

THE OMAHA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

REGISTER



Softball team heating up fast.
see Softball, PAGE 33D



Students remember Sept. 11 tragedies.
see Apathetic or Patriotic, PAGE 9A

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A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

52-PAGE SPECIALTY ISSUE

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Both JE Jacobs and Hawkins Construction Co. confirm that the overall renovation project will be completed by late 2004.

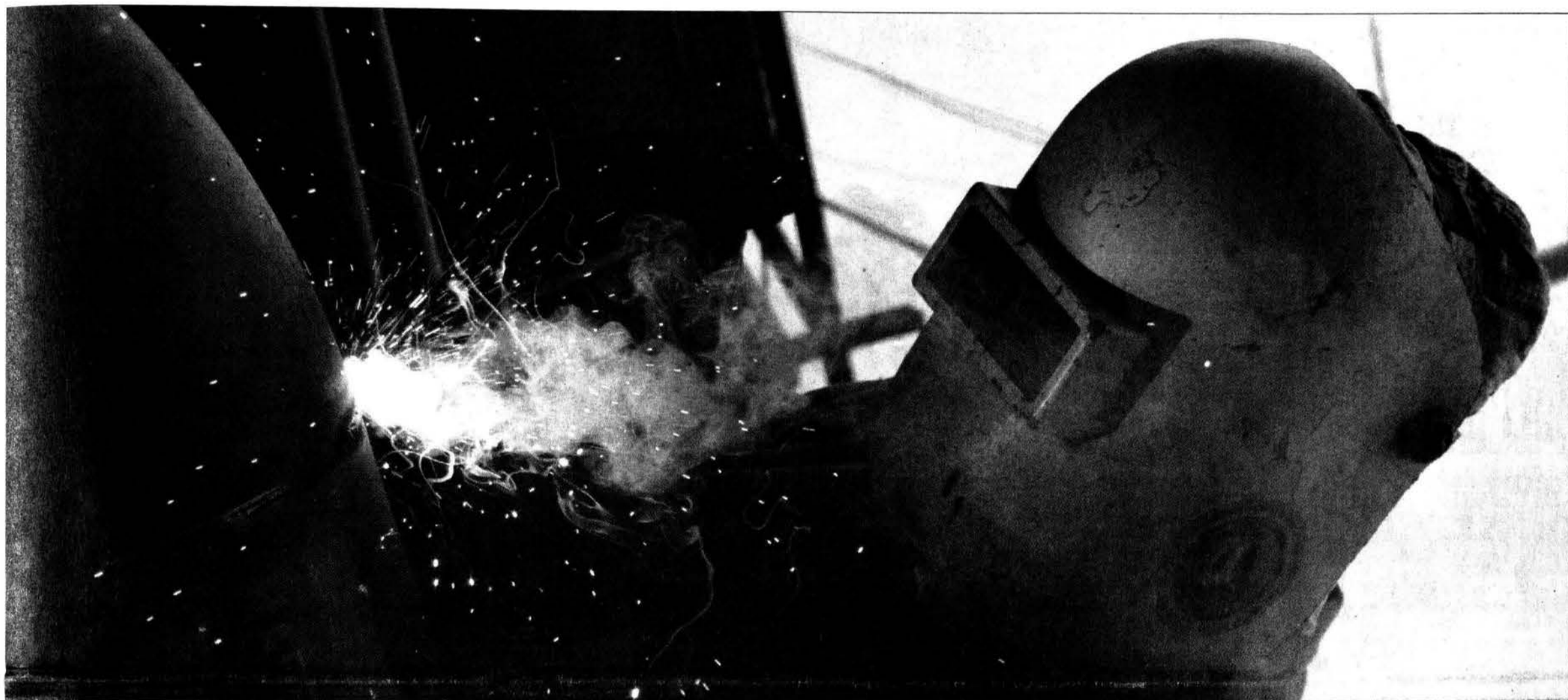


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Ronnie Bonin, with Pitlor and Son Inc.(PSI), welds piping together that was installed in the building for the heating and air-conditioning system. PSI did a variety of welding and cutting for the renovations at school. Bonin did most of his welding work outside during the summer months. This was a safety precaution in order to get the majority of the hazardous welding done before school resumed.

Bonin (RIGHT) ensures that he has precision with the piping. He sizes and shapes the pipes for the air conditioning inside the school. Bonin and co-worker Eddie Head came to Omaha from Bueamont, Texas to help PSI with the renovation of the school and piping over the summer. PSI worked on large amounts of pipe needed in the basement.

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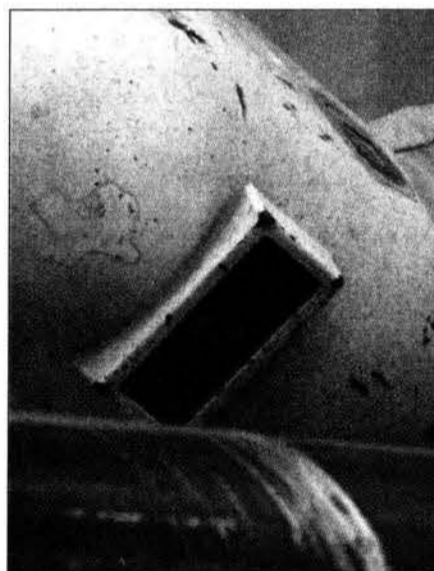


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

More Renovations
INSIDE
PLUS 12-PAGE SPECIALTY PULL-OUT

BY KATIE BACKMAN

By Dec. 19, renovating companies will have six out of 11 total phases complete.

This summer was one of the most eventful for the renovation project, Principal Jerry Bexten said. With the construction, Bexten and project managers wanted to focus on safety.

"This summer, they (construction workers) moved into the school," he said. "They worked hard on building all the new additions."

He said before summer was when renovations truly began for the faculty. The teachers in the basement, southwest side of the first floor, nurse's office, library, guidance office, art department and staff room had to move all their belongings into boxes.

The storage areas were securely locked to make sure nothing could fall on a person or be stolen.

The teachers labeled the boxes with contents and the destination it was supposed to go for storage.

Bexten said the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) working crews came in to move the boxes and furniture. House keep-

ing specialist Doug Fritz said the crews moved the items into the courtyard and auditorium.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said the school is in quite a few phases right now.

"We are in Phase 4, Phase 1B, Phase 1A, Phase 3A and Phase 3B," he said.

FIRST FLOOR

The rooms of the first floor were a part of Phase 3B.

Construction workers' job inside the main section of the building was to lower the ceilings 1.5 feet. This is to make enough room to fit the duct work for air conditioning. Bexten said that it was the main event that caused classrooms to move.

Rooms 122, 127, 130, 131, 133, staff room and guidance offices are now ready for the air conditioning to be turned on. During the renovation with these rooms, there were walls built to keep out unauthorized people from the work areas.

"Basically the foreign languages classrooms are completed," Bexten said.

Freshman Benford Hill said the classrooms that were

Continued to RENOVATIONS on PAGE 46E

Senior gassed in Ecuador during war protest

BY JOHN KENDALL

Senior Philip Witchger was gassed while involved in a youth protest against the American war in Iraq, during his stay in Quito, Ecuador last summer.

Witchger was staying in the country because he was participating in a foreign exchange program. He said that there were several large protests, but most of them remained peaceful without any major problems.

However, there was one that had a large youth protest, where things got a little out of hand.

He said there was a two-mile march through the major street to the U.S. embassy where a lot of chanting and protesting was taking place.

Police officials lined up on the streets with tall shields making a wall between the protesters and the embassy.

Witchger said that it was a peaceful protest like the others until it began to get a little out of control. People up front got a

little rowdy and began throwing things.

"Somebody must have thrown a bottle and possibly a rock," he said.

It was not long before an armored vehicle was driven out into the middle of the crowd and CS (chlorobenzylidene malonite) gas, commonly known as tear gas, and other assorted gases were shot out the crowd.

Witchger said gas was launched in about 20 different areas, and even though he was on the outskirts of the crowd, one canister exploded not far from him.

"Immediately you felt like you couldn't breathe," he said, "and you had tears pouring from your eyes."

Witchger said that the cloud of gas covered about 100 meters, and people just started running.

"It was extremely, extremely painful," he said.

He ran about three blocks until he finally felt like he was away from

Continued to Witchger on Page 4A



PHOTO BY DANIELLE WELTY/REGISTER

An expended canister of CS (tear) gas was picked up by Witchger after a failed war protest in Ecuador. It is usually used for riot control by police. Witchger witnessed this first hand.

State law bans gay marriages, students argue for equal rights

■ ACLU official says federal gov. fails to recognize civil unions.

BY DANIELLE WELTY

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in Nebraska is pending a lawsuit concerning the right for gays to have the same privileges as heterosexuals after being united in a civil union.

Donna Colley, a lawyer at Berens and Tate Law, is directly affected by the lawsuit because it determines what her and her partner Margoux Town-Colley's rights are.

"In Nebraska, when proposition 416

came along, the constitution was amended and basically limited the rights of certain citizens," Colley said.

She said according to 416, any domestic partnership between two individuals of the same sex is not valid.

Colley said that the Bill of Rights is supposed to help protect every citizen's rights, but in this case, those rights were taken away.

"ACLU and some other groups filed lawsuits that said that 416 was unconstitutional according to the United States law," Colley said. "The lawsuit has gays held at different standards, and it's much harder for us to get the same rights when lobbying for such things as health insurance in comparison to a heterosexual couple."

She said that the lawsuit is pending in

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Central's scary movie picks
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Students help Kiwanis Club at city festival

BY JOHN KENDALL

Members of the Central High School Key Club assisted at River City Round Up in late September at the Quest Convention Center in order to help its sponsor, the Kiwanis Club.



Havlovic

"The Key Club is like a Central version of the Kiwanis Club," said sponsor Delayne Havlovic.

He said that the Kiwanis Club is a downtown organization where people can go in order to find service work, and hold fund raisers to support separate projects later in the year.

Havlovic said that the students would be helping the Kiwanis Club out with a raffle that they do every year for a truck or a motorcycle.

It is a big fund raiser where only 1,000 tickets are sold and are \$50 a piece.

He said the Kiwanis Club goes there to make its presence known, and the Key Club students will be going there to work for experience.

Havlovic said that the students will be paired up with a team of adults from the Kiwanis Club and will go about their individual projects.

He said that he hopes that the students will who participate will develop a good relationship with the adults at the Kiwanis Club.

Team plays out court scenarios

BY JOHN KENDALL

Mock Trial team got off to a slow start this year with undecided members and a vague idea on coaches, sponsor Vicki Deniston Reed said.

She said that the team currently has about eight working students, six students who were getting started and six to 10 students who are just interested.

Deniston Reed said that teams are made of six students and two alternates, and consist of three lawyers and three witnesses. There are two teams started, and a third as a possibility.

Sophomore Abby Prest, a witness, said that she is currently preparing for the first scrimmage.

She said that there has yet to be any information concerning a coach to come and teach the students how to go about handling a court case, but there is a possibility that a student from Creighton University who has coached in the past may come to help.

Prest said she studies by memorizing her witness profile, which consist of all personal information as to her character in the case.

"Most of the competition depends on knowing the rules of procedure," Deniston Reed said.

She said that anyone can just read through a case, but students have to know exactly when it is appropriate to object, how to object and use other related manners.

"The students have to be able to argue both sides," Deniston Reed said.

She said the students do not know which side they are going to be defending when they go to compete.

The court cases the students partake in are entirely fictional.

She said the competitions work like a flow chart, and if a team loses twice it is eliminated.

Chess club pushes to prepare for high level of Metro play

BY BRIAN LEE

The Chess Club has plans of returning to state this school year in February or March.

Sponsor Drew Thyden said the team hopes to win the trophy from the tournament again.

Other than the state competition, the club will compete in the Metro League Tournament in the beginning of next year and possibly even the National Tournament at the end of the school year.

The club meets every Wednesday in room 340 from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Thyden said the club works with the more experienced players who then teach beginners, a pattern which improves the club as a whole.

The Chess Club's president is senior Nate Horrell and the team captain is senior Jay Harmon.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the third annual chess tournament will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

Thyden said he is always looking for more students to join the club and the doors are always open during the meetings for new players.

CALENDAR



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Site coordinator for the new College Bound Club, Trish Marcuzzo helps freshman Matthew Moffitt prepare for college. She tells Moffitt the necessary requirements for each school and informs him on different scholarship opportunities.

Teacher helps students understand college preparations

BY BRIAN LEE

Trish Marcuzzo, the site coordinator for the College Bound Club (CBC), is in charge of all of the details surrounding the college preparatory assistance program that used to be known as Math Science Upward Bound (MSUB).

CBC is a program set up for dedication to the development of students study skills.

It focuses on the needs of those students who are struggling or those who just think that they need assistance in order to stay on track for college.

This program and the source of the grants involved with it are provided through the federally funded Applied Information Management Institute (AIM).

Currently there are 76 applicants for the CBC. Marcuzzo is in charge of looking them over and making the executive decision of who can and cannot be allowed membership.

Only 50 students will be approved, meeting the total capacity of the club. Some have already been approved and there are members who decided to carry their memberships over from last year.

"It helps people that don't have a lot of money or whose parents never went to college," freshman Matthew Moffitt said.

Moffitt is a returning club member who is enjoying the benefits of the club for his second year.

"She's (Marcuzzo) a nice lady," Moffitt said. "She never gets mad and she likes to care for people."

Marcuzzo worked for only four years as a teacher after earning her degree at Creighton University, then became the principal at Fontenelle Elementary School, where she remained for 30 years.

"So many of the kids that went to Fontenelle when I was there go here now," Marcuzzo said. "I didn't realize until I came here how much I missed the kids."

Marcuzzo was given a five year grant, taking over for her predecessor, Jennifer Dickey.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he is very supportive of what CBC does for the students.

"It's a great program for those students who are involved in it," Bexten said.

When Marcuzzo first started out this year, she made the decision to change the name of the program. Formerly known as MSUB, she felt that the name did not express enough of the real focus that the program offers.

According to the CBC mission statement, "Through the development of your academic skills, opportunities to further your education and reach a brighter future can be attained."

In order to be a member of the CBC, a student is required to participate, attend school regularly, maintain or improve his grades and demonstrate appropriate social and life skills.

"The purpose of the program is to mentor and assist selected students," Marcuzzo said, "To obtain their goal of attending college."

The teachers who provide tutoring for CBC are English teacher Cristina Hiddleston, science teacher Mark Smith, math teachers Kelly Murphy and Mindy Morgan.

CBC has a service learning agreement through OPS, with Professor Kevin Graham of the Creighton Philosophy department that allows for students to come from Creighton and provide assistance as well.

Within the perimeters of this service learning agreement, students from Creighton who assist the CBC in tutoring its members get credit hours that are required for Professor Graham's class.

"Compared to being an elementary student," Marcuzzo said, "high school is totally different."

Marcuzzo is very impressed with the kids here and really enjoys the students that she specifically works with.

The CBC has a Monday Speaker Series, where different job opportunities are discussed. Speakers will come with actual job openings or with information that will assist a student who is looking for a long term or short-term job.

They also visit colleges and take tours.

"Going to college campuses," Marcuzzo said, "they get to see what college life is all about."

Nita Merrigan-Potthoff helps to coordinate the way in which students will be provided assistance. Some students end up in PASS (room 047), others in the CBC, but Merrigan-Potthoff and Marcuzzo work together to decide just how all of it will get organized.

"Anything we can do to help them maintain grades," Marcuzzo said. "We do what we can to help them pursue college education."

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

2 (THURS.) HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Central's Alumni Association will induct the selected Hall of Fame alumni Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served, followed by the presentation of awards.

4 (SAT.) HOMECOMING DANCE

The dance is scheduled from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Norris Middle School. Students dress should be appropriate and will not be admitted if wearing denim. Readmittance will not be allowed.

6 (MON.) CURRICULUM DAY

This is a curriculum day for the teachers, so no students are to be present at school.

11 (SAT.) SAT EXAM

Students should arrive between 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. They should bring calculators and pencils.

14-16 (TUES. - THURS.) UNDERCLASS YEARBOOK PHOTOS

The photos are to be taken during the students' English classes. They will be held on the stage.

17 (FRI.) SENIOR YEARBOOK PHOTOS

Seniors who missed the deadline on Oct. 1, or didn't have photos taken, will meet in the lower level of the courtyard. Photos can be taken throughout the day, at the students' convenience.

17 (FRI.) BLOOD DRIVE

American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held during the entire day. Sign up for the drive is available in the courtyard during the lunch hours. To donate blood, you must be 17 years old or more than a 110-pounds.

25 (SAT.) ACT EXAM

The ACT exam is scheduled for 8 a.m. Use the west entrance and park on Davenport street. Come prepared for this important test.

Club members climb for fun, to better skills

BY BRIAN LEE

Twice a month, Rock Climbing Club sponsor Jean Whitten leads a group of 10 students to scale the indoor climbing wall at the South-Southwest YMCA.

Club co-presidents, junior Sean McCall and sophomore Eli Bloom are two members who attend regularly.

Members meet Whitten at school on Thursday nights. They leave in school van at about 5:30 p.m. and return around 8:30 p.m.

Members usually climb from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Initially, members are required to bring an insurance and a health form in order for them to climb or take part in any of the club's activities.

Every time a climb is scheduled, those members who wish to participate are required to bring an updated permission form.

Only 10 members can attend each climb.

Whitten is belay trained, because she is one of the only people trained, the possibilities of the club expansion and training are narrowed.

Members hope to get a group of members officially belay trained in the next month or two.

"It's a tough sport," Whitten said. "It actually requires a certain body build to do well."

The clubs membership is at least double the size of the only 10 member capacity for a climb.

It is always open to new membership, and climbs will hopefully begin in October.

Skaters look for new way to win

BY MIKE SMITH

This year the Skateboarding Club has around 10 members and two new members. Three students returned from last year, sponsor for the club Christian Heckman said.

In the previous years, the club didn't accomplish as much as it wanted, Heckman said.

"I have high expectations this year," Heckman said.

The club is hoping to have a competition this year, which Heckman said was a success a year ago.

Due to the grant that gave after school activities money was not given to Central this year, Heckman said they had to find other means of fund raising.

She said that the students are planning on different fund raisers throughout the year.

Overall she thinks that the year will end on a positive note.

French students plan field trips, traditions

BY NICKI THOMAS

The French Club tradition continues with field trips and events throughout this school year.

French teacher and sponsor Beverly Fellman said the year starts by going to the Joslyn Art Museum to see the french exhibit, that has paintings from the 19th and 20th century.

Co-sponsor Kristin Longacre said she scheduled other activities including the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Language Fair, cosmic bowling and a trip to Vala's Pumpkin Patch.

She said the club is picking out pumpkins to donate to the Children's Hospital for Halloween.

"The students are looking forward to the pumpkin patch trip," Longacre said. "I really think the students will have a good time."

Senior Katie Erikson said she felt the French club is very rewarding.

"It not only makes me feel good inside, but it makes the kids feel good," Erikson said.

She said she enjoys helping the kids and making their days happier by donating the pumpkins.

Fellman said it is one of the clubs that stays active during the entire school year.

"There are around 60 members this year," Fellman said.

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Erikson

Districts fight state on funding equality

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Omaha Public Schools (OPS), Grand Public Schools, Lexington Public Schools and Sioux City Schools are suing the state due to inadequate funding for its students.

Sophomore Dena Rennard sits in her story class trying to pay attention, but the quality of the textbook and 30 other students' books are outdated or too damaged to be useful. "Teachers want us (students) to succeed," Rennard said, "but we can't succeed when we are supposed to use trash to learn with."

Legal council for OPS Dave Pedersen said the lawsuit is for school districts that have a number of high-need students, not enough funding for quality teachers or do not have funding for classes or programs to improve students learning.

"What's happening now is we (districts) filed the lawsuit and are waiting for a response from the state that should be on Oct. 1," Pedersen said.

Then on Oct. 15, there will be a brief written argument submitted by the state discussing why the case should be dismissed. On Oct. 17 the school districts are required to respond to the written document. On Dec. 2 the state will respond to that document and said the motion will be orally argued on January 8, 2004 in court.

He said there is no dollar amount set, the school districts are just waiting for the state to declare that it is unconstitutional funding. He said it is the state's responsibility to change the funding system to conform to

its needs.

Principal Jerry Bexten said that OPS stated the spending is less than the state average.

Sophomore Kelly Womochil said that she doesn't think the school districts should be suing the state because the state is already in debt for money.

The current funding system violates the needs of schools in the state, Pedersen said.

"The state does as good as it can to give us money," Womochil said.

Nebraska is basing the funding for the 2003 to 2004 school year on records and demographics of students from two school years ago, Pedersen said. He said the number of students who are in higher need has been growing rapidly.

Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson said that the state doesn't fund all school districts adequately when the districts are at shortfall.

The easiest thing for the state to do is cut funding, she said.

"The state needs to recognize that students cost more," Pedersen said.

Anderson, who is also the vice president of Nebraska State Education Association said that the lawsuit should make people recognize funding for new textbooks, classroom supplies and teachers is low.

"If the state wants the best teachers, it will have to pay for them," Anderson said.

Rennard said she thinks the school needs more funding for special education students as well. She said in her English class, the teachers are distracted with their class size and don't help all of the students with schoolwork like themes.

"It seems like some teachers just expect

the students to know how to write themes," Rennard said.

The students don't only cost more, but adequate teachers costs more as well.

Junior Jeremy Price said that in some of his classes, the students can get loud to the point where the teacher can't handle it.

He said the school could use more teachers to make each of the classes maintainable.

Diversity of students with economical status and special needs students are greater in Omaha, Anderson said.

She said all the districts are in need of funding and she doesn't like the fact that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) decided to back the state in the lawsuit.

LPS did not file in the lawsuit with the other districts, Pedersen said. He said that LPS is going to sit in on the court dates and if the state is proven to have inadequate funding, LPS is there to get their fraction of the funds.

Rennard said that LPS doesn't have as many students in the district and that is one reason she thinks it chose not to sue the state.

Senior Evan Anderson at Lincoln Southeast High School said that in his classes, the average number of students is around 20 to 25 kids.

Rennard said the average class size she has is about 30 or more students.

E. Anderson said that he thinks LPS doesn't focus a lot of attention to the high-need programs and should give more funding to those areas.

Elected member of the LPS school board, Ed Zimmer said that the two districts

have been discussing the entire thing with Omaha for a long time and the funding seems primarily a political problem.

He said that most court-order litigation would take 10 years to address the problem.

That is why LPS had to make careful decisions and disagree.

LPS couldn't ignore the funds, so the districts had shared concerns, he said. But decided the best way was to not join in the lawsuit against the state.

"We (the school board) did file to intervene with the court sessions," Zimmer said.

Anderson said her and LPS aren't getting along at the moment because she chose the state's side instead of staying out of the lawsuit.

"It's like they (LPS) are abandoning their brothers," she said.

LPS has about 32,000 students, Zimmer said. He said that 15 to 16 percent of the students do have free or reduced lunch and that 30 percent aren't native English speakers.

"I think it's undeserved," E. Anderson said. "If they (LPS school board) didn't feel it was necessary to complain about these problems, then they shouldn't feel it necessary to collect on them either."

Challenges have affected all kinds of programs in LPS, Zimmer said.

He said these programs must be addressed, but funding can't focus on certain departments.

The lawsuit for the budget isn't to gain funding for one specific area, but is to increase all the resources as a whole. He said LPS is in need of more funding overall.



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

Kansas State University

Location: Manhattan, Kansas
Admission: 62% of applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 18,612.
Freshman Admission: majors available in agriculture, fine arts, business, communications, education, engineering, family consumer science, health occupations, humanities, information service, leisure and fitness, pre-professional, science/math, social studies, and vocational/technical.
Application Deadlines: n/a.

Hastings College

Location: Hastings, Nebraska
Admission: 86% of applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year private Presbyterian university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,030.
Freshman Admission: majors available in arts/fine arts, business, communications, education, engineering, health occupants, humanities, information science, law and protective services, leisure and fitness, pre-professional, science/math, and social sciences.
Application Deadlines: priority date is Mar. 1, deadline is Aug. 1.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Location: Kearney, Nebraska
Admission: 96% of applicants admitted
Type: Four-year public university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 5,407.
Freshman Admissions: majors available in agriculture, arts/fine arts, business, communications, cultural studies, education, family consumer science, health occupations, humanities, information science, leisure and fitness, pre-professional, science/math, social sciences and vocational/technical.
Application Deadlines: priority date is Aug. 1.

University of Missouri at Columbia

Location: Columbia, Missouri
Admission: 64% of applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 18,179.
Freshman Admissions: majors available in agriculture, arts/fine arts, business, communications, cultural studies, education, engineering, family consumer science, health occupations, humanities, information science, leisure and fitness, science/math, and social sciences.
Application Deadlines: priority date is May 1.

Air force pilot retires from flying missions to teach social studies

BY MIKE SMITH

The new social studies department head wasn't always involved with teaching.

Charles Hinkle used to fly spy planes for the government. During the Vietnam War, Hinkle was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air force.

Hinkle said that he flew spy planes for more than 14 years.

"In the Air force, I flew anything from heavy bombers to helicopters," he said.

He said he traveled to Vietnam three times and was involved in the Gulf War. During his time in the U.S. Air force, he obtained two masters degrees. He received his first college degree in Colorado at Boulder.

Then he obtained a degree in public administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco at California.

He then obtained a Master of History from the University of Alabama.

Hinkle obtained his last military assignment as Chief of Operations at Offut Air Force Base, located in Bellevue.

After his retirement, Hinkle moved to Texas and received a teaching certificate. Then four years later, he moved to Omaha.

He chose the district because he couldn't handle being away from his daughter and grandchild.

Initially he taught at Benson High School for three years and he heard of an opening for a department head at Central.

"Everyone gave me consideration to do it, so I said why not," Hinkle said.

He said with this position he is able to have a higher level of leadership by being in charge of a department.

But this promotion doesn't take away from his guidance that he conducts during his classes.

Senior Katie Lydiatt said that she is getting used to Hinkle.

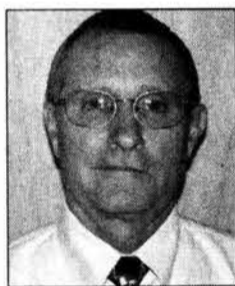
"I am used to Ms. Hipp's teaching and he's just not the same," Lydiatt said.

Lydiatt said that Hinkle knows the material, but she feels that she isn't learning it in the best way.

Hinkle said that it is a bit hectic right now getting used to everything, but he said that he is being treated well amongst the staff at Central.

Hinkle said that former department head Carol Hipp had a very well-represented reputation.

He said that he will not try and compete with her legacy, but will do the best job possible that he can.



Hinkle

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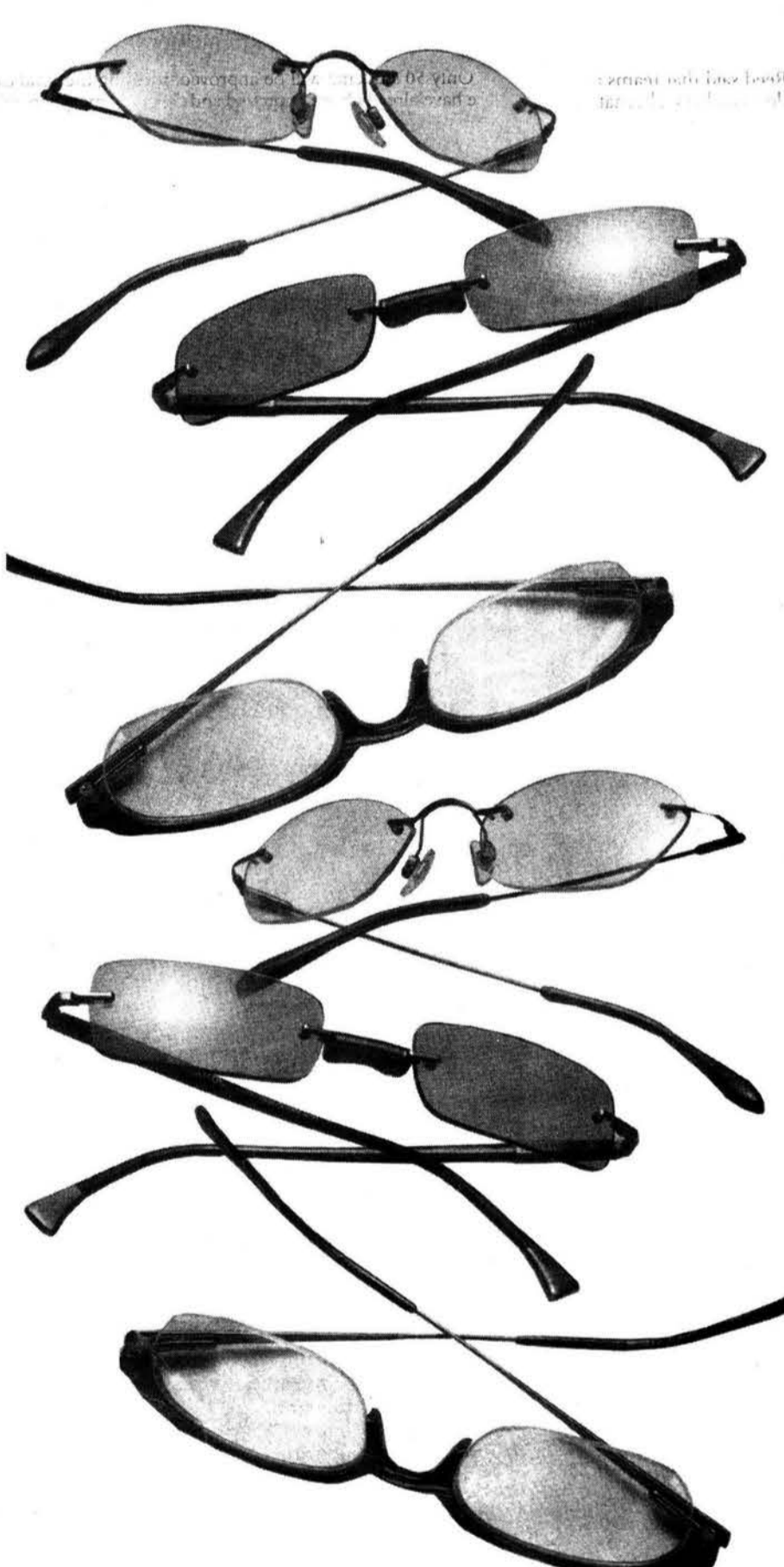
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New budget woes result in same problem of lack of funding

BY MIKE SMITH

The budget for 2003 to 2004 is taking away funding from areas and programs in need at Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

The OPS school board approved the budget unanimously last month for this school year.

Director of public information for OPS Luanne Nelson said that the priorities of the Board of Education are its students and staff.

"Our goal is to keep cuts away from the classroom," she said.

Junior Matthew McGuire said that the money in the budget should go to teachers and renovations.

After the board approved the budget, board member Shirley Tyree made a motion about the budget.

"The budget is inadequate to provide the programs and services necessary to give each student in the district equal access to a quality education," Tyree said.

Nelson said that OPS is concerned about the quality of teaching students the English language and the children who live in low income homes.

The budget reduces spending in some areas of OPS, but increases others. The increases are nearly \$10 million,

or almost 3 percent higher than the general budget from last year.

OPS has sued state officials over Nebraska's school-aid formula. The argument made in August, during the board meeting stated what the suit encompassed.

District officials said they know what it takes to improve student achievement, especially for high-needs children such as those from low-income families and students in special education classes.

The school district's \$336 million spending plan does however, call for an additional amount of spending to much needed areas.

It calls for \$3.94 million for salaries, \$3.36 million for fringe benefits, \$1.4 million for supplies, \$732,000 for new textbooks and \$245,900 for liability insurance.

Nelson said that a main emphasis was for OPS to replace the current textbooks in all of the high schools and middle schools.

Another main concern, Nelson said, was to start all-day kindergarten in all OPS elementary schools.

"Right now, OPS is the only school system in Omaha that does not offer all-day kindergarten," Nelson said.

Nelson said that in some elementary schools, all-day

kindergarten classes are offered. These all-day programs are funded primarily through private donors.

McGuire said that he does not think that an all-day kindergarten is a good idea from OPS.

"I didn't go to all-day kindergarten," McGuire said.

He said that it might just be too much for kids that age, when other school resources need more. McGuire said a good use of money would be to make more athletic fields. The students experience the outcome of the budget firsthand.

The lawsuit against the state affected the district's budget in another way. The money set aside for legal services has increased, around \$1.26 million, up from a little more than \$1 million from last year's budget.

Nelson said that the expenses of the legal fees would be looked into to have private donations pay for the legal costs.

"It will not impact the budget, so a private donation fund has been set up," Nelson said.

The 2003 to 2004 budget also calls for a tax levy of about \$1.28 per \$100 valuation on property, which is up from last year.

The increases in salaries and benefits for all OPS staff were set before the district has completed the budget. Though the district has completed the budget with the

increases, teachers' salaries have not been decided.

Carol Krejci, social studies teacher, said that they are still in the negotiation process on monetary issues.

Krejci, who is also the vice president of advocacy for the Omaha Education Association, said that they will hold discussions until they head back to the table on Oct. 2.

"I do as much as I can for the teachers, but where the get the money is their problem," Krejci said.

Assistant superintendent Dennis Pool said that on district-wide basis, for a ten-month certified staff, salaries have increased from \$143.7 million to \$146.6 million.

Krejci said that in light of the fringe benefits being increased, it is mainly due to health insurance.

"We knew that insurance was going up, and when they reach an agreement with us, that cost will be included in the raise," Krejci said.

Krejci said to look at it from this standpoint.

"If we have 3 percent of the total package in our raise then one percent will be the cost of health insurance," Krejci said.

Pool said that if contracts for teachers and other groups require more money than what is budgeted, officials would have to defer spending in other areas.

Pranks cause mess may lead to injury

BY DANIELLE WELTY

*Name changed to protect to protect identity.

Milk, yogurt and even pottery are being dropped from the fourth-floor stairwell to the main floor causes students not only to smell of soured milk for the remainder of the day but also puts them at risk for injury as well.

Senior Norman Welch said he had a pint of milk dropped on his head during a passing period.

"I was soaked from head to waist," Welch said. "I was glad that it was my last period that day because I had a doctor's appointment and I got a chance to change my clothes. I didn't have to smell like milk."

Welch said that his head also hurt for a while afterward.

Math teacher Susan Drumm has also had experience with items being dropped down the stairwells.

While watching the one side before school, Drumm said that there was a certain spot above the stairwell that students would drop milk and yogurt every morning.

"There was a group of kids that stood in the same spot where the milk was dropped and it would splatter up all over their clothes every morning," Drumm said. "I told them to move, but they just shifted to the other side and they would still get milk splattered on them."

Drumm said that it was nearly impossible to catch the students dropping items because by the time she would reach the fourth floor the student who was dropping food would already have left. The students who were caught in the act, later reported by a teacher or student did suffer some sort of consequence distributed by their administrator.

Administrator Nicole Regan said that those students dropping objects are taken very seriously and the punishment can range from situation to situation.

"Most likely they would receive an out-of-school suspension," Regan said. "If the item ruins something in school that would be destruction of school property and if it hit someone, that would be considered assault."

To reduce the amount of food being dropped before school, teachers stood at the exits of the courtyard to prevent students from eating their breakfast elsewhere.

"By the end of the year, students weren't allowed to take their breakfast out of the courtyard, but if someone puts milk in their pocket, it's hard to catch them all," Drumm said.

Drumm said she had also heard of larger objects being dropped down the stairwell, such as pottery.

Art teacher Jane Tauret said that students are told to act responsibly with their pottery after they leave the room.

"Obviously something that heavy falling from the distance could kill someone if they were hit on the head," Tauret said.

Art department head Larry Andrews said that students are usually proud of their pots and after spending so much time on them. He couldn't see why they would drop them down the stairs.

"A student might have left his pottery in another class and a student picked it up thinking they would have some fun with it," Andrews said. "It only takes one student out of 80 to ruin something good."

Senior John Smith* said that he has thrown his share of items down the stairwells.

"I've thrown bottles and bottle caps and they have hit people, but that just makes it more fun," Smith said. "It doesn't cause any serious damage and it won't hurt anyone because they're empty."

Administrator Dionne Kirksey said that only last year did the amount of items being dropped from the fourth floor increase to the point where it was extremely noticeable.

"It makes me mad to think that students are doing the wise for kicks when someone could become seriously injured," Kirksey said. "Not only are these items being dropped hazardous to students, but they're also something extra the custodial staff has to clean up throughout the day."

Custodian Curtis Kent said that he has only been hurt once for a week and has already seen his share of messes.

"They drop strawberry milk during the lunch hour down the four side," Kent said. "And just today we cleaned up an entire bottle of glue that was all over the steps, walls and railings."

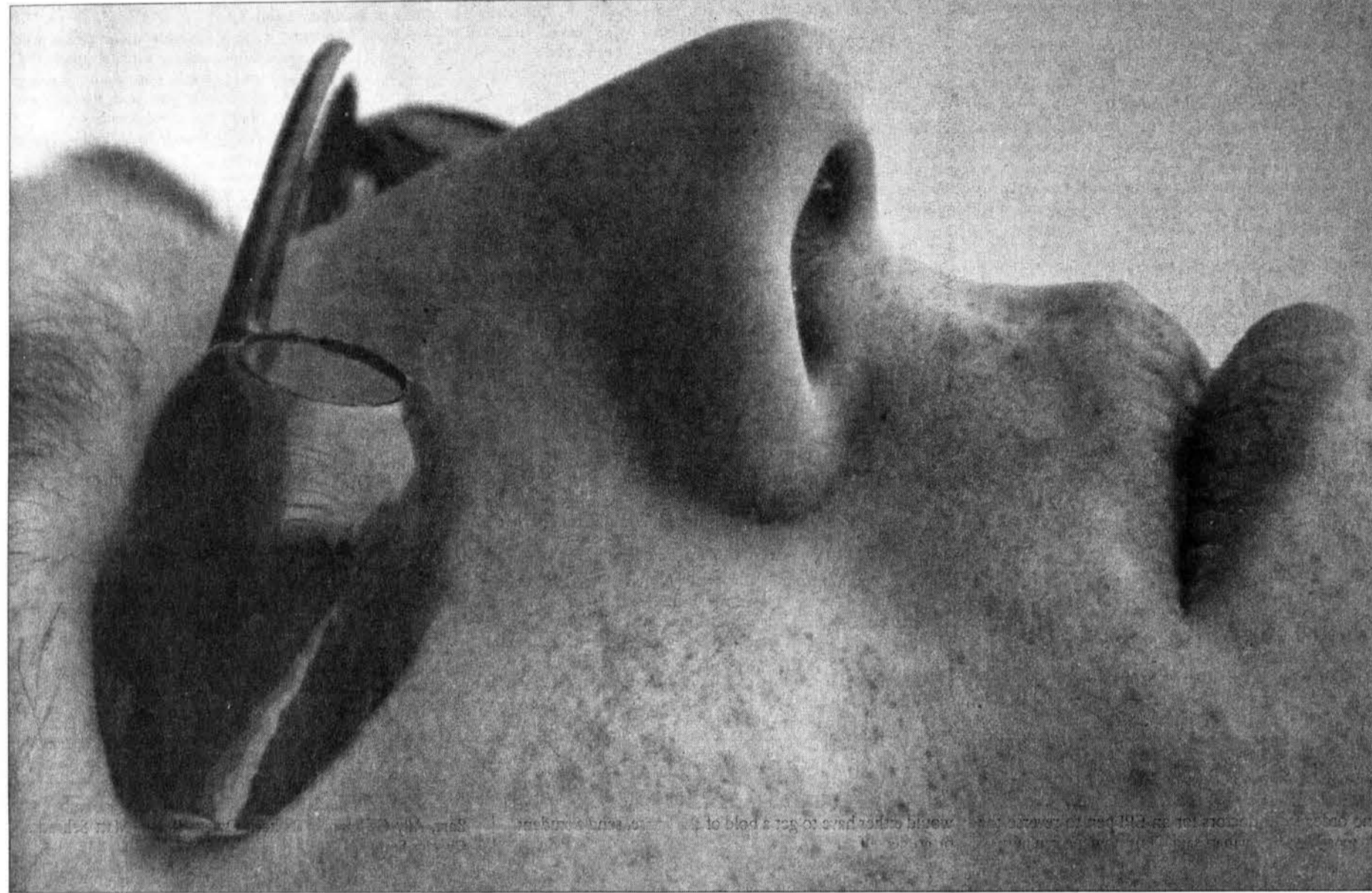


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Senior A.J. Baumann, who puts in time in a tanning booth at one of E Wellington's Body Works locations, says he's only been tanning a few times. National health official would say that Baumann is in a minority. Kids today are going to tanning salons more than ever, despite the risks.

Students disregard hazards for desired look

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Cancer in a tube sounds like something students would want to avoid, but senior Steve Salavec ignores the warnings and continues to tan at salons.

Tanning salons appeal to teens because to be tan is to be young, thin and beautiful, as it is portrayed through the media. Some salons even go as far as to say that indoor tanning is a safe alternative to the sun.

Alumnus Dr. John Latenser said that though many people believe that tanning makes them beautiful now, it will cause premature wrinkling and possible skin cancer in later years.

"A tan is a sign of skin damage," Latenser said. "The skin only needs a minimal amount of sunlight to get the proper amount of vitamin-D from the sun."

Despite these warnings, Salavec has continued to work at one of these tanning salons for nearly a year.

"My mom has been tanning for years," Salavec said. "I started tanning when I was in sixth grade, and I went in for five minutes, basically because I didn't want to wait for my mom in the car."

Salavec said most people go tanning because they feel it makes them look better. "They can get that summer glow without having to be outside in the heat all day," Salavec said.

Some people tan because they believe they are too pale, and others tan as a result of cosmetically or personal reasons. Cosmetically, it can help with covering up skin flaw such as scars or uneven complexion.

Salavec started tanning on a regular basis his freshman year in high school, soon after he applied and was hired at E Wellington's Body Works tanning salon.

"I have a lot of friends that I have talked into tanning," Salavec said. "I have basically the entire freshman cheerleading squad tanning."

There are also those who have tried tanning and realized it was not for them.

Senior Sarah Hinchik said she went tanning with a few friends and was soon discouraged with the lack of results.

"I went three times and didn't really see myself getting any darker," Hinchik said. "I was also worried about cancer, so I figured it was just a waste of my time."

Many people choose not to tan because of the long term damage that is done to the skin that may include a form of skin cancer.

"Cancer is caused when DNA is injured, and each time it replicates, the DNA is a little off, which eventually causes cancer to form," Latenser said. "People with more pigment are less likely to get skin cancer, because they have a sort of built-in sunscreen, unlike extremely fair-skinned people."

According to the Interior Health Authority, tanning lamps emit mostly ultraviolet-A (UVA) radiation. UVA penetrates the skin deeply and prematurely ages it.

If one continues to tan, the skin may have a leathery look to it and age much sooner than nature intended. The radiation may also damage blood vessels.

These rays also sensitize the skin so that sunlight will be more likely to cause skin cancer.

Doctors are seeing more cases of skin cancer among people who use sun lamps or tanning beds.

Salavec said that UVA rays are the worst for a person's skin, when compared to ultraviolet rays-B rays, but many people use them because they're the cheapest.

"I treat my skin by using lots of different moisturizers and I only tan under ultraviolet-B rays, which are considered the best for your skin," Salavec said.

Salavec said that people should be informed and know how often they should tan for their skin type before entering a tanning booth.

"There are some people that tan so much I wish I could tell them to stop, but we're not allowed to," Salavec said. "I do tell the customers that if they tan for 20 minutes everyday, to use a bed with older bulbs so that they have less of a chance for peeling."

Salavec also recommends for those who tan for longer periods of time to put a towel over their faces, because the rays are less intense and faces tend to peel the most.

Latenser said that the areas that are more prominent, such as the nose, forehead, cheeks and the backs of the ears, receive the most amount damage when exposed to sunlight or artificial light.

"We get complaints every once and a while because right after you come out of the tanning bed you're really red because all of your blood is at the surface of your skin," Salavec said.

He said that this is just the skin trying to regenerate after tanning, but some people assume right away that they've gotten extremely burnt.

Salavec said E Wellington's Body works sells special lotions that have tingle factors, which bring the blood to the surface so the cells can regenerate faster if the skin is damaged.

Salavec said there are many precautions one may take to make the tanning experience a little less harmful.

He said that though many people believe that tanning makes them look and feel better, these individuals must consider that this fad may cause them serious health risks in the future as research does confirm the link between tanning lamps and skin cancer.

Senior returns from educational experience of coping with war, terrorism, violence

WITCHGER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the gas.

"You feel like you've lost control of your own body," he said.

He said after it had all cleared about one-fourth of the people that were originally there returned the protest and who were eventually gassed again.

Witchger said that he was actually able to pick up one of the used gas cans, which was labeled as a "Triple Chaser Grenade," and kept it as a souvenir.

He said the people in Quito were looking down on him and the other Americans because they thought that they supported George W. Bush's plans for the war in Iraq.

Witchger said that, at a certain point, he was able to stand up in front of them on television and tell them that just because he and the other Americans were from the United States did not mean that they agreed with what Bush was doing.

Philip's mother, Maria Teresa Gaston, said that he called her the very next day about the whole situation.

"I remember having mixed feelings of being proud of his solidarity and him being concerned about

world issues," she said, "but I worried that he would do something too risky."

She said that she was most worried when Witchger stepped up in front of everyone and when he was mountain climbing.

"In the balance of things, it was worth the risk involved," she said.

Gaston said she is very grateful to the host family and to the Rotary Club because she would never have been able to send Witchger down there.

As part of the Rotary International, Witchger said that he was provided with a home, transportation and other necessities for the trip.

"I was given \$50 each month from the Rotary Club," he said.

Witchger said that he was schooled at Liceo De Valle, a small, wealthy, private, eight to 12th grade school with all of about 400 kids.

He was captain of the basketball team, involved in the chess club and was in the mountain climbing club in Ecuador.

He said that when it came to classes, he did not get much of a choice in what he would be in, that the classes taught were mainly history, Spanish literature, Latin-American history and physics.

Witchger said that outside of school, he joined his fellow foreign exchange students in an array of activities.

"The whole exchange program consists of 90 students from 20 different countries," he said.

Witchger said they went to the beach, saw the mountains, went through the Amazon jungle and visited the Galapagos Islands.

His entire stay was about 11 months long, from Aug. 23 last year until June 30 of this year.

He never left the country, he just traveled around it.

He said his primary goals were to improve his Spanish, learn more about the culture and to learn about life in general.

Witchger said the whole point behind a lot of his traveling was to learn about his cultural background, his mother being Cuban.

"I hope next summer to go to Cuba with my mother," he said. "It would be primarily to visit the family sugar mill," she said, "where my father's side of the family has lived for generations."

"I have always wanted Philip to know how to speak Spanish and identify with the Latino community," she said. "It is a dream come true for me."



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Witchger holds the empty canister as evidence of it being thrown at him during protest. He fled from the scene immediately, but went back for the souvenir.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

German exchange student experiences culture shock

BY MIKE SMITH

Senior Anna Mueller is having a hard enough time understanding the fundamentals of high school at the age of 16, but understanding a whole way of life is even more difficult.

Mueller who was born in Sindelfingen, Germany has spoken English most of her life.

She said that she and her other friends in Germany looked to America as the country where you get everything from.

She said that this is where the technology and the medical equipment is located.

Mueller first learned about traveling to America to become a foreign exchange student after one of her friends journeyed over to the states.

"I thought that it would be a great way to learn even more of the English language, so I decided to come to the states," she said.

Mueller said that her mother encourage her to go.

"My mother was very open and supportive about my choice," she said.

After Mueller made the voyage, she became very homesick the first couple of weeks.

"I missed my family, but tried to do other things to keep my mind off of it," Mueller said.

Her Advanced Placement (AP) Biology teacher Sandy McCreight said that Mueller is working very hard.

"She is having some trouble with the English terms," McCreight said.

She said that Mueller is fitting in quite well with the students. She said that during students' birthdays, Muller bakes them cakes and brings them to school to celebrate the special occasion. Mueller, who has never played softball, made the JV team this year under the guidance of coach Scott Wilson.

She said that it is a very interesting sport that she is starting to like. She said that she usually plays right field.

Mueller's sport of choice back home is fencing. She said that the school system in Omaha is so different than the system in Germany.

"I went to an all-girls Catholic school with nuns as our teachers, that's how different this school is," she said.

Mueller said that the only thing about this school that she really dislikes are the fans.

"They blow my hair around and I just hate that," Mueller said.

Mueller is currently living with the family of junior Ann-Marie Lind.

Mueller said that Lind helps her with different things from her homework to her daily life questions.

Seniors continue in school's rich history of semi-finalists

BY MIKE SMITH

Over one million students took the Practice Standardized Assessment Test (PSAT), and five students from Central were selected as semi-finalists for National Merit.

Guidance director Lynda Molyneaux said that the National Merit Program is based on the score that juniors receive when they take the PSAT.

The five students selected from school are seniors Matt Barr, Ally Gumbiner, Richard Owens-Beam, Matt Schrad and Charles Serfass.

Gumbiner said that being one of the seniors across the United States was an honor to her.

"I am glad that I took a review course right before I had to take it," Gumbiner said.

Only one percent of the highest test-takers in the nation are selected.

Molyneaux said that they award the semi-finalists from state to state. She also said that the scores are extremely high.

The top percentage of students receives the recognition and is awarded the honor and designated as semi-finalists.

Serfass said that his goal before taking the test was to do well on it.

He said that he has hopes of receiving scholarships or a possible full ride to a college in the area.

"Five students is great, and I am very proud to have these wonderful students at our school," Molyneaux said.

Students with asthma are required to register their condition in the school's nurses office and keep their inhalers there. A select group of faculty members are qualified to assist the nurse if an asthmatic condition arises.

Teachers prepare for student construction-related health problems

BY DANIELLE WELTY

As the school is being torn apart for renovations, students' health problems, such as an asthma and allergies are becoming more noticeable, but there are several staff members throughout the building equipped with the knowledge to help if a serious situation arises.

"About five or six years ago, a student at Burke died on the first day of school after having an asthma attack when help didn't come fast enough," school nurse Jenny Conahan said. "And since then, all OPS schools are able to administer medication to a student having a possible asthma attack."

ROTC instructor Sharon Cooper is one of the staff members trained to aid students with such needs.

"If we see symptoms of anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) we have an injection to give the student to reverse the reaction," Cooper said.

Cooper said if a student has an asthma attack, there's a machine that releases a medication that relaxes the bron-

chial tubes so that the student can breathe better.

If a student is having a food allergy, Cooper said that a shot is given to them at once to stop and reverse whatever symptoms are created as a result of the allergy.

"Before this was implemented, we had to have a standing order from doctors for an EPI-pen to reverse the allergic reactions," Conahan said. "But now we can administer whatever the student needs to reverse the reaction if it's life threatening and afterwards call 911."

Sophomore Dena Rennard said she believes that nurses should have had the right to administer medication before anyone had to die.

"I think the school nurses should be allowed to administer medication for times when it's an emergency," Rennard said. "If someone could potentially die if they don't get the medication, then why would anyone deprive them of it in the first place?"

Cooper said that the teachers and other staff members who already had some Red Cross training were trained to deal with a student having an attack.

"As an ROTC instructor, I was taught three years ago, because I already had some Red Cross experience," Cooper

said. "The security guards were also trained because of their positions."

Cooper said the box that contains the shots are located in the nurse's office.

Therefore, if a student needed the medication, she would either have to get a hold of the nurse, send a student or go herself.

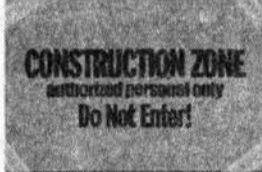
Cooper said there haven't been any incidents so far this school year.

She attributes this to the great job the janitorial crew did cleaning up the mess (dust) that was made during summer renovations.

"We thought that the dust from renovations might cause some problems with the students that have such health problems," Cooper said. "It could be worse after the school is all closed up. We've been lucky so far because the school has been well ventilated."

As the nurse's office was being renovated, students had to go to a small room off of the courtyard for treatment.

Conahan said that those students with allergies and heat-related problems were sent to the main office for help, since the temporary nurse's office would agitate their problem further.



Female security guard breaks trend of male-dominated environment, enjoys new people

BY JOHN KENDALL

Adele Wise takes pride in being the only female security guard and said she enjoys how reserved the school is compared to her previous security jobs.

"I think it's almost an honor," she said.

Wise said that she had no idea that she would be the only female on the security staff when she applied for the position at school.

As a woman, Wise said she gets along with the other employees.

"They seem to be a nice group of guys," Wise said.

She said her main gripe with renovations was that it is very difficult to get through the hallways.

Wise said that she mainly patrols the first floor and around the portables. She said that the portables were not as bad as working outside.

The traffic around the "C" seems to be

the worst, she said.

"It seems like they (the students) have too much time to fool around," she said.

Wise has been a security guard for 30 years and three other family members are involved with security as well.

Wise said she came to the school because she does not want to work weekends or nighttime hours, as opposed to her previous job at the Douglas County Youth Center.

"I worked the graveyard shift (from 12 a.m. to 8 a.m.) at the Douglas County Youth Center," she said.

Wise said that she just applied and about a week later, she was contacted by the school and told that there was a position open.

She said that someone from the Teacher Administrative Center got a hold of her and called her for an interview. Then she had to come to Central to speak with Principal Jerry Bexten and assistant principal Paul Pennington.

She now works a shift of 8.5 hours, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Previous to the youth center, she worked 10 years at the Nebraska School for the Deaf. Even before that she worked in security at Douglas County Corrections for one year where she controlled the flow of the building by being the one who opened and closed the doors.

Wise said that the freedom with the building is something that she really appreciates about her job.

"It's not a locked down facility," she said.

She said she has been so used to working at places where the doors locked as soon as they shut, and having to interact with people who had a lot of problems. Before security, Wise said she had wanted to go to school to become an interpreter, but she decided that security is what she is going to do for now. However, she said that the school is only a one year assignment.



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

New security guard Adele Wise directs two students to the elevator. Wise is the only female security guard in the building.

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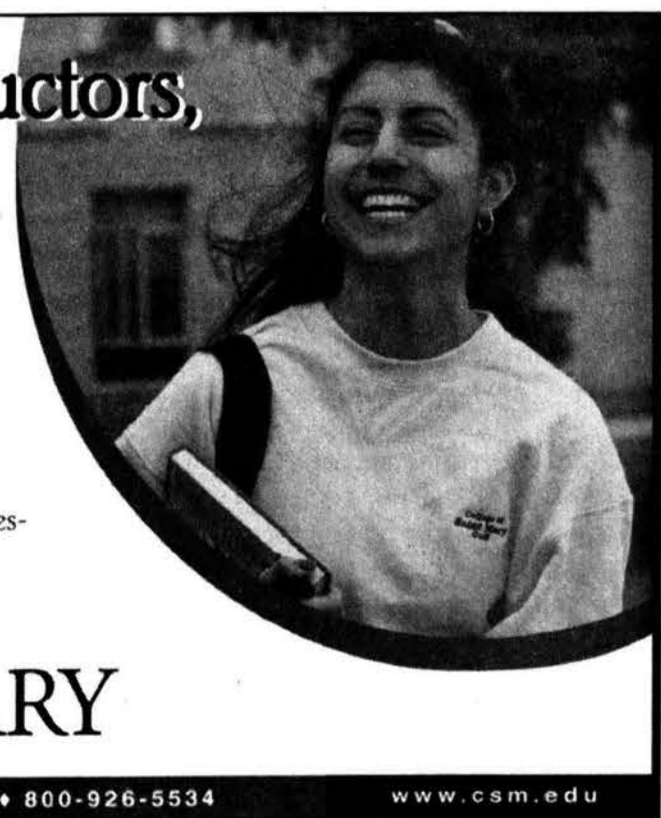
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GAY AND PROUD

Homosexual teens have to cope with a variety of issues, religious beliefs and personal opinions at school. Some support their choices, while others do not. Even in a school that prides itself on celebrating diversity, students can still discriminate.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Public Displays of Affection (PDAs) between heterosexuals are common at Central. PDAs by homosexuals are not. Both are against the rules.

