakaways. However, Watson stood his ground with excellent saves each time, Hasebroock said.

"Metro North is a well-balanced and well-coached team," Hasebroock said.

He said the key to the team's success is the players' core friendships on and off the ice. In the end, Metro North's team play was the decisive factor in its first

place finish in the league championships as well as in the regular season, including winning the Cornhusker State Game Tournament.

Metro North won as a result of a goal from one of the most unlikely players Hasebroock said.

Despite being taken out of the game for the last eight minutes of the second period by a deep muscle bruise in his knee, Wilwerding came back to get the game-winning goal.

After the goal, Westside pushed hard to tie the game and came close with a shot off a faceoff, but was still shut out.

Through out the game, Central and North's die-hard fans enthusiastically cheered them on, many sporting bright yellow Northside hoodies, and a select few were shirtless and painted blue.