Displays of affection break rules in handbook, make some people uneasy

BY DANIELLE WELTY

To see a gay couple kissing in the hallway may cause a bigger disruption during passing periods than the boy-girl Public Display of Affection (PDA).

Several students at Central said that they are not offended at the sight of a couple kissing as they pass through the hallway to their next class. They said that it wouldn't matter if the couple was homosexual or heterosexual, it's a nuisance either way.

While others have a slightly different point of view.

Freshman Nate Anderson said that he believes that a gay couple showing affection would be a problem because there are so many students in this school who are against gay relationships.

"A lot of people don't have a very positive opinion of gays," Anderson said. "They say 'that's gay' about anything they think is stupid, which is in a sense calling gay people stupid."

Anderson also said that he doesn't know any serious homophobes that would cause a gay couple any problems, but he has friends that joke around about people's sexual orientation which may cause these couples more emotional distress than anything else.

Other students express a more mild opinion of gay relationships and emphasize that the PDAs themselves are the problem.

Senior Sherry Wang said that PDAs are unneeded no matter what the person's sexual preference is.

"Every day before third hour there was this couple that would be making out in front of my locker, and it was awkward and really annoying because I couldn't get to what I needed," Wang said.

Biology teacher Jean Whitten said that she has encountered her share of PDAs while on hall patrol and that teachers try to use humor or ask the students politely to stop.

"We feel as teachers that you students realize that this kind of behavior is inappropriate in the hallways," Whitten said. "But when we confront students about it they act so surprised, like they've done nothing wrong, or they scowl at us. Some even walk away giggling like they're elementary school students."

She said that outside of the building in the majority of public settings she never sees people kissing and carrying on as they do in school.

"If I do see a couple expressing their affection, they're usually older than most high school students and they are just kissing a loved one

goodbye or something like that," Whitten said.

She said that she doesn't understand why students intentionally break the rules when there are general assemblies for each grade at the beginning of the year that go over the rules.

The handbook and encourage students to wear proper dress while conducting themselves in a manner fit for school.

Students are required to read the handbook.

"I never send them down to their administrators," Whitten said. "I have bigger issues to deal with, I'm here to teach, not to fill out referrals all day."

Administrator Dionne Kirksey said that if a student is sent down as a result of a PDA, the school handbook has consequences set according to on the number of times the students has been caught and that the punishment would be the same for a homosexual couple as it is for a heterosexual couple, though she has yet to deal with a homosexual couple.

"For the first offense we issue a warning, but for the second offense we have a parent-teacher conference and the student has an after school suspension," Kirksey said. "The third offense we have another parent-teacher conference and the student has a short-term suspension which can last from one to five days."

She said that sometimes people go overboard with their affection and act as if they are alone instead of on display to a crowd of their peers.

Senior Sarah Alston said that she considers the PDAs to be more of an obstacle when walking through the hallways than anything else.

"They're just an extra roadblock when I'm trying to get to classes," Alston said. "And I've never had any problems with gay people in my way, I guess they're afraid they would get beat up for kissing in school."

Freshman Kenny Fischer said that he thinks gay couples would get made fun of if their peers saw them kissing or showing affection in any other form.

"That's their way of life, and it's how they are," Fischer said. "But when it comes to school they can't express that because so many people in the school that wouldn't necessarily hate them for being gay, but wouldn't be comfortable with seeing it."

There haven't been any reports of problems this year, which was expected by the administrators.

"In any given year, we probably only have about ten at the most, and that's with all of the administrators combined," Kirksey said. "It's not really a big problem."

Sophomore admits 'coming out' easier in today's society; family distant to idea at first

BY DANIELLE WELTY

*Name changed to protect identity.

Sophomore John Doe* came out when he was only 13 and is part of the small percentage of gays who have not experienced much discrimination for their sexual preference.

He said that he realizes that many homosexuals are told their lifestyle is wrong and have to travel a much tougher path just to be able to live their lives.

"I've been questioning my sexuality since I was little. I always knew that I was different, but I wasn't for sure about it until I was in sixth grade," Doe said. "Before then I really wasn't sure what gay even meant."

Doe said he went to Rose Hill Elementary school, which only has about 400 students and that the idea of being gay was rarely, if ever, brought up.

Doe waited two more years until he came out to his family, even though he said once he told his parents and two older siblings he said they were open-minded.

"My parents have been pretty supportive," Doe said. "My dad was a little disappointed at first because I was his only hope for a grandchild."

Doe said that when talking to his parents now they said they had inclinations early on.

"One time my mom even sat down and asked me," Doe said, "But I said I wasn't gay because I was in denial at the time."

Doe said that he never thought that being gay

was wrong, he just did not think it was the way things were supposed to be.

"The first time I brought a boyfriend home, it was obviously awkward for my parents, but now it's normal," Doe said.

He said that the only time people respond negatively to him is when religion is brought up.

"I'm not a very religious person," Doe said. "Religion only affects me when people bring up the point that the Bible says that gay relationships are wrong and not the way that God intended."

Organizations such as Exodus are open for those who are homosexual and wish to obtain peace with God, which usually involves a transition to a more heterosexual lifestyle.

Communications director at Exodus in Nebraska, Randy Thomas, said that Exodus is not against homosexuals, it just provides another option.

"Our organization has been around since about 1976 and it has over 120 ministries throughout North America," Thomas said. "Each one of these ministries offers a different form of help for those that seek it."

Thomas said that these support sessions range from professional therapists who are one-on-one to pastoral support, and even several support groups where discussions are held.

"Exodus represents several different mainstream religions whose main goal is to pursue a deeper relationship with Christ," Thomas said. "Living a heterosexual life after that experience is merely a bi-product of the program."

Thomas said that after finding God he was able to live a heterosexual lifestyle, but isn't always

the goal for all of those that enter the program.

Thomas said that Exodus believes that the identity of a person is more than just their sexual orientation.

"We want people to live their lives contently," Thomas said. "And if we can help just one person in any way, then our goal has been met."

Doe said that he does not believe one can be turned straight or gay, but that sexual orientation is something that is pre-disposed in a person.

"I don't think anyone is 100 percent straight or 100 percent gay, but we are born with a definite preference," Doe said.

Thomas said that children are not born gay, but that they become gay as a result of their upbringing and what they are exposed to.

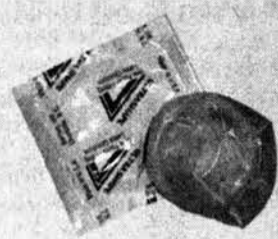
"When it comes to homosexuality, people have a choice in their behavior," Thomas said. "It's not something they're born with, and scientific evidence points more toward the fact that environment plays a bigger part on sexual orientation."

Thomas said that Exodus's headquarters are in Florida, which is a state that does not allow gay couples to adopt.

"I don't think an adopted child should be raised in anything but a stable heterosexual home," Thomas said. "Adoption is about what is best for the child, and a homosexual home or a dysfunctional heterosexual home would not be fair to that child."

Doe said that in the future he plans on getting married or having some sort of union, and has considered adopting children.

"I want to have a family and that would include a few children," Doe said.



SEX

-Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) infect 65 million Americans.

-1 in 5 Americans over age 12 has genital herpes.

-333 million people is the estimated number of people in world who are newly infected each year with a curable STD.

-430,000 Nebraskans have been diagnosed with AIDS.

-In Douglas County, the number of reported cases of STDs jumped 35% from 1998.

-A woman is twice as likely as a man to acquire an STD during unprotected sex.

-Two-thirds of all STDs occur in people 25 and younger.

-One in every four new STD infections occurs in teenagers.

-STDs, other than HIV, cost more than \$8 billion each year to diagnose and treat both the disease and its complications.

-At least one in four Americans will contract an STD at some point in their life.



HATE CRIMES

-According to the FBI, 16.7% of 1,317 hate crimes were committed against people based on their sexual orientation in the year 2000, which has nearly doubled since 1991.

-In Nebraska there is no provision of law that explicitly addresses school safety and protection for gay and lesbian students.

-Nebraska hate crimes law explicitly addresses sexual orientation. A hate crime victim may bring a civil action for equitable relief, general and special damages, reasonable attorney's fees and costs.



PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Register polled 285 students

-27% of the students consider themselves homophobic.

-43% of the students are against homosexuality for religious reasons.

All information courtesy of the American Social Health Association, FBI hate crime statistics, Nebraska Human Rights Campaign.

Senior upset with behavior of teachers, students

BY MIKE SMITH

Senior Pearl Boyd has been involved with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) since her freshman year when the club was first initiated.

Boyd is very involved in the gay community and has very strong ties to the issues.

She said that it is very hard for homosexual people in the Midwest to deal with being homosexual, opposed to on the East Coast where it is seemingly more common.

Boyd said that one of the main reasons why she joined the club was due to the discrimination amongst homosexual students at Central.

"When people I knew were being picked on, other students and even some teachers didn't do anything about it," Boyd said.

Boyd said that though it is unacceptable for kids to do things like this, it is worse when teachers at school do not discipline students for doing it.

Boyd said that one day towards the end of the year, she was crying because she had just broken up with her boyfriend. One of her teachers came up to her and asked her what was wrong with her and if she was crying over a boy.

"Though the question wasn't that bad, I took offense to it because how does he know who I am talking about," Boyd said.

Boyd told her teacher that it was none of his business. Her teacher then said to her that it must be a girlfriend not a boyfriend, which made her extremely upset.

Boyd's teacher said that she must be one of "those" and then stated that he has a couple of "those" in his class, referring to homosexual students.

Boyd said she asked the teacher why he was acting in a homophobic matter and her teacher denied the accusation.

Boyd could not handle the teacher's class and never returned the rest of the year.

Boyd said that it is very upsetting that something like this happens to people all around the country everyday.

Junior Angela Friedman also has a lot of friends and has a cousin who is homosexual.

"I love the support that I can give to them while standing up for their rights," Friedman said.

Friedman has performed at the Omaha Theatre Company for Young People's production of "Pride Players" in the past. She said that "Pride Players" gives her the opportunity to really stick up for gay rights in the community.

She said that she found the same kind of feeling during the GSA meetings she attended during the after school meetings.

"We talked about different things like prejudice and how we as students can make things better in and out of school," Friedman said.

Friedman said if she was ever treated like Boyd, she would tell those people they have no right to act like that and treat people so differently.

She said all she can do as a person is stick up for gay rights and that is what GSA is for.

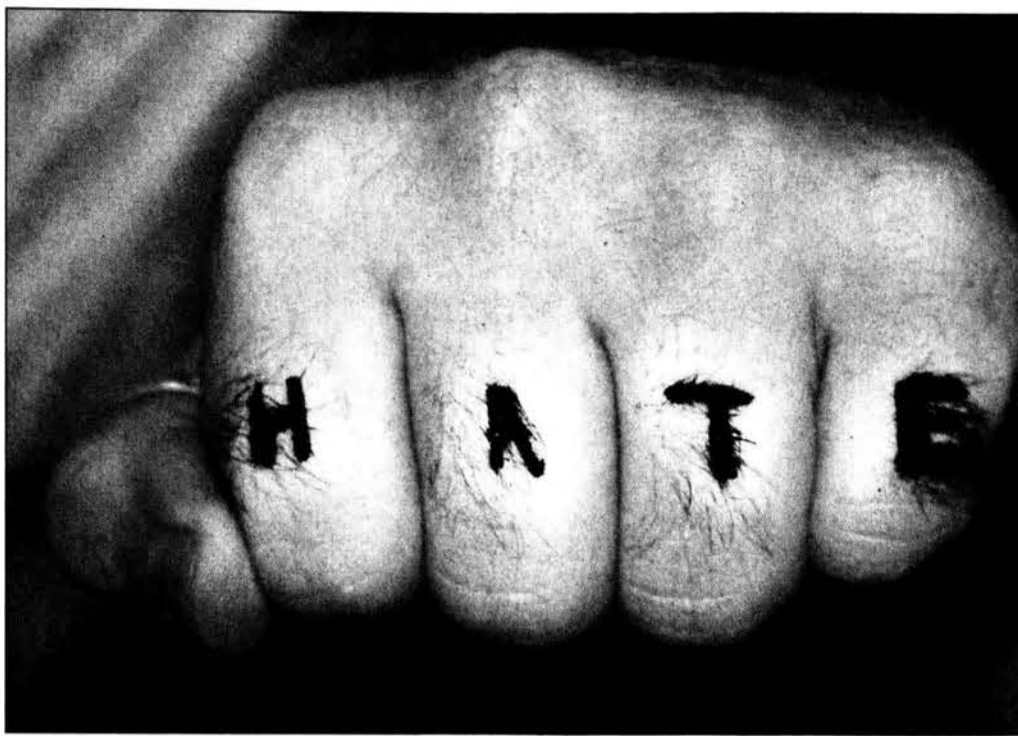


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Hate crimes are common. At Central, the first offense is punishable by a short-term suspension and law enforcement notification.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS OR MARRIAGES?



"I really don't mind as long as it doesn't concern me."
Tom Mullen (11)



"You would get made fun of if you were a gay couple."
Jacquize Harper (10)



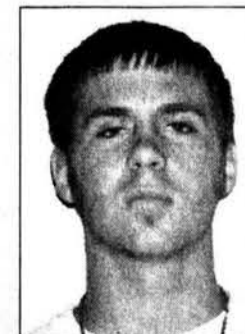
"I don't really have a problem with it. It doesn't affect me."
Andrew Horton (11)



"I think people should have the right to marry whoever because we are all free, and it's just as fair for opposite sexes to be married as same sexes."
Katelynn Shoch (10)



"I really don't care about them. They're normal for our times."
Zach Qualls (10)



"I don't believe in gay marriages. We are put on Earth for procreation, and gay marriages are wrong because it doesn't help the human race."
Timothy Kanger (10)

Organization fights for students' rights in Nebraska, Omaha district

ACLU CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The federal courts of Nebraska right now. ACLU executive director Timothy Butz is involved in the lawsuit firsthand.

"ACLU is fighting on a matter of principle," Butz said. "The constitution is supposed to provide the same rights for all citizens and it's not doing that."

Senior Emily Greenberg said that she thinks it is extremely ignorant.

The majority of citizens in Nebraska would disagree.

"Many people have worked so hard to make the state more politically and socially progressive, and preventing that has just taken up back so many years," Greenberg said.

There are very limited areas where same sex marriages or unions are accepted.

Butz said that Vermont is the only state that allows civil unions.

"Within the borders of Vermont we have all of the same rights as a married couple, but outside of the state our civil union means nothing," Colley said.

said. "The federal government doesn't recognize the civil union either, so when filing for such things as tax returns, we have to file separately for federal and as one for the state."

Colley said she has only been to Vermont once, which was for her civil union.

She said that she and her partner planned on going back when Margoux was due because Colley would be allowed on the birth certificate.

"The baby was born nine weeks early in Omaha, instead of Vermont, so I am not considered a legal guardian," Colley said.

Butz said that though the legal marriage system was originally created as a system for property transfer and not because of religion, despite the fact that religion is a main factor in why same-sex unions are not allowed. He said he believes that at some point those who want same-sex unions and the states will have some sort of agreement.

"It may not be called a marriage in the eyes of the law," Butz said. "But at some point society will have to come to grips that there are gay families and accept them to a certain extent."

Butz said Canada and some European states

are even now embarking down the road to equal union rights for all.

"It doesn't really matter what the civil law does, people are going to find a way to get married," Butz said. "Obviously the Pope has come out strongly against same sex marriages, but there are ministers who are willing to marry these couples."

Sophomore Molly Mullen said to her marriage is not important and therefore any law preventing same-sex marriages doesn't matter.

"I should probably be more outraged than I am, but I think people are making a big deal out of something that shouldn't matter," Mullen said. "I don't need the church, a priest or the state telling me whether or not I'm going to spend the rest of my life with someone."

Mullen said the state is supposed to be by the people for the people, and by discriminating against gays, it is not for the people.

"It's a matter of tradition," Butz said. "Historically it has never been acceptable even though same sex couples have been around since there were people."

Colley said that everyone knows her and her partner couldn't understand why they don't have the same responsibilities as a married couple.

"It's usually those who do not know or are not close to gays that are skeptical of our lifestyle," Colley said.

Greenberg said many religious people are against same-sex unions and that she respects people's religious beliefs, but when they take the Bible or any other religious book literally, it's too much.

"Some people play God when they discriminate and decide whether someone's way of life is right or wrong," Greenberg said. "Only God is supposed to judge people. People aren't supposed to judge people."

Senior Johanna Murphy has been raised as a Catholic and backs the state's decision not to allow same-sex unions.

"I was taught to believe that homosexuals themselves are not bad people and they have suffered just like us," Murphy said. "Sex is meant for procreation and to make a couple as one, but same sex couples don't represent that."

New York school reflects trends, foreshadows things to come in education

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Name changed to protect to protect identity.

Senior Katie Doe* didn't expect her fellow classmates to point her out and voice their opinions on her sexual preference. While she was sitting at a table, a girl confronted her to tell her why she thought it was immoral being a "dike."

"I am bisexual," Doe said. "I used to get confronted about it all the time but the gossip has stopped about it this year. Besides, I am kind of the foot in one foot out."

Harvey Milk High School in New York City was created for students who are at high risk of harassment or violence. The students are primarily homosexual, bisexual or transgender. Doe said even though she was harassed a few years ago, she wouldn't want to go to that school because it is not her real life. She said attending a public school that doesn't close its doors to any type of students gives

everyone a sense of real life.

She said that students go there to get away from harassment but all it will do is shelter them from the world and create a social environment.

The school is a place students can go for social reasons instead of for safety percussions, Doe said.

Sometimes isolating the real life is what people need, sophomore Brooklyn Garner said. She said some of the students might want to go to that school to be for students with similar preferences. At school, Garner said she learns how to cope with her friends who are homosexual. She said she is comfortable hanging out with them and does not think of them any different than her heterosexual friends.

"Kids are going to be kids," Garner said. "People have enough problems and they don't need to be teased at school."

Academic development counselor Doug Stansberry said students at school are teased too

much. He said he personally hears people in the hallways using hurtful names.

"People are raised to not let negative words get to them," Stansberry said. "But if a student says something once or a 100 times it will have some sort of an effect on that student."

Sophomore Meisha Potter said that people need to grow up when they are in high school.

"Students in high school should learn how to ignore names," Potter said. "The school has counselors that people can talk to if they have any problems."

She said the students should not have to be forced to go to another school. She said it is very discriminating.

Doe said there is no way to prove that the students attending that school is homosexual, they just have to say that they are.

According to information provided by Lenette Dorman, Director of communications at Harvey Milk High School, the school is open for students

who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ).

The LGBTQ students who attend public high schools don't feel safe in school. According to the National Mental Health Association 41.7 percent of the students feel uncomfortable.

Doe said she doesn't feel uncomfortable at school, despite some teasing by students. However, last year she said, when she was dating a senior who wasn't out about her sexuality yet, things got difficult. She said that students would come up to the two and ask if the rumors were true.

"It was hard being distant at school," Doe said. "And we would try to be a couple at night when we were alone."

Even if she was teased at school she wants to stay.

She said if she went to that school she would only be surrounded by the stereotype students, but at central she meets a lot of different students.

Religious beliefs influence behavior, actions towards homosexuals at school, in life

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Junior Janae Donaldson said that God wanted man to marry a woman and that's final.

Donaldson said homosexuals go against her beliefs, but some parts of the same-sex lifestyle are acceptable. She said she thinks holding hands in public is fine, but anything more intimate needs to stay behind closed doors.

"I don't think they should be allowed to kiss in public," she said.

Donaldson is a Baptist Christian and said her mother has been telling her since childhood that male and female couples are the only way God wanted it. If she was gay, she said she thinks her mom would still accept her despite her beliefs.

Pastor Justin Anthony at Bethel Christian Missionaries said if Christian doesn't fully participate in the religion's belief, then it means she is in violation of the religious system.

"In my religion, the belief system is Christ which is the word of God speaks clearly against the homosexual lifestyle," Anthony said. "It is a sin according to God."

Junior Amber Cade said her religion, Christian Pentecostal, does not believe in it at all. She said God would not want any other being but man and woman because of that she does not affiliate in herself with homosexual students.

"I treat them like human beings, but I don't agree with their way of life," Cade said.

In this state, the majority spoke and homosexual marriages were banned. In legal terms, only male and female will be legally married in God's sight.

Aryeh Azriel, a Rabbi at Temple Israel, said that he has performed one commitment ceremony. He said it has the ingredients of traditional Jewish wedding, there is an exchange of rings and vows, inviting God to participate in the tradition and breaking of a glass.

"I think people in Nebraska are living in an imaginary world," Azriel said. "It needs time to catch up with America."

He said America fears what happens in the bedroom of homosexual people, but they should respect God's wish and fight for equal human rights.

Senior Jill Boston, who is a Christian, said in the bible it states that God does not want homosexual couples.

"It is God's word," Boston said. "He literally said it, and I said it was wrong."

The bible is interpreted differently by religions, senior Minister Doug Pfeiffer said.

Pfeiffer is a Minister at Faith Christian Church and he said their belief is very open and that every person can have different lifestyles.

He said God is more accepting, but he has never performed any commitment ceremonies.

Father Harry Buse at Leo's St. Church said

in the Catholic religion, they believe people have natural tendencies as heretics, but it is not accepted. He said any marriage that is not between a male and a female is seen as sinful.

"Marriage is a lifelong commitment between a male and a female," Buse said.

Azriel said in the bible there are only two verses about homosexuality, and so many more on other topics.

"Too many people focus on these two verses," Azriel said. "The bible also says to love thy neighbor as thyself. What about that verse?"

Boston said that if she saw a same sex couple at school who were kissing she thinks she would report it to administration. But then she said she might not because she does not want to get involved in their lifestyle.

"I condemn them, I respect them as people, but I don't accept it," Boston said.

Man was made to have kids with a woman sophomore Aamita Laffinette said.

She said she would not protest the same sex couples, but it is against her religion.

"I don't say anything to them (same sex couples)," Laffinette said. "It wouldn't make them change their beliefs."

Azriel said he remembers fighting against the 416 bill. I voted against it in support of equal human rights. He said people need to respect God's image of people.

"Fat people, ones with glasses, straight, gay or lesbian are all God's people," he said. "I was fighting for rights adequate insurance of adoption which is grounding in my religion, Judaism."

He said he wouldn't prescribe any of the religions that are willing to abuse humanity.

The people who do not fully believe in the religion's beliefs shouldn't be with that religion at all.

Differences of opinions and beliefs exist.

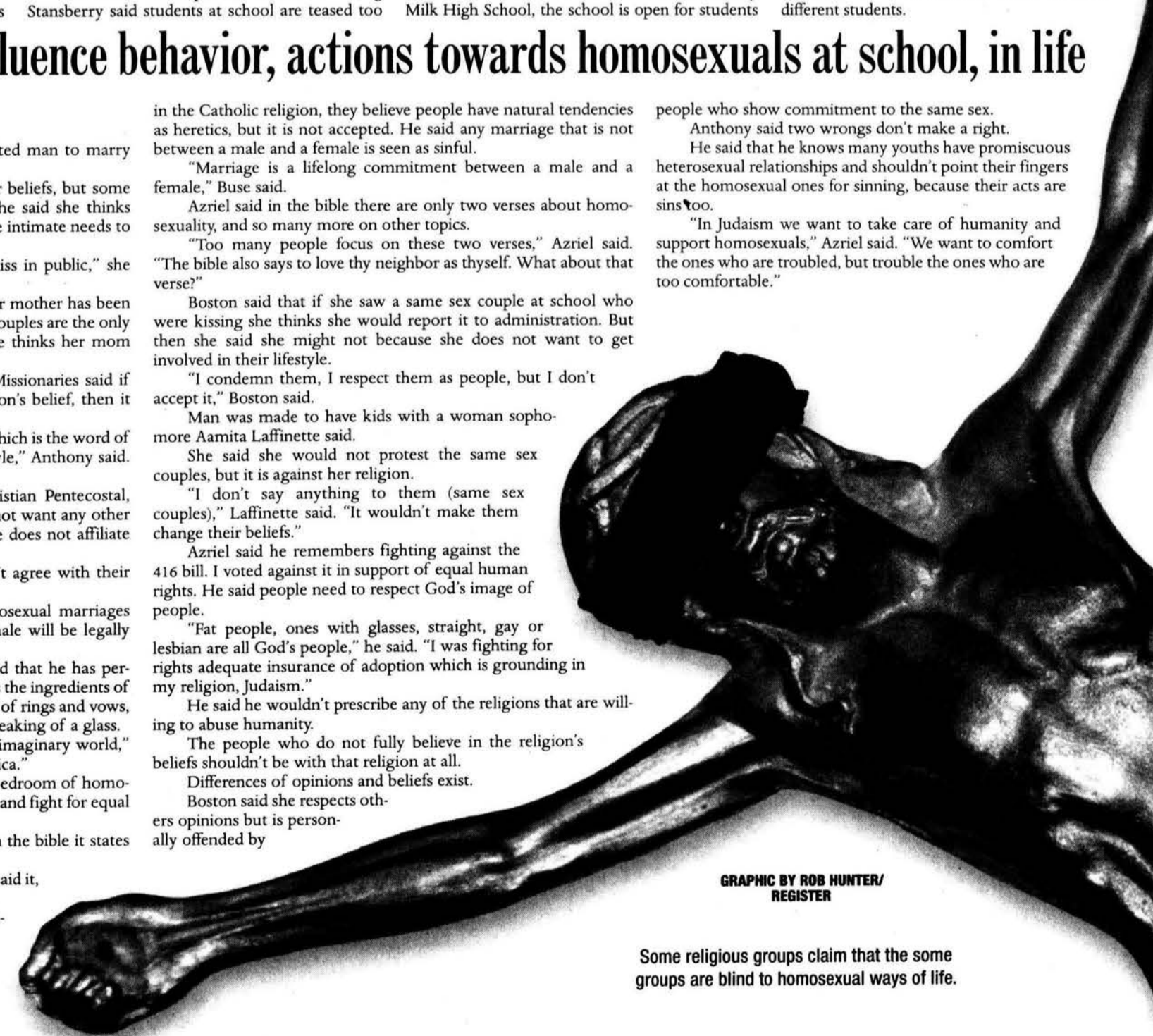
Boston said she respects others opinions but is personally offended by

people who show commitment to the same sex.

Anthony said two wrongs don't make a right.

He said that he knows many youths have promiscuous heterosexual relationships and shouldn't point their fingers at the homosexual ones for sinning, because their acts are sins too.

"In Judaism we want to take care of humanity and support homosexuals," Azriel said. "We want to comfort the ones who are troubled, but trouble the ones who are too comfortable."



GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Some religious groups claim that the some groups are blind to homosexual ways of life.

DEPRESSION

Junior finds safe way to deal with tragedies.

BY DANIELLE WELTY

**Name changed to protect identity.*

Mary Smith* has been taking Zoloft since the middle of her sophomore year, after attempting to deal with the death of her mother, several suicide attempts and other self-destructive behavior.

"I felt overwhelmed and depressed for the longest time with my mom dying and grandpa dying and moving to different houses that were strange to me," Smith said.

Smith's mother was diagnosed with lung cancer when she was just 13 and died six months later, even though she had been receiving treatment.

"My mom began feeling sick the middle of June after my eighth grade year," Smith said. "The doctors weren't sure what was wrong with her, so my grandma moved in to help and that was basically my whole freshman year."

After Smith's mother's death, she moved into her grandma's house.

Smith said she stayed there until her grandmother said she could no longer care for her, which was during the beginning of Smith's sophomore year.

"I was rarely home and my grandma said I was acting abusive and disrespectful," Smith said. "She said she was going to send me to Boys and Girls Town."

Smith said she did not have any other choice. Her grandma was her only family and the two other options available to her were either Boys Town or foster care.

"To get into Boys and Girls Town you have to write a letter explaining why you want to enter into the program and how it would benefit you," Smith said.

One of Smith's close friends and her family realized she needed help and offered their support and the option to begin a new life. Smith said her best friend's family found out about her predicament three days before she was to be picked up and transported to Boys and Girls Town.

They decided it would be better that Smith live with them.

"My best friend's father called my grandma and talked to her for nearly three hours explaining that it would be OK if I lived with them," Smith said. "I moved in the next day and have been living there since as another one of their daughters."

Smith said she had been seeing a counselor

since she was 12, who believed that medication might be an answer for her after Smith came clean about her suicide attempts and destructive behavior.

It was then that Smith's depression issues were really addressed.

"I attempted suicide three times," Smith said. "The first time I took a whole bunch of pills and just got really sick for a few days, and the other two times I tried cutting my wrists."

Smith said she had been cutting to deal with the pain of her mother's sickness because bothering her friends with all of her problems and yelling at her mom weren't good enough solutions.

"I couldn't yell, scream or cry because then people would know that something was wrong," Smith said. "So after finding out one of my friends cut and seeing her feel better, I decided to try it."

Smith said that the cutting got really bad after they began to get infected because she would put anti-bacterial gel and rubbing alcohol on her cuts to make them burn and cause her more pain.

"I got to the point where if I fell and got hurt, I wouldn't even feel it because I was so numb from the constant pain of cutting," Smith said. "One time I cut my leg on a table and it was bleeding everywhere, but it didn't even phase me."

She said she cut for two years until some friends confronted her and it was only then that Smith decided it was time to tell her counselor.

"I didn't want to tell anyone because I hate

people being disappointed in me," Smith said. "I thought I could handle it and get over it myself."

Soon after she came clean to her counselor, she recommended that Smith be put on anti-depressants, but her grandma refused. Smith said since her grandma was still considered to be her legal guardian, it took a lot to convince her to let Smith take any kind of medication.

"I went to see a doctor so they could prescribe the right medication for me and they asked me all of these odd questions like hearing odd voices, seeing images that aren't really there," Smith said. "I realized that a lot of what she was asking I had experienced."

Smith said she now takes Zoloft on a regular basis and feels much better.

"I have a quick temper and ever since I've been on medication, my fuse isn't as short, I'm calmer and happier," Smith said.

She said if she ever forgets to take her medication she feels horrible and reverts to her old feelings and behavior.

"Before Zoloft, thoughts were always running through my head, I was really anxious, always fidgeting I was cranky and it just wasn't how I wanted to be," Smith said.



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

CHS scores higher on ACT than most schools in district

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Results from the area high schools ACT scores are in, and Central scored higher than the majority of Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

Central scored an average of 21.2 on the major college entrance exam (ACT), with the highest possible score being 36 in both the 2002 and 2003 school years, with 62 percent of the seniors taking the test.

These scores and the amount of students taking the test were higher than every other OPS school, with the exception of Burke High school.

Some Nebraska high schools did not even meet the University of Nebraska system admission standard, which is a score of 20 or higher on the ACT. This is a concern for OPS and surrounding districts.

Advanced Education counselor Kelly Scott said to help inform students and motivate them to take the ACT or SAT, the guidance department arranged special post secondary planning workshop for guardians of college bound seniors.

The guidance office also offers free information on scholarships and other forms of help involved in furthering a student's education.

Tutoring information is also available for the ACT, SAT and PSAT for underclass students.

Scott said students should take the ACT if they are planning on going to college anywhere in the Midwest and the SAT if they plan on going to school along the east or west coast.

"If students have any inclination of furthering their education, they should take the ACT or SAT just to keep the doors open," Scott said.

Scott said that if students don't take the tests for college reasons, they should take it to know where they stand amongst their peers. Counselors also motivate students to plan for the futures by going around to English classes and inform students about the options after school and help them narrow down their career possibilities with several different personality tests.

Scott said that when students are signing up for classes, they're encouraged to take college preparatory classes to make that next step a little easier.

"One of Central's strengths is that it is guided towards the college experience," Scott said.

There are many students who have decided that college is not the right path for them and have other plans in the future.

Automated essay test fails to appeal

BY MIKE SMITH

An automated system for checking essays does not look likely for schools in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) district anytime soon.

According to the Educational Testing Service, 104,000 students and 2,700 teachers are using Criterion, an automated system that checks essays in 535 schools primarily in the United States. Four-fifths are at middle or high schools, and the remainders are at colleges or universities.

Principal Jerry Bexten said that he does not see this program being used in the near future, but one can never say never. He said that he assumes that the Criterion program is not cheap. He said that it would, however, help teachers correct more essays, while letting more students write like most objective tests.

Freshman Morgan Shumaker said that the new grading system would be very efficient.

"It is very organized and would

correct the essays at a rapid rate," Shumaker said.

The automated essay-scoring engine behind Criterion, called e-rater, has been used to score more than 1.5 million essays on the Graduate Management Admission Test, or GMAT. The machine score and the human score are in agreement 97 to 98 percent of the time.

Junior Will Denton said that the Criterion would not get the student perspective in the essay.

"It just wouldn't get the point across that a teacher might understand," Denton said.

This system is very similar to the Scantron program that Central uses, except the Criterion does not correct multiple-choice answers.

E-rater cannot read or judge an essay's quality, but uses statistical analysis to determine which linguistic features are characteristic of each human scoring level, typically on a scale from one to six.

State officials say graduation requirements have increased, which will result in better educated students

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The state is going to be keeping a closer eye on the grading system, graduation rates and need-based students this year.

The grading system is going to be challenged by new tests, Principal Jerry Bexten said at the media conference held before the school year.

"Tests are adjusted to enhance writing in all areas, by teaching the reading system and problem solving," Bexten said.

Bexten said the school has students who have scored a perfect 36 on the ACT and also has the highest population of students who don't speak English as their first language.

At the media conference, Nebraska commissioner of education Doug Christensen said that this year, there will be different ways to ensure all the schools in the state reach high excellence.

He said there will be a new graduation rate calculation method, group data and certain goals each school must achieve.

"(The formulas are) to ensure that no child is denied an opportunity to learn," Christensen said.

This will also show if the students received an adequate grade from the teachers.

Bexten said an example of the goals of the school will be its mastery achieved on the CRT.

Earning a three or a four on

all CRTs is what it takes to achieve mastery.

"Grade 11 will have to demonstrate a 66 percent mastery on the test," Bexten said. "Ninety-five percent of the grade 11 students must take the test and teachers aren't allowed to pick and choose the students (who will take the tests)."

The school is expected to meet an average, Bexten said. If it doesn't, the school could fall below and become a school in need of help.

He said this is enforced by the federal legislation of No Child Left Behind, but is also the state's own goals.

Junior Amelia Shuster said it's good for the school and parents to know if a particular grade is near failing status.

She said it obviously wouldn't be good for the school to fall below the goals set.

"For 66 percent of the juniors to pass the CRTs is a good number," Shuster said, "but there should be more one-on-one time available for the students."

Director of student support services Nita Merrigan-Potthoff said she helps students with their homework during and after school hours.

She said they work with areas that need to see success and that it first started as two sections, but now it is at eight sections.

Sophomore Brandon Shelby said he thinks for 66 percent of the students to score a passing grade is too high.

He said that is more than half of the juniors who need to pass the tests. He said some students just don't care about the standardized tests.

"There are students falling through the cracks that need motivation so they can succeed in school," Merrigan-Potthoff said.

Shuster said if students' grades get really bad, they will need help, but maintain their own responsibility.

"Too much is based off of test scores," Shelby said.

The graduation rate will show the number of seniors who walked across the stage at graduation from their freshman year. Graduation rates that have been performed in the past started from the beginning of senior year to graduation.

Bexten said all of this information will be published in the newspapers for the public to learn if there is a problem or not with the school systems.

Christensen said the reason of printing the records is to see how the parents of the community will respond to the data.

Bexten said the students who have withdrawn or moved to a different school or district will be subtracted from the rate. He said it also mentioned five-year-graduates will be reflected in the graduation rates.

Which means these student who take five years to graduate won't be ignored from the formula like they were years in the past. Shuster said she doesn't know if this will solve any

problems at school, but it will raise awareness for the school and show something is not working.

Christensen said parents hold a major key in children's education.

"There is more they (parents) need to do than the simple question of 'how was school,'" Christensen said.

He said parents need to supply a friendly home for the students to live study and read. Students also need places where they can get sufficient amounts of rest and nutrition.

Shuster said both students and teachers are at fault.

She said some teachers just run through their curriculum by assigning the homework, but never really help students on the subject.

Merrigan-Potthoff said she doesn't think teachers stress study and learning skills in a positive strong manner. She said the faculty is ahead of the problem by doing after school tutoring.

"Teachers do help kids," Shelby said. "But it would work better if the (students) could sign up for their own personal tutor."

English teacher Christine Hiddleston said the excels program at school is a program open for kids to study and get teachers assistance.

"Every class needs to provide the best educational practices," Hiddleston said.

Christensen said the challenge for this year is for the community and faculties is to roll up their sleeves and work together.



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

OPS assistant superintendent Janelle Mullen spoke at the media conference about the national policies with education in comparison to what the state has planned.

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APATHETIC OR PATRIOTIC

The building was silent as students, faculty held on to memories of victims of Sept. 11, two years later. While some students, teachers attended ceremonies at school and around the city to pay respect, others could seem to care less.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BECCA MAYHEW

Becca Mayhew blows bubbles for children in Afghanistan.

Senior's mission: to help children

BY MIKE SMITH

Senior Becca Mayhew not only remembered an event that changed our lives this summer, but lived through the outcome of the war on terror.

Mayhew for two straight weeks attended a church sponsored trip to Afghanistan.

Mayhew and her church were to attend the foreign country in hopes to do it with things that it needed.

The group headed to Kabul, Afghanistan. Mayhew and the church brought a huge supply of items.

"We brought anything from toys to bubbles," Mayhew said.

Trinity Church, which Mayhew belongs to, offered \$1000 worth of things to give to the children.

"We showed around 350 girls how to brush their teeth with brand new toothbrushes and brand new shampoo to wash their hair," Mayhew said.

She said that this was the kind of gift that these kids had never seen before.

She also said it was interesting to see them taking a liking to the cars and the bubble gum.

Mayhew said that the trip included a lot of meetings with the people from the country. She said that there was a lot of need and poverty that the group had to go through.

She said that her mother went to Afghanistan years ago when the Taliban was in control and said that women had to act differently then they do now.

She said that after the attacks of Sept. 11, it was neat to see the other side of what was actually going on over that country and what these people were actually going through.

"No one in America saw how hard the people were and how some of them really have expressed love for Americans," Mayhew said.

She said the group stayed in a guest-house that was safe. She said that times, Kabul had threats on foreign nationals.

"So, at times we did have to stay inside for long periods of time," Mayhew said.

She said that they did see other American guards and that they went up to them and expressed their gratitude to them and for what they were doing.

"They seemed to enjoy just seeing other Americans after all the fighting," Mayhew said.

She said that a rewarding thing was seeing the children.



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Senior Sam Smith-Schull sings a song with CHS Singers to remember the victims of Sept. 11, two years later. Some students observed the anniversary, while others showed little sympathy or patriotism.

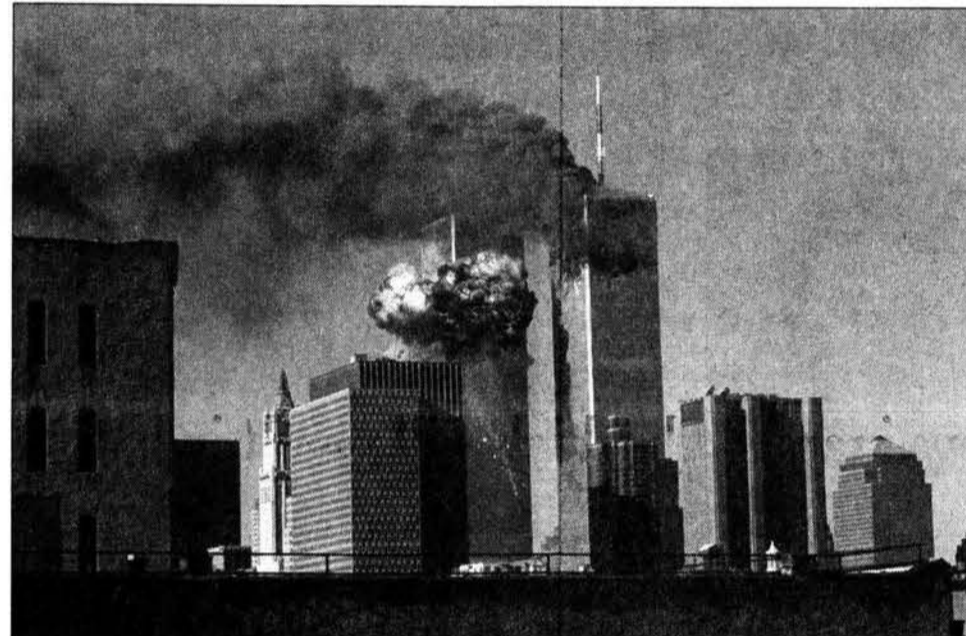


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREY CONOVER

Senior Robbie Garvin (RIGHT) plays taps as the Central ROTC present the flag at half-staff. The World Trade Center (LEFT) was struck by two airline jets on September 11, 2001 in terrorist hijackings.



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Students, faculty remember tragedy

BY MIKE SMITH

A moment of silence marked the second anniversary of the attacks that stunned the nation on September 11, 2001.

Although some students and faculty observed the anniversary, others seemed less patriotic.

It seemed like some students didn't even care. Central, as a school, did manage to observe the day respectfully.

Inside the courtyard, the CHS Singers commemorated the event by singing "God Bless America."

Students and faculty were memorized by the sound as both faculty and students remembered the attacks.

Outside, the JROTC cadets were doing their part by lowering the flag to half-staff.

Seniors Nick Waszak and Robbie Garvin played taps as the flag was lowered.

Tributes both in and out of the classroom marked a respectful tribute to the men and women who lost their lives on Sept. 11.

President George W. Bush and Congress designated Sept. 11 as Patriot Day.

Principal Jerry Bexten along with the senior class paid a special tribute to the victims and families at the beginning of their senior homeroom with a moment of silence.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad came on the intercom asking students for a moment of silence, after the "Pledge of Allegiance" was read during homeroom.

The school was silent as students paid tribute to the anniversary. The unique thing about the moment of silence was that it never really officially ended. Semrad announced it and every classroom went into silence.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said the attacks were so far away that the anniversary affected her differently.

"If I knew someone who perished then I would think differently," Kirksey said.

Kirksey said that the moment of silence was really something important. She said that in past years, the school has had a moment of silence, but since Sept. 11, students have really taken heart and kept silent.

Bexten said that they tried to coordinate the anniversary as well as they possibly could.

To commemorate the event Burke High School hosted an assembly that students attended entitled "The Search for Bin Laden," during its fifth hour classes.

Bexten said that no assembly took place because there is not a facility to hold a school the size of Central. Guidance secretary Melissa Henderson said that the anniversary really hit home.

"I was in New York just 48 days before the attacks took place," Henderson said.

Henderson said that she made sure that on the third anniversary she spent time with her family.

"My husband and my family talked awhile and we lit a candle to remember as we said a prayer," Henderson said.

Sophomore Bridget Meade said that she really did not know what to do on the anniversary.

Annual meeting brings students, teachers closer together while adhering to rules of public

BY MIKE SMITH

Students and faculty united to pray for peace for everyone in and out of the classrooms.

On Sept. 19 a national student prayer rally titled, "See You at the Pole" occurred before school across the United States and right here in Central.

Senior Kaley Eledge has been participating in the prayer rally since her freshman year.

Eledge said that there were quite a few people at the rally this year.

"The biggest crowd was in 2001 after the Sept. 11 attacks," Eledge said.

Some students thought there would be more people praying at the pole.

Eledge said that the rally gained a lot of people in 2001 because the attacks occurred so early in the week and the rally occurred later in the same week.

Sophomore Michael Mohr attended the prayer rally and felt united with the other students and teachers.

"I heard about the rally through my church and I also saw the signs that were posted around the school," Mohr said.

Mohr is a Christian and he went to pray for peace in our school.

Mohr was surprised at the turn out at the rally.

He said that he saw students, teachers and security guards.

He said it was nice to see the different kinds of people who are actually Christians at school that are usually hidden at a public school setting.

Some students are very open about their religious beliefs.

They really don't care and are proud of what they believe in.

Eledge said that a prayer club has been formed.

She said that it will be every Tuesday morning in room 246.

"Anyone is welcome to the service, no matter what religion you are," Eledge said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said that all of

these activities of that nature have to all be student initiated. If any students want to form some type of club, they must follow two specific guidelines. They must be both student-organized and student-initiated.

Bexten said that they would provide a place for the meeting.

Unlike other clubs who have sponsors, Bexten said that this type of club would have a staff monitor instead.

Bexten also said that just like any other club, they are free to advertise their meeting around the school.

Whether it is signs or announcements in the daily circular, they have the same rights as every other club in the school.

Mohr said that he probably will not join the club because he does not have any spare time, but said that he will definitely attend the rally next year at the pole.

He also said that he wished that more students would stand up for their rights and show their true colors and their religious background.



PHOTO BY KATIE MAPES/REGISTER

Senior Abby Franklin prays with fellow students at the annual prayer. Some students thought more people would be at the pole after the two anniversary of Sept. 11. That was not the case.

Pledge leaves older students in their desks

BY ASHLEY BROWN

While most juniors and seniors sleep through the "Pledge of Allegiance" during homeroom, freshmen and sophomores are voluntarily standing.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the lower classmen's obedience to say the pledge is due to timing.

He said the pledge was not enforced until after the Sept. 11 attacks, so the current juniors and seniors had a year off from reciting it, whereas freshmen and sophomores have been saying the pledge all through middle school.

"Upperclassmen probably haven't done the pledge since elementary school," Bexten said. "It wasn't practiced, but it was brought back into practice after the Sept. 11 attacks."

Sophomore Dan Labenz said he stands because he has been doing it for years and is now used to it.

"We had to stand in middle school," Labenz said. "I stand although not many people stand."

Some underclassmen said they don't stand not because of lack of respect for the country, but because of the lack of flags in the classroom.

"There isn't even a flag in my homeroom," said sophomore Brent Pauba. "Nobody stands up. Then you would feel stupid because everybody is looking at you."

Sophomore Hannah Andahl said she doesn't stand for the pledge for the same reason.

Both of these students are in English teacher Dr. Jurgen Shawver's first hour study hall.

Bexten said he was unaware of the shortage of flags.

He said last year every classroom was supplied with a flag by Woodmen of the World.

The Omaha Public School district also supplies flags and Bexten said there should be a flag in every classroom.

Bexten said the only flag he knew of that was missing was in the courtyard.

He said he was notified and a large flag was placed on the second side of the room.

He said if there are any classrooms that are without flags, the teacher should notify him and he will make sure to supply the class with a flag.

Shawver said he thinks one of the reason's students don't stand for his first hour class is because of the number of students.

"It seems like the more students in the room the more students don't stand," Shawver said.

Shawver said he thinks students should stand and show respect for the country and those who have fought for their freedom in the past and junior and Army reserve member Rob Montag agrees.

Montag said although he had a break from reciting the pledge until after the Sept. 11 attacks, he still stands every morning.

Although Montag considers himself to be patriotic, he thinks everybody should stand.

"People should stand for the pledge," Montag said. "It's people like me who are the reason these kids are able to go to school. They should show some respect."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

One common example of a virus is known as a worm because this type of virus is able to "worm" its way passed firewalls and filters to re-create itself because it is included in e-mail that is used everyday.

Officials concerned with disabled filters

Access to personal e-mails, pornography, other offensive sites may lead to viruses.

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) doesn't condone student access to unsuitable materials for a school setting and has designed software to prevent access to inappropriate Web sites, administrator David Andersen said.

Pornography is considered offensive material to the school and the restriction settings at school aren't successfully blocking these Web pages.

Network system engineer at OPS David Boster said that there is a filter undergoing maintenance, which allows access only for personal e-mail accounts.

"It's a glitch in the filter for outside accounts to be allowed," Boster said. "It should be fixed soon."

He said the firewalls in the district were updated, but the problem with the e-mail filter doesn't have anything to do with the change.

With students being able to access their e-mails, it has increased the chance of viruses being downloaded.

He said there hasn't been any reports made to him about viruses.

According to the Student Handbook, e-mail accounts shouldn't be accessed, because it involves personal material.

It states that schools want to have online privacy and safety.

Which means it doesn't want students talking about their personal lives because it could lead to meeting the corresponding people from on-line.

The codes also enforce being respectful. The amount of profanity can't be monitored with personal accounts like it can with the school's.

Sophomore Laronda Wright said that she thinks the Internet at school shouldn't block e-mails because some students don't have computers at home.

"They (students) need to check their mail and they should have freedom at school," Wright said.

If the school is worried about profanity or viruses, she said they should have some sort of a control or setting to scan the Web page before it fully opens.

Boster said that is what the filters are set to do.

Instead of scanning individual e-mails before it's opened, the filters block the site entirely.

The filters the district has set up allow the option for administrators and teachers to write a report to have the student punished.

Since the filter is down, students can be getting away with offensive material.

Sophomore Dan Susman said that he thinks the district should keep the filter off because students can check up on other things than school.

"It could work for the classes that aren't doing much work in," Susman said. "I could check my e-mail and send messages to people."

Susman said if pornography was involved, then that should be blocked, but he doesn't think anyone looks up things like that during school.

An option to check e-mail to send offensive material or to download viruses to the school's network isn't on freshman Tasha Teamer's mind.

She said she thinks it will make the school better to have the option to check and write e-mails at school.

"A friend could e-mail you the

homework assignment," Teamer said.

Freshman Nathan Anderson said it depends on the way the students use the personal accounts.

"If they are being used for just e-mails, that should be fine," Anderson said. "But if they are used to download viruses then something should be done."

Andersen said the filters are not 100 percent perfect, but he and the other administrators will use the punishments in the handbook if a student is using the Internet to look up unsuitable sites.

In a Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) class, Susman said that the computers in the room have random pop-up windows.

"I am just working and then an ad pops up," Susman said. "None of them are porn though."

Network administrator David Reinhart said that at the end of last year, there was a problem with the computers on the network.

There were improper pop-ups, some dealing with sexual references.

This year, he said that there aren't any problems with the computers, but he said the filters aren't fool proof and sometimes things do get past the restrictions.

All of the filtering is done at the Teachers Administrative Center (TAC).

He said the filtering there does get tighter and updates frequently to ensure unsafe sites are restricted.

Boster said a way to fix the problem of students going to prohibited parts of the Internet is to have a teacher supervising in the room.

"I am strongly enforcing that no unsupervised labs are used," Reinhart said.

With teachers observing every room and watching the students as they use the Internet, he said he doesn't think there will be any problems.

The classes are also very full and so teachers and other students could see if anyone was downloading unsuitable things.

"It hasn't been much of a problem this year, because there aren't any open computer labs available," Reinhart said. "Most of the computer access is in classes."

Andersen said the e-mails would be a distraction during classes and the filters are necessary for the school environment.

He said students are going to be receiving e-mail accounts through the school's system.

With these accounts, he doesn't find necessary to have the personal ones in use.

E-mail accounts will be set up with the students by filling out a card and the account is activated.

He said it would be up to the student to activate an account.

The Student Handbook clearly states that no personal information should be given out on the Internet at school.

Andersen said that there are also guidelines with not allowing offensive Web pages to be accessed.

First offenses for accessing vulgar pages are 15 school days without any access to the computers.

Andersen said the punishment could then increase to expulsion if students continue to violate the codes.

2003 HALL of FAME: *Nine of the Best*

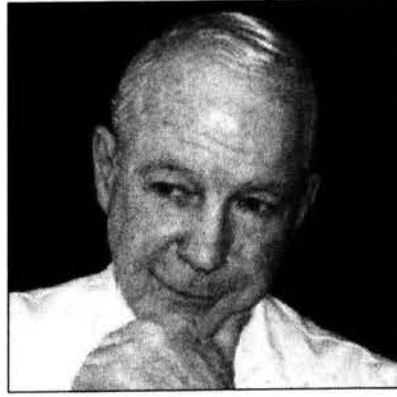
Nine graduates of Central will be inducted into the school's hall of fame at the fifth annual Alumni Association Hall of Fame banquet on Thursday, Oct. 2. The festivities will begin with a dinner held in the courtyard of the 103-year-old building, followed by the induction ceremony that is opened to the public.

This event shows the tradition of achievement for which the school is well-known. *Below are this year's inductees.*



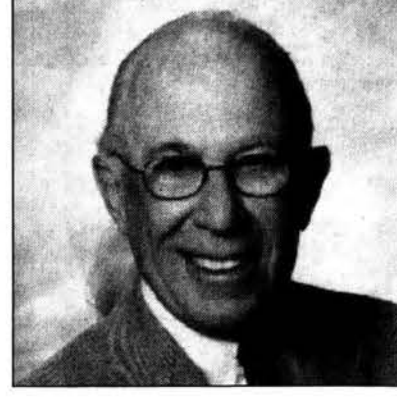
Dolores Carlson Owen
Class of 1936

Owen is a native Omahan whose leadership in community service is legendary. She has served on numerous boards. Owen continues to be active with the Playhouse, Goodwill Industries, General Crook House, St. Joseph's Hospital and Salvation Army.



John F. Latenser
Class of 1940

Latenser has been a clinical assistant professor of surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center for over 50 years. He has developed innovative wound-healing procedures and skin cancer operations and holds patents on devices for low back pain.



Gerald A. Hoberman
Class of 1954

Hoberman, the retired president of Tires Inc., founded the Winners Circle Educational Program at Belvedere Elementary in 1995. The program was patterned after a similar one in his business. He has received many humanitarian awards.



Raymond (Rusty) M. Crossman
Class of 1966

Crossman is an Omaha ophthalmologist whose vision for Central led to the development of the CHS Foundation which benefits students, staff and the community. He was instrumental in the completion of the Vietnam memorial at the school's west entrance.



Wilda Chue Stephenson
Class of 1939

Stephenson was one of the first African American teachers at Central, instructing in the business department. She received an honorary doctorate from Midland Lutheran College in 1997 and has also been honored by the YWCA, UNL, UNO, and the Wesely House.



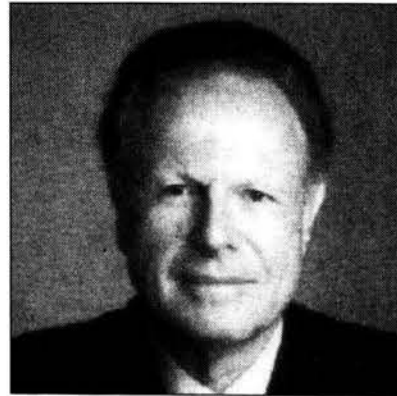
Peter J. Hoagland
Class of 1959

Hoagland served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from Nebraska's second district from 1989 to 1995. He was a frequent speaker in Central government classes. A graduate of Stanford University and Yale Law School, he currently practices law in



Donald F. Othmer
Class of 1921

Othmer's many contributions to the world of chemical engineering earned him countless accolades throughout his distinguished career. In 1932, he joined the Chemical Engineering Department at Brooklyn Polytechnic University until his death in 1996.



Phillip G. Schragger
Class of 1955

Schragger is a highly successful Omaha Entrepreneur, sponsor of an inner-city mentoring program, and a passionate collector of modern art. Schragger was named King of Ak-Sar-Ben in 2000 for his generosity, leadership, and dedication to the community.



Evelyn Adler Zysman
Class of 1926

Zysman has been an advocate for children for many of her 92 years. She has won many awards for her advocacy of children and is still active in the community. She championed several preschool programs, including Project Chance and Head Start.

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LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Students use many different forms of transportation to go to and from school safely. Money is a deciding factor in determining what mode of transportation is chosen.

Vans disappearing because of safety; students grateful

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The number of vans students use to and from school are slowly diminishing because the vehicles are not considered very safe anymore.

Director of transportation at Omaha Public Schools (OPS) David Wolfe said vans aren't labeled as being safe anymore because they don't have security cameras and too many people are packed in for trips.

Senior Erin Jensen said she thinks there needs to be cameras on the vans because it transports students.

The passengers on the vans with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) are usually students who live in shelters or special education courses.

Van driver Phil Malone said that he thinks it varies with each bus.

He said a driver can tell how a route is going to go by the behavior of the passengers.

He said none of the vans have cameras. However, assistants to the drivers will ride along to report any disturbances.

Freshman Melvin Knudsen said he isn't worried about his safety because his driver is comforting.

Knudsen rides one of the vans at school.

He said the driver doesn't show any threat of harming the students.

Wolfe said if a student accuses the driver of any sort of physical or verbal abuse, the results could be harsh.

Malone said if any abuse was reported, the driver's job would be terminated immediately.

Wolfe said if a driver was accused of hitting another student, he would be terminated.

The students on the vans would also be questioned as to what they saw.

He said he couldn't personally hire or fire his employees, but he can make recommendations.

"It is dangerous, if there was something brought up that happened to a student than cameras are a must," Knudsen said.

To install cameras on one van, Malone said he thinks it would roughly cost \$300.

"That is why we have aides on the vans," Wolfe said. "Of course we have had assaults like this in the past and that is why I would want cameras on every van."

Money like that could be used elsewhere, sophomore Danielle Knutson said.

She said she thinks if it would cost that much for all the vans the transportation department at OPS could just save the funds.

"The cameras aren't even that big a deal," Knutson said.

He said that 25 years ago was when the vans became less popular because students weren't being transported to different schools in vans that were not thought of as safe.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Freshman Israel Pommells gets on the Metro Area Transport (MAT) bus after school. It costs \$1.25 each time a person rides.

Students ungrateful for public transportation

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Metro Area Transit (MAT) buses have kicked students off the system because of misconduct.

Marketing director of MAT buses Lynda Barritt said that MAT buses kicked Norris Middle School students off the system last year.

"Students are primarily the only problem MAT bus has with its passengers," Barritt said. "We don't expect anything different from the rules they are suppose to follow at school."

When sophomore Katerra Carroll leaves school and walks to her bus stop, she hopes there will be enough seats left for her. The buses are overcrowded and usually 20 people are always standing on the afternoon ride home.

Despite the congested buses she said she doesn't think there needs to be any added security to the buses like security cameras. She said she thinks that if there was a security guard on board, it would be a waste of time because the bus driver can manage the load of the passengers on her route.

"The driver will tell them (passengers) to be quiet," Carroll said. "He will also slow down the bus, too."

MAT wants to make sure the Omaha Public Schools' students are safe, she said.

The performance on safety and being on time are main concerns with MAT.

"The pickups around Central are very different than other parts of the city,"

Marketing director Lynda Barritt said. "So we try to learn the traffic patterns to operate the route through that area."

Overcrowding on the buses is a problem to Carroll. She said she thinks they need to make bigger buses. But Barritt said the company is actually considering scaling down sizes of the buses.

Buses range from 35 to 40 feet long, but she said they want to have buses about 20 feet long. The bigger transits cost \$265,000 that isn't easy to replace or update as frequently as she said the company would want.

The company is evaluating the camera situation. She said they have made many recent investments to increase the security and safety for the buses. Sophomore Nicholas Hug said he doesn't think the cameras would make much of a difference.

He said he thinks the bus and the drivers are pretty safe and there isn't much that needs to be improved on.

"If it causes people to feel safer and more comfortable, then we will consider the option," she said.

Being uncomfortable on the bus has never crossed freshman Israel Pommells' mind. He said he thinks the buses are safe without cameras, and that it could almost be a waste of money. If the driver wasn't able to handle the people, Barritt said they could call in for assistance. She said the buses don't have any cameras installed inside the bus yet because the company just completed Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system.

"The GPS system was \$2.5 million for

testing and installing," she said. "It was completed about six months ago and it does a lot of work creating a safe ride."

Barritt said the GPS system will be able to tell exactly where all of the buses are and it records the time that the bus made its stop. She said that if there were any complaint on timing the system would have a record of the entire route.

Another feature added is if there is a passenger on the bus causing problems, the driver can push a button to have the signs flash, "Help call 911" to inform the public on that there is a problem and call the police.

There also is a dispatch the driver can call. It's a two-way radio to have immediate assistance. Junior Briana Glaze said the safety with the passengers is fine, but some drivers can cause problems or make her feel uncomfortable. She said they get really mad with the student and yell at them a lot.

"Some of the drivers are out of this world," Glaze said. "They don't seem to practice safe driving."

MAT bus employees are required to be at least 25 years of age and have a criminal and driver background check.

"We make sure that they have clean records and need to have a commercial license too," Barritt said.

The commercial license is for a transit vehicle that is when the driver sits in front of the wheels. She said because of this feature on the bus, the drivers have to go through extensive training on how to make safe turns and making it to the stops on time.

Drivers checked in multiple ways

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Sophomore Trista Kelly walks onto the school bus in the morning, hoping she can trust the bus driver who takes her to school.

Kelly questions the safety of some drivers that she has had and said she thinks Laidlaw basically hires anyone.

Operations manager at Laidlaw Josh Goossen said the bus company takes many precautions when hiring its employees. He said Laidlaw has hired a company called DAC that performs background checks on the possible employees.

Kelly said she doesn't think cameras are enough to keep her safe for the entire ride. Sometimes she questions the quality of the drivers.

Some school bus companies have tried to make it more difficult to be a bus driver with the passing requirements the employees must have.

"We (Laidlaw) haven't loosened or tightened security in the recent years," Goossen said. "We do check criminal history."

Laidlaw bus drivers have a number of tests they have to pass before they take the training courses, Goossen said.

District supervisor of Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Ken Mach said to be a bus driver the person must pass eye tests, driving tests and have his Commercial Drivers License (CDL).

According to the Nebraska's Drivers Manual, for a driver to need a CDL he would have to be driving a vehicle that is 26,000 pounds, carries 16 passengers or more or transports hazardous materials.

Goossen said the written test consists of 20 questions. The driving test practices safe child pickups and railroad crossing. He said the drivers are tested and renew their bus-driving permit once a year.

Mach said if the drivers don't pass the written test, they can come back the next day to take it. It is usually the same with the driving test, but sometimes it varies with what they did wrong.

Once a year isn't comforting enough for Kelly. She said she thinks certain drivers should be tested more and that the older drivers should have the eye test at least twice a year.

"I think it (Laidlaw) could be a little stricter," Kelly said.

Bus driver for Laidlaw Stephanie McKeone said there are many requirements that must be met in order to be hired. She said the company checks all the past records.

"They check to see if I have ever had any speeding or parking tickets," McKeone said. "Or if I have ever been in an accident. If I have then I couldn't have been hired."

She said luckily her record is clean because she has never been in an accident that was her fault.

Junior Terrance Robinson said he was on a bus that was involved in an accident when he was in seventh grade. He said the bus driver hit another car.

McKeone said she was in her bus a year ago and another car ran a red light. The car hit the driver's side of the bus, she said no one was injured except her neck hurt a bit.

"I was rushed to Laidlaw's main office before the hospital," McKeone said. "I had to go there and pee in a cup so they could verify I wasn't influenced by anything."

Kelly said she thinks bus drivers should be tested more often if they have drug use or alcoholism in their history.

McKeone said the drivers wouldn't be hired if they have records of substance abuse in the past. She said Laidlaw conducts complete physicals frequently that involves her having drug tests.

"The DMV does a lot of testing with us, too," McKeone said.

The tests pay off when sophomore Jordan Peterson said he hasn't seen any bus drivers that make him feel uncomfortable.

With the cameras on the bus, the drivers can use it in their own defense whether it was an accident or an alleged crime.

McKeone said last year she had to take tapes to the police department to have them analyzed. She said bus drivers' responsibility is taken very seriously and they are even monitored by local police.

Junior purchases illegal items for friends, co-workers by aging nine years with fake ID

BY MIKE SMITH

Name changed to protect identity.

Junior Jack Smith* has been living the life of a 26 year old and he is only 17 years old.

Smith has a fake ID that he purchased for \$20 through a co-worker at his former job. Smith, who used to work at a restaurant, knew a dishwasher who sold fake ID's in his spare time.

"Everyone at my work was buying one, so I thought that should," Smith said.

Smith said that everyone was buying the IDs because they wanted to purchase alcohol and they were not old enough to purchase it.

"I didn't want to buy cigarettes and alcohol, I just wanted for the pleasure of having it," Smith said.

He went with his co-worker to his house and he went

into his basement where he made the IDs.

"He had a bench where he worked and had a lot of advanced computer equipment," Smith said.

Smith had to have his picture taken, but really didn't get to see the making of the ID and didn't really understand what he was doing when he saw the man making them. Smith said that the man who was on the ID was 24 years old. He bought it when he was 15 so it was a huge age gap.

Smith said that his other co-workers at work knew that he had the ID and he told a couple of friends that he had one also.

"Right when my friends knew that I had one, they wanted me to buy them cigarettes, cigars and alcohol," Smith said.

Smith said that he doesn't do any illegal things, so he was not eager to do them. Smith claims to never have used the ID anywhere. He said he keeps it in his room away from the rest of his family.

Smith may have trouble after the next four years, when the old licenses become extinct.

The new licenses that were introduced this year are not like the former laminated one's that Smith currently has.

They are made on holographic cards with the states emblem on it, which makes it extremely difficult for a person to reproduce. The cards also have a barcode on them that lets the Omaha Police Department (OPD) scan them into the computers in their cruisers to access the public's criminal records.

OPD Officer and Media Spokesperson Cathy Martiec said that if a person ever was caught using a fake ID or making them, they would be arrested.

Martiec also said that after the arrest the Douglas County District Attorney will give the person the proper charge depending on the circumstance.

School Resource Officer JV Stokes said that it is illegal to manufacture or alter any sort of identification.



GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Nebraska has created new IDs for people over 21 that officials claim are difficult to re-create.

Supervisor for OPS bus supplier shows concerns about kids getting to school safely through quality of drivers

BY MIKE SMITH

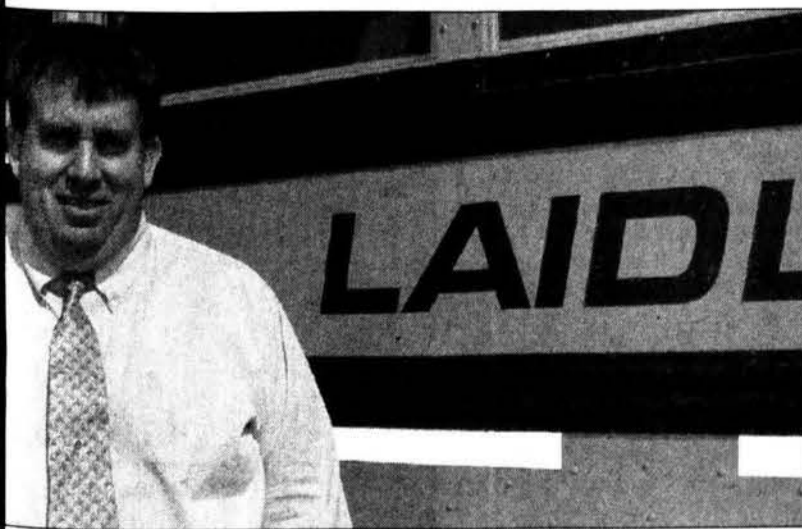


PHOTO BY BRIAN LEE/REGISTER

Phil O'Donnell is in charge of supervising all Laidlaw transportation for Omaha Public Schools and Council Bluffs Public Schools.

A job that requires supervising the Laidlaw busing service in Omaha and Council Bluffs can be tiring.

Laidlaw has the perfect man for the job.

Phil O'Donnell is the overall supervisor in the Nebraska and Iowa District for the Laidlaw busing service.

O'Donnell has been with Laidlaw for 22 years and has pretty much done the same job the whole time.

O'Donnell's job is to look over the affairs and operations of all of the busing facilities in Omaha and Council Bluffs.

He said that his and Laidlaw's main emphasis is on providing busing for schools.

"We have two busing facilities for Omaha Public Schools (OPS), one facility for the Millard School District and

one facility also for the Council Bluffs School District," O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell said that Laidlaw has 271 rounds around the city of Omaha for busing, which he says does not include the vans that they charter, just the big yellow buses.

Security guard Frank Zavorka in the mornings of the school day is responsible to check in each and every Laidlaw bus that lets students out.

"Any problems that occur, I will deal with them and take care of the situation," Zavorka said.

He said that he is always in the position to deal with things like that. He said that ever since he can remember, he has been checking in and out buses.

Zavorka also said that his main concern is the safety of the students on the bus, being a security guard and all.

O'Donnell said that during the

school year, the main emphasis is not providing busing for students.

O'Donnell said that during the summertime, chartered buses are distributed to the City of Omaha along with many other organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club.

O'Donnell said a typical day for him consists of going from branch to branch.

"I am at the different branches for an hour or so discussing issues with the manager," O'Donnell said.

He said he deals with everything from school busing to employee problems.

"I basically oversee everything that goes on," O'Donnell said.

He said some of the challenges he has faced during the workday take time to overcome.

"The most continuous challenge is the bus drivers working with the kids

is probably the toughest challenge,"

O'Donnell said. O'Donnell said that at the moment with the failing economy, there is not a real shortage of drivers that he has to replace.

He said that his drivers, who are 21 or older, have to go under contract and have to have 35 continuous hours of education.

He also said that if they will be driving for OPS students, OPS require and additional five hours of continuous education.

Overall, O'Donnell said that his job is very rewarding.

"The best part is to look at everything at the end of the day and see how it all comes together," O'Donnell said.

He said that he sees himself continuing this in the future, but his main concern is getting the kids to school and getting them home at night.

"Bessie"

BESSIE SMITH

Client #13: Frederick J. Brown, **ARTIST**. Shows in New York, New Orleans and Beijing, China; Advertising by Webpute.



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OPINION



ACT/SAT King, PAGE 16B

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

THE RENOVATION MAZE

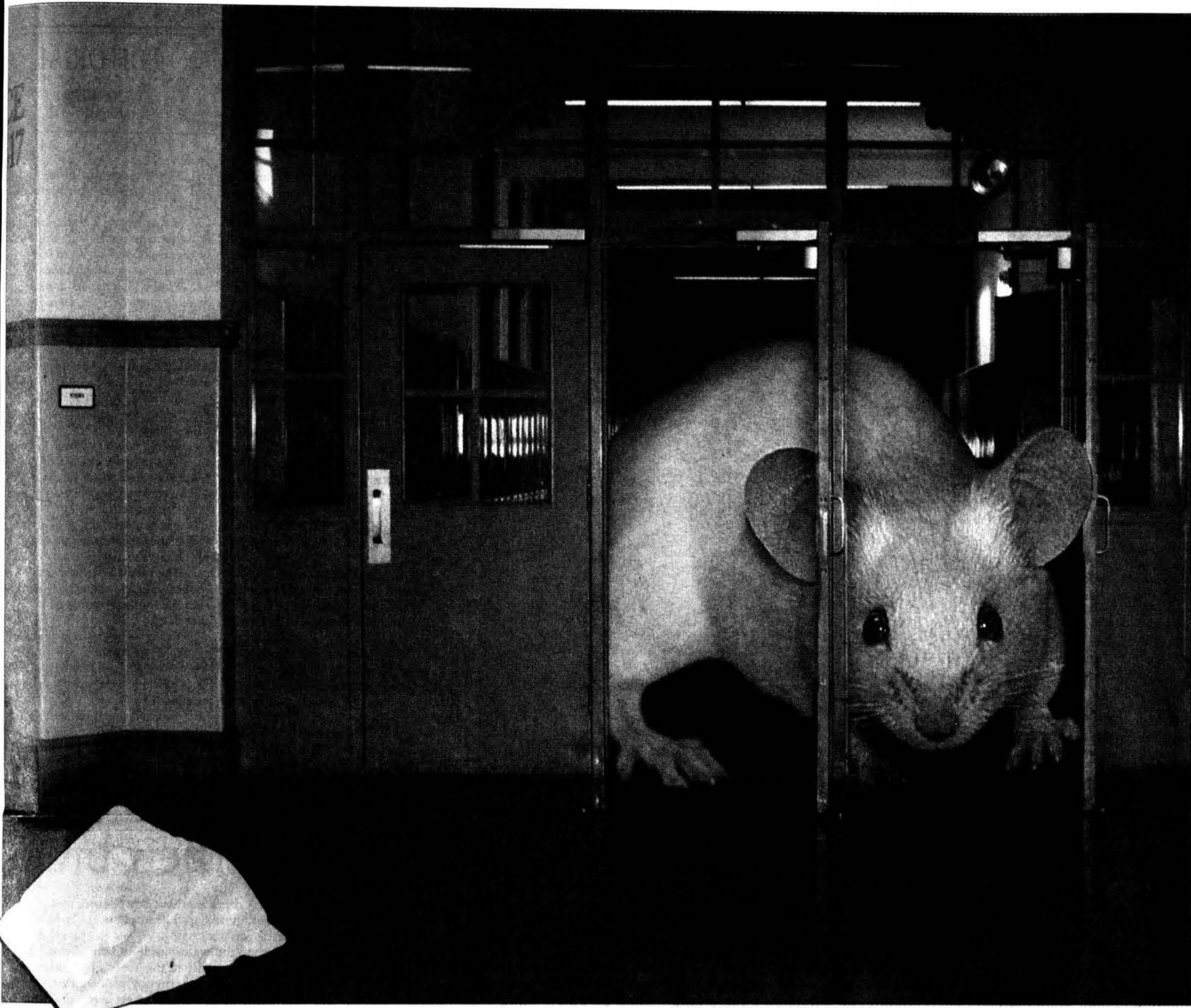


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Students, faculty find way through construction confusion

People ran into a lot of surprises on the first day of school. Over the summer, the school was transformed from an easily maneuverable building into a crowded maze of barrier walls, dead ends and new portables.

To students and faculty returning, the sound of jackhammers and drills echo throughout the day. This is one step beyond what the renovations were like last year. Try taking a test with a construction worker drilling a new sprinkler system into the ceiling below your classroom.

On the bright side, the outcome of the renovation is really going to modernize the school, while preserving the character of the original building.

In 1999, voters in the Omaha Public School district (OPS) passed a bond for \$277 million to be used to fund renovations in schools. This included funds for elementary, middle and high schools.

Central is in Phase 4 of the renovation process, which primarily consists of installing air conditioning, finishing the new east gym and completing the new kitchen and cafeteria. The school's lack of air conditioning has been an issue for some time, but the issue is finally being addressed.

A major upgrade to the existing building will be the new elec-

trical system. This includes raising the capacity of the system and installing new technology that will enable the Internet to be in all classrooms and offices.

The current electrical system has been in need of replacement for several years due to major advancements in technology, specifically computers. Even more recently, the number of computers and technology in the building have been causing system wide circuit failures.

More importantly, classroom space is being added to the current building. A kitchen has been added west of the old gym, and that gym (room 144) will be turned into a cafeteria. The new east gym has also been modified to allow a full-sized basketball court. Along with this adjustment, a new weight room has been built to replace a much smaller one and at the same time make-up for the loss of the old gym. All of this has been done to support the school's growing population.

With a new cafeteria opening at the end of the first semester, the old fourth floor cafeterias are being renovated. They, rooms 435 and 445, will be converted into computer labs and classrooms.

The two large rooms that once were used for conversation and lunch will now be used for instruction and technology. The new cafeteria is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 19.

Second semester will open with much confusion for students, because many first semester classes are moving to different rooms around the building.

The room changes will be difficult and confusing for the first few days, but students will soon adapt as they have last year and continue to this year.

Currently, gym classes such as Team Sports and Lifetime Fitness are being held in portables 10 and 28. The classes are scheduled to move back to a gym once the renovations in the new east gym (room 050) are completed at the end of first semester.

However, it has been said that renovations are more than a month behind schedule.

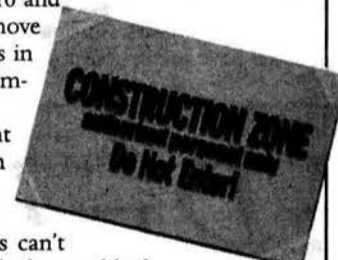
While the workers are renovating sections of the school, students can't help but notice the massive dust walls that are blocking them from walking all the way around renovated floors.

These are in place to protect students from both construction and dust.

Construction workers are not allowed to be in student areas and students are prohibited from entering construction zones around the building.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff



Senior begins battle with disease, keeps positive outlook for future

I stood next to senior Mike Alfaro as he sat in hospital chair with a needle stuck into his right arm, slowly draining his blood.

Instead of frowning and turning away, he stared at the syringe, challenging it.

He looked at the needle with such intensity that I thought it would shatter from the sheer look of determination in his eyes; determination to beat Leukemia.

"That one actually hurt," Alfaro said after his routine blood check, walking down the sterile hospital hallways to the parking garage. "They've never stuck it in that far."

At age 17, Alfaro was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) on July 15, 2003. If left untreated, MDS can develop into acute Leukemia.

MDS occurs when there are chromosomes missing from bone marrow cells, the chromosomes are also known as Philadelphia chromosomes.

Alfaro is one of 100 cases of MDS found per year in his age group. When I heard that it was such a rare occurrence, I knew it would be important to document Alfaro's journey.

Although he'll tell you he feels fine, treat-

ment is necessary.

In order to treat MDS, Alfaro will have to endure a painful bone marrow transplant, co-occurring with chemotherapy and radiation treatments. That is if his doctors find a matching donor.

None of his immediate family's bone marrow matches his, but Alfaro said there are two possible donors that are currently being tested.

Once a match is found, Alfaro will be hospitalized for six to nine days, going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments and then finally, the bone marrow transplant.

His recovery is expected to take up to three months.

Until then, Alfaro endures a weekly blood test to see if his red and white blood cell count changes.

Alfaro said these tests, which involve a tourniquet and a quick extraction of blood, have become routine for him. While I felt out of place, he seemed to be almost at home in the hospital room.

You could tell by the way he set the armrest

on his chair and readied his arm for the nurse.

Along with testing his blood, Alfaro must take medicine. Alfaro is on two different medications. One is an antibiotic to prevent a pulmonary infection, and the second is to prevent a yeast infection from forming in his mouth, which can be a side effect of the antibiotics.

If Alfaro contracts a cold of any sort, or develops a fever, it could be fatal. Large crowds like at school make Alfaro extremely susceptible to germs. If he catches cold, the doctors may pull him out of school.

Alfaro said the problem was first found at the 2003 American Red Cross blood drive at school.

He said the Red Cross was testing his blood and found that his iron count was very low and advised him to see a doctor.

"At first, the doctor said they were fairly sure it wasn't Leukemia," Alfaro said. "When they first said that, I freaked. I had no idea it could have been cancer." After a bone marrow test and several blood

tests, the doctors concluded that it was in fact MDS.

"There are three possible outcomes of the transplant," Alfaro mumbles from a waiting room chair. "It either fixes me, does nothing or sees my body as being foreign and attacks and kills me."

Alfaro said he had a hard emotional breakdown upon his realization and acceptance of the fact that he could die from the disease.

"I was with a group of friends," Alfaro said. "I was watching a Korn video and one of the songs just got to me. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor in a ball, crying 'I'm going to die, I'm going to die.'"

Alfaro said his friends were very supportive and helped him regain control of his wits. As a result, Alfaro now seems to be numbed to the tests.

That, or he is truly brave and has accepted his situation. I asked him if he was afraid of death and he said that he wasn't, but tries not to think about it.

"Whatever it takes to beat it, I'll do," he said.

This is the first in a multiple-part series documenting Alfaro's journey.



EXPERIENCES IN PRINT

A COLUMN BY ASHLEY BROWN

BITTER BY CHOICE

A COLUMN BY KATIE BACKMAN

Selfish teenagers get own name tattooed for misguided reasons

Her name was Jessica.

I didn't know her that well, but I didn't have to because she had her own name tattooed onto the back of her neck.

I guess it was for when she got lost, so that somebody could return her to her mommy.

Most people have their names on their possessions at school, like textbooks and bookbags.

Heck, some parents even go so far as to sew their children's names into their underwear.

I guess this process wasn't enough for Jessica.

How low is her self-esteem? She's saying: "Hey everybody, look at me, PLEASE!"

I guess during the summer, Jessica was inclined to tattoo her name on her own body.

I wanted to tap her on the shoulder and ask her why, but instead I turned to my friend Christy to point it out to her.

Only when I turned to her, I read "Christy" on her bicep.

Curious and confused with what was going on, I came to the conclusion that these teenagers had obviously experienced some sort of memory loss and needed their names on their bodies as a reminder of who they were.

So naturally I went to ask another friend about the tattoos, but you can already guess what was on his calf.

I once thought that having a tattoo was supposed to mean something.

But apparently now people have become so selfish that they are tattooing their own names on their bodies.

This contradicts what I learned in elementary school. The D.A.R.E. instructors always told us not to wear anything with our names on it, so that people couldn't fool, then kidnap us.

I guess somebody forgot to tell these guys.

I must have had to sit through four or five long sessions during D.A.R.E. on that topic, with an officer telling us not to wear any name tags or apparel with our names on them.

About five years ago, it was a trend to get your name tattooed, in Asian symbols, on your body.

I remember my friends in junior high talking about it and seeing my siblings' friends in college doing it.

Now, my generation must have gotten lazy and just decided to tattoo their own name in a strange script text.

The sad thing is that the text for everyone's tattoo is the same ugly script.

At least with the Asian symbols, people were thinking creatively and did research their names.

I would like to know the significance of that script text.

I can't wait to see Christy's bicep after she goes to college and gains the "freshman 15."

How about when she turns 50 and "things" start to sag? The letters tattooed on her body will begin to disappear into the folds of skin.

"You're who? 'C-r-y?'"

I can't imagine my generation as grandparents. We will be the most unusual bunch of old people the world has ever seen.

We're all going to have awkward tattoos on our wrinkled old bodies.

My thoughts carried back to Jessica.

I eased into a conversation with her and asked if getting the tattoo hurt.

She pulled her hair off her neck, probably to show it off more, and said no.

Finally, I just asked her why she had her own name tattooed on her body. She looked around as if she would find the answer tattooed on someone else, and then it hit her.

"Because I know people put loved ones' names on their bodies so I put mine on my body because I love me. That, and my name looks cool written in black script," she said.

They are just like Steve-O from the show "Jackass," but sadly enough, their tattoos weren't pranks or a dares. At least in that show, having a drawing of himself and signatures tattooed across his back was an intentional joke.

It's sad to know that the people I talked to were not dared or forced into it.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

INVASION OF PRIVACY OR PROTECTING STUDENTS

Security cameras were added to the school this year, resulting in a heated debate. Opinions on the topic range from students who are angry about the cameras because they said they violate their privacy on campus, to others who feel that the addition promotes a safe and secure school environment.

Cameras cause problems

Different forms of security needed to help protect people, property

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

Cameras installed in and around the building are an attempt to bridge the gaps in security. This will not be effective.

If the cameras are trying to prevent fights or catch students who are disobeying rules, they just won't work. More security guards around the portables and in the courtyard areas might.

This invasion of privacy may have started with the portables, but the next step may be cameras in the hallways (which has already started), classrooms or even in locker rooms.

The portables are a tough area to secure, this is the only area they should be talking about, just not with cameras.

The cameras are not able to see everything happening between the portables, like a student being attacked.

Students would be much safer if security guards or teachers were walking around instead of a person watching the students an entire building away.

A solution that could quickly end this problem would be to transfer security personnel from lower populated schools in the district.

The cameras won't be able to distinguish trespassers from students with such distance from the entire area.

Administration could have thought the cameras would help this problem, but the school needs people at ground level to watch for outsiders.

That would certainly be more effective than cameras that can't even see the entire vicinity.

Not only are the cameras inefficient, administrators can't always watch

the footage.

There isn't even a crew or a person employed at school exclusively to watch the cameras.

Officials can only watch footage during their free time.

A solution shouldn't be as extreme as web cameras in every classroom like schools in Biloxi, Mississippi, which definitely constitutes an invasion of privacy.

The cameras shouldn't be installed if the problem can be fixed before it starts by asking teachers to observe.

The cameras are a waste of the school's time and money.

In the 1999, Omaha Public School (OPS) passed a bond for renovations. A portion of that money was set aside to be used for security and safety purposes.

This money should be used on more security guards instead of cameras.

The cameras might document who got into a fight, but more security guards being hired means more professional witnesses.

The security guards at our school do a good job, and we should have more.

Without actual human security systems, students are going to discover angles the cameras can't see and participate in things such as fighting, smoking and other illegal activities in that area.

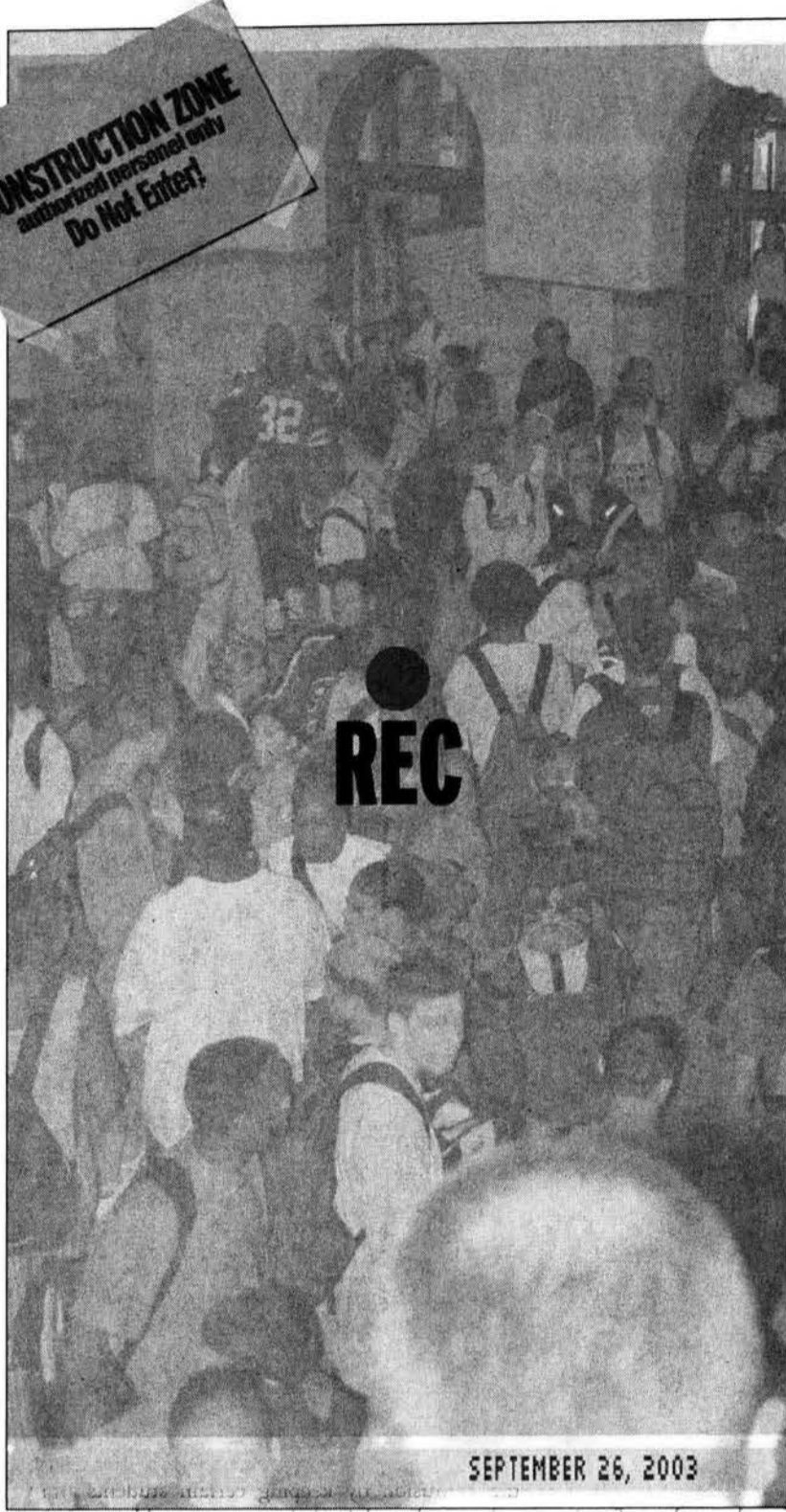
Teachers should be patrolling the areas during passing periods.

Like in lunch rooms, teachers can watch for fights and other negatives that the cameras are attempting to prevent.

The more people you have guarding the area, the safer it will make the campus.

The cameras are obviously a waste of time and won't catch students causing problems beforehand.

They are only there to handle situations after they've occurred.



Excellent precaution

Surveillance maintains secure level creating a safe-school environment

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

A security camera mounted on the outside of the building to tighten security around the portables is one of the best ideas the school has had in a long time.

Students who think that teachers and administrators pacing between portables would be efficient enough are incorrect.

With 28 portables, there would never be enough bodies to watch every space between the buildings.

A camera was installed in the early part of the school year and was placed on the building so it could have an aerial view of the portables.

Cameras can't catch everything, but can capture the faces of students who could be breaking the rules.

How easy would it be for a student to hide behind a portable for an early morning cigarette break?

It would be very easy to do all sorts of things that would not sit well with school security.

Only positive and beneficial things can come from any security cameras.

Some students think this is a violation of privacy.

Would they think it would violate their privacy when the administration used the cameras to track the people who stole their belongings or harassed them?

The security staff has more ground to cover and observe and any cameras would make their jobs easier.

The security guards are not lazy, but this is a large school with a large student body and a camera helps them.

With a camera viewing the portables, it gives comfort to the students who were weary about the safety outside.

It is good to know that someone can see what is going on, and that personal safety is not on the line.

It is also good to know that while walking to a portable, if students get mugged or jumped, there will be

proof.

The camera also protect students and faculty from intruders on property.

Many worry about the safety of school grounds, and the fact strangers could walk up to students easily kidnap or assault them.

This will serve as a deterrent possible intruders to stay out of building and away from students and faculty.

All measures of security were considered when the cameras were installed.

Students could possibly argue that the money for cameras was taken out of the budget.

They couldn't be more wrong. The money came from a grant. Money was set aside in the beginning of the renovation process for all types of security needs.

Besides the fact, it is cheaper for the school to install cameras than hire more security guards.

The officials didn't spend any more money to keep students safe, but even they did, nothing would be wrong that at all.

Safety is something that students should be guaranteed when they attend a public school, and funding should not be a problem when it comes to safety and security.

Just because there are 28 portables doesn't mean that teenage rebels can hide behind one and cause disruption.

Without a doubt, the cameras should be there to watch what's going on and help guarantee everyone's safety.

Warning labels need to be given to people who fail to use their brains

I consider America to be full of educated people. I believe that this is as a result of our public school systems, public libraries and financial aid programs for those who would normally not be able to further their education by attending college.

Americans have every opportunity to gather knowledge for free. This country has some of the richest and most powerful people in the world.

Yet there are still immense amount of people who are walking the streets carrying the slightest bit of common sense with them.

These people are the ones who light their own farts on fire, blow up random items with last Fourth of July's fireworks in their front yards and participate in urban kayaking in monumental fountains.

For these people, we make warning labels. These labels are posted just about everywhere. So just in case you might have been confused about whether or not you should stick your finger in electrical outlets, or pour water down the back of your television because it looked thirsty, we have made a label to save you the time you could have spent

contemplating.

I looked around my house for a few minutes and compiled a sample list.

For those who didn't know, Duraflame fire logs are flammable, Windex is not to be consumed, WD-40 can be harmful if deliberately inhaled and the contents inside that coffee cup you just bought, may be extremely hot.

There are labels that tell you that chain saws should not be stopped with your hands or any other body part, not to use a blow-dryer while you're asleep, 'be kind and rewind' your Blockbuster DVD (Yeah, I know you can't rewind a DVD), Superman costumes do not enable you to fly simply by wearing them, you should avoid dropping your air conditioner out the window, Magic 8 balls may be inaccurate and that Harry Potter Toy Brooms do not actually fly.

I'm sorry to inform you all, but television remote controls are not dishwasher safe, blankets will not protect you during a tornado and Nyctol Sleep Aid will cause drowsiness and does not recommend you operate a bulldozer or any

other heavy machinery immediately after ingesting them.

I can only assume the majority of these accidents and lawsuits that cause labels such as these to be printed occur when the owner of such an object is either extremely bored, intoxicated or in need of massive amounts of money and sues the company on behalf of their own stupidity.

For example, the guy who sued McDonald's for making him fat.

Did he think that double cheeseburgers swimming around in mayonnaise and excessive amounts of grease were supposed to slim his waistline?

There are also those thousands of people who must embarrassingly enter the hospital because they stuck something up their butt just to see if they could, and afterwards found out that they couldn't get it out.

I have never had any issues with my immediate family members or close friends ironing a T-shirt while wearing it, but there's a label for that as well.

When cooking food, most people would defrost Swanson Frozen Dinners before attempting to eat them for their teeth's sake. A person thinking logically would also realize that after they heat bread pudding, it will most likely be hot.

Of course there are those rare occasions when it was a company that messed up. Like those water Yo-Yo's where the inside plastic was toxic.

This made the water inside the Yo-Yo toxic, and when children or dogs punctured the Yo-Yo's by biting them, they drank the toxic water, whether by accident or not.

And like most instances when living organisms ingest toxic fluids, it caused some problems. There are also those products, that when combined, are just asking for trouble.

For example, a bottle of White Out that comes with several free permanent markers and a coupon for a dollar a can of spray paint.

The guy that thought that one up was probably not concerned with the health of our youth. One would think that the average person would have more common sense than this. After all, most Americans know how to drive a car, perform at least simple tasks at their jobs and some are capable of raising decent children.

Yet for some reason there are those people who cannot comprehend why they can't eat cleaning products. The people need help.

So for your safety, Mr. Oxi-Clean eating man, we keep the warning labels.



SURPRISE ME

A COLUMN BY DANIELLE WELTY

THE 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 Washington D.C.

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, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards

from NHSPA.

It has been awarded Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA 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.

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School or the Register staff.

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

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

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

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

Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

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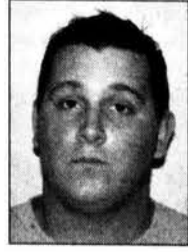
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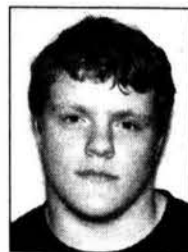
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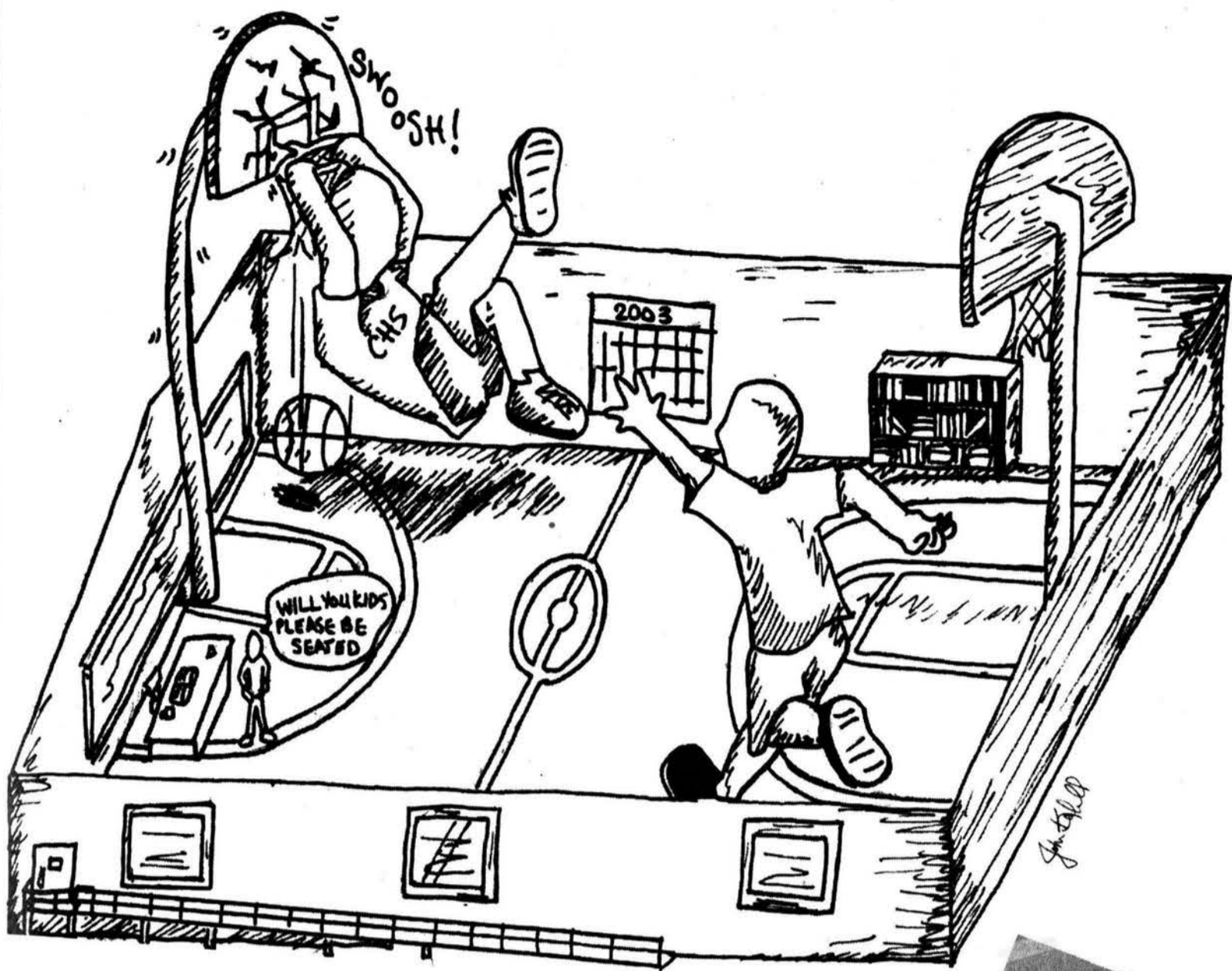
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Slam dunk in portable 28, third period.

OPS sues state for legitimate reasons

Nebraska's school funding system is in a desperate need of a change. The future of the state isn't looking too bright, with almost one-fifth of students failing out of high school.

School Board members for Omaha Public Schools (OPS) voted unanimously to sue the State of Nebraska because they said they felt the school funding formula was unconstitutional.

The U.S. Census Survey of local government finances showed that 16 percent of students were not graduating. When broken down, that's 45 percent of African-Americans, 44 percent Hispanic and 53 percent Native American students.

This is obviously a very serious problem. Schools with a high concentration of minority students get provided less funding than the statewide average. It's discriminating against minorities.

The students who aren't fluent in English, capable in reading, mathematics or writing are the ones who aren't being provided with highly skilled teachers and enriched curriculum.

Specially trained teachers are what Nebraska needs. These teachers are needed to teach students basic English so that they can function in society. Without funding, these teachers can't be provided and the children are immediately affected. Low-income students and special education students are also affected by the funding system.

Research studies have proven that high-quality teachers, sound professional development, small class sizes, pre-kindergarten and all-day kindergarten, summer school programs and other specialized curriculum programs are very effective when adequately available. Schools are not able to provide

such services to students, especially minority students, without proper funding.

If the Nebraska funding system was adequate and was providing schools with what they needed, then there wouldn't be such a shocking percentage of students failing and dropping out of school. Especially certain minorities who need specialized teachers.

The current funding system doesn't even come close to what it costs to get kids to meet the academic standards, which are set

by the state.

The state is setting a standard and isn't providing the resources necessary for schools to meet them. That is unconstitutional and that's what OPS is trying to prove.

Other school districts, such as Grand Island and South Sioux City, have joined OPS in the lawsuit. Lincoln Public Schools, on the other hand, is taking the state's side.

Clearly, the Nebraska school funding system is unconstitutional. It violates the mission of the public school system which states, "The mission of the state of Nebraska through its public school system, is to offer each individual the opportunity to develop competence in the basic skills of communications, computations, and knowledge of basic facts concerning the environment, history, and society; Offer each individual the opportunity to develop higher order of thinking and problem-solving skills by means of adequate preparation in mathematics, science social science, and foreign languages and by means of appropriate and progressive use of technology; Instill in each individual the ability and desire to continue learning throughout his or her life."

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Classroom 'switching' causes confusion

If anyone has ever thought that the hallways of Central are nothing but a labyrinth, then just wait until the turn of the semester.

The switching of classes, though inevitable, is both inconvenient and confusing for all students.

By now, there are probably a good number of students who have realized that the classes on their schedules will switch classrooms after first semester, for second semester.

This is all due to the renovations being done to the school.

Students have a hard enough task getting from class to class on time through the zoo of people, where the classes may even be on opposite ends of the school.

A lengthened passing period, now six minutes instead of five, was given to help remedy the problem of students being tardy, but students are still running late.

Both faculty and students know that the beginning of the year is utter chaos when getting the students accustomed to their new schedule, and now it has to be done all over again.

Not to mention certain classes being put in places they seemingly should not be, like gym classes being put into portables.

The administration understands this problem, but unfortunately there is nothing that can be done about it.

This was planned long before renovations even started, so it is not like this is a spur of the moment idea.

The classes to be affected are the cafeterias, study halls and rooms on the three and four side on second floor.

During the summer, the library, first floor and basement were renovated.

This was known as Phase 3B. Phase 4 is the one currently in order.

The administration admits that the last phase was not completed on schedule, but it was pretty close. Many obstacles come up that slow down a huge undertaking like this.

The main problem with the gyms is that the floor placement were way behind schedule, and the gym floors obviously cannot be used until they are done.

It has been predicted that the new gym will be done around Dec. 17.

In the mean time, some gym classes have been moved to portables 10 and 28, where students will be learning the rules of games, health tips and issues as well as other related information.

Officials are making an effort to cut down on the confusion by keeping certain students from going back and forth between portables and the building.

The computer labs will be shut down as well this next semester.

Then there are those classrooms that fit a bunch of students this semester, but will not fit those students second semester.

Schedules with those problems had to be split up.

There will eventually be a lot more switching around, such as the old gym becoming cafeterias.

The whole switching of schedules is just as confusing and hectic to the students as it is to the staff.

About 2,500 students and around 60 staff are being affected by these changes. It is not just the students who are being put in an inconvenient situation.

All in all, the displacement of classes is in fact inconvenient, but everyone is just going to have to bite the bullet and bear with it.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Frugality needed to make grant money last all year

Central received a \$120,000 grant last year to use for after-school activities and the money has begun to run out which brings up the somber possibility that clubs may be cut.

This grant was funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center non-competitive

to support many sports and clubs. However, it cannot be renewed because the qualifications have recently been changed so that no individual school is allowed to apply.

The grant officially ended last school year and there is enough money to fund the clubs for one more year if the school does not have to pay for a full-time coordinator.

Catherine Hanrahan, retired counselor, was hired as a part-time coordinator to cut back on the expenses of former full time coordinator Patti Gatzke. The way clubs receive funding is by applying for a stipend, basically a mini grant, which pay for any item that the club may need. The stipends are

approved or denied by the coordinator according to what the request is and if it is possible.

The problem with this system is that not all clubs receive the same amount of money. Tae Kwon Do club had to pay for professional instructors to come in and teach, which costs

much more than something small CHEETA might need.

If another means of money to sponsor clubs is not found then the fun social aspect of

clubs with people who share the same interest as you, will be gone. Also, many colleges look to see how involved a student was during high school. This includes how many clubs students participated in.

Hopefully this year the new coordinator will be frugal about where the money is going and if it's completely necessary so that as many clubs as there are interests of students can continue.

Junior learns valuable life lessons from elderly water aerobic students

Everyday during my class at exactly 5:45 p.m., I respectfully yell goodbye to one of my 90-year-old students.

Two years ago, I was given the opportunity to work in a pool, teaching ladies in that age group water aerobics.

I was 15 and with no other work available, I jumped at the opportunity. I had no clue for what I was in for.

I was under the impression that I would teach the class, and pocket a few bucks doing it. I was not really taking the time to look at the whole aspect of who and what I would be doing.

I remember walking in the first day and seeing all 15 ladies. I was so nervous. When I realized that I loved people and that it would be all right.

That was then. I'm still there and loving it.

Every Monday through Friday at 5:30 p.m., I step into the role of a teacher. I am the instructor and have to realize that my students, who are four times my age, are my students.

The age of my students does not really matter to me. At first it was a huge culture shock, but I soon got over it.

Some youth today, feel the need to put stereotypes on people who are older than them. Some disrespect them, their property and their belongings.

It is despicable that young people do this. If a 16-year-old male can get along and respect 40 ladies who are much older than him, then other young people should be able to do it, too.

My students know everything and I mean everything. If one of my friends walked into the pool area during my class, my students would know his name, his mother and his dog. I am not kidding you. I tell them everything.

I find counseling and closure in telling my class about my day at school, my friends, my weekend and what life changes I am going through.

It is tough being a junior and dealing with being a teenager, owning a car and going to the biggest high school

in Nebraska. So talking out my problems and hearing input really helps.

Although, I should not talk about some things with my class, I do. I talk about my friends, sex and things that are happening in society today and different things that really interest me.

I have never felt so involved in the news and current events because we have talked about it all.

These ladies, help me make some of the biggest decisions in my life. I am so grateful for their encouragement in helping me through life struggles.

The cool thing about my class is that everyone comes from different backgrounds and different cultures and every single person has a different opinion on everything. Trust me, if you want an opinion come to my class.

We all value the opinions of others in the class, even if we do not agree with each other, we respect each other's opinions.

Even though we talk a lot and by a lot, I mean a lot, we do daily routines that I have personally developed to make my class the best.



EAT MY WORDS

A COLUMN BY MICHAEL SMITH



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ME

A COLUMN BY SARA RIPS

As a devout CNN junkie, I occasionally come upon stories about school boards and their decisions to make massive cuts to programs at high schools.

I was always outraged when I heard that a school would no longer have an art department, a music department or an athletic team. I always assumed that officials were not thinking through all their options.

That their decisions were hastily made and not well planned. Fortunately, my thoughts changed on the issue.

This summer I attended a leadership camp in Warwick, New York. One of the important components to the camp was the teaching of social action. Every few nights we would have a social action related program. One of these programs was about school boards and their budgets.

This program allowed groups of high school students to create an ideal school. Money was issue.

The groups were allowed to have anything they wanted. My group the school had the best teachers, the best books, numerous libraries, a special education department, a robotics lab and even a hovercraft.

The group leaders then informed the students that the schools needed to be modified to fit a budget, for an intercity

school, not unlike Central.

The school had a budget of \$6 million. Based upon the budget, we were supposed to alter the ideal schools' departments and programs.

That really seems like a lot of money, until it actually has to be used.

The main priority of my group was to have the best teachers and books first. In having just 75 of the best teachers we were already over-budget. This many experienced teachers cost the group over \$6 million.

The group argued for an hour on how to keep the best teachers while still buying the other necessities to the school. That includes all the basic things, such as textbooks, clubs, food programs, or an administrative staff.

By the end of the program, all the group could afford to have as perks to the school were three athletic teams, an art department, and an honors program.

Look at a school like Central. Despite the fact that there is a significant lack of funds, the school maintains amazing art, theater and music departments, not to mention abundant

amounts of sports teams, and extra-curricular activities. This is truly amazing. Credit has to be given to the School Board for making sure that the students in Omaha Public Schools (OPS) are given every possible opportunity to succeed.

If the group I was with became so involved in making sure that a fake, non-existent school had the right programs for its imaginary students, then imagine what our School Board must go through just to make sure that every school, not just Central, has the best programs for its students.

Nebraska has cut massive amounts of funding to schools all over the state.

This has caused many schools to suffer.

There is school that cannot afford to run for a full five day school week. OPS has not only been able to maintain all of its departments and programs, but also keep all of its extra-curricular activities.

OPS is suing the state right now. The lawsuit alleges

that parts of the Nebraska financial system violate laws in the state constitution that deal with the education and equal protection clauses.

School officials also claim that there are violations of Title VI of the Federal Constitution.

This year the OPS budget was cut by \$740,000.

The money that was cut goes to help not only fund athletics, teachers' salaries and those shiny new text books we all love, but also, more importantly, that money goes to make sure that the individual student is given every opportunity to excel.

Unfortunately, this money will not be as readily available this year to help out the students who truly need the assistance.

The students who are truly going to suffer are going to be the ones who can not speak English, and do not have money.

I think that the OPS School Board deserves our support and gratitude.

It has continued to give many students the opportunity to have a wide curriculum which is not possible for other students in the state.

"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 to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

EDITORIALS



More students should take ACT/SAT

More kids should strive to study, plan for and take college entrance exams.

The recently released ACT test results from Omaha Public Schools (OPS) show that not enough students in the district take the tests.

Also, some students who take the tests don't score high enough for automatic admission into the University of Nebraska system.

Too many students think that they aren't college material, so they don't plan on taking the tests during their high school career.

They are wrong.

The ACT and the SAT simply show your rank among other juniors and seniors taking the test around the nation. The rankings show that students are beginning to fail.

Many students know that to get accepted into colleges they must take the ACT or the SAT.

The problem is that today students don't care about college as much or just don't plan out their futures that well.

Students need to make an honest attempt on these tests.

They are important for their future and can determine whether or not one will be accepted into a university or receive a scholarship.

It is unrealistic for students to pass up the chance of a lifetime because they simply do not care.

Students need to care and need to take the time to put forth the effort and the responsibility as young adults in the real world to do something for themselves.

If students' future plans include continuing their education, then the ACT and SAT are the right answers. College is not for everyone, but waking up early on Saturday morning to take a test is not going to kill them.

Out of all the OPS high schools, Central had around 62 percent of seniors take the ACT last year, which is the highest percentage of

all OPS high schools.

The students who took the exam last year and scored high enough to enter into a Nebraska state college and further their education should be commended for keeping up with the 2002 ACT ranks.

Central's ACT average was 21.2 points, which was just short of the Nebraska State average of 21.7 points.

With the education that this school provides, the average scores should be higher.

However, the school was consistent with the scores for the 2002 ACT. This is a positive for Central because compared to other OPS high schools, such as North High School, whose numbers dropped a 1.8 points from 2002 to 2003.

When deciding whether or not to take the test, keep in mind that it is proven that college graduates earn more money than simply high school graduates.

If a person wants more money, then he should take the entrance exam unless he wants to make minimum wage the rest of his life. If you are having doubts, just take the test. You can always change your mind about the future later and it's always better to be safe than sorry.

Teachers and fellow students should push students to take these tests before graduation.

Society should want and support teenagers of today to succeed in life because the future is at stake.

Teachers could also start taking sample questions from old tests and provide the material to students. They should also incorporate them in their lesson plans to enforce good study habits.

Students should also just take the test for themselves to show what they have learned over the course of four years.

It is a must for all students to take these tests and prove to society they can do it.

Keep in mind that what you do affects Central and its students.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

HEROES & ZEROS

Faculty, students reacting well to construction

While renovations are fully underway, faculty and students have handled the dilemma better than expected.

Students make classroom changes without much trouble

The process has been very stressful, but students and faculty have adapted to the classroom changes and have made the proper route adjustments in order to make the passing periods flow smoothly.

When more changes occur, hopefully students will continue handling the situation well.

Students' families, custodians join in preparing for school

Families helped with moving classroom materials over the summer and should be commended for their quick work.

Cleaning for the start of school was needed after the summer renovations, so janitors quickly moved everything out of the courtyard, the hallways and the auditorium so that the school could function in August.

Custodial staff did an outstanding job cleaning

The custodians cleaned the school numerous times to make sure the building was ready for the first day.

Students must be at school by 5:30 a.m. for parking

With all of the construction workers, Creighton and CHS students, parking at school has become a huge problem.

Some students have to wake up at 5 a.m. just to get a parking spot near school.

Students tend to their homework or just sleep until the first hour bell rings.

Noise hurts students, will reflect on test scores

The renovation noise has caused a great disruption amongst both students and faculty.

Students can not concentrate on their studies and it's becoming hard to listen.

Students will just have to try hard to shut out the renovation noise and continue their regular school work.

Exits cause hysteria amongst students

Student body traffic at the "C" is a huge annoyance for students and staff.

The "C" is an entrance and an exit. It should not be used as a social hangout.

Students need to spend less time talking, so that the congestion lightens for the remainder of the year.

Taking stand in tough times leaves junior bitter, resentful

I know I did the right thing. After being sexually harassed for some time last year, I eventually told an administrator.

Once I had solid evidence that the kid was doing this, stemming from a teacher witnessing it, I was told by administration, "Well, we need to take into account this boy's emotions and feelings, too."

I know school officials have a difficult job and I've been helped by them as well, but I really didn't get the attention that I needed in this situation.

Not only did I feel completely left in the dirt, I felt entirely disgraced. Almost instantly, I regretted having told anyone.

We're supposed to be able to talk with administration, the counselors and any other authoritative figure at school. They are supposed to help us.

I was led to believe it was my fault and that I provoked him. They asked if I'd ever given him permission to "touch me", or if I'd ever said I enjoyed it.

I know that there has to be due process, but this was ridiculous.

This boy was now the victim. Even though a teacher, along with numerous students had seen him do these things before, I couldn't be telling the truth.

I'm not exactly sure why, but they seemed to side with him.

Maybe it was because he was an honor roll student. Maybe because he was involved in a lot of school activities.

Maybe because he had never been much of a problem before, but I fell under all of these same categories.

There was never really, and still isn't, a reasonable explanation.

Officials say they're in it to help you.

Help you achieve, to receive an education, and leave having accomplished something.

However, I did not see them do any of this.

They seemed like they would rather protect themselves then do what was right for me.

For the most part, they were of no help.

The boy was removed from two of my classes, and expelled for a short period, but that was only after hours of contemplation.

However, I did not feel this was enough. Not only did he violate my privacy, he violated me.

Is missing a few days of school, adequate punishment? How is that



THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

A COLUMN BY COURTNEY THOMAS

going to stop him from doing it again. It's not. It is not anything that would prevent him from doing it again.

Having no satisfaction and still not feeling at ease, I decided that a good idea would be to file for a protective order to keep this boy as far away from me as possible.

If the school wouldn't help me feel safe, I guess I'd have to do it on my own. I was always under the impression that they were there to protect me.

I should never have had to go that far. They should've been happy to hear a "sexual predator" revealed, but they weren't.

They were just happy that they were done having to deal with him. Having to deal with something that could potentially make them look bad and hurt the school's reputation.

They were happy they could move on and spend time worrying about more important things like students cussing in the hallways and kids skipping class.

That really makes me feel sad. That really makes me want to come to school.

I'm glad I told and don't regret it. However, it took its toll emotionally and was quite a hassle to get through.

Luckily the boy never talks to me anymore. I don't really have any more problem with him.

He's in one of my classes again this year, but sits no where near me and never speaks to me.

However, he was allegedly doing the same thing to one of my best friends last year.

It pained me to see her putting up with it for so long and not telling anyone.

After seeing what happened to her, she was scared to tell anyone and just felt like it wasn't worth it. I can see why though. I wouldn't want to go through what I did again.

I still hear girls telling me he does the exact same thing to them.

This makes me so angry, so sad, so furious with administration, but I guess that's just the way things work.

School for gays, lesbians, bisexual fails to prepare students for world

There's a accredited public school in New York City that caters to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

Having a safe environment for kids to learn in is always a goal for all schools, and the Harvey Milk School is no exception.

Although these students may be stepping into a more nurturing and understanding environment by attending a specialized school, they are also falling further and further away from the real world.

If gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students choose to seclude themselves at school, they will not have a strong voice in society.

If students keep separating themselves, society will begin to think that they really are different.

The students will start voluntarily segregating themselves from other students. They won't be treated as equals unless they fight for it. To be accepted, you must be willing to accept.

Every student has special needs and it would be nice if everyone had their own special school, but that's simply not how the world works.

By shutting the doors on their problems, they are doing nothing but hurting themselves.

It is not a perfect world. Students should educate each other. They should want to make the world better, not hide from its cruelties. In reality, when a problem arises, you can't simply walk away from it.

You must learn to cope and deal with problems, regardless of how difficult it may be or seem to be.

It's life and at some point everyone has to learn how to handle it.

These students should realize that it is not a matter of being different, it's a matter of learning to accept society, learning to adapt to different environments and become socially adequate.

High school is a major growth period and whether or not you're having a negative or positive experience, it's one everyone must endure.

Turning your back on life and its problems will eventually make you face the problem again, with no where else to turn.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Going through school is supposed to prepare you not only for college, but for life in general.

Living in a society where everybody is accepted, and nobody looked down upon for being different is nonexistent.

Perhaps life in the future will be like that, but for the time being, society is far from that ideal.

In society, there will always be people who will never accept homosexuals. Teenagers need to learn to deal with stereotypes and accept the fact that they will always exist.

They have to experience growing up, so that they aren't shocked when they are out of high school.

Life shouldn't be segregated by any type of preference.

Schools shouldn't baby students now because they are supposed to be prepared for the future.

Segregation was supposed to have ended back in the 60s. Now people want to revert to it to suit their needs? For the most part, if the students are harassed, tormented or teased, they learn to deal with the situation.

Students do get teased at school, there's no way around it, but at least at a school with diversity, these students learn how to deal with these very complex issues.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students at Central are simply treated like any other student.

Perhaps they receive a certain amount of grief, yet they are able to deal with situations and are doing the best. They are also able to educate the uneducated.

Besides, administration is available if any harassment is taking place. Part of life is learning.

When these students are in an environment where everything is formed around suiting their lifestyle, they are not learning.

These students should face life and not be scared of what's to come.

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OPINION

"I get up at 6 a.m. and have a hard time finding a place to park. We need to get a parking lot or more parking spots."

AMANDA WIRTH (10)

THE BIG ISSUE: RENOVATIONS

Student appreciates lockers

Dear Editor,
The three-to-a-locker situation may be a problem for some students, but because of renovations, other students wouldn't have a locker because they're in the renovation areas.
So I feel that it's only fair for there to be three students to a locker unless they're (the lockers) extremely small.
I mean, I wouldn't want to have a locker that is in the renovation area and without one until the work is done.
I feel that having three students to a locker is only fair or others would be without one.

James Whelan (10)

Arrangement bother students

Dear Editor,
I just want to point out how frustrated people are with the lockers. Many lockers only have one shelf, and they are supposed to fit three people in them.
I opened my locker the first day I got it and I was shocked by how small they seem to be.
I know that we can go out and buy a locker shelf, but most people can't work them right, and they usually break and collapse.

I also noticed that when I first opened the locker, they were extremely messy.
I know we can take care of them ourselves, but it's frustrating. Hopefully somebody can do something about this problem.

Erin Beaver (10)

We are overcrowded

Dear Editor,
Our school is way overcrowded. The locker situation is unfair.
It was crowded enough with just two people to a locker, but three?

That's ridiculous. Some of my classrooms are so crowded there's barely enough room for everyone.
The stairwells and west side of the building are way too crowded.
It takes three minutes to get from the portables to the inside of the building alone.

That is what is wrong with our school.

Sara Fletcher (9)

Administration is to blame

Dear Editor,
I am not satisfied by the way the school has given out lockers. I don't

think it was a good idea to put people from the same class as you as your locker partners.
I mean that I think the idea of having three locker partners is all right, but not being able to pick your locker partners is stupid.
We don't know if we can trust our locker partners because we have never met these people before.
I like to keep a lot of expensive gadgets and I don't want my stuff stolen.

Devin Croffer (10)

Students want clean shelves

Dear Editor,
Due to the construction, my locker is so dirty. There is rust colored dust everywhere.
The school or construction workers should clean the lockers before distributing them to students.
The dust is ruining my books and notebooks. Please take care of this soon.

Kari Greguska (11)

Renovations must end soon

Dear Editor,
When I came back to Central this year, it didn't seem the same and the renovations have made it an unenjoyable experience.
Having to walk from the portables up to the third floor, and then back out isn't very easy.
Even though they are air conditioned, I would prefer to be in regular classrooms more. As if our school isn't already crowded enough, having several hallways blocked off makes it even harder to get through the mess.
The locker situation is horrible, too. All three of the girls sharing my locker are all involved in a fall sport, so we each have big bags in there and they take up a lot of room.
I know I will be really happy when all the renovations are done. I don't really enjoy it right now.

Katie O'Banion (10)

Demands space at school

Dear Editor,
With the renovations, the hallways

are packed and slow.
If we had an in and out door for everything, things would go quicker. Parking is another big issue. We have one senior parking lot, but at least 400 students who are seniors.
A lot of juniors, some sophomores and freshmen are driving, too. Does the school care? No, not really. We just get told they aren't responsible for what happens. I get here at 6 a.m. and have a hard time finding a place to park. We need to get a parking lot or more parking spots.
One last issue is having three to a locker. There is not enough room.
The school needs to pull together and make it more convenient for the students.

Amanda Wirth (10)

Barricades cause confusion

Dear Editor,
You walk to the end of a hallway planning to go down a staircase or around the floor, only to run into a dead end. I can't wait until this is all finished.

Michaela Briardy (9)

Not really, because some people might not want other people to know who is watching them.

Shanesha Mapp (10)

It is good because it watches the delinquents running around the school causing trouble.

Kelsey Ratigan (11)

No, it is not beneficial because they are just watching us and they really are not doing us a lot of good.

Jennifer Mapes (11)

Class sizes distracts students studying

Dear Editor,
I'd like to say that the class sizes this year are ridiculous. In my math class last year, there were 20 students.
There are over 35 this year. Math can be one of the most difficult subjects for many students and it is harder to learn with when everyone is struggling.
I, like many of my classmates, have already anticipated working much harder and probably doing worse in the subject because of the class size.
Central high preaches that every child should have the best opportunity to learn and work in a positive working

environment. Well, with almost 40 to a class, I, like others don't feel that I have the best opportunity.

Molly Mullen (10)

Student wants more strict discipline

Dear Editor,
I think that Central High needs to work on its discipline policy.
How is it that someone is suspended longer for possession of marijuana than for sexual assault and multiple accounts of harassment? I do not think that someone smoking is threatening to other students, but I do not want to be in class with a known sex offender. This is uncomfortable and not at all right. Something should be done.

Mariah Bianchini (11)

Passing periods should be longer

Dear Editor,
I don't believe students are given enough time between classes. This is my first year at Central, and I've attended two other high schools. I don't know the exact

bell schedule, but I can't help noticing I have such a hard time making it to class on time. My classes are all a few flights of stairs apart and on the other side of the building from each other. I would like to go to my locker once in a while to carry only my materials for the next class at a time, but I don't think I would make it.
I wouldn't care as much, but the teachers at Central appear to crack down on tardiness more than at my previous schools. I would propose either an additional 10 or 15 minutes added to the schedule, or teacher's to lighten up on punishment for tardies.

Alex Wilhelm (11)

Student congratulates the newspaper staff

Dear Editor,
I know that your job is a big one, and I commend you on the fine job you and your staff are doing. In my opinion, the Register is a very important asset to our school.
Some students parents and school administration get upset about some of the more controversial stories and columns that you do, but I think those stories not only inform students as to what is going on in our school, they sell papers.

Natalie McClellan (10)



Distribution handled better

Dear Editor,
I really believe that the locker situation could have been handled differently.
A few weeks before school started, students should have been able to pick one or two partners and get a locker in a convenient place.
We should be able to get a locker near our classes.
I have a portable class for homeroom and my locker is located in the corner of a hallway right next to construction.

There are no classrooms 30 feet from my locker.
I have to carry most of my books all day for unnecessary reasons. Next year, I believe that it would be wise to change the system they have implemented now.

Audrey Hatch (10)

Administration is to blame

Dear Editor,
I am not satisfied by the way the school has given out lockers. I don't

think it was a good idea to put people from the same class as you as your locker partners.
I mean that I think the idea of having three locker partners is all right, but not being able to pick your locker partners is stupid.
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The school or construction workers should clean the lockers before distributing them to students.
The dust is ruining my books and notebooks. Please take care of this soon.

Kari Greguska (11)

Renovations must end soon

Dear Editor,
When I came back to Central this year, it didn't seem the same and the renovations have made it an unenjoyable experience.
Having to walk from the portables up to the third floor, and then back out isn't very easy.
Even though they are air conditioned, I would prefer to be in regular classrooms more. As if our school isn't already crowded enough, having several hallways blocked off makes it even harder to get through the mess.
The locker situation is horrible, too. All three of the girls sharing my locker are all involved in a fall sport, so we each have big bags in there and they take up a lot of room.
I know I will be really happy when all the renovations are done. I don't really enjoy it right now.

Katie O'Banion (10)

Demands space at school

Dear Editor,
With the renovations, the hallways

are packed and slow.
If we had an in and out door for everything, things would go quicker. Parking is another big issue. We have one senior parking lot, but at least 400 students who are seniors.
A lot of juniors, some sophomores and freshmen are driving, too. Does the school care? No, not really. We just get told they aren't responsible for what happens. I get here at 6 a.m. and have a hard time finding a place to park. We need to get a parking lot or more parking spots.
One last issue is having three to a locker. There is not enough room.
The school needs to pull together and make it more convenient for the students.

Amanda Wirth (10)

Barricades cause confusion

Dear Editor,
You walk to the end of a hallway planning to go down a staircase or around the floor, only to run into a dead end. I can't wait until this is all finished.

Michaela Briardy (9)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the Editor are gladly accepted in room 315, via e-mail at Central.Journalism@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.

environment. Well, with almost 40 to a class, I, like others don't feel that I have the best opportunity.

Molly Mullen (10)

Student wants more strict discipline

Dear Editor,
I think that Central High needs to work on its discipline policy.
How is it that someone is suspended longer for possession of marijuana than for sexual assault and multiple accounts of harassment? I do not think that someone smoking is threatening to other students, but I do not want to be in class with a known sex offender. This is uncomfortable and not at all right. Something should be done.

Mariah Bianchini (11)

Passing periods should be longer

Dear Editor,
I don't believe students are given enough time between classes. This is my first year at Central, and I've attended two other high schools. I don't know the exact

bell schedule, but I can't help noticing I have such a hard time making it to class on time. My classes are all a few flights of stairs apart and on the other side of the building from each other. I would like to go to my locker once in a while to carry only my materials for the next class at a time, but I don't think I would make it.
I wouldn't care as much, but the teachers at Central appear to crack down on tardiness more than at my previous schools. I would propose either an additional 10 or 15 minutes added to the schedule, or teacher's to lighten up on punishment for tardies.

Alex Wilhelm (11)

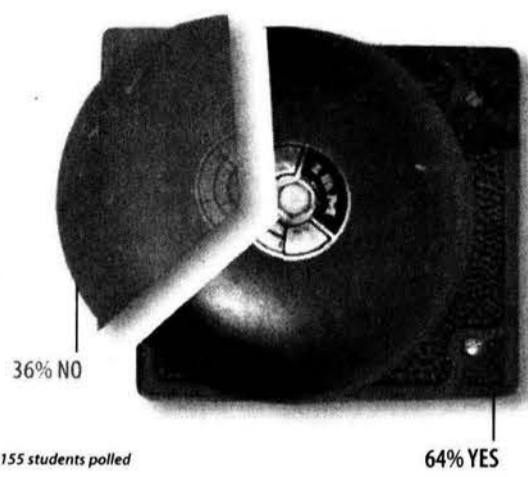
Student congratulates the newspaper staff

Dear Editor,
I know that your job is a big one, and I commend you on the fine job you and your staff are doing. In my opinion, the Register is a very important asset to our school.
Some students parents and school administration get upset about some of the more controversial stories and columns that you do, but I think those stories not only inform students as to what is going on in our school, they sell papers.

Natalie McClellan (10)

STUDENT POLL

Are passing periods too short?



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STUDENT POLL

Is parking a problem at Central?



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Alex Wilhelm (11)



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

DO YOU THINK THAT THE NEW SECURITY CAMERAS ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS?



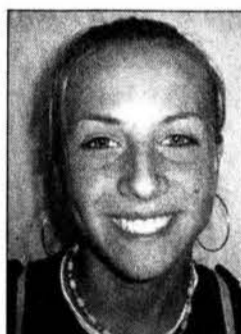
"I guess for the people passing in the hallways and portables, it's a good thing. For the rest of the school, no."
Jessica Lewis (10)



"Yes, definitely because if something happened, then security could go back and see who did it."
Theresa Vacha (9)



"Not really, because some people might not want other people to know who is watching them."
Shanesha Mapp (10)



"It is good because it watches the delinquents running around the school causing trouble."
Kelsey Ratigan (11)



"No, it is not beneficial because they are just watching us and they really are not doing us a lot of good."
Jennifer Mapes (11)

Freshmen Day successful, again

Instead of nose diving into the mix, being late for classes and stressing the new freshmen students out beyond all recognition, Freshmen Day gives the students a chance to ease into high school without all the added chaos of upperclassmen.

Freshmen Day is a normal school day, with a twist. Only freshmen attend.

There are no seniors, juniors and sophomores to get in the way.

A day for freshmen to find their way around can be nothing but beneficial.

This year especially, it's critical that students know their way around the schools. One wrong turn and students can hit a dead end and be late for their class.

The sight of the school can be rather scary. The inside is even more intimidating. There are very large upperclassmen at this school and freshmen did not have to deal with them because of the special day.

Freshmen students, who don't know their way around the school even when it's not under construction, need that day to get a feel for what passing periods will be like and how to efficiently get to their classes.

It is a system that has been in place for a while now and works it quite well.

Freshmen Day is not to set false pretences as to what the school year will be like.

No upperclassmen in the hallways is unrealistic and the freshmen understand that.

Portables are an entire new variable, too. Upperclassmen aren't even used to them on the first day of school, let alone new students who have never even experienced the building.

Lunch is always something that's on new students' minds as well. Wondering where they were going to sit and whom they're going to sit with can cause anxiety for freshmen.

Without upperclassmen, the lunch situation always seems a lot less hectic.

The lunch line alone can add to a stressful situation. Some students can be pretty aggressive.

Freshmen need to be given the opportunity to feel out the lunch line and how the system works.

The pressure of typing in their identification number in the lunch line at the speed of light is buffered by the line being less congested.

The next day when they get to experience real school with upperclassmen, the shock won't be as severe since students have already gone through a simulated practice school training day.

Getting acquainted with teachers is also easier and more relaxing when it's just freshmen at school.

Feeling out the school, how to maneuver in the halls, passing periods and getting used to lunch will only benefit the freshmen students, who have enough of a stress load on them starting at a big, new high school.

Hopefully this tradition will continue.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

Teenagers lack skills to survive in wild

The thought of escaping to the wilderness to get away from all the burdens of today's world may sound pleasing to some of you, but I bet none of you would even know what to expect.

Throughout time people have gone off to live in the wild, and for a very select few it may have worked.

For today's culture, it would be nearly impossible. We simply rely too much on technology and convenience.

The theory as to whether people can survive on their own instincts and will-power has been tested in the past.

It was disproved. One person who did this was the Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau during his stay at Walden Pond.

There he built his own humble home, planted and grew his own food and tended to his own clothing.

It was seldom that he would actually buy items. Rather, he would borrow from other people who lived further away.

For two years he stayed out there, but finally found that his life there lacked any greater substance than that of living around people.

He fell into patterns and schedules leaving life no more exciting than your average day.

It would be a pleasant idea for a vacation, but a life in that kind of seclusion would be fruitless.

Now if a full grown, scholarly adult cannot find himself able to have a solid life in the wilderness, what makes a person today think that he could.

We as people are too accustomed to our modern technologies to the point where it would be hell to even think about surviving like that.

We are all too lazy. Would we want to build a fire to cook our meals? No, we would want a stove!

Also, today's times are very different than it was back in Thoreau's day.

I bet he never had to worry about a lunatic bothering him at his door, but for us we would have the fear of coming face to face with the infamous Unibomber. We know he liked to live in the woods.

For all we know the Unibomber was once a person just like you and I trying to see what it is like to live in the wild.

He tried it, and as a result the word was given a new nutcase.

He lived all by himself. I am sure he would have been more than happy to have you for dinner. That is another thing, people are extremely social these days, far more than they have been in the past.

Just try and think of how many people you know who own a cell phone, use an instant messaging service online, send e-mails or use fax machines.

That is not even the end of the list of different ways people communicate today.

I am sure that if the situation were desperate enough, then a person would resort to teaching himself or herself Morse code.

We constantly have to be in contact with another person as if we as people have some natural fetish with communication.

We get off by talking or messaging one another. Try thinking about that the next time you are gossiping with your friends, or even ordering a meal at a fast food restaurant.

What about food?

A vast majority of people do not even know the first thing about how to grow their own vegetables, know what plant life is edible or know how to hunt down a live meal.

People are more or less far too conservative to even think about taking the life of another animal even if it meant getting them something to eat. Of course they would break down eventually and become savage beasts who do not even take the time to cook their meals.

It would be these desires that would be the end of any person trying to survive in the wilderness.

He or she would become just as instinctive and raw as the creatures that live in the woods around him or her.

Perhaps the bane of all possible desires would be the sexual desire.

People are multiplying like rabbits on crack these days, and there is only so much time before one's self-satisfaction just becomes dull.

There is a long list of different problems that the typical person today would face if he ever tried to face wilderness survival with the bare minimum.

So until the day when our standards are no where near as high as they are now, we might as well just stick with the wilderness we live in.



THROUGH THE EYES OF A MADMAN

A COLUMN BY JOHN KENDALL



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Jerry Bexten
PRINCIPAL

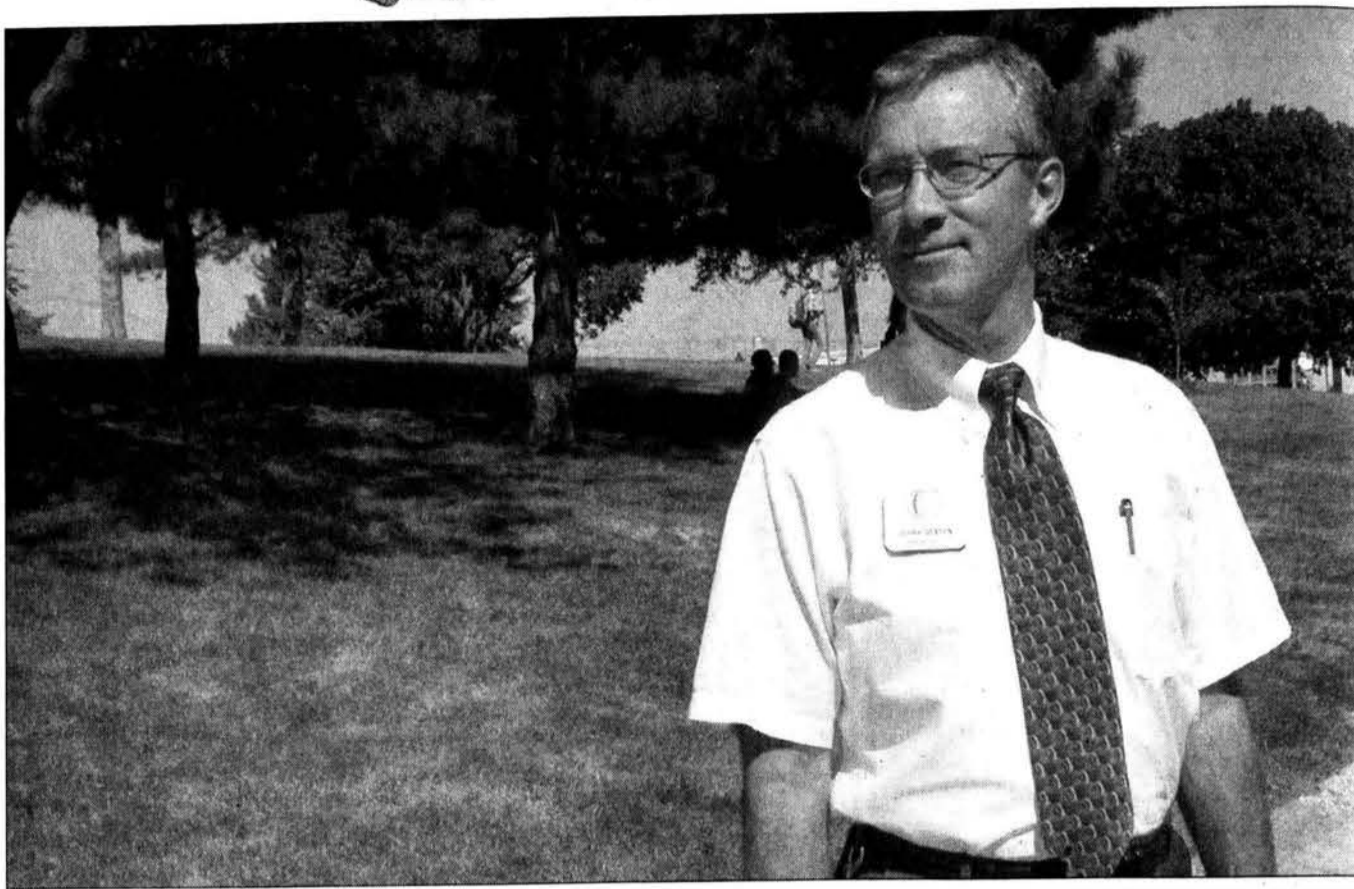
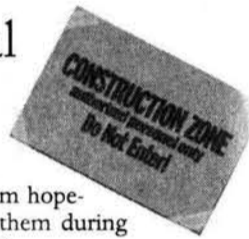


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Bexten observes students as they leave school to ensure they remain safe, avoid construction sites and follow school policies.

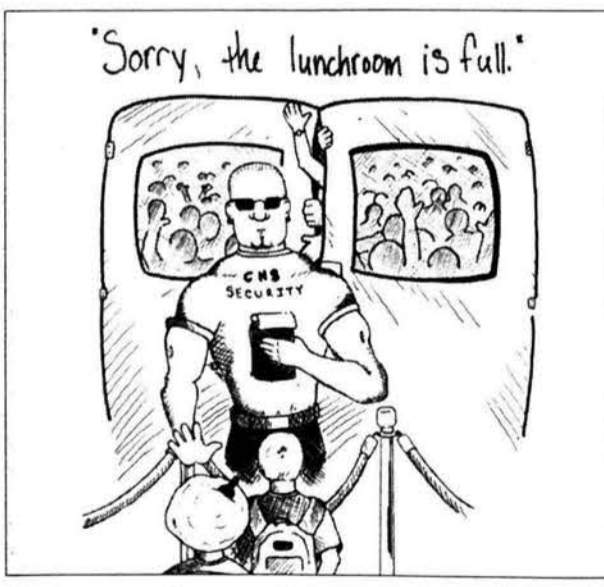
'The summer phase was behind'

For this issue, the Register talked with the CHS principal about the construction at the state's largest high school.



- Q:** Do you think the renovations went smoothly over the summer?
A: "This year and next year. I'm hopeful we'll only have to use them during the first semester next year."
- Q:** When will the gym classes be out of the portables?
A: "They should be out of there by approximately mid October. The date I've been given is Oct. 17, and the classes will be able to meet in the gym Oct. 20."
- Q:** Do you think the renovations will go well during the school year?
A: "I'm being very optimistic that they will. The problem with the summer phase was that there was a lot to be done in a short span of time. The phase we are in now should be more manageable."
- Q:** Do you think the students are reacting well to the construction?
A: "I think the students are reacting extremely well. I think they handle all the hallways being blocked beautifully. There haven't been any complaints. They just do what they need to do."
- Q:** Are the renovations on schedule?
A: "When you look at it from a long-term perspective, we are in pretty good shape."
- Q:** How long will the portables be in use?
A: "We have the senior lot again, but students have to compete with construction workers to park on the street. So that's more of a challenge than usual."
- Q:** Do you think students are reacting well to the new bell schedule?
A: "I really haven't noticed a lot of tardies. The one thing that I still notice is that students seem to be going out the main west entrance. If a few more people used the entrance by the auditorium, it would relieve congestion."
- Q:** Why is the construction behind?
A: "A variety of reasons, the summer phase was behind."
- Q:** What is the parking situation this year?
A: "We have the senior lot again, but students have to compete with construction workers to park on the street. So that's more of a challenge than usual."

Crowded classes lead to problems with students sitting on floors



The state's ideal class size of 25 is a far cry from Central's classes of 40. When some classes are so overcrowded, some students aren't even capable of having a desk and are forced to sit in chairs in the back of the classroom and even on the floor, something must be wrong.

This has to be affecting the ability of students to focus in class. Once that happens, something must be done.

This is extremely frustrating for both teachers and students. Students aren't able to connect with teachers on a personal level.

It's impossible for all of the students to get the individual one-on-one attention they need from teachers. This becomes a problem when students need help or have a question and are unsure how to approach them with the issue.

This may affect the students' focus and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Class size is determined before students register, but anywhere from 75 to 100 students register late, causing problems.

Some officials believe it is a misperception that some classes are overcrowded. Although not all of the classes are crowded, there are still those that have students without desks.

It may not be true for freshmen (whom the administration schedule smaller classes), yet this is unfair to upperclassmen.

Each and every student deserves the right to be able to ask a teacher a question and get homework help without having to wait for 20 others to do the same.

That isn't fair for teachers or students. Larger class sizes handicap students from their full learning potential.

Both upper and lower classmen deserve to get the proper education and instruction, and their ability to do so is extremely hindered due to the classes that are lacking basic resources.

Safety is also an issue. A class of 35 students is much harder to keep under control than one with 20 students.

Fighting and keeping the class in line is another thing teachers have to worry about.

Even though administration states that department heads helped find the appropriate number of students per class, it is probably not the most efficient number, and teachers probably aren't too excited about teaching 40 students at a time.

Their job is to teach students. They cannot effectively teach so many at once.

If a classroom is full to the point where students don't even have a place to sit, that's probably a good indicator that the student should be placed in another class.

Classes should be assigned on a first come first served basis. That may even prevent students from waiting until the last minute to register for classes.

There are some classes that are far from full. If students wait too long to register for Honors English 5-6, then they should be placed in another class that isn't so full.

A cap should be placed on classes. Students who don't have a place to sit in the classroom can't be getting the attention they need to reach their full academic potential.

Weighted GPAs inflate student egos, confuse parents while failing to impress colleges

Some students work hard in school in Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes in order to be challenged intellectually and academically.

Some do it to pad or raise their GPAs just to impress colleges. These students are in these challenging classes for the wrong reasons.

College admission officials do care that students take AP and honors classes. They don't care about the weighted GPAs that are the result of taking those classes.

Some students don't understand. They fail to realize that weighted GPAs don't matter after graduation. So if a student is taking an honors class just because it inflates his GPA, he is wasting his time.

Some schools happen to accept the weighted GPA, but most universities ignore it. Even if they take the student's weighted GPA, that student still has to tell the college representative that the GPA is "weighted."

The letter grade is also deceiving because if a student

receives a grade of a three, it will have the equivalent points of a two, weighted. College admissions will see an honors student's grade in English as a three and could assume that the student didn't try hard.

Colleges won't see the fact that the class had the extra weight.

High schools see it as a benefit to applaud the students for their hard work. The problem is that these kids are not in these classes for the challenge of it.

They are in these classes because it inflates their egos and GPAs.

The problem is that students who take the classes for greed will slow down the pace of the class and hinder the learning of the students who are in there for the right reasons.

Then the curriculum of the classes would have to be adjusted to the point where it wouldn't even be classified as

AP any more.

In short, the curriculum would have to be watered down.

Weighted GPA would only hurt the school and the classes' reputation.

It's getting to the points where students don't talk about how difficult the classes are, but talk about how they are easy classes with extra points.

Some would say the even discussing GPA is irrelevant because the grades are already on the transcripts.

But what these people forget is that when the student receives a three in the grade points bumps the points to the weight of a two.

The entire concept is deceiving, which is the reason why it should be eliminated.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff



WEIGHTED GPA SYSTEM AT CENTRAL NO LONGER FOOLS COLLEGES

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

DRESS CODE

Punishment should be enforced for students who violate the apparel policy.

Micro-miniskirts that are so short one can't bend over without looking like she's posing for "Playboy" are not school appropriate. The administration realizes this and is starting to really crack down on students who "don't want to get hot" during the day.

Not only miniskirts, but halter-tops, thin strapped tank tops, shirts that are too revealing and pants that are sagging too low are things the school is cracking down on once again.

This is a good thing. Making the inappropriately-dressed student change her clothes sounds like a good solution for getting the students to dress more conservatively and school appropriate.

If the students are complaining about having to wear an oversized athletic shirt, then they'll probably think twice before they put on an overly-revealing shirt.

It is understood that the building can get quite warm, especially during the summer months. Carrying water and wearing comfortable, breathable clothes will get you through the day without burning up. Hot pants and a halter-top will probably just make matters worse.

Pants that sag too low are also an issue. The irony behind that alone is shocking. Sagging the pants way below the waist originated in prison. When somebody was "owned" he would sag his pants and his owner would sell him to other inmates. When the pants were sagged, the other inmates could "see the merchandise."

Students imitating prison inmates is never acceptable in school, nor should it be. It's a place of learning, if the sagging of the pants is an issue, a teacher should be able to tell the dress code violator to put a belt on or pull up his pants. This is high school, this is not Folsome County Prison.

Sagging pants and inappropriate clothes are not only distracting for the students who are constantly having to adjust their clothes, but are distracting for other students. Instead of concentrating on the teacher explaining iambic pentameter, a student will be looking at another student's low cut shirt. Issues such as revealing clothing can serve as a major distraction, especially for high school students.

Coming down on the students and making them change or cover themselves will hopefully prevent the students from dressing this way again. As long as the school continues to strongly enforce the rules, the students will back off and wear actual clothes.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



CONFESSIONS OF MY DANGEROUS MIND

A COLUMN BY ROB HUNTER

Ignoring people makes life good, angers parents

What has two arms, two legs and a grey sense of humor?

A goofy looking spider with a skin condition? No. That would be me, but merely the outer me... or was it the inner me? Don't ask.

I'm mildly arrogant, extremely blunt, extraordinary cynical, easily frustrated, slightly intelligent, very sarcastic, 5-foot-10-inch, stinky little man.

Listen closely because I'm going to tell you underclassmen how to graduate with ease.

You would think that once you're approaching graduation from high school you would be able to look past the stupid immaturities of school and the people around you.

Turns out that you rarely can.

I try to ignore people, I really do.

It's just that sometimes they can get so aggravating that I just want to get in my car and drive, never to look back.

Sadly, that requires some of the green stuff (money) that pays for that extremely expensive clear stuff (gas).

You might be rolling your eyes and assuming that I exaggerate quite a bit, which is what I'd expect from someone like you.

And I do exaggerate, but something in the back of my head says that you'll still listen to me.

So where was I? Oh yes, social pre-occupations of a high school student and how to graduate easily.

You do know that 98 percent of the high school students I know are good people at heart, right? Sadly only about 5 percent of them ever act like it.

After all, in high school, being a good person is about popularity and succeeding, right?

Well if high school is about popularity, then I've failed.

And if it's about succeeding, being a broad generalization, or being meant in the way Omaha Public Schools means it, then I've pretty much failed there as well.

I've failed in both aspects, yet I consider myself a good person... so what gives?

Well I say, who needs to be a good or nice person, if you want to graduate easily?

We do want to graduate, right?

I may not have succeeded within the educational guidelines, but I have succeeded in making myself happier.

I have learned my past three years here that the ability to ignore the people around you can get you very far.

If you focus on yourself and ignore everything else, you will leave this school with a genuinely good feeling (and on time).

That is, not an "Oh man I can't believe I'm finally out of this cesspool," but instead, with a "Wow, now I'm ready for the rest of my life."

Or, you could always get a click of five to 10 people together, "study" (and by study I mean copy each other's notebooks) and pass all your honors classes with high grades.

Well I guess you have a slightly different view? Less negative maybe? More optimistic? Oh well.

Like I said, I'm arrogant.

Gay couples denied state marriage rights which harms future of young people



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

When two people fall in love in this society, they have the options of getting married, settling down, having a few kids and when one dies, the other arranges burial rights.

In Nebraska, love is not blind and same-sex relationships such as the one described are prohibited.

The question that lingers in the air now, is what the youth will do when they want to be legally joined.

Gay and bisexual couples happen at any age, but soon enough high school and college students want to tie the knot.

If a same-sex couple at Central wants to get married and settle down, they will be prohibited by law.

With this law, it won't ever make same-sex marriages legal and doesn't give the couple equal rights to their commitment to one another.

In the Nebraska Constitution, Article 1, Section 29 (formally known as initiative 416), is claiming to be promoting the protection of traditional marriage. This law is discriminating and hurts more people than it protects.

It hurts not only families, but Nebraska's economy as well.

The law makes it virtually impossible for gay and bisexual couples to have a normal relationship. They can't take time off from work for their partner's medical needs, make emergency medical decisions or even make funeral arrangements.

A gay person who works for the state can't obtain a family health plan for their partner.

Any couple, gay, bisexual or heterosexual should be able to live their lives without any restrictions to their love for each other.

They shouldn't have to move to a different state that supports their love for each other.

The Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality (NAJE), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Citizens

for Equal Protection (CFEP) filed a complaint, saying the law violates the U.S. Constitution. Lambda Legal and ACLU are suing the state on behalf of CFEP, NAJE and ACLU, who are the three advocacy organizations that are prevented from seeking equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual couples by law.

The issue has been a big topic in the media lately. Political figures, including President Bush, are pushing cohabitation saying it's okay, but that same-sex marriage is not.

If two people love each other, no matter what their preference is, they should be able to marry and fully dedicate themselves to each other without limitations.

The law is hurting the state's image and economy as well as families. It makes Nebraska look like a joke. More health insurance benefits are being provided to more lesbian and gay businesses and government employees' same sex partner. More than 5,000 businesses nationwide recognize same-sex couples. The fact that Nebraska is not doing the same makes Nebraska look behind the times.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Custodians' dedication to hard work helped prepare the building for students' first day of school

The custodial staff should be applauded. The staff did an outstanding job this summer by stepping up with the mess caused by renovations.

The job seemed never-ending. Each time a construction company worked in a particular room, the custodians had to clean up after

This happened multiple times week. They just didn't clean one area

Renovations are a very difficult thing to maintain because there are constant changes daily.

But the school's custodial staff met this challenge by staying dedicated to the job.

Some of the staff would arrive at the school as early as 4:30 a.m. and work an average of 12 hours a day.

The school's custodians did more than the stereotypical cleaning around the building. Moving furniture all over the building showed that they cared about the students and faculty.

Not only was the work hard, but the staff also fought the heat.

The air circulation was poor because many of the classrooms were closed. The pressure was great because the staff wanted to complete the deadlines before school started.

The school would be in pieces without their tremendous effort.

During the month of August, many overtime hours had to be put

in. The staff handled this overwhelming situation with ease.

All of the students and faculty should acknowledge the custodial staff, because they had a huge role in getting the school ready on time.

The staff kept its determination and stayed strong to finish the project. Working through such turmoil needs to be rewarded because they had a constant battle with clouds of dust.

Since school has started, they went back to their normal hours, which usually includes overtime work.

Constant excellence also must be appreciated for their "normal" work days at school.

If the custodians didn't exist at schools, many students and teachers would finally realize all of the hard work they do because the school would fall apart.

Congratulations to Deb Taylor and her staff for a job well done.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

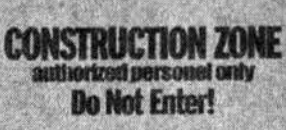


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Custodian Clarence Crader sweeps every flight of stairs to keep students safe, and the school clean.

OPINION

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

124 N 20TH STREET OMAHA NEBRASKA 68102

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

LAW ABANDONS STUDENTS

The current administration's No Child Left Behind Law will sink schools, teachers and students because of the unattainable standards that misinformed lawmakers pushed through.

It is a well-intentioned failure.

The ideas behind the act are good. However, when applied to real schools, with real issues, it doesn't even come close to figuring out what's best for the nation's children.

Central is a school known for its high-achieving students and for having amazing teachers who dedicate their lives to the craft, but even this combination might not help the school pass.

George W. Bush ran for president in 2000 as a "compassionate conservative." A compassionate conservative was described as an individual who cared deeply about Americans. However, he opposed increasing the government's bureaucracy and spending to solve problems.

President Bush, influenced by his wife's career as a teacher, wanted to be known as the education president. The Bush administration's initiative to improve American education is called No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

It was created to reflect each of the pillars of the President's education reform blueprint: accountability and testing, flexibility and local control funding for what works and expanded parental options.

These are incontestable ideals. There is no organized group in the United States that favors the inability to learn. In fact, the act passed in the Senate 99-1.

NCLB was created, "To close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind." The problem with the act does not lie with its lofty goals, but with the way it is implemented by the states.

Every state is required to set the academic standards for what every child should know in reading, math and science. Students are to be tested on their knowledge in the three areas. Students in grades three through eight and 11 are tested to see if they have mastered the subject. Nebraska schools that do not pass are deemed failing schools.

Failing schools are punished by budgetary cuts. Students are also given the opportunity to attend other schools. In the fourth year of being deemed a failing school, the school can be closed for restructuring. This means firing teachers, administration and even have

companies take over schools.

In order for Central to be considered a passing school, 66 percent of the school must pass the assessment tests. The student body is further divided into four groups.

The groups are based upon economic background, race/ethnicity, English proficiency and disability. Each sub-group must all pass the assessment tests by 66 percent. If one group does not pass, then the whole school fails.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

According to the most recent state report card, only 224 seniors at Central in the 2001-2002 year could solve (algebraically and graphically) linear, absolute value and quadratic equations and inequalities involving integers, fractions and decimals with solutions from the set of complex numbers to state expectations.

The effect of the testing portion of the NCLB Act is to focus schools exclusively on these tests. The heavy hammer of funding cuts is too threatening to ignore.

Failing a test can be devastating to any school. The administration cannot be blamed for focusing class time on preparing for the tests. Testing should not be punitive. Rather, it should be diagnostic and help the schools to determine where work needs to be done.

NCLB does not help America's youth. It would seem logical, that if a school has students who are failing these tests, the school should be given more money, not less.

The testing part of this act will create a climate of fear in every school system. The stigma of having graduated or having attended a failing school would certainly affect a

student's ability to get into the college of her choice.

The conservative goal of not increasing federal spending on education, while imposing new and higher standards is hypocritical. When the federal government mandates a new law, but does not fund it, it is forcing the state and local school board to raise taxes to pay for it.

Just months after NCLB was created, federal funding was cut to help pay for the war on terrorism, the new national priority. From a taxpayer's point of view, it does not matter who collects the money. Congress pushes the taxes on to the local level to avoid the blame for raising taxes.

One of the pillars of the act is choice. Choice in this context is a reference to the highly controversial issue of vouchers.

The Voucher System allows highly motivated students to abandon a failing public school and use public money to attend a private school. Bleeding the most motivated students and their parents out of a school cannot possibly help the school academically.

Education is a cumulative process. The older a student becomes, the harder it becomes to solve learning problems.

More time, effort and money should be spent on preschool and primary grades, so that a better prepared student is delivered to the high schools.

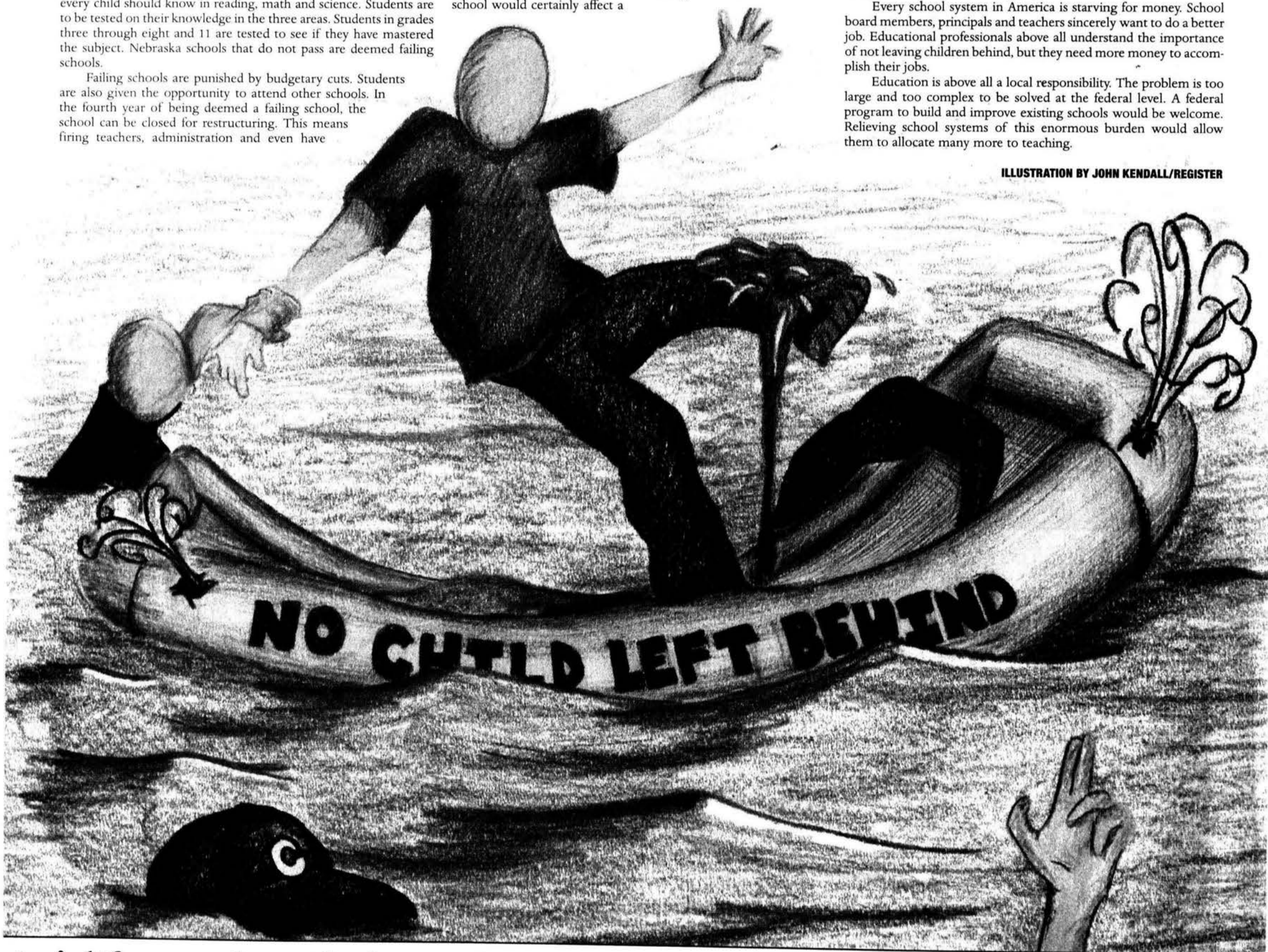
Much thought needs to be devoted to the problems of students who do not have a good family support system. In general, students who have a high level of family supervision do better in school. NCLB does not address this issue.

Every discussion about the success or failures of the school systems always revolves around money. The system for funding schools must be re-examined and improved.

Every school system in America is starving for money. School board members, principals and teachers sincerely want to do a better job. Educational professionals above all understand the importance of not leaving children behind, but they need more money to accomplish their jobs.

Education is above all a local responsibility. The problem is too large and too complex to be solved at the federal level. A federal program to build and improve existing schools would be welcome. Relieving school systems of this enormous burden would allow them to allocate many more to teaching.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER



Senior's life turned upside down when convicted drug dealer dies in shoot-out with police

Brian Swotek was shot and killed on his front porch on Sunday, July 20 by the Omaha Police Department. Brian Swotek was also a middle-aged meth dealer with several warrants out for his arrest.

Wait a minute. My name is Bryan Swotek.

I mean, I didn't even know I was dead or wanted by the police. Whoever was supposed to tell me these things should be fired.

I am by no means perfect. Sure, I have the typical teenage problems and I occasionally argue with my younger sisters, but I never associated my name with methamphetamine or other drugs for that matter.

Wait, that was Brian Swotek the meth dealer. Oh yeah, I remember hearing about him. I also remember hearing his name a couple of times before and knowing that it would all go downhill from there.

This was comforting to hear while I was out of town this summer.

My name is not that common. I did not think there were that many people with the same name as me.

I called to talk to my family and I was told they were receiving a flurry of phone calls from people who we knew were all concerned about the news.

First of all, I have no relation to this man whatsoever. My parents and I made sure of that. But this man was a thorn in my side ever since I first saw his name on the news.

A few years ago, my pastime included watching Omaha's most wanted on public television until all hours of the morning and talking on the phone. During a phone call, my friends and I would make fun of the scum of the Earth who would make it to the public access show.

For some reason I found it entertaining to see the names of escaped convicts and assault suspects. But my jaw dropped when I saw my name flash across the screen. I actually thought it was funny.

All the screen said was that Brian Swotek was wanted for

not paying child support and possible drug charges.

Great, simply great. I don't have any kids and don't do drugs.

I knew that as soon as I saw my name, I would get major grief from people who also got entertainment from watching the show.

Luckily, there were no people like that.

Two years later I came across another man who also had my name, and boy howdy, I got a lot of grief from people about that.

In Council Bluffs, a different Brian Swotek was pulled over for speeding on

the interstate. The 16-year-old kid was questioned and license plates were scanned.

The car was stolen and when the police searched the car, they found drugs in the trunk.

Fifteen minutes after the story ran on the news, my

mother got a phone call from my grandmother.

Frantically, she asked my mother where I was. My mother told her that I was in my bed asleep, but my grandma thought otherwise.

She was convinced that I was under arrest and spending the night in jail. But my mom assured her that everything was okay and that I was fast asleep.

My mom told me what happened the next morning. That is what sent me over the edge.

My own grandmother thought that I was in jail and that I was doing drug runs in a stolen car.

He has since been taken into custody and rightfully punished.

That was when all of the ridicule at school started.

That was when teachers started pulling me in to the hallway during work time and asking me if what they heard on the news was true. People have trouble remembering the name has a "y" in it.

Normally people think that my name is spelled with a "i."



TABLE FOR ONE

A COLUMN BY BRYAN SWOTEK

ARTS

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

PAGE 27C

24 N 20TH STREET OMAHA NEBRASKA 68102

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

'HAVE YOU CHECKED THE CHILDREN?'

Teenagers are still going to scary movies, but what scared them 15 years ago doesn't necessarily scare them today. Some say when scary movies start, primal fear takes over. Other teens say these movies are not scary at all, they are just gross or shocking. The *Register* staff did a series of stories dealing with fear and the celebration of Halloween.

Why do some people like to get scared? What scares Central students?

For this terrifying coverage and Central's top scary movie picks, turn to PAGE 26-27C.



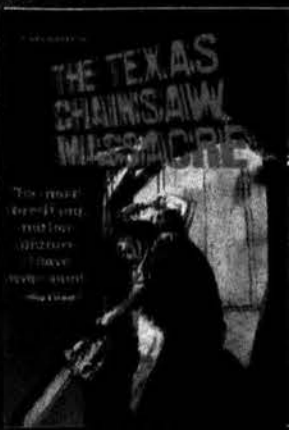
1974, "Halloween," PAGE 27C



1987, "Hellraiser," PAGE 27C



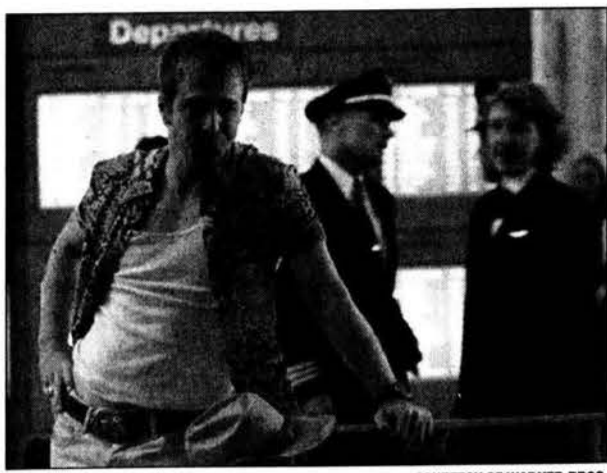
1987, "Child's Play," PAGE 27C



1974, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," PAGE 27C

Which movie was Central's #1? PAGE 27C

GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Sam Rockwell co-stars with Nicholas Cage in Ridley Scott directed "Matchstick Men."

Cage burns screen with performance

BY JEFF HART

"Matchstick Men" is another great movie from the brilliant mind of Ridley Scott that shows the struggles of a man stuck between crime and life.

It shows the life and problems of a con-artist named Roy (Nicholas Cage), who is an obsessive-compulsive person who does everything in his life the same way and has an interesting appetite for tuna fish.

MOVIE REVIEW



"MATCHSTICK MEN"

Starring: Nicholas Cage

Roy has a curve ball thrown at him when he finds out he has a 14-year-old daughter, Angela (Alison Lohman).

She destroys his house and has some of the worst habits for a teenager, ever.

This relationship helps Roy discover himself.

Frank (Sam Rockwell) is Roy's partner. They have been doing cons for a long time. Roy and Frank decide to take on a big con, which involved a rich guy with a huge bank account.

This movie is full of violence, human situation and side-splitting humor.

The surprises in this movie will blow the mind and pull the audience right out of their seats.

The action is thrown in to put suspense and fear of what could, and will, happen if you mess with the wrong type of people.

Cage's performance was good, but could have been better. It appeared at times like he was just going through the motions.

He has set such a high bar for himself, so anytime his performance is less than spectacular, the audience is let down, even a little.

The sound track was average, but not too memorable. The plot was a little confusing. There was a story within a story, which dragged the audience along to the final scene of the movie.

Rockwell did a good job of playing the exact opposite of Cage's character.

Ridley Scott's direction was evident in this movie with his use of lighting. The movie sets the high standard for other releases this year.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Jon Lovitz (LEFT) and David Spade decide their next move in "Dickie Roberts."

Actor's timing entertains, reminds audiences of past

BY BRIAN LEE

With hair dye and serenades, phobias and hilarious ironies, the movie "Dickie Roberts" will have audiences laughing while leaving them pleasantly surprised.

David Spade plays a former child star who sets out with a plan to relive his childhood and experience all of the things he missed while being in the spot light so young.

This 35 year old's only claim to fame is that he used to play a charming little boy on a once popular sitcom.

His character is an arrogant and overconfident, yet struggling actor, who hasn't landed a role in years and has been nearly forgotten.

Roberts makes friends with his hired family and they quickly bond as he learns about all of the classic toys that he never got to experience.

That's when the fun starts.

As he slowly works through the trauma of his childhood in outlandish tantrums and wacky mishaps involving bicycles and slip and slides, Roberts finds out just how much he lost.

Problems unfold in the family and Roberts manages to step in and lend a helping hand in his own misguided ways.

Spade pulls out all the stops in his infrequently placed, crude terminology and in the way he plays the role so convincingly.

This film features small appearances by several other well-known Hollywood actors, and at the end while the credits role there is a comical performance by real life former child stars who sing a song dedicated to the lives of forgotten stars.

Spade stays true to his reputation as a hilarious middle-aged white guy in a script that had to have been written specifically for him.

This movie is a major surprise and far better than its trailers portray.

Spade definitely has the comedy formula down pat. He needs to branch out to other forms before his act becomes stale.

This movie ranks right up there with other Spade hits, "Tommy Boy" and "Black Sheep."

CALENDAR



COURTESY OF DEEP ELM RECORDS

(FROM LEFT) Eli Deering, Michael Richardson and Vance Gore, the former members of Benton Falls, shown here when the band was still together playing on the Deep Elm Record Label. After the breakup, Deering and Richardson continued their musical careers in California, while Gore moved to North Carolina.

Lead singer starts developing new band, music

BY KATIE BACKMAN

After four years and two albums, members of the Santa-Rosa-based band Benton Falls had to go their separate ways.

Former lead singer and guitarist Michael Richardson said the band broke up because it couldn't really go anywhere musically by writing music together as a band.

"Benton Falls is not a band (anymore)," Richardson said. "It would not be fair if it was just the two of us."

Richardson said bassist Vance Gore moved away to start over. He moved to North Carolina while Richardson and drummer Eli Deering stayed in California.

He said they (the band) had a love-hate relationship and the band had to make decisions on its future.

Richardson said trying to replace a drummer is easier than a bassist. He said Benton Falls could never replace Gore.

"If he ever moves back then possibly (Benton Falls would regroup)," Richardson said.

He said initially the band just wanted to take a break, but other people kept calling asking what was happening.

Even though band broke up, former members didn't stop working on separate music careers. Richardson joined a different band called The New Trust. In this band, Richardson said he isn't the front man.

"I am taking a back seat," he said. "I write about 15 percent of my own guitar sections."

The lead singer and bassist of The New Trust, Josh Staples, writes most of the lyrics. Richardson said he needs a creative outlet and The New Trust isn't really allowing that as much as his previous band.

"I feel empty," he said.

Richardson said he misses the amount of work he put into Benton Falls and all the songs he wrote for the band.

He said he was having a hard time writing music and because of that he was "flipping out" because he was 29 and wondering what he should be doing musically and where he should be geographically.

"I'm on the edge of a fence not knowing where to go," Richardson said. "I could fall either way."

He said he misses writing songs for Benton Falls because the music he wrote was gave him a sense of relief.

It made him feel good.

He wrote a song called "Tell Him", which is about not being approved by a parent of an ex-girlfriend.

He said the girl was too smart and too pretty and trust was a common thing he couldn't get from her dad.

Now Richardson said he is going to make a new band again and Deering will be apart of it. He has been auditioning band members for a few weeks, but hasn't made a certain decision as of yet who will be in the band.

He knows the decision will be tough.

He said he was having a writer's block for a while, but he just woke up one day recently with inspiration for music.

"I am scared because this hasn't happened in a while and I don't write music down," Richardson said. "I can't just learn to write music again; it's not like riding a bike."

He said with his new band he doesn't plan on bringing much baggage into it. He said he doesn't want to write lyrics and have it be a burden to the band to listen to his whining.

"Music is weird," Richardson said. "Who knows what will happen in the future."

UPCOMING ALBUM RELEASES

*All albums are released on Tuesdays.

SEPTEMBER

29 IGGY POP, "SKULL RING"

It looks like Iggy Pop's body has grown a little bit from the days when he used to cut himself open on stage. But his songs are still rebel anthems and are a riot to listen to. Pop has never failed to impress, and this album will be no exception.

OCTOBER

7 2PAC, "NU-MIXX KLAZZICS"

It has been six years since 2Pac's death, but his music is still being released. His new album is remixes of songs that fans remembered 2Pac by. It was sad to see him go, but his music is still as powerful as it was six years ago.

7 DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE, "TRANSATLANTICISM"

Indie band Death Cab For Cutie has made an impression on the music scene. The band has played shows in Omaha and has gained a larger Omaha fan base with every show. The band is signed to Barsuk Records. Though they generally cater to the indie crowd, rock fans will not be disappointed with the band's performances or its album.

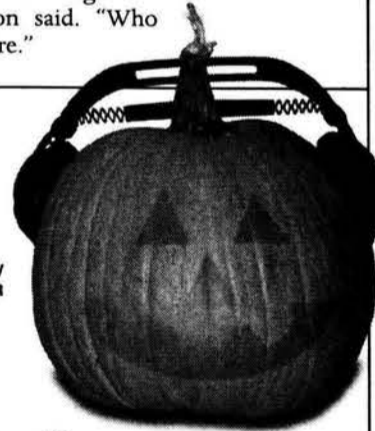
7 LUDACRIS, "CHICKEN & BEER"

"Chicken & Beer" is Ludacris' fourth album. His songs have been featured on such soundtracks such as "2 Fast, 2 Furious", and is has guest appearances on many other artists records.

17 TRAVIS, "12 MEMORIES"

Travis' squeaky clean pop-rock sound has made an impression on the hearts of America. His new album "12 Memories" looks to be a very good release with much anticipation from his loyal fans. His sounds seems to have grown up a little bit, but it is still good.

GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



MOVIE RELEASES

OCTOBER

3 "The School of Rock"
"The Human Stain"
"Out Of Time"

5 "Someone To Talk To"
"Trade-offs"

8 "Mystic River"
"Young Adam"

10 "Elephant"
"Hayride Slaughter II"

14 "Bad Movie Police
Case #1: Galaxy of the
Dinosaurs"

16 "The Texas Chainsaw
Massacre"
"Pieces of April"

19 "21 Grams"

21 "Firefight"
"Hallow's End"

24 "Outcasts"
"Radio"

28 "Jennifer Is Dead"
"Dope Game 2"

31 "In The Cut"
"Punk Rock Holocaust"

NOVEMBER

1 "Brother Bear"

4 "Chained Sinners:
Medieval Flashpots"

6 "Nobody Needs to Know"

CONCERTS

OCTOBER

3 Cher; at the Qwest Center

4 Jimmy Skaffa, Bad Luck
Charm, Death By Stereo
For Sake; at the Ranch Bowl

5 Atmosphere, Odd Jobs,
Brother Ali, Micronots;
at Sokol Underground

Saves The Day and Taking
Back Sunday; at Sokol
Auditorium

9 Fleetwood Mac; at Qwest
Center

10 Blue Man Group; at The
Orpheum

UK Subs; at the Ranch
Bowl

11 Venaculas, Series 8, Show
Shiver; at the Ranch Bowl

16 Better Then Ezra; at the
Music Box

18 Decaying Alive; at the
Ranch Bowl

21 Ed Kemper Trio, Ring,
Cicada and Fromanholtz
at Ted and Wallies

23 Mustard Plug; at the Ranch
Bowl

24 Radio Berlin and Broken
Spindles; at Sokol

Gallagher; at the Omaha
Music Hall

Renovations cause marching band to alter routine, practices

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Marching band is no longer performing as it has in past years at varsity football games. Music department head Pete Wilger said that during the first football game the band played on the track instead of on the field as a result of a lack of rehearsal time and space. "We're already starting a week behind practice," Wilger said. "Normally band camp is six days long, but this year it is only two." With the addition of the portables last year, many sports activities have relocated. Band doesn't have that option because it practices during school. The time of day (in the early morning) and an immense amount of students prevent it from being able to practice at another site. Wilger said that band was going to use the Joselyn Art Museum's parking lot as much as possible for practice since

the football field was no longer available. The band has undergone many transitions since renovations have taken place. "Last year we learned five pictures, which are basically formations for visual effect, and we learned three songs in addition to the school song and the national anthem for football performances," sophomore Dede Hearity said. She said that as a freshman she did not do as much marching as the upperclassmen did last year because Central was already undergoing part of the renovations. "We didn't have as much practice as the upperclassmen in marching and pictures because with the portables," Hearity said, "We never practiced on a full-size field, so this year won't be a tremendous change for me."

Some other alterations for band will be that all members are required to stay the entire length of the game because no marching is taking place. Hearity said that last year students had the option of leaving after halftime, but those that wanted to earn a letter in band stayed and played more pep songs. "We're basically one big pep band this year," Wilger said. Hearity said that she will miss marching because she enjoyed the freedom of being able to leave after the halftime performance to watch the game with her friends. Some portions of the band were not affected nearly as much by renovations. Wilger said that the drum line is ready for performance and will continue to play as it did last year. This is possible

because of the group's smaller size compared to the rest of the band. Wilger said that the band will still compete in the District Music Contest and perform in the Roadshow, Winter Concert and the NSBA Concert Band Festival. He said he is also planning to have a concert band festival sometime in November. The hope is that judges will come, listen to the concert band pieces and then critique the band accordingly. A future event planned for band is a trip that will take place in Minneapolis, MN or Chicago, IL this upcoming spring. After renovations are finally completed, Wilger said he plans on taking full advantage of Central's new stadium. "We will be able to train band (members) how to do more complicated pictures and to move around in small groups according to section, such as tubas, like the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and many other colleges do," Wilger said.



PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE REGISTER

Senior James Hubbard (LEFT) and senior Josh Katerba rehearse for their next show.

Guitarist joins group, Never a Dull Moment

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

A band of pure dedication. After unsuccessfully attempting to form bands before, senior Josh Koterba finally found somewhere to call home. Koterba along with junior James Hubbard and three other students are truly devoted musicians who put both time and effort into the development of their band, Never a Dull Moment. In February of 2003, five high school boys came together with the hopes of forming a band that's more rock than pop, and that is also unlike any other. Hubbard initially met the first three other band mates, guitarist Tom McCauley, vocalist Brandon Wozny and drummer Keith Goodman over the Internet after hearing from mutual friends that a bassist was needed. Hubbard seemed to fit the needed profile perfectly. Koterba met the boys later on at a concert and joined the band as another guitarist. They all clicked immediately. Koterba, who was in a previous band "The castoffs" left the group after personal differences with the other band members. "We were both very aware of what we wanted and they weren't the same thing," said Koterba. Comparable with bands such as Homegrown, Early November and Finch, the boys really don't like being compared to other bands. "Our fan base is pretty diverse, but both girls and guys," said Koterba. "It's not just our great bodies, it's our great music," said Hubbard. The bands' popularity seems to be growing. Originally the group started doing basement shows with other high school bands. It then progressed to performing at Rebels, the P.R. and also by recently winning "Battle of the Bands" at St. Peter's Church. Koterba has been around music his entire life, and considers his dad a type of inspiration. "My dad's been playing guitar since he was 14, so I've always been around music, it's a natural instinct," he said. There are pictures of me crawling on a guitar before I could even walk. Band members' dedication is strongly appreciated by their parents. "These boys stay focused, stay out of trouble and are very persistent in practicing," Patty, Goodman's mother, said. "There are so many bands out there but for their age, they're so good. I'd say it's because of their determination." The members of the band see this quality as well. "I'm particularly lucky my dad was in a band, so it's easy for him to relate," Koterba said. "My parents are really supportive of the whole thing." The dedication seems to be very strongly based. Although there are time constraints, the boys still find time to practice three or four times a week and also promote their band. They had T-shirts made, CD's burned and an interactive web site in progress. "I even skipped soccer practice to come to band; it's just dedication," Hubbard said.

THEY MADE HIM AN OFFER HE COULD NOT REFUSE

Alumnus' 'Godfather'-themed wedding was planned down to the last detail, then filmed by producers.

BY BRIAN SWOTEK

Guests at alumnus' Monastero Monastero's wedding were made an offer they could not refuse. Besides authentic Italian dinner and desserts, the wedding was filmed. Monastero, who lives in Santa Monica, CA, came to Omaha to have the wedding of all weddings, and the party of all parties, and that is exactly what happened. Through some friends Monastero and his fiancée Suzanne met a producer who was working on a pilot for a show and they were interviewed for that pilot. A couple of days after the Monasteros were interviewed, the producers called them and told them they were accepted for the show. "During the interview, the producers asked us what our favorite movie was," Monastero said. "We both told them it was 'The Godfather'." The crews asked Monastero and his wife to put a wedding together themed off of the wedding from the movie. "We had six weeks and a very small budget to put this thing together," Monastero said. During the planning process, Monastero had to figure out location, food and entertainment for the reception. "The producers were really tough on getting things to look like they did in the movie," Monastero said. When it came down to location, Monastero knew exactly where the wedding and reception would be held. He knew that the camera crews and wedding guests would have to fly to Omaha. The actual wedding ceremony was held at Lauritzen Gardens. "Everything about the gardens was beautiful," Monastero said. The wedding was a small private ceremony in which only 28 people close family members and friends were invited. However, the reception was another story. The reception was held at Joe Banana's on 10th and Pacific streets. Monastero said that about 200 people were there. "There were so many people there, it felt so crowded," Monastero said. Everything was down to the last detail when it came time for the reception to start. "In the movie the guests ate lasagna and drank red wine out of pitchers, so we made it happen," Monastero said. The costumes were also sought after. The bridesmaids wore peach-colored 1940 style dresses and the groomsmen wore suits to fit the time period as well. He also said that the entertainment was just like it was in the movie also. An Italian band was hired to play the music from the movie and singers memorized the songs that were sung in the movie for the reception. "During the reception we had so much fun," Monastero said. "We got to eat, dance and be with our friends and family that we do not get to see very often. It was amazing". The band had to stop playing at 10 in the evening, but guests were not ready to stop enjoying themselves. A private disc jockey was hired to play music and do karaoke. "When the guests started to leave, we started to be able to unwind for a while, we sang and were able to party," Monastero said. The next morning was filled with tearful good-byes. All of the family and friends had to leave and go back to their homes. The bride and groom opened cards and said goodbye to the remaining people. Invitations to the wedding promised an offer that couldn't be refused, and that was exactly what guests and the wedding party received.



GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Matinees may return this year, decision coming

BY JOHN KENDALL

The possibility of school matinees is in the air for this year after being brought to a halt by the free education lawsuit a few years back. Drama dept. head John Gibson said he hoped to teach students a more refined behavior. "It sounded like we would be able to have one school matinee," he said. He further clarified that it there be one school matinee for each performance, along with a Saturday and Sunday matinee for the general public. Principal Jerry Bexten said he hopes to have everything sorted out and finalized around two to three weeks prior to the performances. He said the reason the school had to stop was because of the free education lawsuit stating that students, while in school, should not have to pay for in-school activities, so there would have been no money coming in to fund a matinee performance. Bexten said that there was also the simple fact that students were missing out on class time because of the matinees. Gibson said the reason that school officials are bringing matinees back is that the lawsuit is beginning to dissolve. "It's been thrown out, I believe," he said. Kris Jonyka, teacher of speech and debate, went into further detail clarifying that the lawsuit was "infinitely regressive." "Do we (the school) need to buy your clothes, too," she said, "your pencils, your papers and other supplies?" Jonyka said that if the lawsuit actually followed through, there could simply be no end to what it could apply to. So all they had to do was wait it out. "We stayed within the law," she said. Bexten said that if the matinees become a sure thing, the drama department would have to use it as more of a fund raiser because of this lawsuit. He said that it would probably be the only way to have the school matinees, and it would help with the large costs for putting on the plays and musicals. "If it comes down to where it is too difficult to go through with it, we may just not have one," he said. Gibson said that he is excited for the possibility of having matinees for their theater performances, and that this would be the first matinee in two years. He said that it is important that students are exposed to the live arts, in order to assist in developing life skills. "They [the students] go to movies and learn how to behave at movies," Gibson said. "They go to church and learn how to behave at church." He said that allowing students to exclusively participate in viewing a theater performance would teach them how they should behave when viewing a live arts performance if students should ever attend any outside of school.



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TO SUSHI OR NOT TO SUSHI

Omaha is not exactly known for its sushi. In fact, it only has five sushi restaurants. Register staff members went to these establishments to see how they stack up.



Hiro Sushi
3655 N. 129th St.
Best Buy: Seared Tuna

BY KATIE BACKMAN

For elegant sushi dining, Hiro is the only place to go.

The food is exquisite.

Servers said that Hiro sometimes spends \$5,000 for a cut of meat to be delivered within 28 hours.

This shows that the restaurant takes strong sense of pride in its food.

The servers take care of beginners with sushi and explain the different dishes.

That really comes in handy when you don't know what you're doing.

Servers recommend favorite and most popular dishes and then they describe the different spices and ways the fish is prepared.

Prices for the dinner menu are rather high, but are worth every single penny.

The cheapest meal is Teriyaki Chicken that is \$12.95 and the most expensive meal is Sashimi Selection that is \$120.00.

The Sashimi Selection has a bit of every piece of sushi available.

The different selections vary with what the restaurant has in stock.

Dishes that are quickly recommended by the employees are the smoked asparagus wrapped in salmon, which is all wrapped in rice.

If the customer is not daring enough to try raw fish than they should try seared tuna.

This selection is one of the most excellent dishes offered.

The tuna is lightly smoked, which makes the small outer edge crispy, but the center of the slice is still raw.

The atmosphere is very refined.

The entrance way of the building sets the mood to the relaxing Asian dining.

The doorway has a small waterfall and Asian interior design. Service happens right when the door opens.

For fine dining and service, which is suitable for celebrities, Hiro is voted number one sushi restaurant from the Register staff.



PHOTO BY BRYAN SWOTEK/THE REGISTER

Chef Zo Shimata makes one of Sushi Ichiban's delicious California rolls. The roll consists of crab, avocado and spices, wrapped in rice and seaweed. The restaurant serves fresh seafood and sushi at decent prices with great service. The sushi restaurant serves great lunch and dinner with decent price.



Matsu Sushi
1009 Farnam St.
Best Buy: California Rolls

BY ASHLEY BROWN

If a waiter were to receive a \$20 for a \$40 meal, this would be the place.

The service at Matsu Sushi is spectacular, one would think they were in a five-star restaurant and not a brand new sushi restaurant.

That makes it the perfect location for that homecoming meal.

Matsu Sushi is conveniently located for both the lunch and dinner crowds.

It serves efficient, almost European servings of all kinds of Japanese dishes.

The menu is actually quite extensive.

It offers so many items to choose from that it is kind of hard to pick one thing.

Since it seems to be fairly Americanized, this would be a great place to take a person who has never had sushi before.

There are so many options to choose from, a person who thought sushi was a type of vegetable grown in Germany would feel comfortable in the restaurant.

This makes it easy for everyone to enjoy something at this fine establishment.

Even younger kids would have a good time.

They wouldn't be disappointed either.

The California rolls are something a person would come back for again the same day.

The texture is very smooth, crisp and fresh.

That's something you don't experience that often with sushi.

Some of the staff recommendations are Crunchy Rolls and Philadelphia Rolls.

Both of which are good taste and the texture is not at all bad.

Whoever said that sushi was a fish does has not been to Matsu Sushi. The restaurant offers a Nebraska Roll which has beef in it.

The staff also recommended the TNT roll which is made of fried asparagus, mushrooms and scallops.

The prices are very reasonable.

The prices are affordable for casual lunch also.

If you aren't on a tight budget, it may be a challenge to hold back the tip.

The service is so efficient and friendly, one may think anything less than a \$15 tip would be ridiculous.

The restaurant accommodates younger children, giving them figurines to set their chop sticks on and promptly bring out high chairs to set infant seats in. Its definitely a family environment.

Children under 12 also have a children's menu they can order from. The other platters in the restaurant do not suit them.

Obviously the owners want adults to bring their families. That's a good thing.

The atmosphere of the place adds to the experience.

There are multiple levels so there is plenty of seating.

You may want to bring along a light jacket though, as it does tend to be a bit chilly on the top floor under the fans.

That's a small price to pay.

The customer can feel every texture of every aspect of each piece of sushi.

Omaha is considered to be beach country, but there is no reason why sushi should not be tried and loved.

There are so many types to choose from that every person should be able to find something on the menu that suits their tastes.

The staff at Matsu Sushi recommend calling in advance in order to reserve the second level for parties.



Sushi Japan
144th West Center Road
Best Buy: Captain Crunch Rolls

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Good sushi is hard to come by in Omaha.

However, Sushi Japan needs the benefit of the doubt. The service was horrible and the food was not that good, and when dealing with sushi, good is great.

The restaurant looks more like a burger joint. The first thing a customer sees when walking in the door is a bar and a cash register. Then once customers go into the back of the restaurant, they see the sushi bar.

Maybe it was a bad night at the restaurant and maybe the staff had a bad night, but the service was horrible. Customers sat waiting for about 15 minutes and only got a glass of water from the bus boy.

The waitress was somewhat helpful when it came to ordering.



Blue
14450 Eagle Run Drive
Best Buy: Buddha Rolls

BY SARA RIPS

When East meets West they combine to form an amazing dining experience, Blue Sushi Sake Grill.

Blue Sushi Sake Grill merges the contemporary American dining experience with Japanese cuisine. The restaurant itself is completely remarkable and amiable.

The atmosphere is warm and coastal, decorated in blue and yellow with pictures of tidal waves and palm trees, not to mention a waterfall and a giant aquarium.

The Buddha Rolls and the Hawaiian rolls were absolutely to die for. There was an entire menu solely for the sushi. Not only does it have the stereotypical rolls, but it also has many creative rolls like the TNT roll that is filled with tempera asparagus, mushrooms and scallops.

Of course not everyone is a devout fan of sushi. Fortunately, it has a menu of American items with a Japanese twist. For example, the fresh lemon grass infused Alaskan halibut, edamame saffron jasmine rice, sun dried tomato-mango chutney is an amazing dish, that does not seem to follow conventional western food.

While the menu is very seafood heavy, there are some non-seafood items. Vegetarian, chicken and beef dishes are all alternatives to fish. The baby spinach salad is a dish that comes highly recommend.

What meal would be complete without dessert?

The tempera fried vanilla ice cream with strawberries, powdered sugar and raspberry sauce is absolutely divine. If you're ever in search of a good place to have dessert one night, go to Blue and try this dish. This is a great place to go for homecoming.

While on the mid priced side, it is about \$12 to \$25 per entrée and \$3 to \$25 for various orders of sushi, this restaurant is neither too formal, nor is it too casual.

One of the drawbacks is the location of the restaurant, it is out at 144th and Maple, but it is definitely worth the trek.

Another drawback is that everything takes a long time.

Following the European tradition of things taking 20 minutes longer than you would expect, eating at Blue is an extremely leisurely dining experience.



Sushi Ichiban
8035 West Dodge Road
Best Buy: California Rolls

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Sushi is more than uncooked fish and other underwater creatures.

In fact, it is a taste explosion of fish, crab and spices that make sushi something really good, yet slightly unsatisfying.

Sushi Ichiban has some of the best sushi in Omaha.

The meal started out with California rolls. The rolls are made of crab, avocado, sour cream and rice rolled in seaweed.

The sour cream was a perfect mate for the crab. It was the absolute perfect mixture to entice the customer with.

Together, it was the best possible way to start off a sushi meal and a good way to introduce a sushi virgin to the food.

Sushi came to an end with smoked salmon and kaiware, radish sprouts.

The salmon was good, though it was a little different since it was not cooked.

The texture slightly resembled Elmer's personal thick, chunky glue and made the customer almost have to gasp for air.

The food from Sushi Ichiban was really good.

The only thing that made it bad was the unsettling fact of eating uncooked fish.

The most expensive item on the menu was sushi deluxe which is assorted sushi for two people.

That costs \$31.95, but the sushi is good.

The least expensive item is Uzara, which are quail eggs. Each egg costs \$1.25.

Wait staff in the restaurant was very helpful also.

The waitress gave assistance on what the food exactly was and the size of the portion.

Every sushi order had a small portion of wasabe.

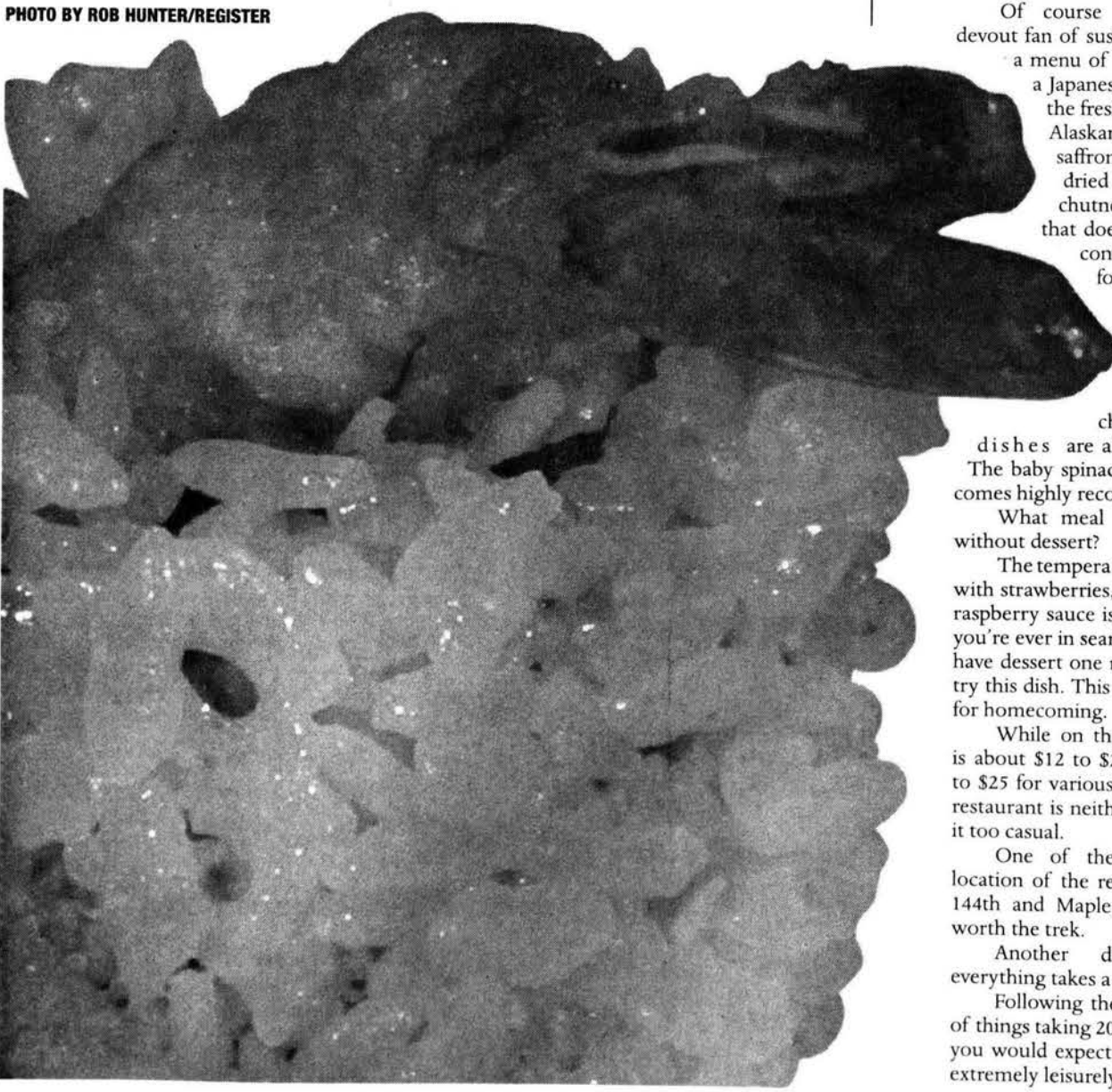
Wasabe is a green paste that is so hot that it clears sinuses and only burns mouths for about six seconds.

The smell of the place would make the customer want to devour everything in sight.

As the server approaches, the customer can feel the aura of raw fish and just smell the seaweed.

The atmosphere of the restaurant gave customers the feeling of actually sitting in a sushi restaurant in Japan.

PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



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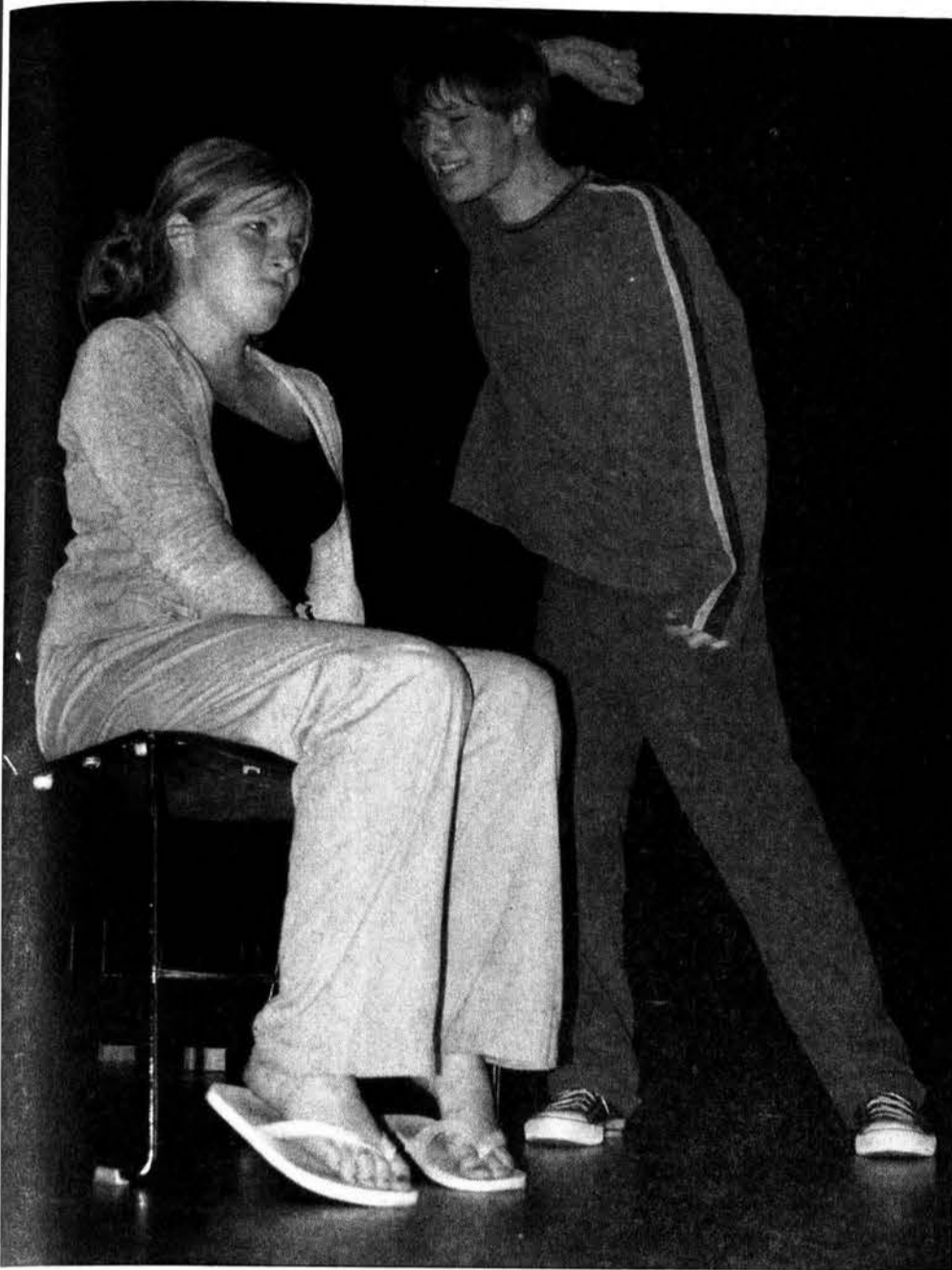
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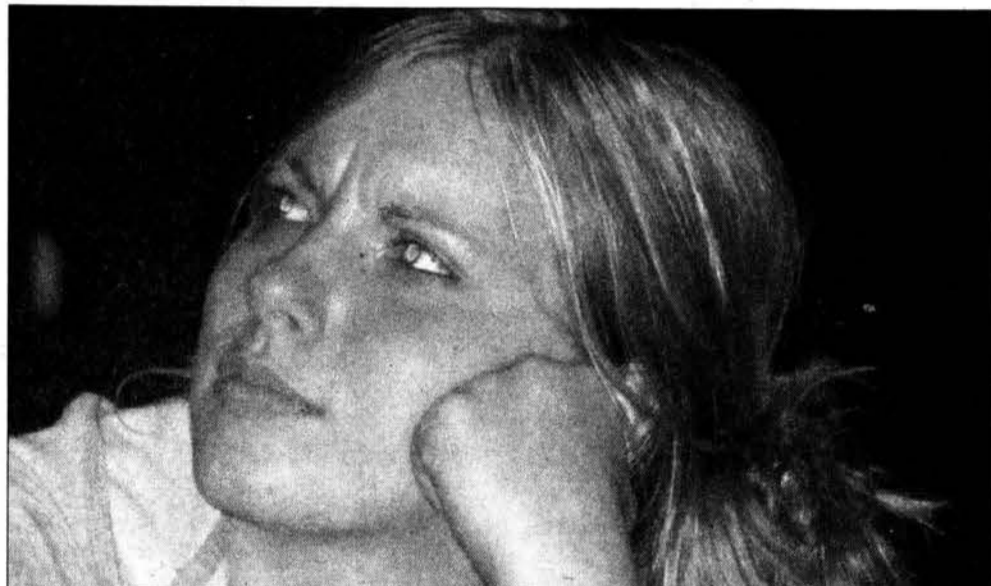


(LEFT) Senior Shannon Kyler acts out a scene in where Kyler's character is being told what Leukemia "really" is.

(FAR LEFT) Kyler and Underwood, IA senior Josh Mitchell rehearse a scene from their show.

(BELOW) Kyler's character ponders the realization that Leukemia might actually be a plot to take over the smart children.

ALL PHOTOS BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



Venue closes doors due to money issues

BY ASHLEY BROWN

Senior Nate Dittman said he liked going to the Music Box to see band The Samples.

He said although the venue mostly catered to an older crowd and a lot of his friends didn't hang out there, the sound quality was the best he had heard in Omaha.

After Oct. 31, Dittman won't be seeing the Samples, let alone any band at the live-music venue. The owner is closing its doors due to financial reasons.

Although the shows were geared toward an adult audience, with most shows being 18 and 21 and over, Central students such as Dittman are disappointed the venue is closing.

Homer's music manager Marq Manner works at the Music Box part time booking local bands and working the door.

When national bands come into town, Manner is the person who takes care of them and drives them around. He said he thinks the closing of the venue is a horrible thing for Omaha's music community.

He said will have to travel around to see the bands that probably won't be coming to Omaha anymore without it.

Mike Delich, head of Waitt Media and Gold Circle clubs International, who are the companies that own the Music Box, said the venue is closing because it wasn't especially profitable.

The lease was up, and landlord Joe Cascio wanted a five-year lease.

"We weren't willing to sign a five-year lease," Delich said. "We couldn't commit."

With his venue closing, many people in Omaha will be left in the dark.

"Before the Music Box, a lot of adult shows wouldn't come to town," Manner said about Omaha without the Music Box.

He said after the Music Box closes, it's going to be the same deal.

Delich said he thinks the closing of the Music Box will certainly cause a void in the Omaha music scene as far as availability of music in a club that size goes.

He said the new convention center books mega shows and not the mid-level, emerging artists who need venues for exposure.

"Without the Music Box," Delich said, "a lot of those bands won't be able to play in Omaha."

Manner said what really set the Music Box apart from other local venues was the comfort level and the sound quality.

"Even at max capacity you still felt comfortable and had space to move around," Manner said. "The sight line was great, the sound was fantastic. It's really a horrible thing."

Students' internships at Rose bring laughter, education to all

BY MICHAEL SMITH

Some students enjoy sports and relaxation in their spare time, but for three students their calling is the theater.

Seniors Emily Greenberg, Shannon Kyler and Emily McTate recently started their internships at Omaha's Theater Company for Young People (Rose).

Brian Guehring, education director for the Rose, said that he has been at the Rose for eight years now as both an intern and as a director.

Guehring, who is in charge of the internship, said that he has known the three girls for different periods of time since he has been here.

"I have known the three most recently from their involvement in Pride Players," he said.

He also said that he has known the girls through theater camps that they have experienced together.

In April of last year, those who wanted to take part in the internship had to start the application process.

"All the applicants had to fill out an application and a letter as to why they wanted to take

part in the internship," Guehring said.

Kyler said that she applied for the internship because she had known the previous interns and she loves the Rose.

"I loved the idea and it was a great way to get involved even more," Kyler said.

Guehring said that the applicants had to have extensive theater work with kids and had to list different sides of theater that they were involved with.

Whether it is technical theater or acting, Guehring said that they had to include it in the application.

Out of 10 applicants and an interview process only six were selected.

Guehring said that the girls had an advantage because of their experience.

"They knew about the classes and the camps so they have an understanding of what it is like," Guehring said.

Kyler said she is teaching a theater education class to kindergarten through third grade students.

She said that later this fall and winter she will instruct two more classes.

McTate said that she is involved with the Rose because of the opportunity to do more things and work in the community.

"It is much more professional to work with people in the community and get out of school," she said.

Guehring said that interns who have worked for him have averaged around 150 hours during the internship.

Greenberg said that she is not pursuing theater as a major, but it is something that is fun for her to do.

"I want to work with kids and as an intern because I get to teach classes and that is something that I truly love," Greenberg said.

Greenberg said that she is looking forward to the classes and the students who she will work with.

Guehring said that there are five main components to the internship program at the Rose.

"There are the aspects of education, and the technical side, the publicity and marketing side and the internship project," Guehring said.

He said that the interns will get their hands in and out of the theater.

He said that he has tried not to have the interns here as much as he can so that they can be involved in high school and community theater.

Kyler said that for one of her components, she is going to be the assistant director for the Broken Mirror and the Pride Players Project.

She also said currently the interns are working on their group activity.

This year, unlike in the past, the interns are presenting a show entitled "King Chemo" to area students and patrons that come to see the presentation.

McTate said she loves the stage and whether it's a Rose production or a production by school, she is there.

Guehring said that the current interns are at the Rose because of their involvement in theater and their desire to continue their education in it.

He said hopes this programs will expand their knowledge and their experiences in this field of study.

He said it will help them have a taste of the real world.

Musical will be on stage this year despite renovation rumors, storage

BY BRIAN LEE

Some people thought that this year's play was going to be held somewhere other than in the auditorium, but that is not the case as the curtains will again open on the stage this year.

It was being said by some that there had been a conflict this summer concerning the construction of a dust wall and its location in relation to the auditorium, though no one has verified this information as being accurate.

"I didn't know there were any controversies anything," drama dept. head John Gibson said.

At this point the rumors are forgotten and seems that they were more than likely just delegations with no real backing.

The auditorium was left in a jumbled state when renovation crews found themselves in

search of a suitable space for storage and it was chosen to fulfill the role.

Officials needed somewhere to put materials from classrooms that were under construction over the summer and the dramatorium was deemed the perfect place.

"It's interesting how much hasn't been claimed that was directed to be put in there," Gibson said. "Some computer stuff is still being stored in our area."

An even bigger problem for the drama department is that its designated storage space underneath the stage and next to the drama office is not accessible.

"We'll adjust," Gibson said. "Stuff may end up in the hall, but so far they're getting stuff dealt with."

Gibson said that as far as he has been told, chances are good that the department might not

have use of the storage spaces below the stage or next to his office for at least the rest of this year.

The biggest complaint dealing with this storage dilemma has been that it might cause some minor problems for the upcoming production of Cinderella and the Road Show later this year.

"The only thing that might cause a problem," Principal Jerry Bexten said, "is that the area below the stage is not available."

With these areas of storage temporarily out of commission, the new question and concern is where the costumes and props will be kept and just how much all of this is going to

effect the department.

Gibson said that it is an obvious problem, but one he thinks they can work through.

He doesn't expect too much difficulty working under these new conditions, but plans to stay ready no matter what happens.

Bexten said there will be renovations to the auditorium.

"We'll probably end up doing some work in the auditorium next summer," he said. "It's mechanical work up above so we won't be able to use as much of that space, if any."

As far as any sort of a time period that the drama department might be able to utilize its storage space again, Gibson said that if the

department has access to those areas at all this year, it won't be until mid-October at the earliest.

"It's not stopped us from moving on and getting the classes started," Gibson said.

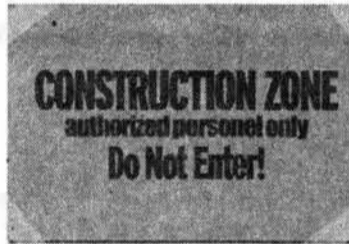
He said that aside from the actual storage spaces themselves, there has been another problem with removing the items that had been stored in the auditorium and on the stage itself.

Gibson's current focus is on getting the props moved back.

He said that custodians just recently removed the non-drama items, which was just one more step in the right direction.

Only time will tell how well things will go.

With all of the interesting situations that have surrounded the auditorium, it is safe to say that there is much drama in store for Gibson and his staff.





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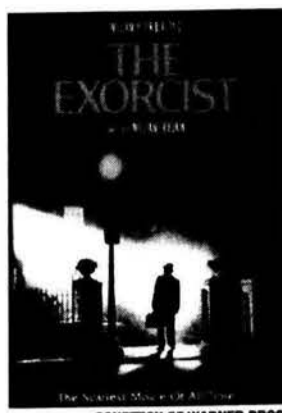
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1.



SCARE RATING



'THE EXORCIST'
Release Date: 1973

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

The definition of scary has officially been redefined.

It has been redefined by the movie "The Exorcist," which has been scaring the pants off of moviegoers for 30 years, ever since its release in 1973.

There is not one thing on this movie that makes it scary. In fact, no one can put a finger on one thing, the whole thing is scary.

Whether it is Linda Blair's backwards crab walk down a flight of stairs or her grotesquely chapped face while she is possessed, it is absolutely terrifying.

What could be scarier than a 12-year-old girl possessed by the devil? 12-year-old girls are absolutely horrifying as it is.

It takes so long for the family and doctors to find out what is wrong with the girl.

The doctors thought it was bipolar syndrome or a chemical imbalance of some sort. They even thought it was nerves, but they never could have thought that it was possession.

That is when it gets scary. The devil inside of her began to throw things. He even began to push dressers onto people and throw up on them.

This movie is the scariest movie ever. Every scary movie that has ever come out or that will come out will have to be compared to "The Exorcist."

The mom gets scared, the nanny gets scared and even the priest who performs the exorcism begins to fear that he would not be able to do the job.

This movie is not for the faint at heart. It should only be watched in the daytime with the windows open and all lights should be on so that the watcher can be aware of what is going on at all times.

This movie is all things scary. There is blood, death, blood-chilling music and pretty much something scary waits in every scene.

2.



SCARE RATING



'HALLOWEEN'
Release Date: 1978

BY SARA RIPS

"Halloween" is one of the greatest horror movies of all time. Few horror movies have created two new genres at once. "Halloween" can proudly boast being the originators of slasher and terrorize-the-baby sitter films.

The movie takes place in the small town of Haddonfield, Illinois in 1962, where 18 years prior a six-year-old Michael Myers murders his sister in cold blood on Halloween night. The boy was locked away in an insane asylum until he could finally escape and wreak havoc once more upon the town.

This movie is great, not only for the creation of two new genres, but also because it makes the viewer question everything they see. Michael Myers has a habit of always making the viewer wonder where and when he will appear next.

"Halloween" was made for less than \$300,000. The mask that scared

so many children was really a William Shatner mask painted a pale bluish-white.

This movie was the debut for Jamie Lee Curtis. She plays Laurie Strode, the bookwormish girl who is more interested in baby-sitting than boys.

Her sexual innocence fortunately protects her from being one of Michael's victims.

Horror films seem to now make virgins protected and those who are sexually active are doomed to be murdered.

This movie is considered the cliché horror film, despite the fact that it was the originator of so many stereotypical horror movie aspects.

However, the movie does not lack to tribute to the great horror films from days of yore.

The opening scene where Michael kills his sister Judith is shot as a tribute to Hitchcock's "Psycho," where the knife is never actually seen entering the victim.

However, unlike Hitchcock's numerous camera angles, this scene is completely shot through Meyer's own point of view.

If a movie is great than there will no doubt be a sequel. In the case of "Halloween," there are eight soon-to-be nine sequels. Each sequel sheds a little more light into the mind of Michael Myers, but none terrify more than the first one.

It is scary because there's no explanation to his madness. There are no stories of a deprived or abused child.

The idea that a child can kill his own sister in cold blood is scary.

The movie's lack of explanation really keeps the viewer engaged in what he sees.

The music is one of the best horror movie sound tracks of all time.

So many movies have adapted similar sounding sound tracks to try and produce the same gut-wrenching effect that is done completely by the music alone.

3.



SCARE RATING



'HELLRAISER'
Release Date: 1987

BY MICHAEL SMITH

Whether it's maggots, cockroaches, dismemberments, or the massive amount of blood in this movie, there is rarely a scene from Clive Barker's "Hellraiser" that doesn't make the audience cringe.

The first hour of the movie is spent with a slow-moving, very dramatic plot, and honestly fingers can end up on the fast forward button.

This movie is definitely a well-made horror epic. But, the needles may be just a little too much, even for this classic.

But, unlike other films, if you ask anyone about the pinhead, they will understand.

It is a movie that keeps people pondering and after the release numerous other pinhead movies, there is probably going to be another one.

This film like so many other horror films have an undeniable dark and depressing presence.

The movie is simply uncomfortable to watch, especially in the dark at midnight, so you should definitely watch it with someone.

Gore is scary and is what needs to be included scary films, but here, Clive Barker combines sickening gore with a style that is made to make you feel uncomfortable, and some may have trouble enjoying that.

If you like that sort of thing and would like to eat during the movie, then go for it because it's a flick.

So if one goes into the movie expecting a lot of Pinhead action, don't rent it because it will only dissappoint in this classic, but then what fun would there be in watching a classic, so go rent it and have some nightmares.



SCARE RATING



'CHILD'S PLAY'
Release Date: 1988

BY MICHAEL SMITH

Hi. My name's Chucky. Want to play?

Little Andy, a latchkey child, wants a life-size doll he saw on television for his birthday, but mom can't afford it.

Luckily she finds a person who has one for sale. Too bad this doll didn't have a warning label on the package saying, "This doll may have a soul of a sociopath murder."

Silly as it seems, if it wasn't for decent horror films like this, then public would not have any today. Though the sequels were not up to snuff with the original, "Child's Play" pulls it off well.

This movie serves as a good reminder that you never can trust anyone, not even a doll.

5.



SCARE RATING



'TEXAS MASSACRE'
Release Date: 1974

BY KATIE BACKMAN

"Texas Chainsaw Massacre" is a scary movie that will always entertain

viewers with its gruesome and eerie plot.

The plot was too realistic. The movie looked like a documentary. Kids are traveling down a road and pick up a hitchhiker who flips out and cuts a chunk of flesh out of his arm.

Rapid movements such as this are what keeps the audience on the edge of their seats and making them glued to the screen.

The special effects were unnecessary because the main focus of the plot was dark enough.

A movie that will keep viewers entertained is based around a man who cuts up people and then uses their skin to make his leather face.

Scary movies today need to not focus on the money for special effects or the actors starring in the film. Producers should just concentrate on developing the intensity of the plot. This movie's title, "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" will grab anyone's attention, easily.

The movie is one of the best created in 1974 and the movie was produced with a budget that had to have been less than \$20. This only shows the plot is what makes a movie.

Unclear technical quality of the movie is also a bonus. The quality is so bad that sometimes the viewer can't tell what is going on.

Watch this movie just to check out Leather Face.

6.



SCARE RATING



'CHILD'S PLAY'
Release Date: 1988

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

People are supposed to feel safe inside their houses.

Home has always been one of those words that society associates with comfort and warmth.

But what happens when the house that should provide safety, turns its back on the owners? That is what exactly happened in "Amityville Horror". It starts out all happy. A couple has a house, they are in love and all seems well. The house turns ugly, and all things evil start to emerge from the woodwork.

Normally people think that someone would be in their house. It is something that has happened many times. A stranger waits in a house for the single woman to come home and then he attacks her.

"Amityville Horror," is a spin off of that. Instead of a stranger, it is the house.

It is not like the house has arms and legs and can reach out and grab the unsuspecting people. But the previous evil that lived in the house can touch them.

The owners see ghosts and the house itself becomes evil.

The movie was probably scary in 1979, when it was originally released, but now it was not all that thrilling.

7.



SCARE RATING



'IT'
Release Date: 1990

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The basic recipe for a scary movie is a psychotic-whispering voice, street sewers, redheaded clowns and rotting teeth.

"It" is the result of this recipe. This is what scary movies are all about. Special effects weren't needed in this movie because it maintained its terrifying level with mystery.

The movie jumped into the plot without much build-up to make the viewers stay on the edge of their seats. "It" uses common places in a house or building that people never really associate with fear.

"It" used places like a shower or in-between the laundry drying outside. The redheaded clown is what makes this movie one of the scariest movies done in the '90s. This clown is the reason behind the fact that many generations are terrified of these happy figures.

The movie toys with peoples' minds because the children in the movies were imagining it, so technically none of the bloody scenes really happened.

These factors are what makes a good scary movie.

BEST COVER, WORST MOVIE



BY BRYAN SWOTEK

A gruesome crime was committed in a rural high school.

At least that is what happened in the movie, "Return To Horror High."

The killer was never captured and the case was pretty much dropped, but then a movie crew decided to discover the truth, and film what happened. It all went downhill from there.

The acting in the movie was horrible. In fact, it was indescribable. No words can explain the sheer magnitude of acting classes that needed to be taken after the film was released.

A young George Clooney was in the movie. Nice to see that at least one actor from the film could make something of himself.

This movie will not scare you.



■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

ARE YOU SCARED YET?

Everyone gets scared. For some people it does not take much and for others it takes a lot to get their stomachs turning and their hearts racing. For those who can't handle fear, there are many ways in Omaha to overcome it. Hypnotists, psychologists and other medial professionals all deal with fears and can help with them. To the right, there are reviews of Central's top picks of the best scary movies, along with a special selection by the *Register* staff for the best cover, but worst movie.

Students use therapy, hypnosis to fight fear

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said "There is nothing to fear, but fear itself."

If that is the case, then why do people return to haunted houses and sit through scary movies?

For any fear, there are people who can help overcome it. Then again, there are people who like to use fears against people. Matt Stensrud is one of those people.

Stensrud has been working in haunted houses ever since he was a kid.

"My family always did them when I was a little kid," Stensrud said. "It (the haunted house), made the paper a few times."

Stensrud has been working on his haunted house since March, and has been working on ideas since his childhood.

He said that he has had a book of ideas that he has been adding to ever since he was in grade school.

"Every time I saw something scary, I would put my own twist on it and write it down," Stensrud said.

He said that the local haunted houses generally go for the biggest prop as opposed to the best scares and he wanted to go for the scare.

Stensrud said that in Omaha, there are no genuinely scary haunted houses that are at all any good.

"Any one can create a haunted house, but not every one can make a good one," Stensrud said.

He said that people like to be scared because of the adrenaline rush they get.

Stensrud said he thinks they like the thrill of not knowing what is coming next, so they want to go.

"It is like people know it is not real, but in a way it is," said Stensrud.

This year he is in charge of his first professional haunted house and it is expected to be huge.

It will be located on a 5,000 square foot area in the Mangelson's parking lot, and will have live bands on Saturdays.

Stensrud is expecting upwards of 25,000 people to walk through the haunted house.

Freshman Mike Polascik attended his first haunted house last year. He said that the haunted houses in Omaha are scary, but it is more of a mental thing.

"It is only scary when you let yourself get scared," Polascik said.

Polascik said Mystery Manor is the scariest haunted house in Omaha. He also said that there are a couple of things that are particularly scary in a haunted house.

"Dark rooms are scary," said Polascik. "And hidden doors that people pop out of are scary."

Polascik said that he is scared of one thing in particular and it is something that is common in society and on television.

"I am really afraid of guns," Polascik said. "They just seem like the most threatening."

He said that he has seen someone with a gun outside of school and it is a very scary feeling.

Senior Michelle Peare has a huge fear of clowns. She has had a phobia of clowns ever since she can remember.

"I think I am afraid of them because there is nothing else that I fear more," Peare said. "I will do everything in my power to not come in contact with a clown."

Peare said that when she goes to haunted houses, it is like the clowns in the house seek her out and she said it feels like they are going to hurt her.

Even though the clowns scare her, she still goes to haunted houses.

"I go to enjoy the thrill," she said. "As long as clowns don't come near me, I'll be OK."

Peare said that knowing someone can scare you is an adrenaline rush.

"The fact that you can get scared for fun makes it all worth while," she said.

Peare said that the thrill of being scared that makes haunted houses fun.

Polascik agrees with her. He said that there is a rush that goes to his head when he goes to a haunted house. He said that most of the anticipation takes place when he is in line waiting to go in.

"I just sit outside wondering what is going on in there," Polascik said.

Peare does not know how to overcome her fear. She has never heard of a way to do so.

She said that as long as she does not feel like the fear is going to make her cry it is fun.

"I don't think there is a way to overcome my fear," she said. "And if there is, I have not found it yet."

Sean Akers is a licensed clinical psychologist at Children's Hospital.

Akers said that since he deals primarily with children, he has seen different kinds of fears. He said that he deals with mostly anxiety fears, such as solitude or fears of separation.

"The kids I deal with generally have a fear of what happens when they are in school," Akers said.

He said that the first step in dealing with fear is the willingness to discuss and understand it. Some symptoms of fear include a racing heart or a pounding pulse.

Janet Laitner is a certified hypnotist. Her and her husband, Dr. George Laitner, have been in the field of hypnosis for sixteen years and have been helping people over coming fears.

"Hypnosis is actually quite effective, that is why people keep coming back," said Laitner.

Laitner also said that hypnosis is one of the most effective ways to not only conquer fears, but also stop bad habits.

Though it is effective, there is one thing that

can ensure it will work.

"The only way that it will work though, is if the patient wants it to," Laitner said.

Some of the common fears that Laitner and her husband helped people with were flying, needles and snakes.

Laitner said that hypnosis is much deeper than waving a pendulum in front of someone's eyes.

"Hypnosis works on the subconscious mind where emotions and habits are stored," Laitner said.

Laitner said that hypnosis gets past the conscious part of the mind and affects how the subconscious part uses the memories and habits.

Senior Eleanor Hoeger would be one of those people who may try to use hypnosis as a way to overcome a fear.

Hoeger has a terrible fear of needles and has had a bad experience while doctors tried to get blood from her arm.

"It happened freshman year," Hoeger said. "I was supposed to give blood and I could not do it."

She said that she went to a counselor for six weeks to try and ease her into giving blood, but that did not seem to work either.

"I went back after the counselor said I should, and it took two security guards, two nurses, two counselors my mom and a strapped table to hold me down," Hoeger said.

Once the doctors were done taking blood, she did not wake up until the next morning.

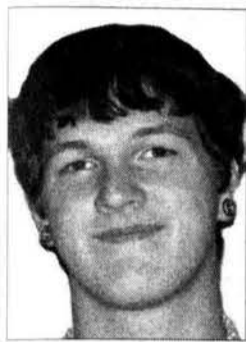
Hoeger said that she had a bruise that went almost all of the way up and down her arm, since her muscles were so tense. Ever since that day she has never been near a needle. When she sees someone with one, she turns away, she fears the day she has to do it again.

"I know I will have to do it again, but I am avoiding it at all costs," Hoeger said.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SCARY MOVIE?



"28 Days Later" is the scariest movie. It makes people jump and it was just scary." Jake Morris (12)



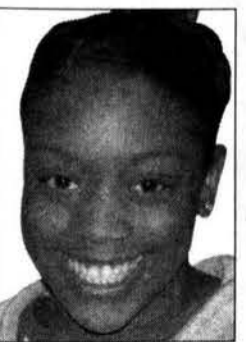
"I saw that movie 'Candyman' when I was little and I was afraid of mirrors for a long time." Chaeli McDonald (10)



"After 'It', I was scared of clowns forever." Patrick Caniglia (12)



"The Ring" had no plot, but there is a really good surprise ending. The girl in the TV was scary too." An Vu (11)



"Darkness Falls", the witch was ugly and it was a bad message for little kids. I wouldn't want to lose any teeth." Lena Walton (10)

Junior volunteers at haunted house to raise money

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

Spending time in an old farmhouse that is said to be haunted wasn't scary for junior Sarah Stowell, she actually thought it was fun.

"You get an eerie feeling that it is haunted," Stowell said. "It feels like you're being watched or followed."

Last October she spent many evenings trying to raise money for the debate department.

She spent three weeks working at Haunts Hollow haunted house in an effort to provide the drama and debate departments with more funding.

This year, it's time to put on the makeup and start scaring people again. Starting in October, the students will be volunteering, since last year was so successful.

Her love of acting seemed to fit her job perfectly. She worked as different characters in rooms

titled things such as "Snakes Attic," "Jack in the box" and "The Carrie Room," which portrayed a scene from "The Exorcist."

"My favorite room was supposed to be a little girls room, kind of a demented nursery," Stowell said. "It's fun to scare people. Some of them are afraid of just coming in the rooms."

This type of performing fits her personality.

"I'm not really shy, so I love horror movies and making people laugh, I just love all of the surroundings," Stowell said.

Since Halloween is her favorite holiday, it made the job seem more like fun and less like work.

"I love the past and Halloween; it's just a whole spooky holiday," Stowell said. "I like to go in deep, where most people just turn away from

the holiday."

Not only did Stowell help out the departments, but she saw a lot of behind the scenes action, too.

"I'm on stage crew," Stowell said. "So seeing how all the special effects work, and what the building looks like with the house lights on was cool."

She said that volunteering did not feel like a chore because the experience was so entertaining.

Speech and debate teacher, Kris Jonyka thought the experience was a positive one.

"It was a lot of fun, and all the kids had a great time, got to work with kids from other schools," she said.

Stowell said she agreed. However, she said it did get boring after a

while.

"I got really bored, and ended up just falling asleep twice," Stowell said. "It did not feel like work since we got to go through the haunted house when it was not busy, which was a lot of the time."

The unique form of earning money was also nice for the drama department, who participated under John Gibson's oversight.

The profits were split equally between the two departments. Drama spent the money on new lighting for the auditorium.

Jonyka said she had good feelings of the project and felt it was a nice way to earn money, rather than the traditional fund-raising.

"It not only was fun, but it's better than pawning off little dinky items on people," she said.

Money earned was put towards attending various tournaments and competitions students attend regularly.



Stowell

Annual party of former CHS students scares with fun, creativity

BY MICHAEL SMITH

In the deepest darkest corners of your deepest darkest fears lives a former student who is concerned about two things, his party and his costume.

Former Central student Ian Simmons is known for hosting one of the biggest parties of the year.

His Halloween party, which is also on his birthday, is a tradition that has become a big party for some of Central's former students.

They wake the dead and call upon the spirits of the lost souls to find the Halloween inside them all.

Simmons and a few of his friends grew up around the school and always tried to celebrate their friend Simmons birthday in the best way possible.

During Simmons sophomore year he thought of an idea, with the help of his friends of course to celebrate his birthday in a different sort of way, by hosting a lavish Halloween party.

Simmons said the party started up in an unusual way.

"As odd as it is, we don't go to bars on Halloween and we don't really like to hang out there so that is why we started the party," Simmons said.

Every year on Oct. 31, these former students get together at Simmons' parents home to transform it into a haunted house.

"We decorate my parents whole house," he said.

He said that the house is decorated from head to toe. they use everything that they have used in previous years and then some new additions to the lavish festivity.

Simmons said that every year a theme is chosen and everyone who attends the party must wear a costume that corresponds to the theme.

"A few years ago we had a star wars theme and everyone's costumes came from scratch and they took a lot of creativity to make them," Simmons said.

Last year Simmons said that they had chosen to have a super hero theme.

Alumnus Tory Burke said that at Simmons parties they also have numerous games and activities.

He said that it is also cool to celebrate his brother's birthday and have a huge party at the same time.

Burke said that his fondest memory of the event is how many gifts Simmons actually received on his birthday compared to all his other friends.

Because the two are brothers, he said that he has gotten a little jealous at some points.

Burke said that the number of people that show up each year also shocks him and the number of people who dress for the theme event does, even more.

"We usually have around 20 to 30 people attend the party," Simmons said.

He said that the party itself runs

around \$300 and that includes the food, drinks and decorations.

Simmons said that they have gone a little over board by purchasing fog machines and special lighting for the event. He said that everything that they buy, they reuse the next year, so the money is really not wasted.

Almost every year, the two said that they are entered in different contests. Burke said that one year they won a contest at Guitars and Cadillac's.

Simmons has also been working on another special costume that has sort of been turned into a hobby for him.

Simmons said he is working on this secret costume that he hopes to wear to the party next year if the costume incorporates the theme.

"I am working on an alien costume from the movies from the 'Alien' series," Simmons said.

He said that when constructing the costume, he has used different

types of industrial tubing to make the costume really over the top, which is his main goal.

"I am really ambitious for wanting to make the costume I guess," Simmons said.

He said that he has spent even more time on it then his current one.

"It's almost done, but it's not quite there yet," Simmons said.

He said that over the course of a few years, he has spent over 50 hours on the project.

This year, the group has chosen to have a monster theme. Simmons has already started his costume, which he said is going to cost him around \$50 to \$100.

"I am planning to go as a vampire and I have added a new twist, to use prosthetic make-up," he said.

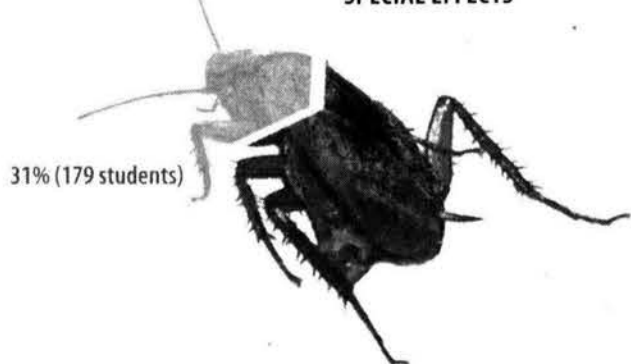
Overall, the group is ready and planning for the event.

They are excited for another birthday and another year of haunted fun.

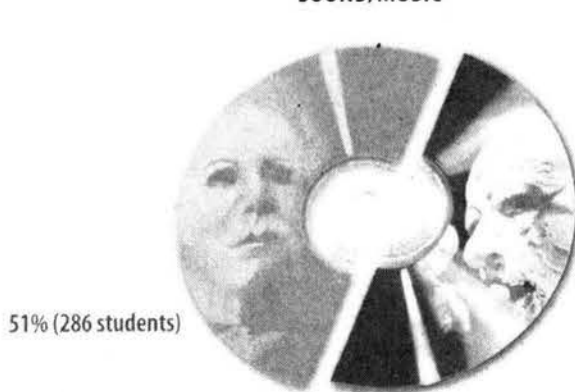
STUDENT POLL

What is the most important factor in a scary movie?

SPECIAL EFFECTS



SOUND/MUSIC



SUSPENSE



562 students polled

GRAPHICS BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Central battles Billboard

The Register polled 832 students to find out what their favorite music is, then compared the top five to September 9, 2003 Billboard's top five and found out that the two had nothing in common.

CENTRAL'S PICKS

BILLBOARD TOP FIVE

50 CENT

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

When a rapper can have a huge fan base that crosses racial lines, he has made it.

That is exactly what 50 Cent has done with his album, "Get Rich Or Die Tryin'." Fans first heard of 50 Cent when he released his track, "In Da' Club."

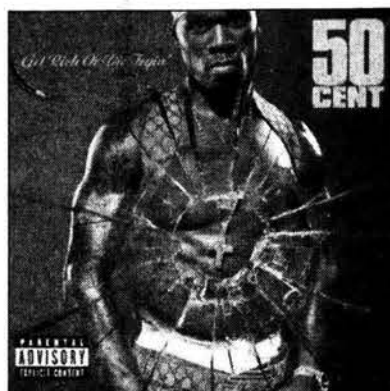
When he released it, a huge fan base formed. He even caught the eye of rap moguls like Eminem and Dr. Dre, who were both the executive directors

on the album.

Now, listeners are stuck with his songs in their heads. He is such a good rapper that his words just seem to stick wherever they're not supposed to.

The beats on the album are not bad either. In fact, they make the songs better. Every song is catchy and fun and everyone can sing along to them.

The only problem with the album is that his songs are too catchy. For some reason, the album almost has a mind control power that does not allow the listener to turn it off.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE



COURTESY OF GEFEN RECORDS

MARY J. BLIGE

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Breathing practically stops when the listeners put in Mary J. Blige's album, "Love & Life," because they want to hear the detail on each beat and every word she sings.

The latest album is one of the strongest albums Mary J. Blige could make a come back with after her last album, "No Drama" she released a year ago.

It passes by her other albums

by having stronger topics that more people can relate to.

The songs have a strong sense of maturity.

The album's lyrics are open for all types of people to relate.

She sings about triumphs, relationships and everyday life.

The lyrics are so descriptive, it can help listeners get a perspective on their own problems in life.

If Blige didn't sing the lyrics, they would be meaningless.

She is simply amazing.

2. CHINGY

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

The Chingy album "Jackpot" should have been called bankrupt.

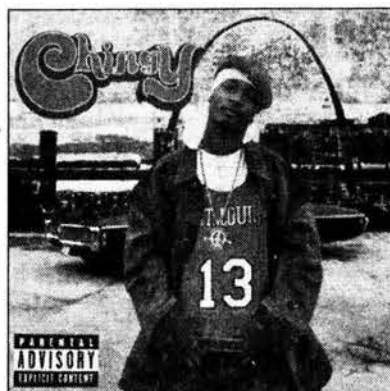
The 17 songs that make up the album are a waste of time and money. He should reimburse all of the people who bought the album, because now that he is rolling around in money, all of his fans are out \$20.

Those people who illegally downloaded this album should be ecstatic that they did not have to pay a dime for

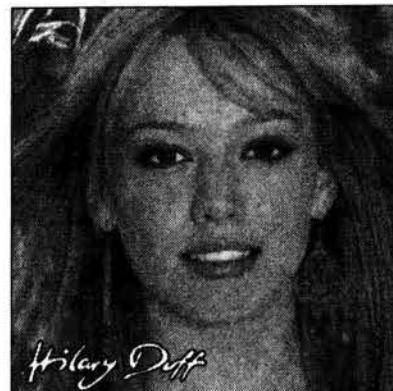
it, but even then, it was still a waste.

All the album consists of is stereotypical thug, cliché rhymes. The album is all about St. Louis, money, cars, and women. And that is all hip-hop needs, another rapper to frown upon and ruin the good image that hip-hop has going for it.

It was decided that the album would be bad when there was tribulation on how to say Chingy's name. Is the "g" pronounced like a "g" or a "j"? The world may never know.



COURTESY OF THE TRAK STARZ



COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD RECORDS

2. HILARY DUFF

BY SARA RIPS

The new so-called sensation of teen pop.

Hilary Duff's new album seems to be nothing but another piece of teenybopper crud.

Duff may have been able to pull off great musical numbers for the Lizzie Maguire movie, but "Metamorphosis" can barely hold its own.

The beats, lyrics and vocals are just like every other pop album that is

hitting the charts. How, "So Yesterday" became so popular, makes one think the Payola Scandal.

The lyrics are nothing special, definitely nothing life-changing.

This album is a flash like to teenybopper years, when all the girls made plans to marry Justin Timberlake and rap was not in mainstream culture.

I felt like I was listening to an 'NSYNC album, with a girl singing the songs.

It is outright offensive to hear the

3. LINKIN' PARK

BY BRIAN LEE

Taking one step closer to the edge, the members of Linkin' Park combined their creative genius once more and in so doing produced "Metemora," their most recent album.

"Metemora" follows the band's second album, "Reanimation," which featured remixes of songs from their debut album, "Hybrid Theory."

The album comes with a forty-page insert that includes original art-

work, the lyrics to all thirteen songs and song-by-song commentary.

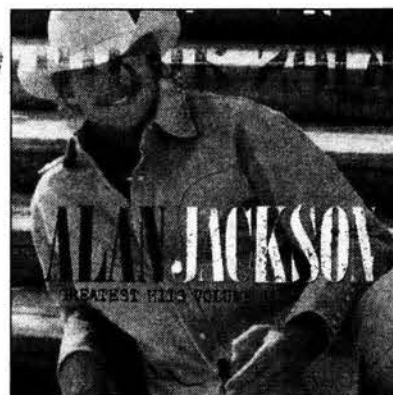
The commentary explains how each track grew and developed from its original concept into the final product of the band members combined talents and creative input.

The thirteen tracks on the album all have unique sounds and styles that both reflect the bands older style and show the growth that the band has undergone.

The album was definitely pleasing.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.



COURTESY OF ARTISTA

3. ALAN JACKSON

BY NICKI THOMAS

"Greatest Hits Volume II" can be described in one word; overwhelming.

"Greatest Hits" is the best title for this album, by country singer Alan Jackson.

Alan Jackson has shown his sensitive side in numerous albums before, but now they have come together to be his best, or at least his second best.

"Greatest Hits Volume II" features 18 songs that begin as hit songs,

"Little Bitty," "I'll Go On Loving You," "Right on The Money" and many more. Jackson also selected eight songs that have not yet been released for this limited edition bonus disc contains songs that have spanned his entire career.

The most touching song on Jackson's album collection was "Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)," where Jackson remembers September 11, 2001, when the country was struck with the realization of horror.

4. JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

If there was ever a guilty pleasure CD, "Justified" by Justin Timberlake is it.

Timberlake seems to have something in the album that works for all people and their musical tastes.

Hip-hop and rock sounds are all over the album and it is one of those albums that you would never tell anybody that you listened to.

The first solo release from the ex-

'Nsync member is a great pop album and it has staying power.

Honestly, his best career decision was to do a solo project.

He just keeps releasing songs off of the album that keep fans in love with him and turns first time listeners into drooling pop fanatics.

So far, timberlake has released four songs from the album.

On the album, songs have instruments thrown into them that would not normally be used together.



COURTESY OF ZOMBA



COURTESY OF NRG STUDIOS

4. EVANESCENCE

BY KATIE BACKMAN

"Fallen" is what Evanescence should have done immediately after this release.

The music sounds like normal rock, and it seems as if it is too scared to step outside of the box. Some would say having lead singer Amy Lee is unique, but the singer doesn't make the band.

The band only adds in hard drums and stronger bass chords, it never really

adds any form of musical effect.

It stepped outside the lines slightly by adding a choir in the background on some songs, but again that isn't original either.

Lee's voice is very beautiful and she can easily fluctuate and sound amazing. But her lyrics simply don't benefit from her off the chart talent.

The billboard hit, "Bring Me to Life" is empty.

The listener can tell there is no emotion or heart put into her lyrics.

5. LIL JON & THE EAST SIDE BOYS

BY JEFF HART

"Who you wit" is a statement from Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz' new self-titled album that has found praise with gang members and juvenile delinquents.

Though their best selling album, it is also their worst to date.

However, the beats in this album are some of the best ever. This group either drinks way too much or they have the worst speech impediments

ever.

They probably have great lyrics, but they replaced all their teeth with gold cavities, called teet.

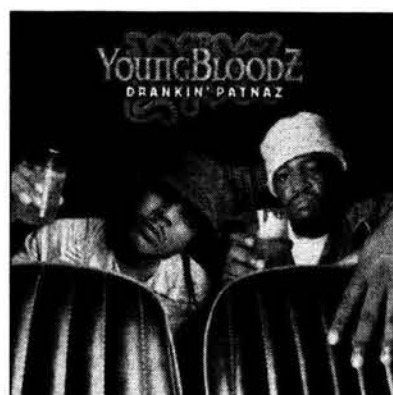
The sound that is produced is very similar to spitting on a microphone.

They also do a good job of getting other groups to help support their albums, but they are pushing the thin line between great and way over done.

Duets and other stuff are good not if they are in fifteen out of twenty-one songs on the album.



COURTESY OF PATCHWORK



COURTESY OF LAFACE RECORDS

5. YOUNG BLOODZ

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Instead of rapping about cars, money and women, YoungBloodZ take a slightly different view and rap about cars, money and alcohol.

YoungBloodZ has a song on their album, "Drankin' Patnaz," called "Lane to Lane."

It basically tells the listener that it's cool to drink, drive and swerve around from lane to lane nearly missing their best friend's Blazer. Not exactly the

message that should be sent out to the fans, most of which are not of legal age to drink in the first place.

The first few songs were good, but it went downhill from there.

Some decent tracks on the album include the first single released, "Damn," featuring Lil' Jon, "Hustle" featuring Killer Mike and "Lean Low" featuring Backbone.

It's ironic that all tolerable songs on "Drankin' Patnaz" feature other artists.

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Band shows talent by breaking through barriers of genre

BY KATIE BACKMAN

A Perfect Circle's recently released album, "Thirteenth Step" takes the listener on an enjoyable roller coaster ride with an added twist of classical music and heart-trobbing sound.

This album should top the charts soon because of its sound.

Genres don't restrict this band because it goes beyond decades of any form. The band adds an innovative sound to its music by going beyond the basic noise like other bands.

Each song is like a quilt pattern, meaning they are all different, but a common thread ties it together making the perfect sound of A Perfect Circle.

The music isn't just filled with guitars, bass or drums. Members add creative layers and use different tools to create more depth. Fast-paced music does not dominate this release. The flowing sounds make it easy on the ears.

The first album was almost a toss up with what side of the spectrum it wanted to be on. Some albums can get away with having a variety of styles of music on it. This one stays consistent. "Thirteenth Step" shows the band has broken down the door of juvenile sounds, and now creates well-developed music, not just sounds.

Lead singer Maynard Keenan has a smooth tone, which brings intensity to the music. His voice could be compared to the lead vocals of bands such as Chevelle or Trapt.

But his lyrics are what makes the band different from any other band in the music scene.

They are powerful with strong meaning and passion. The main themes of his lyrics motivate the listeners. Some songs are about personal events he went through, while others are as if he is singing to the listener for encouragement.

Unlike most rock bands, their songs are not full of anger, they hold a positive perspective on life. In some songs, Keenan sings about fighting through hard times, yet he knows he will live through the battles.

A key factor with this album is that the listener won't become angered or depressed, but will be persuaded to stay strong and the songs will make listeners do just that.

This is an album that the parents who complain about annoying, loud music would even enjoy. Members of A Perfect Circle are more mature and know what it takes to make high quality music.

"Thirteenth Step" has some surprising tracks because different sounds like a section quartet are used to mix things up a bit. This band's sound can't compare to any others.

Another surprise is when Keenan pairs the music up with a female vocalist, making the sound harmonize.

The album has 12 tracks and is worth every dollar.

Each track has something different. This is what makes the listener grin within the first 15 seconds.

Even non-Rock fans will smile.

It is definitely showing that A Perfect Circle will soon dominate the album charts.

ALBUM REVIEW



'THIRTEENTH STEP'
By: A Perfect Circle



ALBUM REVIEW



'GRAND CHAMP'
By: DMX

Rapper's latest fails to live up to hype, talent

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

DMX's music has always been hard and his songs have always been worthy of listening to. Something has changed for the worst with his latest release, "Grand Champ." It's so bad it should have been titled "Grand Pump."

Maybe it is a change of the times or maybe DMX's sound is not what sounds good anymore. But if that is not the case, then what is his problem?

He has way too many songs with that bull barking in the background. DMX's raspy voice also gets old really quick.

Listeners can only take so much of this. The album must be listened to four song intervals to get through the entire album. So much yelling and screaming is not good for the ears.

True, it might take a little longer to get through it, but it is the only way. All of the songs sound like they have the same beat and the same lyrics.

Unfortunately, DMX loses points on this album. It is like he has not changed at all. His sound is the same as was for his last release and the release before that.

DMX is a hip-hop legend. It is hard to believe that something that he did could be so bad. His rhymes are dated and so are the beats. The grand champ getting grand spanked.

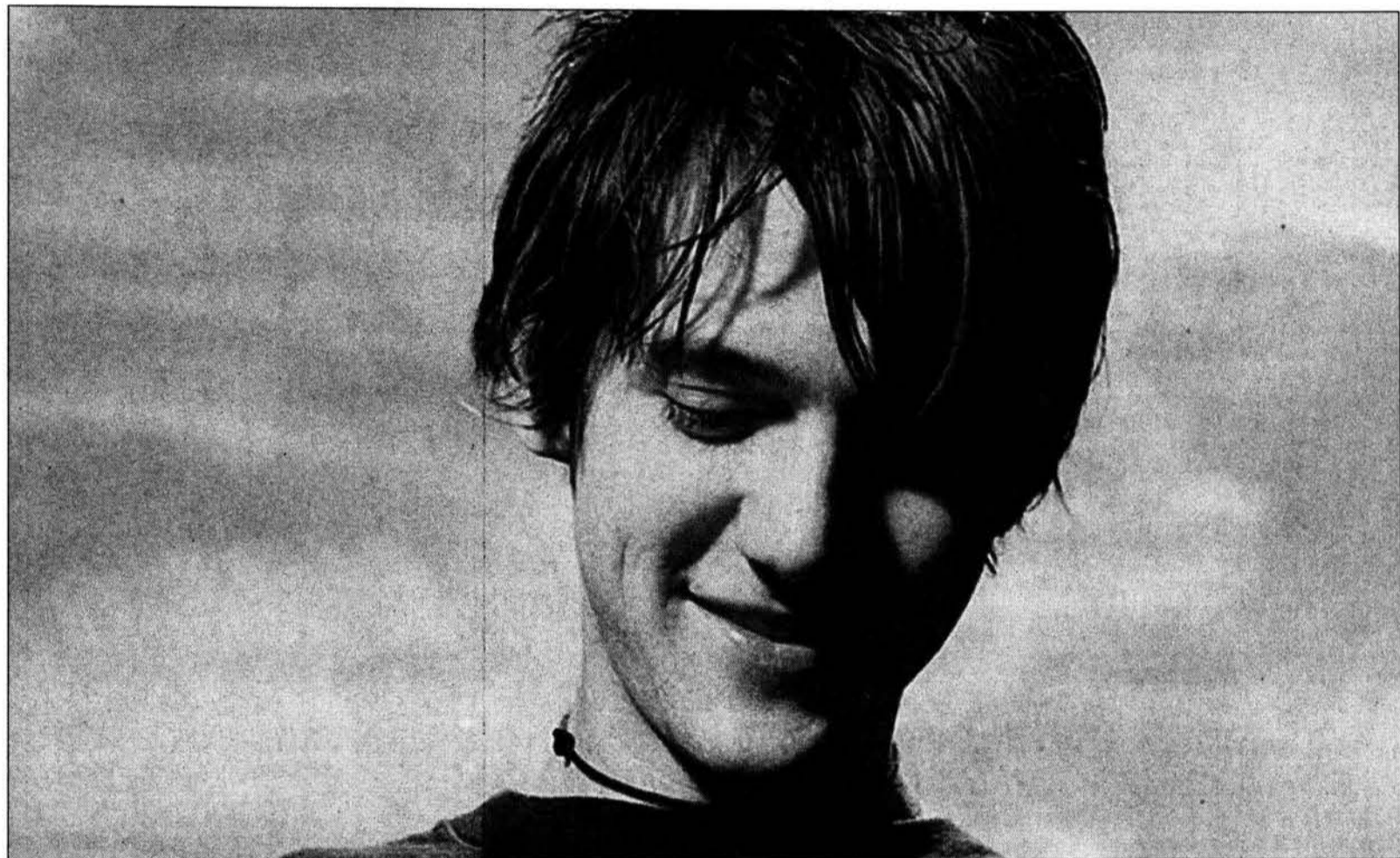


PHOTO COURTESY SADDLE-CREEK RECORDS

Conor Oberst, of Bright Eyes never fails to record excellent music. Now, the band released a vinyl box set including songs recorded when the band first signed to the label.

Group sparkles again with release of box set

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Everything sounds better on vinyl. This is especially true when the band and the music paint such a vivid picture.

The Omaha band Bright Eyes released five of its albums on vinyl in a box set and it is like a gift from heaven.

This is a great band already and every album that it has released is simply a work of art. It also makes lead singer Conor Oberst's pain run through the veins of the listener. And the extra sounds of a record popping make it better.

Every album that the band releases is great, and the box set is greatness times five.

The five albums in the box set are "A Collection of Songs Written and Recorded 1995-1997", and "Letting off the Happiness".

The other albums are "Every Day and Every Night EP", "Fever and Mirrors", and "Don't Be Frightened of Turning the Page", which are the Bright Eyes songs from "Oh Holy Fools- The Music of Son, Ambulance and Bright Eyes."

The songs are real and colorful and make so much sense. The musicians in band also seem to prove that the most talented people don't always get the prize, and that some imperfections are good.

Bright Eyes is signed to Omaha's Saddle Creek Records, which has been gaining popularity ever since it started.

It is hard to pick which album to listen to first. They are all so good that no matter which one gets picked, it is a good choice.

"Every Day and Every Night" is the shortest record in the set, but is very good. The song "A Perfect Sonnet" is one of the most memorable tracks that the band has recorded. It sums up all emotions and hardships of love into one song.

Once the listener has heard all of the albums, it is hard to speak. It is like the lyrics take all of the words out of listeners and makes them speechless.

Oberst and his crew of back-up vocalists and musicians create haunting melodies and music that are extremely mind-blowing.

ALBUM REVIEW



'BRIGHT EYES VINYL'
By: Bright Eyes

The imagery is extremely vivid. Every time Oberst sings the songs, it is like he is painting a sorrowful picture that keeps listeners playing the albums over and over and looking at the same beautifully sorrowful picture.

Like every album, the box set has records that are better than the best record in the set. It is a beautiful album and that is the only word that can describe the entire album. The song "Something Vague" was featured on the compilation album "50", that was released by Saddle Creek Records. It is a great song and what else can be expected from Bright Eyes.

The imagery and the metaphors are clever and Oberst, who obviously felt the pain himself, wonderfully portrayed it all.



ALBUM REVIEW



'THYRTY'
By: Lynard Skynard

Historic band shows power with release

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

It is absolutely terrible that four out of six of the original members of Lynard Skynard have passed away. But when they left, they left great music behind.

The music is all-American and it is nothing but straight-ahead rock and roll.

The new album is called "Thyrty," which is the best music from 30 years since Lynard Skynard made its first impression on America.

The songs defined a generation and still do with never-dying anthems like "Free Bird." All of the songs on the album are great and no matter what happens, they will always be anthems.

"Free Bird" is a song about freedom. Any one who has not heard the song has lived underneath a rock for the last thirty years.

And anyone who does not appreciate this song needs to be hit in the head, because everyone appreciates being free.

The band truly defines what it means to be a rocker. The two CD set has a few live tracks such as "Simple Man," and "Comin' Home."

With the audience roaring in the background, it is just another way to prove how much of a mark the band made on its fans and young rebels everywhere.

Erykah Badu's experimental new sounds, beats on new album prove to be worth listening to

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Erykah Badu is a talented woman, musician and songwriter.

Everything she does in simply amazing. Her soulful voice added with hip-hop beats makes her albums something special.

The new album, "World Wide Underground," is a beautiful mix of those beats and her voice that makes listeners calm and relaxed.

It starts with the intro, "World Keeps Turnin," which gives the listener a little preview of what to expect of this release.

Obviously the album is relaxed with the song called "Back In The Day," which is about sitting in the back seat and all of the sudden the music stops and Badu sings the word "puff." It is not hard to

guess what is making everything so calm.

What makes the album so good is that it is hard to find anything bad with it. It is just a good album. The songs are simple and easy and make the listener not have to think about the words.

And not having to think about the words makes everything go smoothly when listening to an album.

Erykah Badu is not the typical hip-hop artist though. She is very soulful and capocatic.

The album would stereotypically want to make the listener go load a bowl and sit on the back porch with a pan of brownies. The album

ALBUM REVIEW



'WORLD WIDE UNDERGROUND'
By: Erykah Badu

also has a jazz feel to it.

It also has a lot of bongo drums and rhymes that can make the listener mentally picture sitting in the from row while Erykah Badu sits in front of a microphone in a smoky club.

Though the original versions of the songs are good, they sound a little bit like they are on a remixed album.

All of the songs have a lot of repetitive sounds that are heard all over the album.

Fortunately, the same soothing voice of Badu and those creative sounds flow throughout this release.

It never gets too loud and it never gets too soft. Which might be considered a downfall for the album, but it is still awesome.

However the song "Love of My Life

Worldwide" is an exception to the calm trend that Badu has on the album.

The song sounds very old school with Queen Latifah, Angie Stone and Bahamadia making appearances on the track. Whistles and a heavy bass line give the song its old school feel.

The song "Think Twice" sounds like it was recorded in an underground New York nightclub. Claps and voices of audience members are heard throughout the track and it gives the song a live feel.

Track ten, the outro, which has the same title as the intro, sums up everything the listener heard in the album and decrescendos into silence.

There is no doubt that Erykah Badu will win some awards with this album. It is a very innovative album and it definitely wins new fans over.



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From a Central Alumnus

Senior writes fantasy novel, develops style

BY MICHAEL SMITH

Senior Jay Searson may not be listed on any best-seller lists quite yet, but he is headed in the right direction.

As of last year, Searson released a novel that he had been working on for more than a year.

He said that he has been writing since his sophomore year.

Searson said that he has been writing before he was literate.

"I have always had a desire to write," Searson said.

Searson's first novel is entitled, "The Lords of Midnight."

He said that in the novel, he worked on his writing style to package things differently.

Searson said that unlike most books, his is hard to summarize.

"It is about a boy who is orphaned and has been cast into slavery," Searson said.

He said that he has been writing about and playing with the main character of the story for quite some time.

Searson said that the plot of the novel had changed as he was writing it.

"The plot doesn't matter, the characters will write it themselves," he said.

Searson has inserted various themes into the novel. He has included metaphors and questions.

"I did not mean to write questions, but the reader will think about them," he said.

That is something that he has envisioned the reader doing.

He can sum up the story as a time during the evolution of a child to an adult.

Searson had the book published and printed. He said that he originally wanted to order 100 copies, but instead ordered 50.

"I'm not making any money on the book, though," Searson said.

Searson is selling the copies of his book for \$7 a piece. He has not sold all of them, but he said he hopes to at an upcoming book fair on Oct. 24 at Creighton University.

Searson is on the 50th page of his second novel entitled, "The Shadow of the World," which he is currently working on.

Searson said that writing is not a notorious way to make money. He said that he will continue writing, but after high school it is not something that his full attention will go to.

"Writing is an expression," Searson said. "People who paint like to paint and people who write like to write."

Online music trading becomes threat

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is taking legal action towards those who illegally trade online music files. However, with so many people sharing files, the RIAA is starting with the worst offenders. But that does not take you off the list. So traders beware, lawsuits may ensue.

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Downloading music is more popular now than ever. It is also more illegal now than ever, and the big wigs in the recording industry are starting to catch on to just how much money they are losing.

Sophomore Jataria Minor said that she last bought a CD in 1999. She has been downloading music off of the Internet ever since and she thinks she has the right to do so.

"I think it is OK to do it," Minor said. She also said that the reason people download free music is because of the price of CDs.

"If prices were lower, people might buy them and they wouldn't have to download anything," Minor said.

She also said that she does not care if people can get in trouble.

"I have not seen anything about it, so I don't care," Minor said.

She said that the last CD she downloaded was from Ashanti, and that she primarily downloads whole CDs for herself and for her friends who want some.

Sophomore Jasmine Elmore said that she also downloads music.

"I usually get songs and make mix CDs," Elmore said. She also said that she frequently downloads music and her last CD had eighteen songs on it. Elmore said she feels that downloading music is not wrong.

"Yeah, people get free music, but other people are still buying it," said Elmore, "and usually, since I do mix CDs, I usually buy the whole thing later."

She said that there is nothing wrong with taking music online and that there are always ways around having to pay for it.

Elmore said that it would be a horrible situation to be in if the Recording Industry Association of America, (RIAA), showed up at her door.

"I can not explain what I would do," Elmore said. "I mean, why make the sites if you can't do it."

Jim O'Connor is a partner and the head of technology for the Intellectual Properties section at Baird Holm Law

Firm in Omaha.

O'Connor said that, according to the RIAA, downloaded music off of the Internet is illegal and punishable by law. The RIAA is aggressively enforcing copyrights for the songs that have been released by labels.

"Right now the RIAA is going after the worst offender who frequently download and use the music for criminal intent," O'Connor said.

The threat to the RIAA from illegal downloaders has been a growing threat. O'Connor said that if the RIAA does not control over the situation, it would go out of business.

There are still certain ways that music can get downloaded.

But people have to pay. O'Connor said that music could be downloaded when it is paid for, or a band or musician puts an MP3 file on its website. Other than that, peer-to-peer music sharing is illegal. O'Connor said that is the most common type of downloading.

If the music is downloaded with criminal intent, the criminal has to pay more money than it would cost to download a song.

"If caught, the downloader would have to pay a fee of \$100,000 and if the person sells or distributes the music, they can be fined \$250,000 and up to five years imprisonment," O'Connor said.

O'Connor said that the RIAA placed a subpoena over Verizon, which is an Internet service provider. The subpoena said that Verizon had to give all of the names of people who had downloaded music.

"Verizon tried to fight the subpoena, but right now it looks as if they are going to lose the fight," O'Connor said.

Sophomore Nick Romano said that he has never paid for music from the Internet and he can not remember the last time he bought a CD.

However, Romano has a slightly more sympathetic opinion towards the artists whose music gets downloaded.

"Yeah, they are losing money, but they are getting paid so much that the small amount does not count," Romano said.

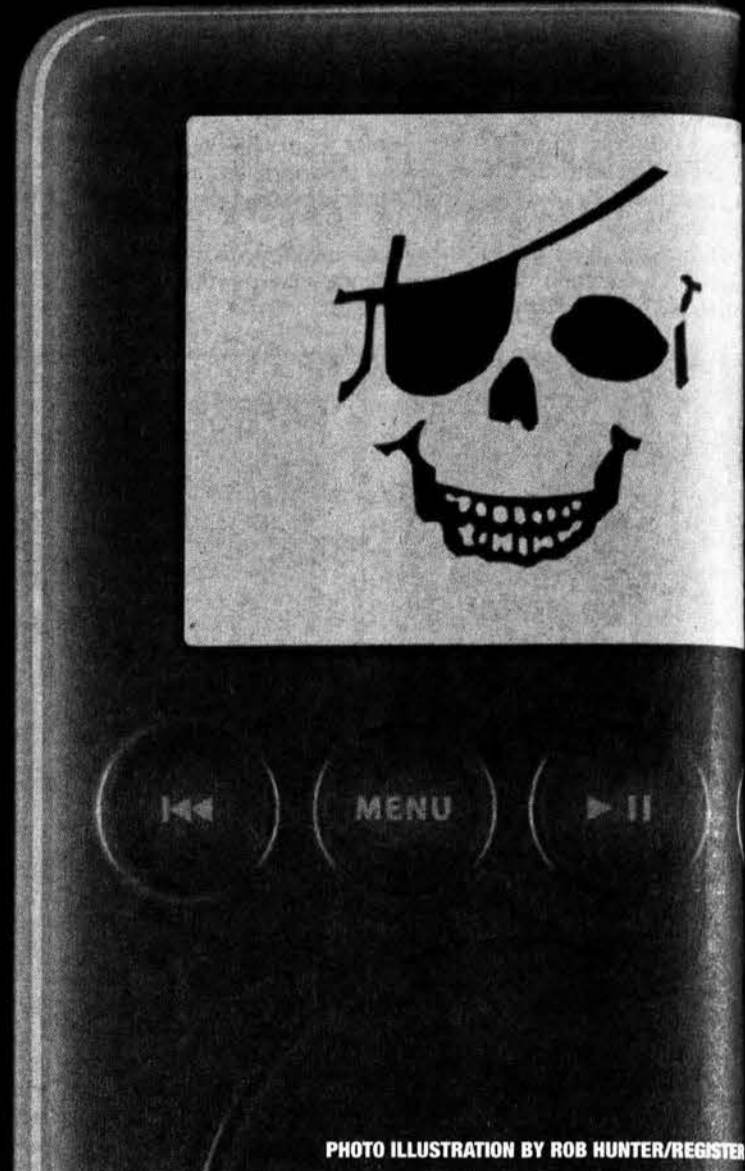


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Local heavy metal band finds fame, popularity, identity while developing music

BY BRIAN LEE

Alumnus Jesse Cleasby taught himself to play guitar, he taught himself to sing, and five years ago, he conceived what has developed into a progressing success in heavy metal music.

Cleasby is 21 and experiencing increasing amounts of fame and popularity in the local music scene as the lead vocalist and guitarist for Narcotic Self.

"I started out playing guitar back when Nirvana was around," he said. "I taught myself everything that I'm doing with the band. I manage the band now, too."

Many people complain that it is hard to find a band in the music industry with a sound and an image that is unique.

All too often when listening to the radio, aside from subtle differences, it all sounds the same.

Cleasby said that one of his main focuses has always been creating and developing a unique sound for the band.

The band has performed all over, focusing a great deal on the local scene. Its debut album was officially released in 2002, during a concert at the Ranch Bowl.

A few years ago the band received several offers from record companies who wanted to sign them. Cleasby said that he and the rest of the band agreed that they needed to tweak the band's sound a little more and continue to improve its style.

Cleasby said the band has come far from where it was.

It has worked hard on improving its vocals and he said that its overall sound has greatly improved.

"I think that our sound is a little bit harder now," Cleasby said. "I think we'll definitely be there someday. It just depends on how things happen I guess."

The band members said they didn't feel comfortable signing on to a record label until they had come far enough in developing a sound that really set the stage and could get the crowd going.

Narcotic Self has performed with bands such as Pantera, Venaculus, Slayer, Soulfly, Poison the Well, Face Cage and On a Pale Horse.

"The opportunity opening for Slayer was great, but the best show to open for was Soulfly," Cleasby said. "I think I speak for the whole band with that."

The band anticipates beginning the recording of its second album in either November or December of this year and it hopes to release it in early 2004.

"The new music has more of an original tone," Cleasby said. "You're either going to like it or you won't. If you do, cool, tell your friends about it."

Aside from adding a fourth member, the band has pretty much stayed the same, though it took a while initially to get all of the members on board.

"I started the band with a couple different people," Cleasby said. "I didn't know any of them at first."

As with any band, staying alive, keeping it in tune and not falling by the way side can be a constant battle, but Narcotic Self seems to have that in the bag.



COURTESY OF JESSE CLEASBY

(FROM LEFT) Doug Huston, Quentin Whinneky, Jeff Hennings, Jesse Cleasby make up the Omaha heavy metal band, Narcotic Self.

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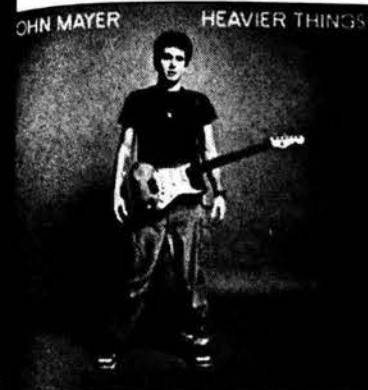
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ALBUM REVIEW

"HEAVIER THINGS"
By: John Mayer

Mayer crosses genre boundaries in latest release

BY KATIE BACKMAN

"Only Heart" is what John Mayer is all about into his impressive sophomore project.

The album, "Heavier Things", is a chill down one's back because of his creative use of brass instruments and the levels of his voice.

Mayer is one of the men in the music business that isn't scared to sing high pitch notes.

Because he does this it shows that he is a good musician when he doesn't restrict himself to monotone sounds.

The album is soothing because he sings as if he is in an unknown night club on an open-mic night.

When the album begins to creep into the listeners speakers, they have the feeling as if he is inside their room and possibly reading their thoughts.

That is how good and personal his music is this time.

Piano, horns, along with the other instruments, are what make his music excellent. He puts many genres of music into just one song. Each of his songs has so many different layers, the listener can barely keep up.

Not all of his songs are about pressing topics like being alone. He touches on the topics of family relationships.

His music is like a puzzle. He has separate layers or pieces, but each fits together perfectly which creates John Mayer's distinctive style.

Some would say he sounds similar to Dave Matthews Band mixed with Third Eye Blind. But in some cases his music is more deep and thoughtful than the other bands are.

His music is almost more organized than these other two bands. It may have to deal with the fact that he and he plays with is obviously his own and he can make the music he wants.

It is clear to see that "Heavier Things" has taken steps up from his last album, "Room for Squares".

With his sophomore album the listeners will realize he doesn't think life is perfect anymore. In the first album, he seemed to be very happy and ready for life to start.

Now after life has started, he must have realized that relationships and friends aren't easy to find and leave.

This album has a major theme based from his life and he sings about the fact that he has found his life has many holes.

People can easily relate to his music when he sings about being left alone, not knowing himself well anymore and wanting to shut out the world for a while.

Even though the topics sound depressing, it won't leave anyone sobbing when the album is over.

Instead it will put a better perspective in the minds of the listeners. They will know that other people have been in similar situations.

An added bonus to album, the booklet includes a key of the emotions of his songs.

For instance, if a listener wanted a song that inquired something and talk about the past, they would look at the CD some keys to find the song that fits the mood.

His entire album is worth listening to and none of his listeners will skip a track on the album because each song is easy to relate to.

John Mayer is growing up through his music and he is getting a broader outlook on life.

With this in mind, "Heavier Things" won't only dominate the pop charts, which usually appeal to teenagers, but he will grasp the attention of many age groups as well.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/ REGISTER

Camera cell phones are becoming very popular among teenagers. Many school officials are beginning to worry if students would use these devices to take photos of tests and send them to other friends. Administration will be cracking down on the problem by warning teachers to be aware of it.

TREND BECOMES NUISANCE

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Sophomore Rolonda Allen sits in her class, bored, instead of sleeping, she secretly takes photos of her class. There is no flash, no sound and it's almost invisible.

It is her camera cell phone. Cell phone that could invade others' privacy or even take photos of tests.

Allen's camera phone fits in the palm of her hand and is an older model that doesn't make any sounds when she takes a photo.

She said she has sat in classes and took photos of the teachers instructing the class or the students in the room.

An invasion of privacy never crossed Allen's mind.

It should now. "It's just a photo," Allen said. "If it was a provocative one, than that would be an invasion."

Luanne Nelson, director of public information for Omaha Public Schools, said there are rules in each school's handbook that refer to cell phones in school and the trust needed from students during classes.

Taking photos of faculty and students is only one worry out of many. A larger worry is taking photos of tests and sending it to friends.

Allen said she never thought of taking photos of tests when she bought the phone.

She said her motive was to only have a camera on her all the time and she could use with her friends.

Shannon Craddock, a math teacher, said she never thought a kid would walk into class and take a photo of a test.

"Now I will pay more attention to the students during tests," Craddock said. "I would stop it right there."

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said she never thought of students cheating on tests with cameras.

She said she if students were caught using the

phones the punishments would be strict. "Students could be kicked out of the class and receive a failing grade," Kirksey said. "Or the student could be suspended."

Nelson said the school board only revises the student handbook during the summer before the next school year.

"If something occurred to a staff with camera phones and reported to the board of education, the board would discuss it at a meeting," Nelson said. "We need to keep the teachers informed."

She said if a student looks in a handbook 10 years ago, there wouldn't be any rules concerning cell phones.

But now a cell phone section is added and the school board has to keep up with technology.

She said they have to think of different scenarios dealing with technological advancements at least on a yearly basis.

Allen said she thinks these phones are going to become very trendy with teenagers soon.

She said her phone deal was \$99 and then with tax it equaled to \$106.

"If kids are going to spend that much on shoes, then they will pay that much for a phone," Allen said.

The current deals for a Sprint camera phone are \$35 to \$50 depending on if the buyer is getting a new plan.

The monthly bills would be roughly \$65 after taxes.

A sales representative in Omaha, who was not allowed to give his name due to company policy, said that this latest trend had created a concern with invasion of privacy at school.

He cited the locker rooms as an example. The possibilities are endless.

The representative said the new phones now have a sound that can't be turned off when a photo is taken.

Allen said on her phone she could turn the sound off if she wants to, but her phone isn't the latest version.



ALBUM REVIEW

"DELIVERANCE"
By: Bubba Sparxxx

'Deliverance' fails to give fans anything

BY NICKI THOMAS

Do anything for a buck, hope and pray that it does well and that is what Bubba Sparxxx did in his latest release. The praying, however, worked against him.

"Deliverance" only has songs about country themes like fishing and "bottles of shine" with a rap beat.

Sparxxx tried once before on the rap scene and he did not accomplish anything, not even a noteworthy album.

The album will not be any different. People don't get him and don't want to.

Sparxxx can now direct his attention to the 20-to-30-age brackets because through out this album, Sparxxx sings only about the fondness of the advice of his elder relatives.

High school students do not want to listen to the advice of a white country boy trying to become a rapper.

Though Timberland, who produced the album, was a plus, Sparxxx overpowers anything good with everything bad.

The one song on the 15-song album was the over-played radio track, "Deliverance."

"Deliverance" has the only decent lyrics that contain a catchy beat.

The song may also be the albums saving grace.

Maybe that is why the album was after it, because consumers would not buy it with out that one track.

Sparxxx also expresses his appreciation to his fans in "Deliverance" by saying, "I want all y'all to know, good or bad I'll remember, so in the name of deliverance."

Obviously, his fans know that they are appreciated, but it does not mean that we have to be reminded.

So, all of the Bubba Sparxxx lovers expecting to hear a country album, better luck next time.

Why would this guy have fans of any age group?

This album is not good and hopefully it is his last because Sparxxx is not ready for what the world has to say about this album.

Local music promoters protest large corporate control

BY ASHLEY BROWN

Senior Josh Koterba is planning on attending the Saves the Day concert in October with a few of his friends. But there will be some other attendees besides their die-hard fans. Protesters will be waiting outside.

Clear Channel has been called everything from an evil corporation, anti-competition bullies and "The Man." They've also been called hard workers, a smart business and good for bands.

Clear Channel is one of the world's largest media corporations and has been booking shows in Omaha for years, but it is now starting to book venues where local promoters are active.

The Saves the Day concert coming up has local music activists in an uproar. It's even at the point where local protesters are muttering "boycott."

Although it is not new to the Omaha scene, owning several radio stations and controlling all West Fair concerts, Clear Channel is beginning to pose a threat to the local concert producing companies such as 1% and Orange Whip Productions. Clear Channel has booked a concert at a venue Marc Leibowitz, owner of 1% Productions, books at frequently. Leibowitz said it hasn't become a problem, yet.

"I don't think it's a huge indication that local promoters are going to get knocked out," Leibowitz said. "But if it's their tenth show at

Sokol, that's a different story. Don't get me wrong. I'm not excited Clear Channel is booking shows at Sokol. That fact is people want to make money and Sokol wants to make money."

Leibowitz said Clear Channel has been active in the Omaha music scene for 20 years.

There are several Lincoln and Omaha radio stations that are owned by them. What they usually do not do is book in the smaller venues.

Since Clear Channel is such a big company, it is able to book larger arena shows because it's too big of a risk for smaller local companies to handle, Leibowitz said.

Leibowitz said even if the boycott is successful and nobody shows up to the concert, Clear Channel will probably be covered if a show in a bigger city sells out so they make it back.

However, for local promoters, a 'no-show' concert results in a much bigger blow, costing it a lot more money.

Orange Whip Productions owner Sean Reagan said he thinks a protest will not necessarily hurt Clear Channel, but may show the company that it is not welcomed in Omaha.

"I don't think it will make a difference if there are fifteen hundred people there or 50," Reagan said. "If the boycott does go through, it's no hair off Clear Channel's back because they're making money in other markets. It's just another show to them."

If a local promoter wanted to get a show that

Clear Channel also wanted, they would more than likely get rejected from producing that show. The smaller producers produce the smaller shows or the shows that do not want to play under a corporate name.

"We get shows because band agents don't want to deal with Clear Channel because it costs more," Leibowitz said. "They (Clear Channel) may pay the band more, but we don't have the overhead, the large corporation has."

Reagan said some agents like Clear Channel more because it can buy multiple shows instead of just one.

"There will be agents that will swear by Clear Channel," Reagan said. "Clear Channel will buy ten to eleven shows. That's one thing that a local promoter cannot do is buy a bunch of shows and put them in other areas."

A Clear Channel representative stated the company's opinion, saying "We take pride in bringing a diverse range of live entertainment to fans in Omaha. We look forward to any opportunities to connect artists with their fans."

Junior Steve Gardels said he decided to protest the Saves the Day show when he heard it was a Clear Channel event. He said he is even considering protesting outside the venue during the show.

"These people (Clear Channel) not only squeeze out indie bookers, but manage to start getting rid of indie radio stations, too," Gardels said. "I was going to go to the show, but not after I

found out Clear Channel was producing it."

Koterba on the other hand, said he thinks Clear Channel doesn't deserve to be boycotted, nor does he think its going to make much of a difference.

"They have more money, so they can promote a show better," Koterba said. "They're a successful company. Plus, they own several radio stations here in Omaha. I don't think they will just pick up and leave."

Reagan said he agreed with Leibowitz when he said protesting probably will not affect Clear Channel that much.

"I really don't think much is going to happen with it," Reagan said. "I think Clear Channel will probably come in and do a few shows. There's just not much of a demand in the Omaha area for concerts compared to other areas. There's just not much of a concert culture."

Leibowitz said people should be more educated about what Clear Channel is, but he doesn't think people care enough to take action against the corporation.

"I think there's such a small percentage of the population who cares if it's a corporation or an individual providing the entertainment," Leibowitz said. "I'm a minority who actually cares whether it's a corporation produced or not."

Reagan also agreed and said he thinks the majority of people turn on the radio and listens to the same 10 songs in rotation day in and day out.

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THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

124 N 20TH STREET OMAHA NEBRASKA 68102



SLAP IN THE FACE

A COLUMN BY BRIAN LEE

So you wanna be a rock star?

The sweat ran down my brow as I leaped down from the scaffolding, hit the ground hard and rolled into an upright position.

There I stood, arms outstretched, eyes squinted into the lights. I lowered my gaze and stared down into the sea of screaming fans. Then, a single riff from the guitar and I was ready to do it all over again.

I had a dream, a very vivid dream, and when I woke, I could still feel it as real as life.

I closed my eyes again and bowed my head lower still. Before the drums could even begin, I was ready to go and I brought the microphone to my lips as the crowd went wild.

The way the stage trembled with the pounding footsteps of the crowd and the vibration from the amps that threatened to blow me right off the stage; it was amazing.

I sang songs that I didn't even know and ones that I did. I felt every strum of the guitar pulsing through me and the more I sang, the more the microphone felt like nothing more than an extension of my own self.

When you are the one being adored, the one whose name is being screamed by a crowd of thousands, it moves you, it rocks.

As I said, this was a dream. Nothing more, and yet when I close my eyes, I can still feel it.

I woke from the dream in a cold sweat. The type of feeling that you get from being far too cold or from feeling deep fear.

More appropriately though, this was my body's reaction to being so strongly affected by a desire that I hold deep in my subconscious. I love that feeling, the way that I felt on my stage.

Everyone dreams, and it seems like a majority of people, for at least part of their lives, dream about stardom in one sense or another.

Whether it is acting in Hollywood or rocking a crowd of thousands at Ozzfest, fame and fortune seem to be held high in our society.

This is not surprising. For centuries and as far back as history can be tracked, there is an obvious trend. The more stuff you have and the more people you know help determine how high you are held in society and the amount of respect you are given.

Children read books in which beautiful princesses, damsels in distress are trapped high in the tops of towers and brave knights must defeat the dragon in order to save them and win their love.

This sort of far-fetched fantasy world does not only exist within the pages of the books we read. It crosses over.

As we read, as we connect with the literature and we understand more and more the glory that is portrayed in these fanciful acts, we tend to also dream in ways that include ourselves in scenarios of similar grandeur.

We watch television and see shows like "American Idol" and "Making the Band." We get a kick out of watching and laughing as contestant after contestant gets turned down and insulted by annoying, overcritical British guys, but we have to realize just how far-fetched and difficult these dreams can be.

To reach the top, to become a star, is a long and strenuous journey.

First, you need a dream. You must feel it and want it. The commitment is what drives you to the final result.

Many people dream of such fame, the difference is seen in the follow through.

Second, it is not always a lack of talent that causes a person's career to fail. Record companies too often seem to consider prospects with a bias relating to preconceived notions of what they are looking for and become numb to other talents.

When a label is looking for something specific, a performer who fits an exact profile, they will look until that prospect is found.

Finally, we have to realize that it is far more common in this world for people to find themselves in a position of disappointment than success.

The people that become our Tupacs, our Metallicas, our Eminems and our Nirvanas, the lives they live are uncommon. Just the simple fact that they accomplish what they do and make it to the top, they live the dreams of millions.

HOMECOMING

The celebration is always fun. No matter what guests wear, it is a chance to reflect personal style and creativity. Just because the homecoming dance is held at Norris Middle School does not mean that it has to be a bad night. It can still be a very memorable one. No matter how much money students have to spend, there is something out there for them. They just need to make sure to have fun.

CLASSIC



This is a black, strapless two-piece dress with purple polka dots on the mid-center and bottom hem. The top is well-fitted and the bottom flairs out which makes it a perfect dancing dress.

Worn with black shoes the dress is complete.

The look of this dress is very classic and is a very simple style that can work for other occasions.

This dress is very nice and sharp, but it is not too elegant which makes it a great choice for homecoming.



This is a very sharp tux. A black jacket, pants, shoes and a tie make the black accents on the otherwise silver vest look very classy.

It is a very formal suit and the man's guest should feel honored to be accompanied by a man in this tuxedo.

Though the man may feel like he should be sipping martinis in a fancy club, remember, it is homecoming and why waste an evening in this fancy attire?

MODERN



This is a floorlength dress with black, white and blue squares in different lengths and sizes. This one-piece dress zips up the back and fits tight around the chest and stomach.

Though the dress is nice for homecoming, it also works for other formal occasions.

The style is very modern, with a funky flair to it that makes it very eye-catching and hard to miss.

The wearer is sure to turn heads in this dress, which is the whole point after all.



If it boiled down to a hit-or-miss situation, this vintage suit would be a hit and a miss. This is a burgundy tux with a burgundy velvet cummerbund.

Underneath is a white shirt with red and burgundy ruffles which go the whole length of the shirt.

The pants flair and sway back and forth while walking.

Worn with white shoes, this tux will have the wearer swinging like Austin Powers

RETRO



This pink and black plaid dress is one of the most exciting dresses that will be seen on the dance floor. It is strapless with a black strap in the mid-center which ties to make a bow in the front.

It sits right above the knee which will make it easy to dance in. It has a bright pink flower on the left chest. It zips in back and has a very '80s feel to it.

The dress would look great with black shoes and accessories and any type of pink flower corsage. This dress is a lot of fun and anyone that wears it should have fun.



It will look like Pee-Wee Herman himself walked in the door when a man decides on this vintage blue velvet tux. The jacket it made out of velvet and the pants are polyester.

The suit is very hot and not recommended for someone who plans on doing a lot of dancing.

Funding for musical proves to be overwhelming, director says

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

When around \$10,000 or more is spent on costumes, sets and royalties alone for the drama department to put on a musical, a lot more than just good acting skills are needed for success.

This year drama teacher John Gibson, who is directing "Cinderella", is also in charge of finding means for funding on his own.

Sophomore Molly Mullen said that putting on a musical and finding funding is a lot of work.

"When the performance is over and you see Mr. Gibson crying, you know it's all worth it, even if no one shows up," Mullen said.

"There are too many different issues that can't be handled by students, so I'm in charge of all the money things," Gibson said.

Although Gibson says reaching the required amount of money to fund the play is difficult he has found new means of support.

This year, the second annual Band-Aid program will take place on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., in the auditorium.

Gibson said that last year the event raised around \$1,000.

Ticket sales, advertisements, donations and parent organizations all provide money that goes towards production costs.

Gibson said that students have been given the option this year to either pay a \$75 costume fee or sell ten tickets to patrons.

Senior Jason Nehrig, who is a chorus member and a dancer in the production, said that it can be hard for some people to come up with the money.

"I don't have \$75 for a costume," Nehrig said. "I am happy that I can sell tickets so I don't have to pay the fee."

Nehrig also has to think about how he will afford make-up for the show.

Nehrig also said that there is a t-shirt that students can purchase.

"I am glad that the \$14 t-shirt is an option for the cast like the costume fee," Nehrig said.

Nehrig also has to come up with dance shoes for the musical. He said he hopes that he can rent them.

"I am only using the shoes once," Nehrig said.

"We don't need to put on such elaborate plays, people will come anyways," Mullen said. "I really don't like fund raising, it's just not me to go door-to-door selling food or whatever."

Although finding funding is a hassle for some, others are glad they can be part of the production.

"If we didn't have the elaborate stuff, then people would complain about us not having it, instead of spending so much money on it," sophomore Sarah Beck said. "A lot of students take for granted the work Gibson puts in."

She said that she really feels blessed being involved in the production, especially coming from such a small school.

"Gibson is always complaining about money problems," Mullen said. "I mean I'm not going to go beg people for money to give to an inner-city school or anything."

Smaller schools have had difficulties raising funds before, so sophomore Jennifer Costello is grateful of the work Gibson puts in to the cause.

"I came from a school with dirt plays," Costello said. "If people want to be involved they should at least put some effort towards fund raising."

Alumna Chelsea Kegermann, who has been in previous drama department performances, said she believes the schools lack of funding is a disgrace to the program.

"Last year the whole set was three platforms and nothing else, and hardly any time and very little money was put in to the cost of the set," she said.

Kegermann said she believes that the schools lack of funding brings the students down and leaves them unmotivated.

"We had to bring our own costumes," Kegermann said.

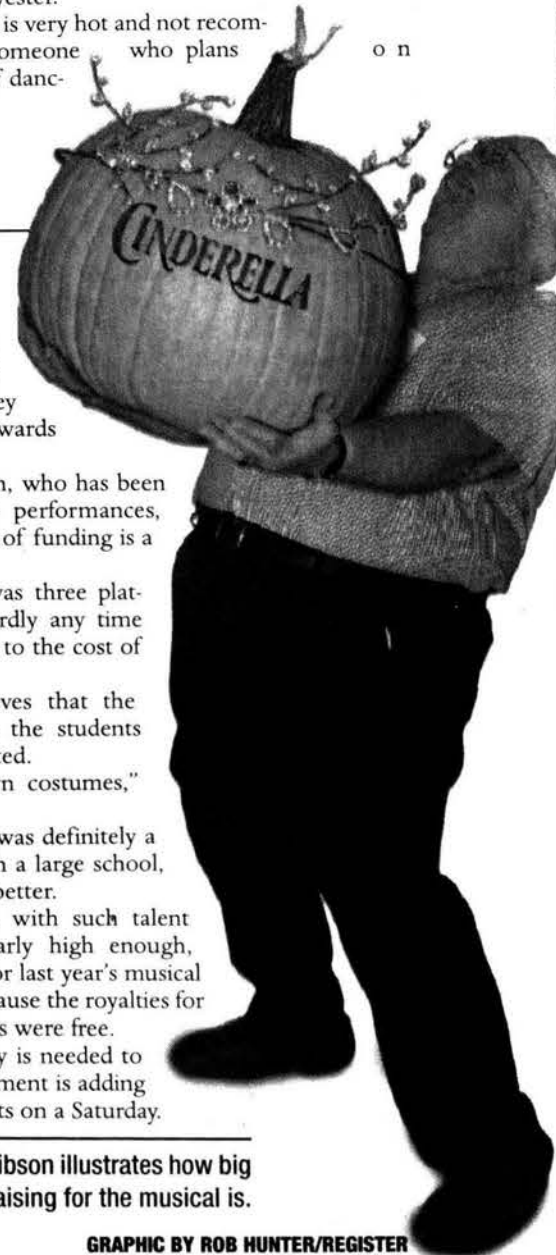
Kegermann said that there was definitely a feeling of meritocracy, with such a large school, and it could have been so much better.

"Being such a big school, with such talent I think the quality wasn't nearly high enough," Kegermann said. The royalties for last year's musical did not have to be purchased because the royalties for the "Mikado" after so many years were free.

This year even more money is needed to pay for the royalties. The department is adding an additional matinee for students on a Saturday.

Drama department head John Gibson illustrates how big of a task fund raising for the musical is.

GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



SPORTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

Football, PAGE 400

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

SOFTBALL TURNS HARDBALL



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Senior Ashley Wilds throws a pitch towards the plate in the fifth inning in the South High Invitational against South at Baldwin Field. The Eagles defeated South giving them their second straight win and shutout in the season.

Basketball star selects Mizzou over Nebraska

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Colleges knocked on seniorystal Howard's door offering full-ride scholarships because of her talents on basketball court.

Howard knew she had to pick one that many people wanted her to ride on her college path.

She had to decide from schools Lincoln, Columbia and Cincinnati, of which offered the same scholarships.

She ended up choosing the University of Missouri at Columbia (Mizzou).

She said she picked Mizzou because the program was going in the right direction and had quality coaches.

"The coaches are better than at one of the other schools," Howard said. "And I could get along with them here."

Not only did she like the program, she liked the fact that the college was in a different state.

Thoughts of going to college began crossing her mind as a freshman when she began to receive her first recruitment letters. Howard said her mom was very proud of her accomplishments and hard work.

She said her style was constantly complimented because she is a basketball player who thinks about the rest of the team and not just herself.

"I think the number of team-oriented players has really increased," she said. "That is what makes the game fun."

She has had years to learn the ways of the game because she has been playing basketball since fourth grade.

She played at a community church with her older brother. He was the one who taught her the basics of the game. During that time she thought of it as a hobby or a pastime, but now it is a part of her college admission.

"I am the only one in my family to go to college," Howard said.

If she didn't do so well in basketball, she said she might have had to focus more on her academics.

Howard said that no matter what, she was going to have to get a scholarship, either for sports or academics.

She said it was a good feeling to be the only one in her family to take an extra step in her education.

Colleges might not have been approaching Howard so much if she didn't work as hard recuperating from her torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) that she tore in her right knee at the end of last season.

"I had surgery and they (surgeons) fixed the hamstring ligament for the ACL," Howard said.

After the surgery, Howard had months of physical therapy and practiced basic exercise moves with her basketball coach.

Head girls basketball coach Chad Townsend said since the renovations are happening over the summer at school, he practiced with Howard at Ryan High School.

He helped her with the basic movements of her knee until she medically tested out to a 100 percent.

"My basketball career wasn't over," Howard said. "I just saw it as an obstacle."

Once she passed the test, she began doing defensive drill moves and shooting the ball with different techniques.

She said her mother was the most motivating and supportive person during her healing time.

Townsend said she had a goal to be the same potential she was last year.

"She is unbelievable," he said. "One of the best players to come through Central for a while."

Howard said she isn't worried about her knee for her last season in high school.

She said she has trained back to her normal condition and that it feels great.

"I am excited about my senior year of the basketball season," Howard said. "And I don't think it (her knee) will impede any of my scholarship offers."

She said basketball isn't a set-in-stone plan, but it is just a goal she hopes she can reach.



Howard

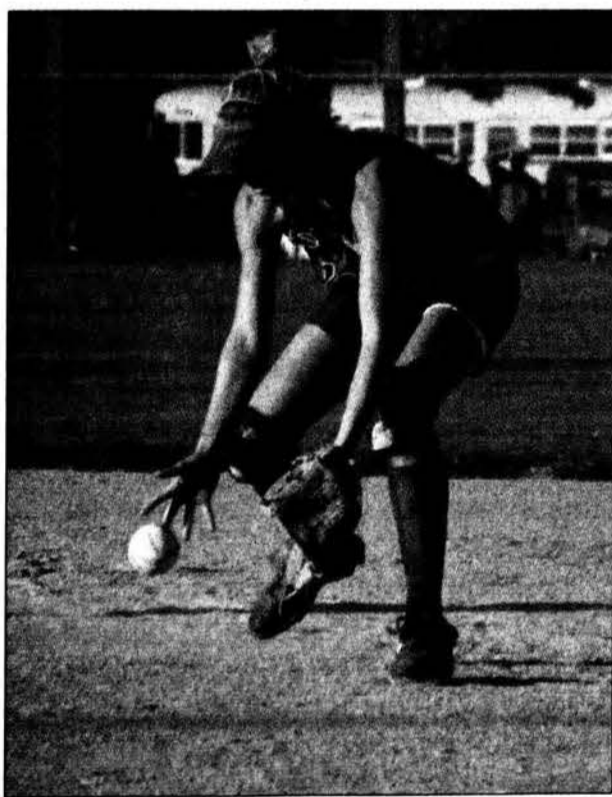


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Junior Darcy Rutherford reaches for the ball after a line drive was hit towards her in the Metro Conference Tournament. The Eagles made history again this year, making it to the finals and placing second overall in the tournament.

Softball team shows early promise despite few seniors

BY DANIELLE WELTY

When the girls varsity softball rankings came out at the beginning of the season, the Eagles were ranked fourth and soon moved up to the number three spot.

Despite losing four players, the team not only maintained the position it finished with last year, it exceeded it.

Assistant coach Scott Wilson said Normesha Reynolds, Elizabeth Davis, Kate Muldoon and Jennifer Miller all graduated last year, but have been quickly replaced as the season began.

"We had an identical record around this time last year, which is great," Wilson said.

He said that the team had a devastating loss to South this year during the regular season.

"South wasn't even ranked," junior Alison Hess said. "We just had a little falling apart that day. We obviously didn't play to the best of our ability."

Senior pitcher Ashley Wilds said she believes the team lost to South because it overlooked them.

"Last time when we played them we beat them 10-0," she said.

Wilson said Wilds is the main pitcher for the team and she is doing exceptionally well.

"It's her first year pitching and she's been a real trooper," Wilson said.

Replacing Jennifer Miller may be seen as a large task, but Wilds said that everything has been going as expected.

"I know everyone thought of Jennifer as the star of the team, but I don't think there's any competition for me to be better than her," she said. "It's more about the team working together than one great player, and I'm really proud of how well we've done so far."

Coach Kerri Murtaugh said that Wilds is an extremely versatile player and that she changed her position three times in three years.

"Ashley played first base last year and outfield the year before," Murtaugh said. "She is not a pitcher and doesn't take pitching lessons. She was just the most prone to do it and has responded well."

Wilson said that other returning members have shown even more improvement.

"Alison Hess has had an unbelievable start," he said. "Everyone is hitting really well, but Ali has been hitting a .780 batting average, which is amazing."

Wilson said he believes that an extensive amount of early success is that the team is having can be attributed to the fact that all of the girls played in softball leagues over the summer.

"That way when school starts, they're already in the routine," Wilson said.

Hess plays on a select softball team that travels around the country with fellow teammate, senior Julia Darrow.

"We traveled and went to play in Colorado and Kansas City, just to name a few," Hess said. "We also qualified for nationals in Michigan, but didn't go because our pitcher was injured."

Wilson said the team has a lot of unity this year which can be attributed to the leadership of their captains, seniors Emily Muskin, Darrow and Wilds, which were picked by the team.

He said they have also helped keep the team focused and ready to play the ball games.

"The team captains are the biggest motivators and the strongest players," Murtaugh said. "They have to not only worry about how they play, but how the rest of the team

Continued to **SOFTBALL** on Page 36D

Former Eagle starts freshman season second on Husker depth chart

BY ASHLEY BROWN

When many athletes graduate high school, they dream of playing at the college level.

Every high school athlete dreams of being on televisions and being recognized by screaming fans every where they go.

To get to that point, most have to wait a few years, but alumnus Brandon Teamer on the other hand, did not have to wait at all.

Teamer said during the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) football training camp, the players' positions were chosen by the coaches.

The best of the best went on top. Even though he is a freshman, Teamer was picked as one of the best and placed on Nebraska's second string team as a defensive lineman.

Eagle varsity coach Joe McMennamin said he wasn't surprised that Teamer was doing well.

"I knew he had talent," McMennamin said. "We knew he was going to be good on defense or tackle."

Teamer said he was very excited about being on varsity and was not surprised to see college football practices were not like high school.

"All the coaches are real competitive and intense this year," Teamer said. "I don't let it overwhelm me. I just come here and work hard everyday because everybody is trying to get playing time."

After all the hard work, Teamer said the players want to get in the game and get some playing time. Teamer's hard work obviously paid off since he got a good amount of playing time.

One would think that being straight out of high school and being pushed a lot to succeed would make anybody nervous.

McMennamin said the reason Teamer was able to play at that level was because he was physically ready. "Usually a player is 30 to 40 pounds under weight when he first starts at a college level," he said.

"Teamer was physically ready. He worked really hard so he's able to handle the older players."



Teamer

McMennamin said Teamer worked hard in weight training in high school so he was able to compete with older, bigger players.

Competition is not the only thing Teamer has to deal with.

Just being on television is enough to make somebody tense before a game.

"That's tough for a freshman," McMennamin said. Teamer said the screaming fans and music got him so pumped up that he wasn't even thinking about the cameras and being on television.

"You don't think about it," he said. "You have so much to think about when you're playing that you don't have a chance to go think about anything else."

Teamer said along with the playing and satisfaction came publicity. "People start recognizing me on campus a little bit," he said. Teamer said he isn't letting this new found fame go to his head.

"I'm not even really thinking about it," Teamer said. "You can't really depend on people like that because they're only around when you're on top. Stick to the people you're close to."

CALENDAR

Player finally recovers after spring injury

BY MIKE SMITH

Senior James Watson finally received the chance to play after five months out with an injury.

Watson tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) after playing a recreational game of basketball during spring break in April.



Watson

"I know I shouldn't have been playing basketball," Watson said. "I should have been focusing on resting for the football season."

Watson received his first chance to play on the varsity team this year.

He looks forward to putting forth all his energy in every game that he plays.

He is really determined to prove that he can play after his long time off.

"It has been built up inside me to destroy the teams after I am healed," Watson said.

Sophomore teammate Aaron Dorsey said that Watson was a very smart player.

"He never gave up after his injury," he said.

Dorsey said that he is very enthusiastic about the chance for Watson to play for the first time during the Westside game.

Before that game, he said that he also looked forward to beating Westside, during that school's own homecoming game.

It is something that he said he feels very confident about and was also anxious for the moment.

Watson also runs track and said he is excited about the chance to run again after doing well last season.

He said he hopes that another injury is nowhere in his future.

Senior switches to center to help team plug holes

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Several adjustments are made each year as varsity football gears up for another season, and senior Matt Storm is no exception with his change from offensive tackle to offensive center.

Head coach Joe McMenamin makes the decision of where the players are positioned.

"He played tackle from his freshman year through his junior year," McMenamin said. "It's an adjustment, but he's handled it well so far."

McMenamin said that last year senior Jake Sellin had the position of center and is now playing a defensive linebacker.

"All of the other years I've been on the team I played offensive tackle because usually the bigger guys play tackle," Storm said. "But then I was transferred to offensive center this year because I was better suited for that position."

This type of shift in position doesn't happen very often because it's such a dramatic change in the placement.

McMenamin said that it benefits the team to have a bigger center.

"If you have a good size guy in front of your quarterback, then you have less of a risk of the quarterback getting tackled and there's more time for the play," McMenamin said.

Storm said that a lot more is involved as a center than tackling.

"Positions are changed to help the team fill out spots and to spread out the talent as much as possible," he said. "We always want to have our best players on the field at all times."

Though the Eagles have suffered a few losses and barely got on the scoreboard against first-ranked Millard North and third-ranked Prep, Storm said that players had really been working hard to fulfill their individual duties.

"Ever since we lost to Prep, we've been picking up the pace at practices," he said. "We played better during the Millard North game, but they are just a really good team."

The players said they have high hopes for the remainder of the season despite the fact that they are no longer ranked.

Storm said he was happy with the changes that have been made.

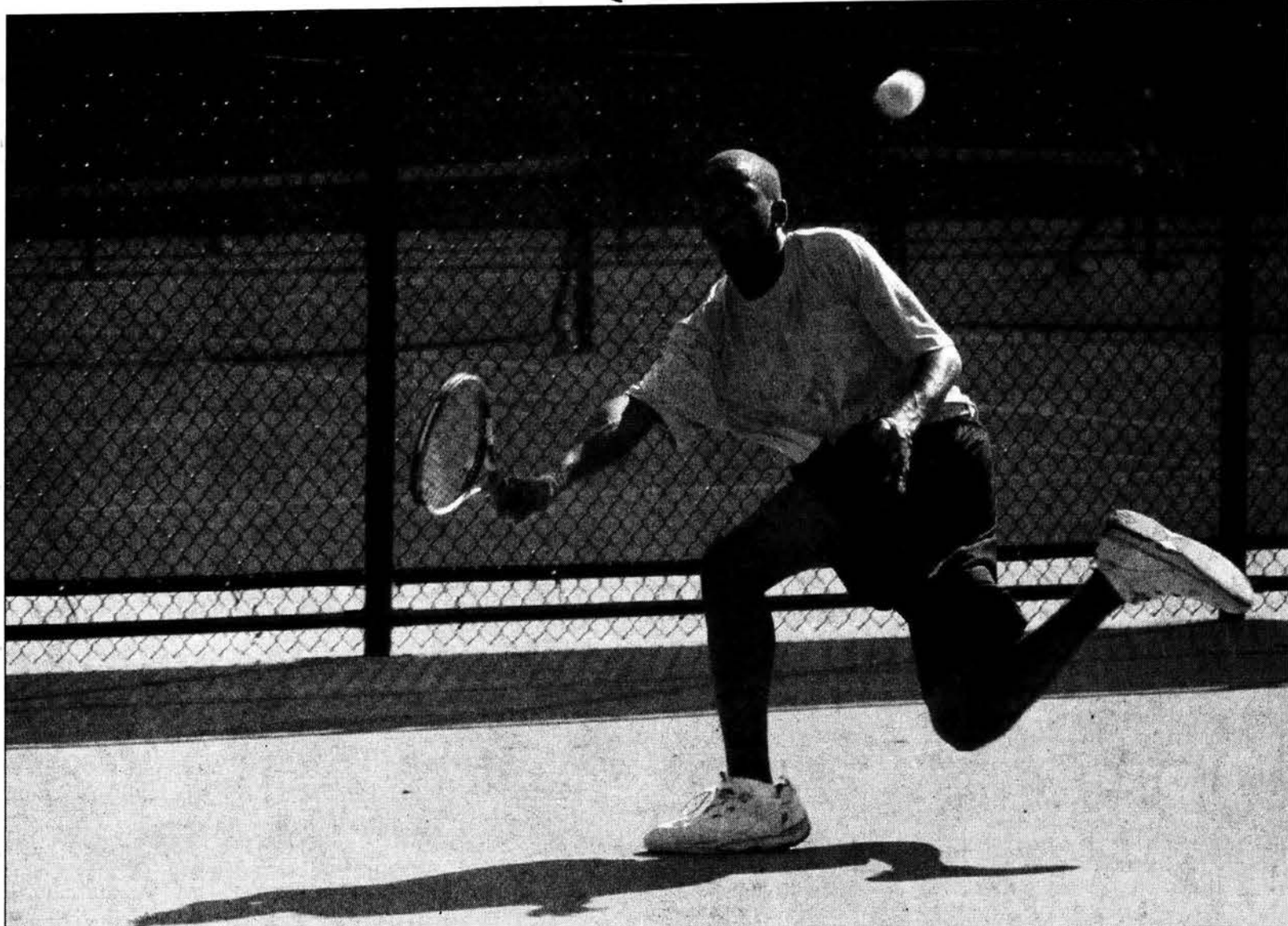


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Senior Leon Lewis gets in position to hit the ball back over the net in a match against Millard South earlier in the year. The team will have to succeed without past state qualifier, Cameron Knowles.

Northwest transfer takes over leadership job after star moves

BY JEFF HART

Senior Leon Lewis, a Northwest transfer, has some mighty big shoes to fill when trying to replace state qualifier Cameron Knowles, who moved to another state before the start of the year.

"I miss him a little," Lewis said. "We were close friends."

Lewis grew up and trained with Knowles, and said it was one of the biggest reasons he came to Central.

"It is a shame Cameron had to move," he said, "but I tried to step up and lead the team in his place."

After Knowles moved to Atlanta, Lewis was left with the responsibility of leading the team on and off the court.

Lewis and Knowles played in many tournaments together and were usually very successful.

He said he worked hard trying to match the skill level of Knowles.

Lewis has been playing tennis since he was very little.

He started playing with his dad who is a coach and has been playing for many years.

Lewis tore two ligaments in his ankle at a meet in late September, and could miss the rest of the season.

He said he doesn't think he will be out that long. "If my ankle heals, I will do well at both State and Districts," he said.

Coach Matt Shafer said the loss of Lewis could be a major setback.

"His loss was devastating," he said. Shafer has coached both Lewis and Knowles and is impressed with both players.

He said he knew it would be hard to replace a player of the caliber of Knowles and that all players would have to pick up the slack.

Lewis said he decided to come to Central over Northwest because he thought the Eagles had a better team.

He said the Northwest team lacked structure and coaching, the two things that are important to the senior.

Lewis said that although the team at Northwest probably had some talent, Central was a better fit for him.

"The coaching staff (at Northwest) barely had any experience," he said.

Lewis said he liked Shafer as a coach because he has more experience and knew how to help a player succeed with his abilities.

"The environment around the tennis program at Central is just great," he said.

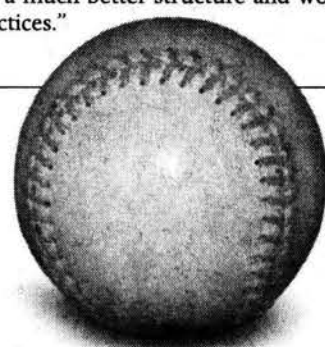
Lewis said he started to get really good when he turned 15.

He wanted to see how good he could get before he lost his talent and his love for the game.

The difference in atmospheres between the two schools has already changed and shaped his game in many ways.

The future couldn't look any brighter.

"No work and playing around during practice is the Northwest way," he said. "Central's team has a much better structure and work ethic during practices."



UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS

OCTOBER

3 (FRI.) HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

The varsity football team will host Bryan in the most anticipated game of the season. The game is at 7 p.m. at Berquist Stadium, located at Norris Junior High School. The official homecoming court will be introduced during halftime. This is a game that no Central student will want to miss.

7 (TUES.) ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEETING

The Athletic Boosters will hold their annual meeting on Thurs. Oct. 7. The meeting will discuss issues about the funding to the athletic department.

13-14 (MON.-TUES.) GIRLS STATE GOLF

The girls golf team should make an impressive appearance at this year's state tournament. The team is looking forward to the event after a long season of practicing and playing.

15-17 (WED.-THURS.) STATE SOFTBALL

The varsity girls softball team has an impressive record this season. After last year, another state tournament bid is possible for the Lady Eagles and a state championship is in the minds of the players and the coaches. The Lady Eagles are currently ranked fourth in the Class A rankings in the state of Nebraska.

16-17 (THURS.-FRI.) STATE TENNIS

The tennis state tournament is starting on Oct. 16. The event is scheduled to continue until the following day, Oct. 17. This is sure to be an event that will be interesting to watch.

24 (FRI.) STATE CROSS-COUNTRY

The cross-country team will officially end its season at state. Central's team has showed outstanding promise and has high hopes for a good fan-based turnout to end the season with a bang.

NOVEMBER

5-11 (WED.-TUES.) VARSITY FOOTBALL STATE PLAYOFFS

The varsity football team, along with numerous other teams in the state of Nebraska, may have the chance to experience the state playoffs in Lincoln, Neb. Teams will have to qualify in their divisions in order to attend the state playoffs.

Experience puts junior at top of list

BY MIKE SMITH

Junior Robert Wesley has been playing football for a long time

that experience might be starting to pay off by leading him in direction of being the next great running back at I-Back High.

Varsity coach Joe McMenamin said that Wesley is a fine young running back, and next year will carry the load after the current running backs graduate.

From the time Wesley started playing football, he had no idea that would be at the place he is today.

Wesley's first football experience was with the North Omaha Bears. He said that he was really weak and most sat on the bench. After working hard the next few years, Wesley played fullback and running back where he learned a lot about the game of football.

"I owe a lot of it to my former coach Rick Smith who never gave up on me," he said.

On Smith's team, Wesley became the star running back for the Falcons city-wide team.

When Wesley decided to attend Central, he made the JV team and suited up for varsity. During Wesley's sophomore year, he officially started play on the varsity team. He played the defensive side as a cornerback.

Wesley said that he has no doubts but respect for his coaches.

"McMenamin and Fuller are awesome some coaches," Wesley said.

He said that there was automatic chemistry between the coaches and the team when practice began this summer.

McMenamin said that Wesley is really popular with the players and goes along with everyone.

"He is very team oriented," McMenamin said.

McMenamin said that he is also a very coachable athlete.

"He does what he is told and works on his improvements if he needs to," McMenamin said.

This year Wesley has been approached by coaches from Michigan State University and Kansas State University.

Wesley has also been given letters from other schools such as Oregon State University and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Golfer sets big goals for team self this season

BY JEFF HART

Senior Steve Hogan, who is coming off of an injury, said he is hoping this is his best year ever.

"I am better than I was last year," he said.

Hogan has been playing golf since he was a toddler. His dad, Steve Hogan II, was a professional golfer who started him in the sport and taught him what he knew about the game.

The elder Hogan teaches over 600 kids a year at his professional golfer's school.

Hogan really admires his dad and tries to improve himself to be like him.

"I would have to say my dad is my role model," he said.

Hogan has been doing a lot to improve his game over the summer. He has competed all over the nation in golf tournaments. He is one of a few Nebraska golfers who compete nationally. Hogan competed in Chicago, Florida, Denver and California. He placed in the top 10 in Denver, where he finished fifth. Hogan also has been in the weight room trying to become stronger and steadier player.

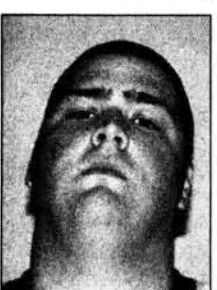
"This year's team will be great. We will have many returning golfers," Hogan said. "All we need is a couple freshmen or sophomores to step up and we would be awesome."

Last year Hogan was injured and couldn't play in the last few tournaments, but with that setback he still managed a 22nd-place finish at State and fifth place finish at Districts.

"I am better this year," Hogan said. "and we all know each other's game. Nothing can stop us if we are unstoppable."



Wesley



Storm



Hogan

Two athletes receive distinguished honor



(ABOVE LEFT) Senior Cortney Grixby stands to receive the distinguished award given to athletes in the nation by the United States Army. (TOP RIGHT) Senior Brandon Gunn listens as his name is read for the same honor (BOTTOM RIGHT) Gunn runs around end, while fighting off a trio of tacklers, at the annual Purple-White game in September.

BY MIKE SMITH

Seniors Cortney Grixby and Brandon Gunn received the Army All-American award earlier last month. Not too many high school athletes get this honor. On Sept. 4, the two Central seniors were the only two in the state to receive this distinguished honor from the Army.

Staff Sergeant William Wagoner, who is the station commander for the United States Army, presented the two with the distinguished honor.

"Only 400 football students throughout the United States receive the honor," he said.

Last year, eight individuals received the award in the state. This year, however, only two, Grixby and Gunn received the recognition.

The varsity football team was practicing at Benson for its match-up against Creighton Prep because Benson has turf like the field at University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

Before the start of practice, an official ceremony took place to present the awards to the two seniors.

Wagoner started the ceremony off by telling a joke about how he wanted the Eagles to destroy Prep, which seemed to boost the confidence level of the players.

Grixby said that it was a big achievement to be select-

ed as one of the top players in the country.

"I am very proud to follow in the footsteps of great players like David Horne and to be recognized nationally," Grixby said.

He said that it is unreal for him to be compared with such greats that came out of the football program at Central.

Head varsity football coach Joe McMenam said that both are outstanding players and deserving of the awards.

He said that former student and varsity football player David Horne received the honor two years ago.

He said that Horne was one of the 78 selected individuals and went to San Antonio, just like Grixby and Gunn might, if they are selected.

Gunn said that overall being selected was great honor, especially that it happened his senior year in high school.

"I get to be recognized for my talents and to be one of the two in the state to receive the award is awesome," Gunn said.

Gunn said that he gets the team going and that is a quality that makes him an asset to the team.

Wagoner said that the two were chosen based on their abilities to play the sport, and their talent on and off the field.

Coaches said they think these athletes are a cut above the rest.

The Army obviously agrees.

He said that there was probably some type of poll conducted to select the two players.

McMenamin also said that Grixby is a tough ball player and a nice part of the team.

"Grixby has a lot of athletic talent, and he transforms on the football field with his quickness and his speed," he said.

McMenamin said that Gunn is a very smooth player and is a nice size, weighing in at 195 pounds.

"He's a good power runner and that makes him such a value to our team," McMenam said.

"Out of 400 students, 78 will be chosen to play in the United States Army's All-American Bowl, which will be held in January next year," Wagoner said.

Wagoner said that all 78 players will be given a trip for two, expenses paid, to the bowl game in Texas at the Alamo Dome.

Also, the players will be able to keep their jerseys and equipment, along with a chance of a lifetime to appear on television.

Grixby and Gunn both said that they are very enthusiastic about the opportunities that they have in front of them.

"It is a once in a lifetime experience that would be an experience that I would never forget," Grixby said.

FOOTBALL

Sophomore suits up, sees action on varsity

BY ASHLEY BROWN

Running out onto the field, hearing the crowds cheer and feeling the exhilarating energy surge through his veins is what sophomore Craig Ecabert said is his favorite part about playing linebacker and fullback on varsity football this year.

Ecabert said he was anxious about being a starting linebacker in this season's first varsity game. He said that once he got onto the field, all his nerves melted away.



Ecabert

"It's very rare as a sophomore to be suiting up on varsity, let alone starting," head coach Joe McMenam said.

Ecabert said he was approached by freshman football coach Josh Montzingo last winter during after-school weight training about playing on varsity his sophomore year instead of JV.

Montzingo told him he could potentially be up for varsity.

"He was probably one of our best players," Montzingo said. "He worked very hard. He played the game the way it was supposed to be played."

Head coach Joe McMenam said Ecabert was definitely one of the better players on the freshmen football team last year and that he definitely stood out amongst the other players.

"He's a cut above the rest of the players on a junior varsity level," McMenam said.

Montzingo said a factor that may have contributed to

Ecabert's football skills is the fact that he has been playing football since he was in sixth grade.

"He was able to hone his skills instead of learning from scratch like a lot of other players," Montzingo said.

Ecabert said he knew he had to work extra hard if he wanted to compete with the bigger varsity players.

"People are bigger than you," he said.

Ecabert said that a player always has to work hard and try to help himself as much as possible.

"You're on the lowest end and have to work your way up," he said.

Although he was nervous about being on the team, he said the older players didn't really treat him that differently.

"They just treated me like one of the guys," Ecabert said.

He said that when they started having fun, the team didn't tease him that much.

Although Ecabert seems like a fairly modest, studious student, he said he loves all the attention he is receiving at the varsity games.

"The games are a lot more fun than the freshmen games," Ecabert said. "It's a lot more fun with all the attention we get and the bigger crowds."

He is on rotation for linebacker with Ian Jones, but McMenam said Ecabert will be playing in every game this year. He said that when he gets another year or two under his belt, he'll be one of the best players in the state.

Runner starts cross-country to stay in shape for soccer, finds new college path

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Junior Casey Bigsby has had a successful track and cross-country career. However, Bigsby never had any intentions to be successful or even participate in track and cross-country. She said it was just something to do between soccer seasons.

"I actually played soccer and just did cross-country to stay in shape," she said. "I did not want to get out of shape for soccer."

She started track in eighth grade while she wanted to start and that she originally did not want to run against people.

"I started out just practicing with the team, and then I was asked to run in a meet," Bigsby said.

Bigsby was ranked 10th in the state last year and began this year ranked ninth. She said that she is doing well in comparison to last year and that she plans to stick with the sport throughout high school.

"I am definitely going to keep on doing cross-country and soccer next year because it is something that I like to do," she said.

Bigsby and the cross-country team ran in the Prep Invitational in late September. It had competitors from just about every

school, and she said that it was a really hard competition.

"The invitational was a big race," Bigsby said. "It was a precursor to districts."

She said that in her race at the invitational, there were about 40 people running against her.

Central scored second place overall in the race. Cross-country coach Trent Lodge said that Bigsby is having a really good year.

"This is definitely her best year so far," Lodge said.

He also said she has been getting better with every meet she has competed at, and that

the Prep Invitational was no different for the rest of the team.

He said that the entire team ran really well and had a really good performance.

"Everybody dropped time at the invitational and I think we did really well," said Lodge.

Lodge said that the invitational is always something that the team looks forward to, and that since it was held at Elmwood Park the team had an advantage.

"Elmwood Park is one of our practice sites so everyone knows the track really well," Lodge said.

Bigsby and Lodge both agree that the big-

gest competition are Burke and Marian.

"They are always two of our biggest competitions," Lodge said.

Bigsby said that both of the schools have about five good runners who always seem to do well at the races. She said that besides Burke and Marian, Millard North and Millard South are also good competitors.

Bigsby said that there is one way that she keeps herself motivated before and during a race.

"I just find someone that I know I can run against and I stay on their heels," she said, "then I pass them towards the end of the race."

Former coach misses CHS players, looks forward to bright future in coaching at college level

BY MIKE SMITH

Former girls varsity basketball coach Michele Roberts said she's enjoying her new job administration on the coaching staff at Iowa State University, but admits she misses some things about Central.

"I really miss the girls, and have kept in contact with some of them," she said.

She said that leaving was a difficult thing to do. She said she had a meeting with her players near the end of the year and told them the news.

All of the players on the basketball teams were given a pass to get out of class that day to attend the meeting.

Junior Alex Dickey said that Roberts told them that she was leaving pursue an opportunity at ISU.

Roberts said that she had always had colleges coming to her with opportunities, but she never really felt right with them.

She said that when the Lady Cyclones head coach Bill Fennelly came to her she knew that it was time.

Roberts said that the toughest thing that she had to do was tell her players the news.

Dickey said that Roberts told them that this was an opportunity that she could

not pass up.

"I wasn't happy, but I understood that it's her job," Dickey said.

Dickey said Roberts was leaving the basketball program around.

She said Roberts' main goal was to talk to the players off the court before and after the games and at practice.

"She was there for us whenever we needed her," Dickey said.

Currently, Roberts said that she is scheduling the games and the practices for the Lady Cyclones' upcoming season.

Roberts is also the director of the tournament that ISU is hosting this year.

She said that at her current status, one of her jobs is to be a liaison with academic issues with the players on the team.

She said that in basketball, she has learned that it is really important to learn and know the behind the scenes of what it takes to put on a Division I basketball program.

Roberts said that it is a different level then she is used to, but it is an important one that she must understand.

Dickey said that though there are two new coaches at Central this year, both varsity and JV, she is optimistic about playing.

"You're non-stop for six straight month

playing the game," Dickey said.

She said that it's something she likes to do, but with two brand new coaches it looks uncertain.

Junior Leah Weis is looking towards the next two basketball seasons with two new coaches.

"I think that this year we are going to have stronger team morale," Weis said.

She said that it looks like the varsity girls basketball program can make another run at the state tournament.

Roberts said that she believes that the team will do just fine without her, and that the players and the coaches will hopefully succeed in their season.



Roberts

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Injury fails to hold hurler out of lineup

BY KATIE BACKMAN

A jammed finger isn't something that is going to stop senior Ashley Wilds from pitching.

She knows how to work through the pain.

While she was pitching at a game earlier in the year, she fell and tried to stop her fall with her pitching hand.

All of her weight jammed on her pinky finger, but it never broke.

"It hurt, but I did my best for the rest of the game," she said.

She didn't stop to think she just broke her finger, instead she pushed back the pain and kept pitching.

For the game against Benson High School, senior Emily Muskin pitched. Wilds said she didn't think the game was too difficult for the team to win without her and she wasn't forced to sit out of the game.

Muskin said she didn't mind playing that game because she doesn't think Benson is that much of a competition. She has only pitched in three or four games this season.

"Ashley is definitely the main pitcher," Muskin said.

Because of her softball career in high school, colleges are already giving her offers to attend their schools.

She said her finger is getting better and even though it isn't in perfect condition, she still pitches most games.

"When I am pitching, I really like the feeling of the pressure," Wilds said.

Freshmen earn roster positions at highest level

BY KATIE BACKMAN

After playing shortstop on the JV softball team, freshman Amber Hamilton runs to change her uniform to play in the varsity game.

Hamilton is one of three freshmen to play on the varsity softball team. She said after playing both games she isn't even worn out. She isn't tired because she loves the sport so much.

Once the night is over, freshman Ashley Rose said she is exhausted. She said she doesn't usually go home and go straight to bed. She said softball is worth the sacrifice.

Freshman Rochelle Finnigan said playing on

two teams isn't tiring because she has fun with it. She said making the varsity team surprised her, but she is very happy by being a high-level player for varsity.

"When I made the team, my family was really proud," Finnigan said.

Rose didn't even expect to read her name on the varsity list.

She didn't know why she was chosen for varsity because she thought there were a lot better players trying out on the team than just her.

In late August, Hamilton said she was told that she had a varsity position before the team's season started.

She said she thinks her hitting capabilities are above average and that made her stand out more.

"I was shocked and nervous when I found out," she said.

The game played on Sept. 23 against Marian High School, Hamilton said she went two for three.

Finnigan said she enjoys being on the team because she is working really hard and giving it her all.

She started playing in summer leagues in fifth grade.

"I earned it," Finnigan said.

Varsity teams may be intimidating to some underclassmen, but Rose said the girls on the team are all really nice to the three freshmen.

She said her teammates give them tips on certain techniques and encourage them to stay with the team for future years.

College crossed the minds of both Hamilton and Rose because this could open up doors to scholarships.

Rose said she wants to go to college for softball and would try to play it professionally.

The three girls all have been involved with softball before.

Hamilton said she thinks her entire experience with the game will look really good on applications for schools in the future.

Hamilton said she thinks colleges will have more of a chance to discover her and hear her name if she stays on the team throughout school.

"I really like the atmosphere and I plan on sticking with this (softball)," Rose said.

SWINGING FOR SUCCESS

The girls varsity softball team is continuing its winning ways from last year by dominating local high school teams and winning the Metro tournament in September. Its winning formula makes it the team to watch in the fall.

Coaches working relationship helps achieve success

BY ASHLEY BROWN



Coaches Kerri Murtaugh and Scott Wilson make mental notes as pitcher Ashley Wilds gives up a base-hit.

It's official.

Girls are in fact better than boys. At least that's what the assistant varsity and head JV softball coach said about coaching girl teams.

"Girls work better," Scott Wilson said. "They seem to work harder."

Five years ago when Wilson first started coaching girls, he said he was petrified.

He had only coached boys baseball before, so he wasn't sure what to expect with girls.

He said head varsity softball coach and junior high and high school acquaintance Kerri Murtaugh helped him pick up the rules of the game and how to have fun while coaching.

"It was a totally new realm," he said. "Kerri really helped me with that."

Wilson said he got the position of coaching softball when Lisa Donahoe gave up her position as JV softball coach. Wilson then said Murtaugh asked him if he wanted to coach.

"He was coaching baseball at the time," Murtaugh said. "The transfer from baseball to softball is pretty minute. The biggest switch between baseball and softball was going from coaching boys to girls. He adjusted extremely well."

Wilson said his baseball coaching background had really helped him out, so with Murtaugh's help, the rules of softball came easily.

Wilson softball coaching career at Central didn't start right away.

He said although he was scared at the beginning of the game, he felt much better at the end.

"I didn't start coaching until the first game," Wilson said. "Of course, that game was five years ago, but we've come along way."

Murtaugh said they (Wilson and Murtaugh) had known each other for a very long time before coaching together.

She said they went to the same junior high school and both attended the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO).

Wilson said although they weren't "buddies" in junior high, high school or college, they still recognized each other when they started coaching together.

"We were acquaintances," Wilson said. "We hung out or anything since I was a year older than Kerri when we were in school, but when we both started at Central, it was like 'Hey, Kerri' 'Hey Scott.' She is cool."

Although Murtaugh doesn't teach at Central, she's always had a weird attachment to it.

She said since her father, assistant principal Paul Semrad who works at Central, she has a strange loyalty to the school.

"I had coached softball at Millard South and played for UNO," Murtaugh said. "When the coaching position at Central opened I took it."

Two years after she started coaching, Wilson took the job as assistant varsity coach when Donahoe had a baby and was unable to coach anymore.

Murtaugh said Wilson had always sort of been in the coaching position, but still had to go through the interview process with the administration.

Once Wilson's job was solidified, he said they've been having fun coaching together every year.

Murtaugh and Wilson both said they have a great time coaching together.

Murtaugh said although the job can be stressful and time consuming, Wilson has made it more tolerable and worthwhile.

"If it wasn't for Scott, then truly most of it would be half as fun," she said. "I've lasted this long solely due to working with him every year."

Wilson said if it weren't for Murtaugh, he probably wouldn't have been able to adjust to coaching girls in high school.

"Kerri is a terrific role model," Wilson said. "She's really a great coach and a lot of fun to coach with."

Junior learns different cultures while playing softball in Australia

BY MIKE SMITH



Junior Alison Hess steps out of play as she is nearly hit by the ball. Hess recently went on a trip to Australia to play softball.

One softball junior experienced a once-in-a-lifetime trip down under this summer.

Varsity softball player junior Alison Hess took a trip this summer to Australia.

Hess heard about the trip from a letter in the mail asking her to play softball in Australia for the U.S. softball team.

Hess said after receiving the letter, she attended a meeting with her mother and father at a hotel in Bellevue.

"I really did not know much about it and that's why I went," Hess said.

After Hess received the information, she quickly asked for a recommendation from her softball coach.

Varsity softball coach Kerri Murtaugh said that Hess is an ideal student.

"She is a good athlete that is self-motivated and is a hard worker," she said.

Murtaugh said that her level of performance at batting is unheard of.

Assistant varsity softball coach Scott Wilson said that Hess is one of the top two softball catchers in the state.

He also said that her hitting ability was "out of this world."

"If I was a pitcher, I would not

want to face her at the plate," she said.

Hess also had to choose another teacher from school to give her a recommendation.

She chose Wilson. He had to write a letter to the softball association explaining to them a character reference of Hess's ability as a student and how she plays the game.

Wilson said that Hess is totally about the team and works well with the players and the coaches.

Hess had to have a telephone interview on the phone with the organization that was organizing the trip.

After that she learned that she was accepted to go on the trip and play for the United States.

Hess was the only member of the team in the state selected to attend the event.

Hess had to board a plane that took her to Milwaukee, WI, then to Los Angeles, Calif. and then on a 16-hour flight to Sidney, Australia.

Hess said that the trip alone cost around \$3,500.

"It took a lot of baby sitting to get all that money," she said.

Hess said that her mother agreed to pay half the expenses.

She said she asked for money for Christmas and her birthday.

She had \$300 in spare change, which she saved for a month in a shoe

box. Once Hess arrived, she was amazed at the number of international teams at the event.

She said that there were two U.S. teams.

Her team had 12 players and the other team had 13.

All of the girls were from all over the United States.

"These girls were from places like California and New York," Hess said.

Hess played seven games and won five of them, but lost the other two. In the tournament, her team placed third.

Hess hit 14 out of 18 in the tournament.

She had three triples, five doubles and six singles.

She said one of the neatest things that they did on the trip was going on a boat ride around the Sydney Opera House.

"We also went snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef," Hess said.

Hess also said that she ate numerous types of ethnic foods while down under.

"I tried kangaroo which tasted a lot like ham," she said.

Overall, when it was time to board the plane, Hess did not want to go.

She said she wanted to stay a little bit longer, but the varsity softball season was just around the corner.

She had to come home.

Wilds pitches complete game in Eagles win over Marian in extra innings

BY MIKE SMITH

Just as fall was starting last week, the varsity girls softball team was not worrying about raking leaves, but defeating its opponent, Marian High School.

In a 4-3 win, the Eagles had a close call with the team near the end of the game.

Central took the field in the top of the first-inning with senior Ashley Wilds pitching.

Wilds hurt her knee in a previous game when a long drive flew directly towards her. She did not let that stop her.

Wilds ended up pitching the entire game for the Eagles 17th win for the season.

Central's defense seemed extremely strong,

only letting one runner on base in the top of the first inning.

But, two pop flies and a long drive to first ended the inning with no score. Central scored in the first-inning to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead.

But, in the next few innings, the score remained the same with no runs scored.

The Eagles showed off their skills in the bottom of the fifth-inning after junior Allison Rutherford hit a long fly ball into left field, knocking in her sister and fellow junior Darcy Rutherford and senior Emily Muskin, making the score 3-0.

Central got off track when it let Marian score two runs in the seventh inning, making the score 3-2, Eagles. A controversial call let another

run score, tying the game 3-3.

The call upset Central parents when the umpire ended up calling a foul tip on a bunt. The call made head coach Kerri Murtaugh come out of the dugout to protest.

"I tell my girls that you don't win or lose a game because of a call," she said.

The top of the inning ended on a high note after a ball was hit to senior and shortstop Julia Darrow, who threw the ball to second baseman D. Rutherford, who then threw to sophomore Jaqui Darrow, ending the inning with a very impressive defensive play.

In the top of the eighth inning, Wilds struck out the first batter and then another double play occurred and the score remained the same, 3-3.

In softball after an additional inning added, the last baseman on base is allowed to go to second. Muskin was on second when a ball advanced her to third.

The end of the game came when Hess bunted and Muskin scored making the final score 4-3, Central.

Murtaugh said that she was proud of the effort that the girls put forth.

She said even though there were some mental and physical errors, the ladies never gave up.

She said that focus may have been lost near the end of the game, but in the long run, they were held up high because Central came away with the win.

SOFTBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Winning tradition continues due to unity in coaching staff, players who listen to instruction

plays as well."

Wilson said they helped organize and make sure everyone stretches and that they keep the team together.

Coach Murtaugh, who works at Liberty Elementary, is in her seventh year as head coach.

This is Wilson's fifth year as assistant coach and he said that with the majority of the team returning, it appears that Central is ready to end with as much success as the season started out with.

"I think we have the most amount of runs on average in all of the years I've been here," he said. "We've beat teams 10-0 and that's because we play our absolute hardest every game."

In the beginning of the season, the Eagles were shutting out teams, and more recently, the games have become closer.

"The competition is definitely getting better," Murtaugh said. "It always takes a while for teams to get in a groove, just like it does for us."

The Eagles have been very busy with their current record and with their success in many of their tournaments.

For the second straight year, the team has also made history as it continues to improve.

Out of the entire Omaha Public Schools (OPS), Central varsity softball is the only team to make it to the finals of the Metro High School Girls Softball Conference Tournament.

This year, and last year, the Eagles finished as the runner-up in the conference. Murtaugh said the Ralston Tournament will be a little tougher as team captain Muskin is unable to compete throughout the entire tournament.

"It will affect the team mentally," Murtaugh said. "But I expect they will pull together and respond well."

The team also has high hopes for State tournament this year.

"Assuming we win Districts or have a wild card, I think we'll do really well," Murtaugh said.

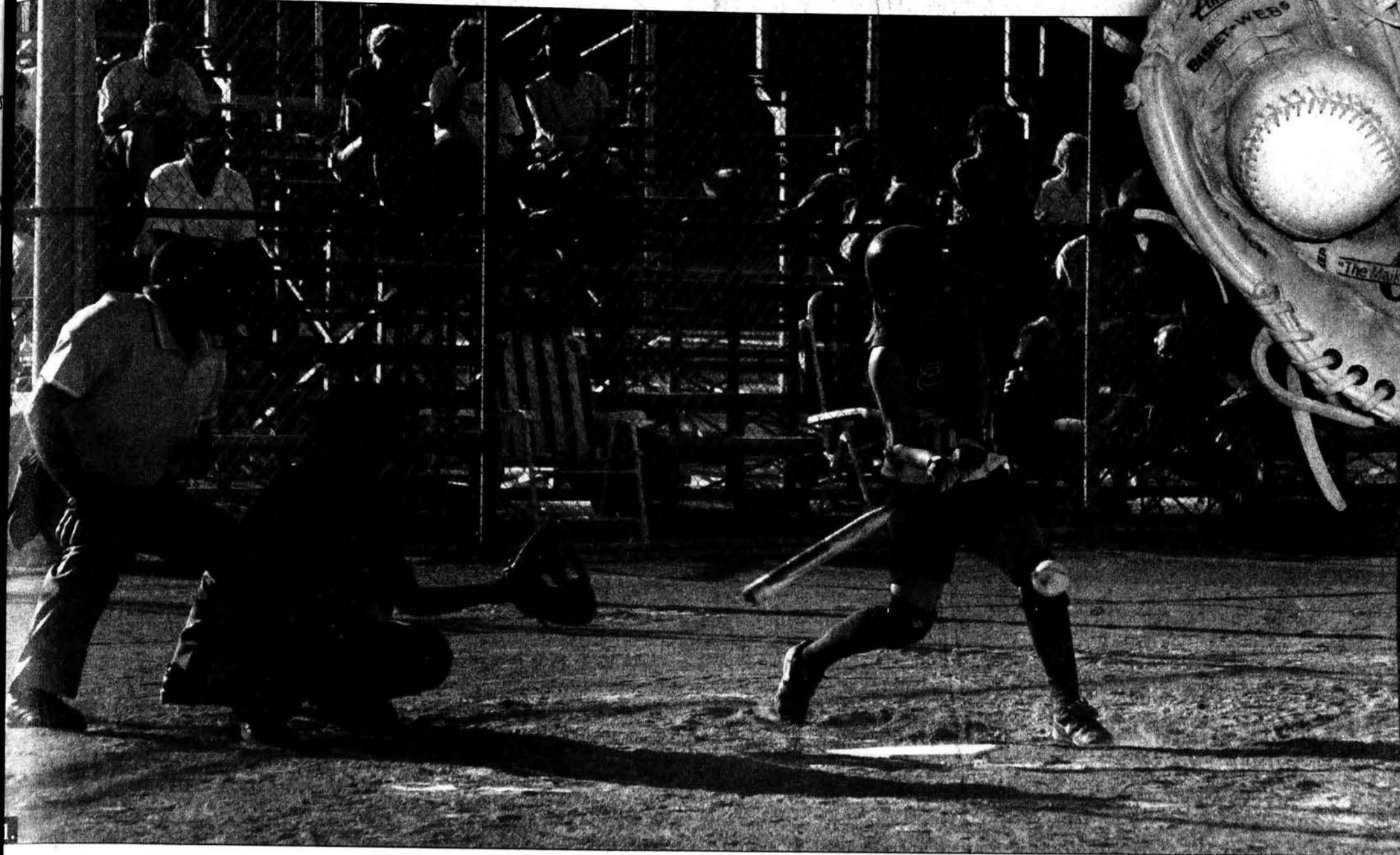
She said they have already beat Lincoln Southeast and went into extra innings with Papillion.

The sky is the limit. She said she expects a successful season next year as well.

"We have a strong core offense and defense and hopefully we'll get some freshmen to fill in the gaps," she said. "It will just be a matter of finding a new pitcher and we have some girls who are pitching taking lessons during winter."



Sophomore McKayla Clark walks back to the dugout after giving senior Ashley Wilds advice on the current batter.



ALL PHOTOS BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

1. Freshman designated hitter Amber Hamilton swings the bat, but misses for her second strike of the inning. Hamilton scored two runs and the girls went on to win their game against Millard West in September. 2. Hamilton arrives safely at third base after a fly ball is hit to deep center field in the early September South High Invitational, which they went on to win. 3. Seniors Ashley Wilds, Julia Darrow, with sophomores Jacquelin Darrow and McKayla Clark return to the dugout after Wilds successfully struck out three batters. 4. Junior Darcy Rutherford rounds third base late in the fifth-inning to score against Bellevue at the South High Invitational in September. 5. Senior Ashley Wilds prepares to release a fast ball towards home plate at a Millard West player early in the fourth-inning at the Metro tournament in late September.

Right-fielding, multi-sport athlete since junior high, runs track to help polish softball skills

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Junior Kelsey Ratigan has had her schedule busy since seventh grade when she decided to become involved in two sports by playing softball and running for her school's track team. She said that each sport helps the other because she is the fastest player on the softball team and playing softball helps keep her in shape for track season. "I started playing softball for the Rainbow League in junior high for fun," Ratigan said. "The reason for the league said that if you're interested in softball to come and join the team." Since then Ratigan has advanced to the

outfield position of fourth ranked girls varsity softball at Central. "It wasn't until high school that I started playing softball in order to win," she said. Ratigan's interest in track also began when she tried out for the team at her middle school. "When I went to Norris Middle School, I won city in the mile, the half mile and the triple jump," she said. "But then when I came to high school, I had to start from the bottom and work my way up because there was so much competition as a freshman." At Districts Ratigan was able to prove herself to her teammates when her coach decided to switch what she ran in at Districts. "For the most part, I ran with my 3200-

meter team, and then at Districts, coach Trent Lodge decided she should run the 400," she said. "It was my first time running the 400 and I qualified for State, but I didn't make it to the finals." Ratigan said that last year the majority of her track meets went extremely well. "I basically took first place in every meet in the 400 with the exception of two," Ratigan said. At one of the two meets that Ratigan did not take first, she could not compete as a result of respiratory problems.



Ratigan

The other was at Districts, where she took second. "There was this girl from Burke that I had been going head to head with all year and she finally beat me at Districts," Ratigan said. She said her four-by-four team, where four teammates run a 400, which included Shaunteal Vaughn, Auriel Blake and Allison Hartnett took first place. Ratigan said that her expectations for next year are not as high because of the intense competition. "I think I'll probably take second place my junior year because there's this tall girl from Lincoln that's going to end up kicking my

butt," Ratigan said. She said she hopes to take first at State by her senior year, but Ratigan said she has to stay in better shape by exercising more and eating less fast food. This helps her perform better in both softball and track. "I played a lot of tournaments this summer with Flash, which is my summer league," Ratigan said. She said she plans on finding a different summer league next year because her team wasn't as talented as she would have liked. "We lost a lot, and it's obviously more fun to win, so I'm looking for a new league," Ratigan said.

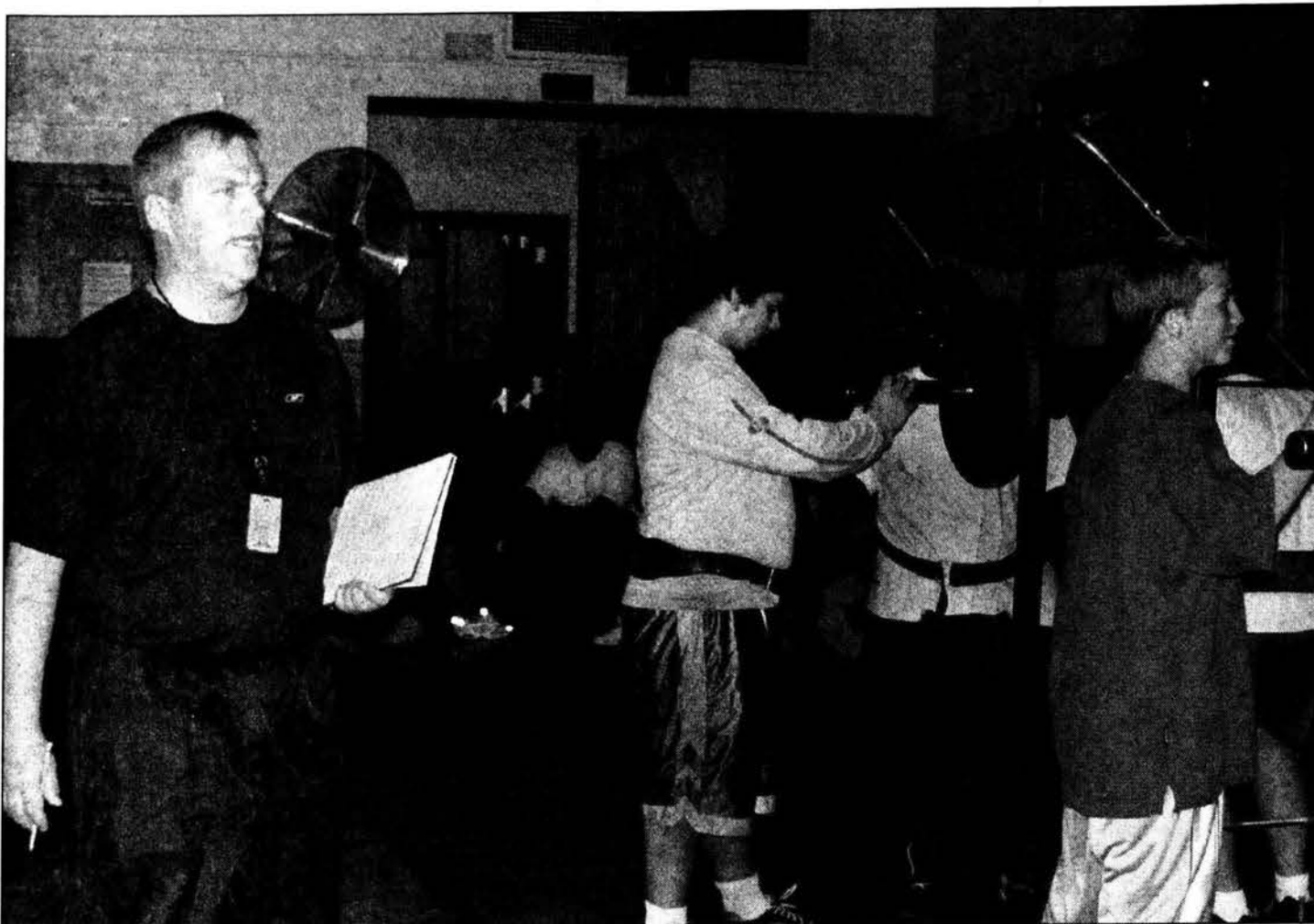


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Physical education instructor and assistant football coach John Moran instructs the students in his eighth hour weight training class about the proper lifting techniques. Moran transferred from Duchesne, an all-girls school, so the co-ed atmosphere of CHS is an adjustment.

New teacher brings small-school approach to CHS

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Physical education instructor John Moran went from a school that had 250 students to the largest school in Nebraska, which boast a student population of 2,600.

Moran said a main thing he had to adjust to was the fact that both genders attend CHS unlike Duchesne Academy of Sacred Hearts, which is an all-girls school.

He taught at that school for eight years, but he said he also wanted to get involved with the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) district.

For the past two or three years, Moran said he has been applying to teach in OPS.

He said his classes at Duchesne averaged to about 15 to 24 students. That number is now doubled at Central.

"Central is like a melting pot of students," Moran said. "There is so much more diversity here than at Duchesne."

A difficult task is adjusting to the fact that

he has to teach both sexes.

He said he has to get used to the students having a wider range of athletic abilities. Moran said he would also have to work on the structure of his classes and the pace it will move at.

He has taught both genders at Roncalli High School, but that was before he taught all girls at Duchesne.

With both boys and girls in the gym, he said it will be a challenge at first to teach and coach all the students.

He said initially he thinks he will be overwhelmed, but he will quickly adjust to the change.

"Right now I am in a portable so the change will come when we move to the gym," he said.

He said the equipment and facilities at OPS are better than at Duchesne.

At his last school, he was a physical education teacher and the head basketball

and golf coach. Here he is only an assistant football coach.

Junior An Vu, who transferred from Duchesne to Central, said he was a really good basketball coach.

She said she would go to his games and see the good techniques he had with his team.

"I would like to coach golf or basketball again, but those positions are already filled," Moran said. "Maybe in another year I will."

She said she would see him all the time at the previous schools getting involved in other aspects of all types of sports.

She said he would play sports with some of his students in gym classes, while helping other students in other areas.

Vu said she hopes he has this same bond with students at Central.

Moran said he is happy to be teaching at Central because the classes are larger, it has a higher pay and it is a Class A-I school.

Gym classes move to portables

BY DANIELLE WELTY

Lifetime Fitness and Team Sports have temporarily moved into the portables as gym 050 is being renovated.

To teach gym in an area where not much physical activity can take place required a change in curriculum.

Physical Education teacher Jodi Reeder said that instead of actually working out, the students watched how-to videos about different sports.

"Other teachers have also been helping out," she said. "Coach Mac made up some worksheets that wouldn't normally be in the curriculum such as crossword puzzles with vocabulary words relating to sports and health, and (Lisa) Studer helped out by making more worksheets and finding readings about nutrition."

Chad Townsend, Scott Hodges and John Moran are all in portables for at least one period of the day teaching gym classes.

"It's a space factor. The reason why Lifetime Fitness and Team Sports are in the portables and not weight training or aerobics is because they have more students," aerobics teacher Lisa Studer said. "Aerobics is able to continue having class in the old gym because we can fit all of the students in the half of the gym that is available for use."

Reeder said that the students do go for walks one to two times a week when the weather is good so that they do get some sort of exercise in that day. Senior Nicholle Leedom said that her class isn't really doing much of anything.

"Last year I played volleyball, basketball and soccer," Leedom said. "And this year we're just playing board games like Scrabble, Chess, Uno and other card games."

Reeder said there are some positives to the situation.

"We have been taking tests that we wouldn't normally take in the gym and we are also going over monthly concepts, nutrition and fitness testing," she said.

The monthly concepts include topics such as Cardio-respiratory, Upper-Body, strength and endurance.

"When studying nutrition we learn about the food groups, what to eat and what not to eat," Reeder said. "We also study body image, body types, eating disorders and stress management."

Reeder said that the rules and concepts for each individual sport are gone over in more detail rather than just playing them.

She said she believes that her class is gaining more knowledge about the sport than they probably would in the gym and it's not cheating them out of a stereotypical gym class, despite the fact that they're not getting all of the physical exercise.

"It's like a trade-off," Studer said. "The students gain more knowledge instead of going out and playing the sport without instruction."

It is predicted that the gym will be completed by November, so the gym classes will no longer have to take place in portables and aerobics will be able to use its new room.

Athlete continues school tradition

BY MIKE SMITH

Sophomore Virgil Mitchell continues in the long and rich tradition at CHS of athletes playing both football and running track.

As a freshman, Mitchell started playing both sports because they both interested him a lot.

He's been successful at both sports as well.

How does an athlete decide?

This past summer, Mitchell worked with coaches on his fundamentals of running track, which included a lot of one-on-one training with the two professionals.

"We worked on my speed and on jumping higher hurdles," Mitchell said.

His CHS track coach, Trent Lodge, is in his sixth year of coaching.

Lodge said that Mitchell is a good athlete and ended up running numerous events in track throughout last season.

"He is a good team player all around," Lodge said.

He said that Mitchell does what is best for

the team.

He said that Mitchell is the fastest athlete some events out of Central, but not all.

"He should return this season as the runner of the 400 in the state," Lodge said.

Mitchell has been running throughout the summer on a club track team.

Practices will not begin until the spring, but Mitchell keeps in shape with football, doubling as a wide receiver for the varsity football team.

He said that he enjoys both sports, but prefers track.

"I will mostly continue running track at college if the opportunity arises," Mitchell said.

He said that he tries his hardest to do the right thing each and every time.

"I get better and better when I practice and makes me feel good about myself," Mitchell said.

He said that it feels good to win and that really keeps him going.

Lodge said that he is very optimistic about the season and sees leadership skills in many of his returning team members, including Mitchell.

Reporter picks up racket, impresses coach with technique, desire to become next Andre Agass

■ This is the first part in a year-long series where *Register* staffer Brian Lee plays a different sport to see if he has what it takes to be a world-class athlete. This issue: Tennis.

Tennis is a sport you don't want to mess around with.

I found that out the hard way when I arranged for a private lesson at the Tranquility sports complex. Tennis is the fabulous sport filled with tiny shorts and lots of exaggerated grunting. A sport that requires focus and drive, and for the most part, at least a bit of talent.

Having never played tennis before, I was extremely fortunate to find myself in connection with a local area tennis instructor, Jim Conant.

In its original form, dating back to the twelfth century in France, the game was called "jes de paume," or game of the palm. It was played with your hands and a ball that was much different than the tennis balls of today. They actually hurt.

Early tennis balls were made of thick leather, stuffed with wool or hair.

The balls were often hard enough to injure a player and on rare occasions kill.

Leave it to the French to be so anal as to create a game that could kill, but was fun at the same time.

Modern tennis might be far less extreme and not quite so fight-for-your-life as the original version of the game, but I'm

not sure that I could have survived a game of "jes de paume."

I also discovered that hand-eye coordination is a must in the game.

I arrived for my lesson and noticed right away that my assumptions about the sport were just a little bit off.

My biggest mistake was in my choice of uniform.

On television, tennis players wear short shorts and white polo-shirts.

In an attempt to get in the mood, and find that special tennis atmosphere, I imitated the televised example.

I wore short shorts, very short shorts. I hid them underneath my warm-up gear for as long as I could.

I wouldn't be surprised if even a Chippendale dancer might feel subconscious in those shorts.

I must emphasize how much more difficult the sport becomes when you are constantly fighting a wedgy.

Luckily for me, Conant was good-humored. He laughed at my costume and did everything he could to work with my inexperience.

As an instructor, he is used to dealing with amateurs, a word that describes me in a nutshell.

He showed me how to serve and how to complete a forehand.

I won't deny that it took me quite a while, and that we went through about 200 balls before I even remotely resembled a tennis player.

Even when my moves were fluent, I still felt like I was doing it all wrong.

I continuously bombarded the father and son on the court next to us with my stray shots.

The son, who was only 12 or 13 years old, had skills. I mean the kid was good.

Now, I could lie and say that I purposely

and repeatedly aimed at the kid out of pure stupid jealousy, but the truth is I just stunk.

Conant had to repeatedly apologize for my inexperience, and make sure the kid was all right. He decided that it was time to analyze my performance and try to pinpoint the source of my troubles.

I blame it on the shorts.

Conant had me focus on my stance and my follow-through and swing.

I was so far out of the loop that he had to personally position my hands on the racket and show me how to properly grip it to get the right follow-through.

Pretty much the only thing I had going for me at that point was my power. Conant actually applauded that.

I think that the best part of the experience for me was when it all started to click, when my shots stopped going astray and Conant actually had something to hit at.

By the end of the lesson, he actually told me that I had true potential if I ever chose to take up the sport for real.

I don't know if he really meant it, but I felt all warm and fuzzy inside when he told me that. Not really, but it was pretty cool to receive a compliment like that. I didn't feel quite so much like a moron.

Now, I'm not going to try and say that my time with Conant made me a pro, but I can at least step on to a court now with confidence.

Only a sport like tennis could have once been a source of entertainment for the French and now be the claim to fame for a pair of African-American sisters and a guy from good old Omaha, Neb.

No matter how you look at my little experience, whether you laughed or were sparked with a new passion for the sport, I can honestly say that this is most definitely not a sport to be messed with.

Do you want to borrow my shorts?

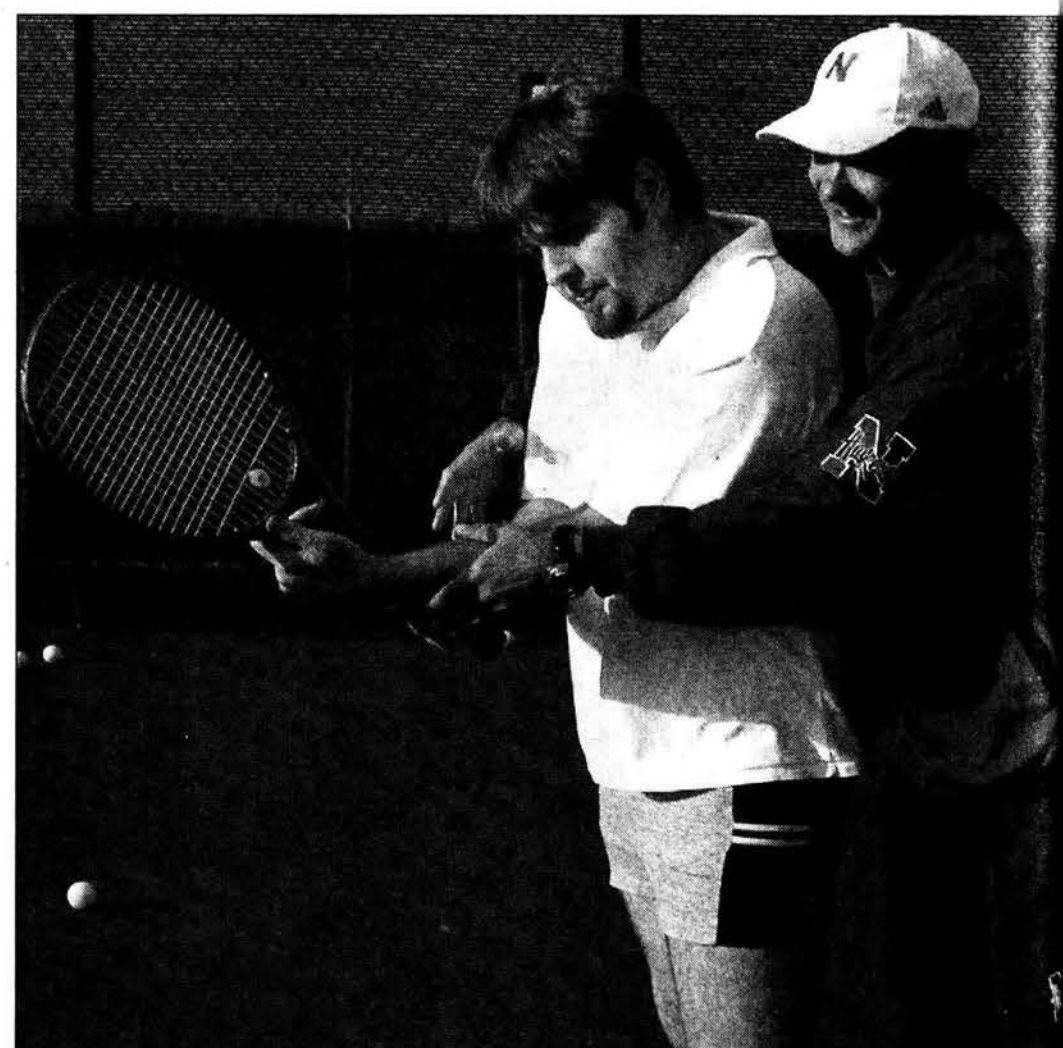


PHOTO BY SARA RIPS/REGISTER

Tennis instructor Jim Conant (RIGHT) shows senior Brian Lee the proper way to grip the racket. Conant said that Lee had true potential for the sport and that the *Register* staffer was "smooth" and "graceful" with his techniques.

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Michelle Marsh congratulates the members of the Class of 2004 Good luck this year!

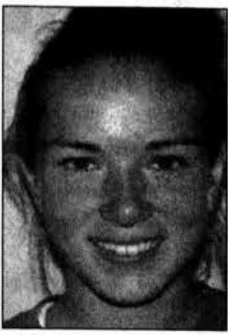
REGISTER

SPORTS STAR CARDS

At the beginning of each fall season, the Register asks the coach of each varsity sport to nominate a player for outstanding play and sportsmanship. The coaches chose the following players based on their expected performance of leading their teams to successful seasons. As the season wears on, the coaches expect to see these players step up to the front and help represent the team as a whole.

CASEY BIGSBY
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Girls Cross-Country
COACH: Trent Lodge
POSITION: Long-distance
GRADE: 11

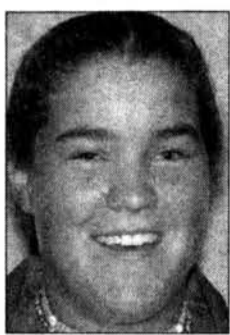
Returning Starters: Kaitlin Hartnett, Casey Bigsby, Nicki Thomas, Rachel Gilssmann, Ally Gorga, Allison Hartnett and Maceal Jesperson.

Season outlook: The girls will be competitive and are hoping to return to State to improve their eighth place finish from last year.

Key meets this year: Metros, Districts and State.

ALISON HESS
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Softball
COACH: Kerri Murtaugh
POSITION: Catcher
GRADE: 11

Returning Starters: Ashley Wilds, Emily Muskin, Julia Darrow, Alisa Rutherford, Darcy Rutherford, Alison Hess and Kelsey Ratigan.

Season outlook: The goal is to make it to State and at least win Districts. The team has to get the most out of its players.

Key games this year: Metros, Districts and State.

BRANDI SMITH
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Girls Golf
COACH: Wendy Brownson
POSITION: N/A
GRADE: 11

Returning Starters: Brandi Smith, Naomi Rennard, Dena Rennard and Sara Zendejas.

Season outlook: Members said they hope to have a perfect season. The goal is to place in the top three at Districts and return to State in Grand Island.

Key matches this year: Millard South, Omaha High School Classic and Metros.

NORMAN WELCH
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Boys Cross-Country
COACH: Trent Lodge
POSITION: Long-distance
GRADE: 12

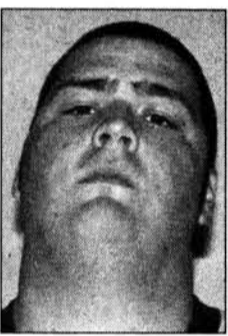
Returning Starters: Norman Welch, Jake Mixan, Alex Bloom, Bobby Stoffel, Jamie Rubio, Mark Wilder, Jared Dittman and Matt Soethout.

Season outlook: Runners will be competitive and are working well and hard together as a team.

Key meets this year: Metros, Districts and State.

MATT STORM
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Football
COACH: Joe McMenamin
POSITION: Center
GRADE: 12


Returning Starters: Matt Barr, Kendall Dorsey, Matt Storm, Nate Prater, Cortney Grixby, Brandon Gunn, Terrence Peoples and Ian Jones.

Season outlook: This team needs to learn to work together. It is a good team.

Key games this year: Every game.

ASHLEY WOOLRIDGE
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Girls Volleyball
COACH: Jodi Dierks
POSITION: Outside Hitter
GRADE: 12

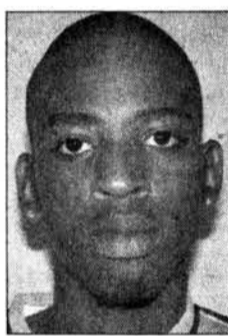
Returning Starters: Holly Lehmer, Ashley Woolridge, Becca Mayhew, Cheryle Leffall, Devon Rumbaugh.

Season outlook: The team should steadily improve throughout the season. Improving ball control is a huge key.

Key matches this year: Districts, Lincoln Southeast and Norfolk.

LEON LEWIS
FALL 2003

CHS STUDENT ATHLETE



SPORT: Boys Tennis
COACH: Matt Shafer
POSITION: #1 Singles
GRADE: 12

Returning Starters: Robbie Garvin, Eric Shradar, Kamaal Patterson, Cody Killion, Eric Zumm, Chris Danford and Ben Bilyeu.

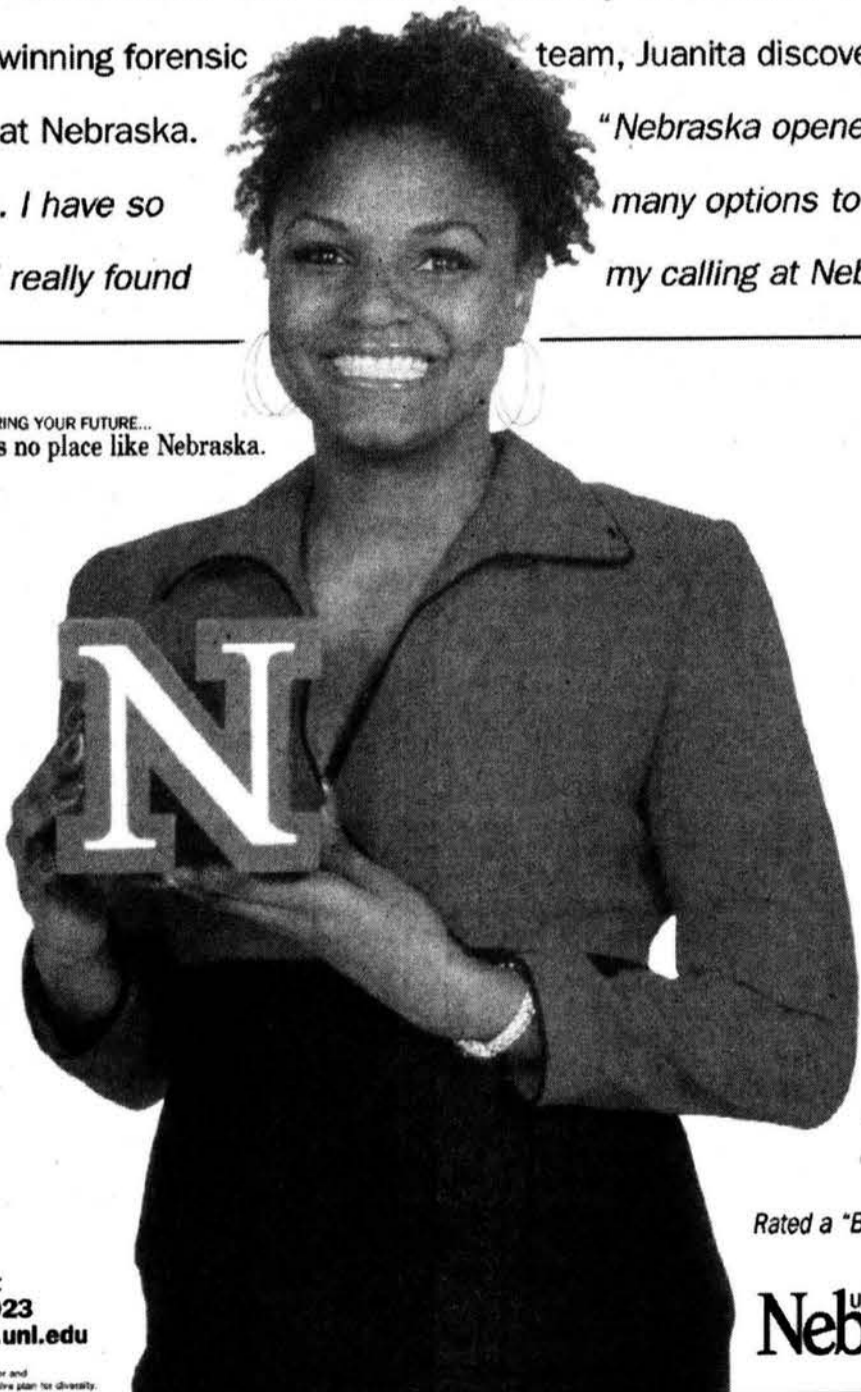
Season outlook: Losses early against Millard South and Papillion will need to be avenged. The team has a very tough schedule.

Key matches this year: Westside and Prep.

When this Nebraska student speaks, everyone listens.

JUANITA PAGE a senior broadcast journalism major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earned first place at a national speech and debate tournament. She travels the country as member of UNL's award-winning forensic team, Juanita discovered her future at Nebraska. "Nebraska opened doors for me. I have so many options to choose from. I really found my calling at Nebraska."

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FOOTBALL 2003

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

A COLUMN BY NICKI THOMAS

Females push to head of line of sports glory

I am getting tired of all the males getting the glory and females just getting pushed to the back because of our supposedly low-impact sports.

I will not get pushed to the back of the line, especially behind the boys.

More and more females are trying out for different sports and more are succeeding at them as.

Just look at cross-country and softball.

Female students can just as easily as males demonstrate all the aspects of a good athlete.

Females are showing the drive, initiative and the willingness to have "pain or gain."

They are participating in as many sports as their male counterparts.

They are also achieving in the sports they would not have originally excelled in.

For instance, females are crossing over into professional sports and making their mark in history.

Females are wanting to play longer, compete stronger and show their true attitude towards the sports they enjoy.

Female athletes work just as hard if not harder than the boys do. Females want to win just as much as men. Maybe even more because they have to prove themselves a million times more often than males. We want to be treated equal and be looked at with the same respect as our counterparts.

I'm tired of seeing that if a female team wins a championship, it's not appreciated as much as if the male side had won. We do win championships. We can achieve.

In the past, many females may not even have tried out for a sport in high school because they were always told that they could not do it, or that nobody cared.

Now, we are telling the world that no one can stop us. No one can tell us that we can't succeed.

Again, just look at the success at this school.

Males think that females are just hair and makeup.

Surprise, girls have other dreams, not just to look beautiful.

Some of us want to become professional athletes. Female athletes can succeed.

Females and males together have a lot of the same drive to succeed. They both want to obtain success and be recognized for their triumphs.

Males and females are recognizing the respects of each other's abilities. Students alike are working together to become better athletes.

They can work together in the sports field and demonstrate strong if not stronger drive than they can by themselves.

They work hard for themselves and to make the school look good. Central has a great reputation. It should stay that way.

Softball players have been getting attention for their performances by demonstrating their physical abilities.

On the other hand the football team has received extensive media attention while struggling to win even a few games.

I guess it is I-Back High after all.

Are the female athletes supposed to wait for the attention they deserve? Or are these athletes supposed to just read about the glorification of the failing football team?

The more female athletes put themselves in situations to be physically active, and the more they are able to make their mark and excel, the closer they will become to equality in sports.

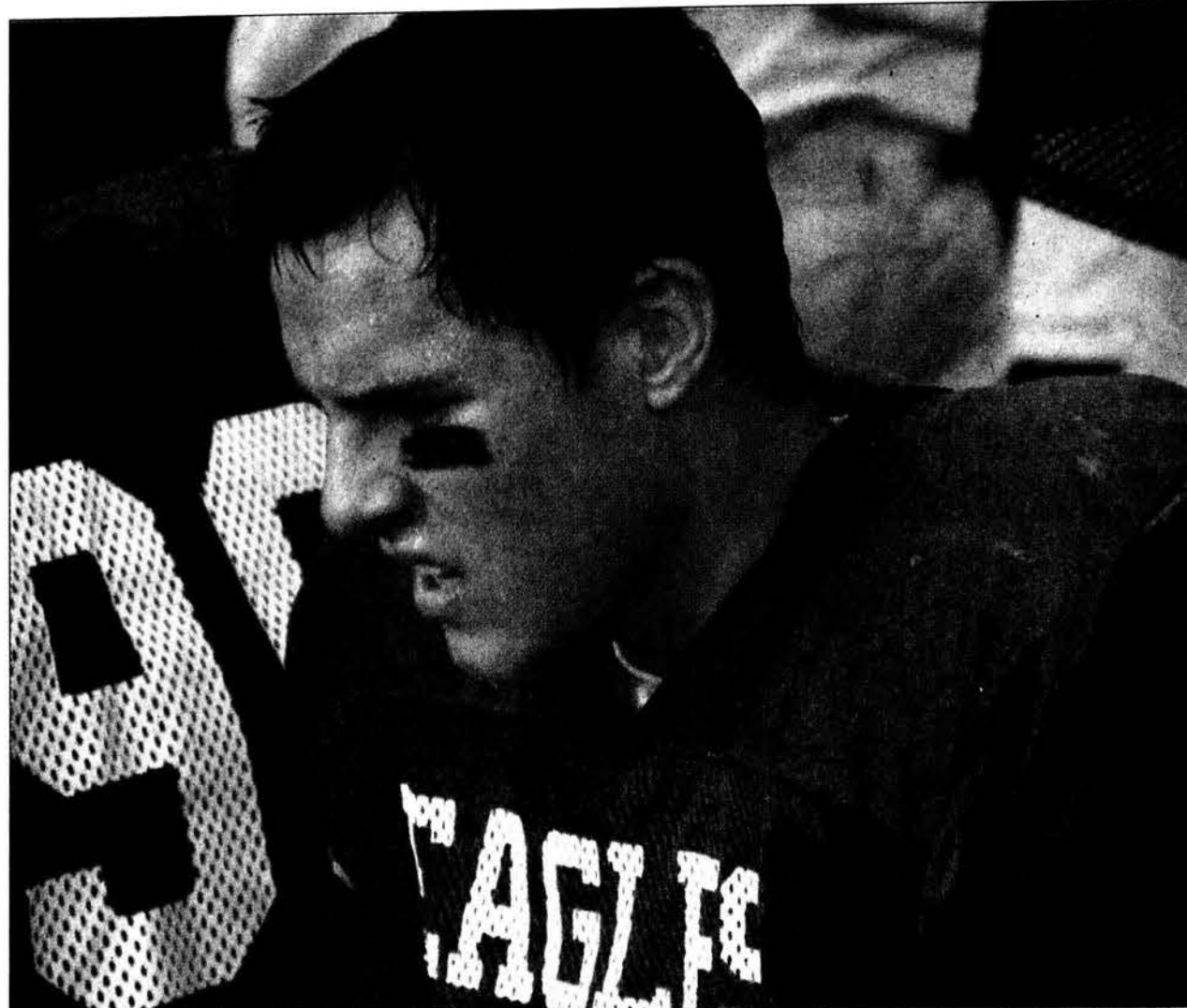
One day females will obtain their glory and leave the males behind if only the media would notice their achievements.

Female and male athletes are becoming equal, even though women do not have to win everything like males think they do. Females compete for the sake of the competition. It's the journey, not the prize.

Every team, male and female, at this school should be celebrated for their accomplishments.

All we want is to be treated the same as the males.

Is that too much to ask?



Senior John Friend (ABOVE) avoids his second tackle to get a first down at the annual Purple-White football game in September. The defensive lines of both JV and varsity had a good start and held the opposite offenses to minimum yards.

Friend (LEFT) takes a water brake after running 67 plays to round out the scrimmage. The offense had problems as the second string JV defensive line hammered the first-string varsity offense.

PHOTOS BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Homecoming game needed for momentum, coach says

BY MIKE SMITH

The homecoming game location is set and the teams have been chosen. The match-up on Friday pits the Eagles against the Bryan Bears.

Some say this game will determine what road the Eagle football season will travel. Will this road lead to the playoffs or down the steep path to a losing season.

After two tough losses to Creighton Prep and Millard West, head football coach Joe McMenamain is optimistic about Central's future on the field.

He said the team is in the process of regaining momentum after the rough start early in the season.

He said that the Bellevue East game proved to all that the Eagles are not going anywhere.

The rookie line from last season has shaped up into juniors and seniors on and off the playing field.

McMenamin said that he is looking for a good, old fashioned backyard battle and a brawl between both lines.

He knows anything can happen.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST YEAR'S GAME

The last time these two teams met, it was an Eagle blowout, 28-6. But that was last year.

Junior Ehrich Weis, who plays on the JV team and suits up for varsity said that it was a great win last year.

"It was a good tone for us to set for the rest of the season that is ahead of us," Ehrich said.

McMenamin said that even though Bryan scored first, the Eagles fought back, scoring 28 unanswered points.

"It was a great, hard-hitting game," McMenamain said.

Senior Brandon Gunn lead the team in rushing that night for over 100 yards total, as a junior.

He said that was an aspect that he thought added to the

team's success.

"We proved everyone wrong last year," Gunn said. "We were not just a young team like they all thought."

Senior Pascha Fountain, who has cheered on varsity this year and last, said that she remembers Central just crushing the other team.

"They better do well (this year) because it is my final homecoming game," Fountain said.

She said even though she is not a football player, her perception of last season from the sideline was that Central did all right.

"They won some and they lost some," Fountain said.

She said she hopes the Eagles will destroy Bryan like they did last year.

CENTRAL'S GAME PREPARATION

McMenamin said that this year's game is going to be a very hard-hitting one.

He said that they will have to watch both sides of the line.

He said that with Bryan's record being very similar to the Eagles, the game is going to be tough to be prepared for.

McMenamin said that the coaching staff will be reviewing films and using advanced computer software to analyze plays.

"We will run both Bryan's offensive and defensive plays against our offense and defensive plays," he said.

Defensive coach Bob Fuller said that the team is improving each and every week.

"Our goal is to improve each week of the season and to be even more prepared than we were before," Fuller said.

Fuller said that with all the preparation, it still is going to be a tough ballgame.

McMenamin said that they will be as well-prepared as they can be. He said that they will try to move the ball against them as best as possible.

Sophomore David Jones said that the team has a lot of ability

and they are working on grasping concepts at a higher and faster rate.

"We have been practicing very hard so that a win is in our sights," Jones said.

STRATEGY

McMenamin said that both the offense and the defensive lines would dictate how the game is going to be played.

He said that if the job is done correctly up front then there should not be any problems and the Eagles would be successful in the game.

McMenamin said that the game would most likely be decided by who makes the fewest mistakes.

He said that since the Bellevue East game was a much more of a physical game, players are prepared for Bryan.

McMenamin said running isolation plays against the defense will show them what the Eagles are made of.

He said that seniors Brandon Gunn on offense and Scott Miettinen on defense would be the key players in the game.

"If the line does the job up front, then we should have no problem," McMenamain said.

McMenamin said that the team is keeping in mind that they should always play hard and keep focused on the fundamentals of the game.

The loss of concentration is never a good thing.

"It could affect the whole team, and we don't want that," Jones said.

Junior Nate Prater said that they are going to work hard and play up to their best ability to win. He said that all they can do is try their hardest as players.

"If we are prepared, we should be able to overcome the obstacles of the game," McMenamain said.

Prater said that with the players on the field and the coaches' guidance, anything is possible and a win looks in the Eagles favor.

Offensive line provides support on field with technique, power

BY JEFF HART

Just as a building needs a strong foundation to keep from collapsing, so does any good football team.

"If there is no line," senior Matt Storm said, "then you don't have a team."

Storm, who switched from offensive tackle to center this year, said the highly-recruited Eagle line has a mix of veterans and rookies.

Speed is again a positive aspect of this year's line, but it's not the only factor that sets this group apart.

"This year's line is just as fast as last year's line," junior Terrence Peoples said, "but this year's team is better with technique and all-around power."

The returning starters on the line are Storm, senior Kendall Dorsey, tackle; senior Matt Barr, tackle; and junior Nate Prater, tight end.

The new faces on the line are Peoples, guard, and senior Marchelo Moderow, guard.

The line is the force that runs the team and strikes fear into the heart of opponents.

The people who play on the line have to be smart, aggressive and absolutely perfect at all times.

The linemen are often very disciplined and usually some of the hardest working players on the field.

"We are getting better," Barr said, "with 480-yards rushing against Bellevue East. I think we could do even better against an even better team."

Most of the players have lettered in football in at least one of the past two years.

They also have played their positions on both varsity and JV.

They also play defense.

which shows them how to block and get out of their stances faster.

It gives them some insight about the other side of the ball.

"We have some big shoes to fill after the last few years," Moderow said, "like Brandon Teamer and Jamar Dorsey."

The team lost a lot of big names on the line in the last few years, most of whom have gone on to play at the college level.

Injuries have also caused some setbacks for the line this year.

"The injury to both James Watson and Shabazz Ramsey have hurt the team and left two big holes," senior Kendall Dorsey said.

The injuries to Watson and Ramsey did slow the team down a bit, but they both helped out from the sidelines by cheering for other players and by offering constructive input and guidance.

"Storm being moved to center and Watson coming back after being out for the three games of the season, have been two improvements that have given us a burst of aggression," Dorsey said. "That has brought the team back to life."

The improvement of the line was clearly evident in the win over Bellevue East.

The game was the only win of the season, and many players said it would lead to more victories in the future.

They said these improvements were the things that could save the team and that the lines all-

around power is the greatest it has been in many years.

The power was what changed the seas during the Bellevue East game.

The line has worked hard during the year and has become an example of how a football team is a family, where members depend on each other to succeed.

Storm said that the Eagles play many talented teams this year, so continuing the spirit of the offensive line is essential.

"We have one of the hardest schedules this year," he said.

The linemen said they are confident going into the next few games because they are the ones who were going to turn the season around and help lead the team into the playoffs.

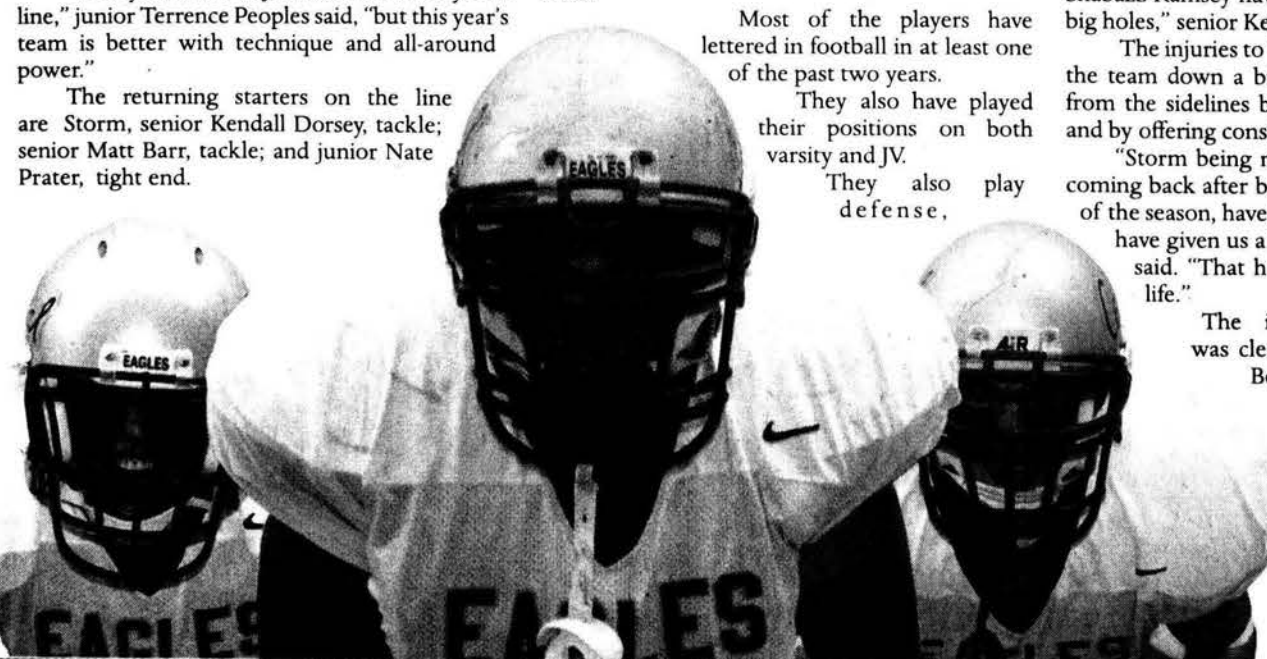
They said they have proven that they have the ability to win the important games and that they are able to overcome anything to succeed.

The line can make or break a team because it sets the example of what should and will happen on the field.

Members of the line agreed that many times they are always the first to get blamed for something during the game, but never really get the respect they deserve.

Seniors (FROM LEFT) Aaron Blanke, Matt Storm and Jake Sellin put their game faces on before heading to face Bryan this year for the annual homecoming game. This year's offensive line has shown perseverance through several losses, and is ready for another shot at victory.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

RENOVATIONS

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

1120 N 20TH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BOB HUNTER/REGISTER

CONSTRUCTION ZONE
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TURN INSIDE TO SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE SUMMER AND WHAT IS YET TO COME.

This year freshmen had an interesting start. Renovations changed the way the building was organized, blocking some sides completely. Freshman Joe Shaw (ABOVE) illustrates the traumatic finish to the renovation ride.

SPECIALTY SECTION

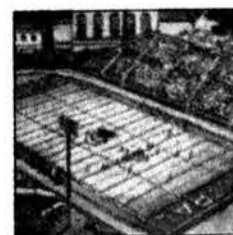
ARTICLES	42E
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COMPUTERS	48E
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Pitlor & Son
Welders piece together the air-conditioning piping.
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INSIDE

Stadium still on its way
DLR and Kiewit continue plans for construction.
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PORTABLE CITY

Twenty-four additional portables were added this summer to the four existing ones to create a small city of temporary classrooms. Many students were relocated to the air-conditioned units because parts of the building were still being renovated.

Plumbing proves to be smart move

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Senior Amanda Smejkal walks into portable six to see a normal looking bathroom, but that wasn't the case during its installation.

Smejkal said she thinks the fact that the plumbing is only in two portables is a better choice than having it installed in all 28.

Heimes Excavating and Utilities Company (Heimes) installed the plumbing. Estimate project manager for Heimes Jeff Jenkins said if the company was to install all 28 portables with full plumbing service, it would cost Omaha Public Schools (OPS) a lot of money.

"It is good for OPS that it didn't spend that much money," Jenkins said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said that since plumbing wasn't installed to every portable, the school saved money for class renovations on the fourth floor. He said the building ground crew worked with the city to make it possible.

The director of buildings and grants at OPS, Mark Warneke, said there will be large amounts of money spent on the stadium and the plumbing for the portables are only temporary, which could waste money if plumbing was throughout.

Freshman Francesca Hannah said that she thinks that there should be a restroom in every portable.

She said it is an inconvenience for her to try using the bathrooms during passing periods.

"If I was in portable 16 I would have to leave it and walk all the way down to the two portables," Hannah said.

The city gave Warneke specific requirements of where the bathroom portables could be located.

He said the distance from the west entrance and portable 28 had to have equal distance in between.

The dimension given was 200 feet both ways that met in the middle at the sixth and eighth portable.

Also the portables had to match with the slopes of the sewer system.

"This was the most difficult high school for plumbing," Jenkins said.

He said usually the company digs up trenches and sets the piping down and fills the hole back up.

But with this school and the asphalt, Heimes had to cut squares and drill holes in the ground for sewer pipes.

The supervisor on site, Marty Crawford, said that if there were a slight bump in the ground, the waste would back up and overflow.

He said they bought a tracking device system that cost thousands of dollars to follow the drill bit to make sure it stayed level.

Warneke said a concern was that digging up the asphalt would expose a larger area.

He said the district was worried about the dirt when it rained and snowed.

The city codes also regulated safety with the division of the bathrooms in the portables.

"Men and women had to have to different entrances on different ends of the building," Warneke said.

He said the walls were mandatory.

He said there was no way the students could see through the other side of the division.

He said it was a sizeable expense to keep this privacy. The city and school compromised with the two portables.

The portables were made especially for this school. Warneke said they took normal portables and renovated them into restrooms.

The plumbing is only temporary and in December 2004, all the portables and plumbing will be removed and the area will be turned over to the Joslyn Art Museum.

He said it will be torn up and the Joslyn will have access to do what they want with it.

Smejkal said the setup with the portables was a good idea because with just two they were easier to keep clean and didn't cost as much.

Temporary classrooms provide comforts for students, teachers

BY ASHLEY BROWN

Besides the dust walls and an entire building missing from across the street, probably the most noticeable result from renovations is the 28 portables taking up what used to be the practice field.

While parts of the school are under construction, the portables compensate for unusable classrooms.

Central actually has the most portables in the OPS district, which has a total of 261 portables and growing, with Benson High School coming in second with 18.

"The nice thing about the portables is the air conditioning," Principal Jerry Bexten said. "It's a relief."

While the air conditioning may provide a new-found luxury from the school's blazing heat, some students have claimed the portables are too cold.

"The air conditioning is too strong," junior Cheslee Cornell said. "You have to change your clothes before you go in the building."

Bexten said comfort level was a personal thing.

"There are other things students like other than the air conditioning," he said.

Portables six and eight provide restrooms for the students out in the portables. Junior Dan Klaczynsky said he likes the bathrooms because they are new.

"The bathrooms are clean," Klaczynsky said. "They are new and more modern than the building. They remind me of kindergarten, and I like that."

Bexten said the bathrooms are both unisex, with solid walls between them, and that

there are only two buildings with sanitary lines because that would be less costly.

While some teachers may think of the portables as inconveniences, since they are almost constantly traveling from class to class, social studies teacher Jimmie Foster said he believes it makes the classroom more personal.

"I rather enjoy the portables," Foster said. "It feels like my own little castle out there."

Foster said although he enjoys the self-controlled heating and cooling, he said he thinks the air conditioning is just a insignificant part of the big equation.

He said an issue he thinks the students have isn't the portables themselves, but getting in and out of the building.

Foster suggests making separate in-and-out doors.

Although there are two exits, with many students rushing out to classes in the portables, the three side especially gets pretty confusing and crowded, he said.

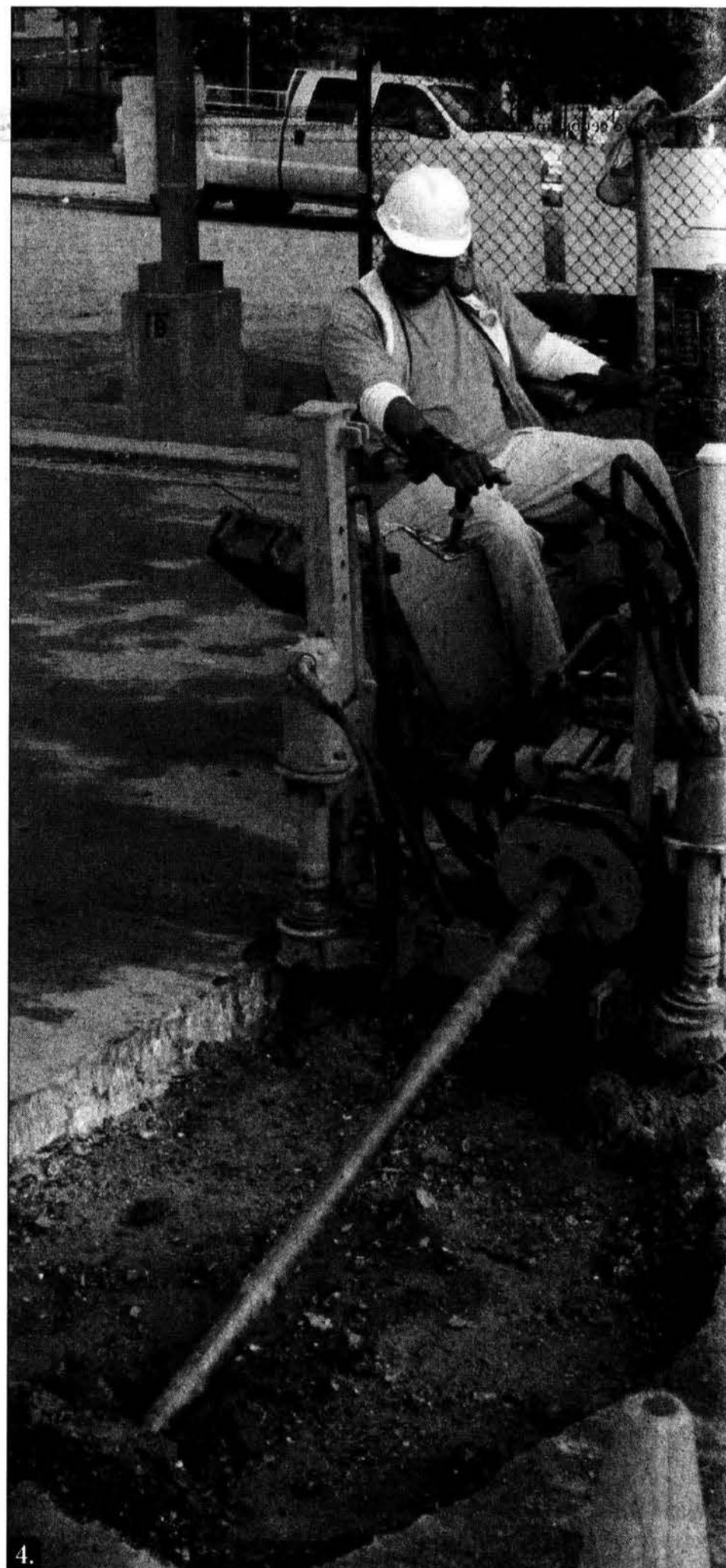
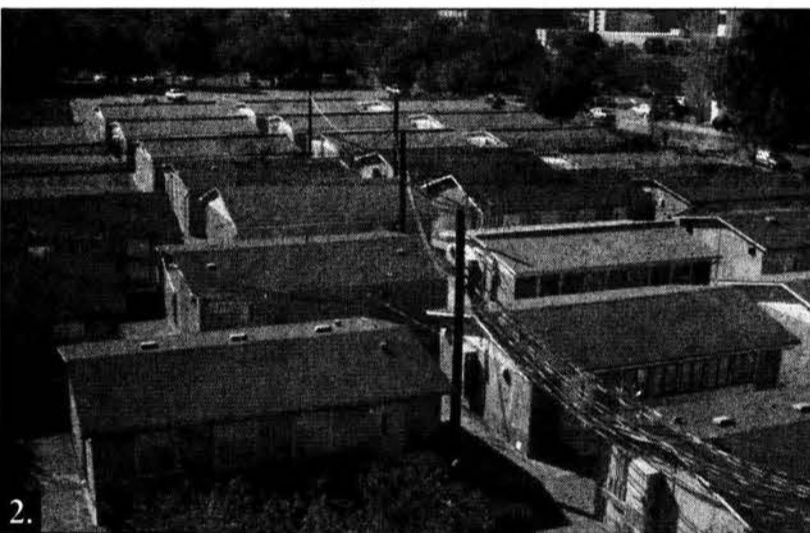
Sophomore Josh Prichard said he was late because of the congestion.

"The halls were so crowded," Prichard said. "You could hardly move."

Foster also said he would do whatever he had to do, hoping that when he got back in the building, his classroom dreams would be met.

He said he remembered classes where kids were working hard in the heat and in the air conditioning. He doesn't think it makes that severe of a difference.

"The classroom is the environment," Foster said. "The students are the future."



ALL PHOTOS BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

1. Marty Crawford from Heimes Excavating and Utilities Co. uses a front-end lifter to remove the rubble from the hole where his coworkers jack-hammered. Crawford was supervisor for the project at Central. 2. Some of the 28 portables are seen from the three-side of school. Twenty-four portables were added during the summer to provide classroom space. 3. Bob Kargel jack-hammers the area for the installation of the sewer system pipes. 4. Darrell Thompson is working on a drill that funnels the sewer system piping through the two temporary buildings serving as restrooms. From the portables, the sewer will connect with the main building and follow that path.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

As with any construction, the old has to make way for the new. This summer was no exception. A major landmark was torn down and temporary walls were put up in the name of progress. These were just a few steps in the renovation process.

Walls put up to keep dust, students out

Barriers built to help with debris, keep workers free to do jobs

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

During the summer, dust walls were put up to block dust and dirt from getting into the school.

More importantly, they are to keep students safe by separating them from the construction areas.

"People have generally been pretty respectful to the renovations," security guard Charles Williams said.

Williams said that he is surprised that people are so nice about it all.

He said that people have not been so bad towards the workers or the property.

Just because people have been cautious as to where they can and can't go, people still try to get into the locked-off areas.

Senior Austin Henley has not often past the doors or even made an attempt to, but it has crossed his mind.

"I have thought about it and I even asked some people to take me in, but they said no," Henley said.

He has not made it in to find out what is going on for sure, but he thinks he knows what's happening.

Henley said that he knows that people are cutting up walls and putting up the walls.

He knows it is nothing too exciting, but he still wants to see.

Williams said that about eight people have tried to get behind the dust walls, but have not made it very far.

"They will try to pull the door knob and an alarm will go off, so they can't get in," Williams said.

The dust wall alarms have caused some disruptions during the typical day at school.

Some students think the alarms are annoying and a waste of time.

If a student would want to get behind the dust walls, it would be really difficult, but not impossible.

Williams said that he can't blame people for being curious because they do want to know what is going on.

For Henley, the walls were a surprise when he walked into the building for the first time after summer break.

He said he's been going to this school for three years without having seen much change. It has been the same thing, year after year.

He was used to things being the same way, and the walls seemed to change everything.

"I thought they were unnecessary, and I did not know what they were there for," Henley said.

Henley said that with the walls blocking off parts of the school, it caused a lot of extra congestion in other parts of the school.

"The third side is really bad and with the portables being right there, it is almost impossible to get anywhere," Henley said.

Besides the congestion, Henley said that he couldn't even tell that there was construction going on.

The dust walls are serving their purpose.

"I have not noticed a whole lot of dust anywhere, which must mean the walls are working," Henley said.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

The Creighton House, which is directly across the street from school and just west of the old senior parking lot, was demolished this summer by Anderson Excavating Company Jeff Cox is spraying the hose as the building is being torn down to prevent a lot of dust and debris in the air.

Creighton House torn down to build stadium

BY SARA RIPS

In late June the Creighton House was demolished to make way for Central's new stadium.

While some were sorry to see the house go, others like senior Sarah Alston never even knew what purpose the house served.

The house was located at 2194 Davenport St., which was across the street from Central, and served as an alternative living environment for students. The 30 students who lived in the house worked together as community. The students would meet once a week to discuss current issues, attend lectures and other activities.

"The house was founded in the earlier 1900s as a home for girls from rural areas who wanted to continue their education," Marge Wannarka, a Creighton University archivist, said. "It's a shame that they're tearing it down, but they chose the best place for a stadium."

Teacher Vicki Deniston Reed said she was sorry to see the building go.

"I don't see any great advantage in ripping down the Creighton House," she said.

In a three-way agreement, involving the

Joslyn Art Museum, Creighton University and Central, land was traded or sold between the three spots.

The Creighton House and a few privately owned buildings sold their land to Central. When the portables are taken away from the former training field, Joslyn will take over that land.

Scott Dye, a lawyer for the district, was involved in the legal aspects of the land trading. He said that with the exception of Kenefick Hall, every building between 20th to 22nd Street, Chicago and Davenport Streets were sold.

The stadium will then be built upon those lots.

In order to have more control over this project, the district is using Heritage Services to run the project.

Heritage Services is involved in legal and administrative process, oversight to construction and architecture and fund raising.

Alumna Susan Buffett Jr. was a big supporter of the idea for a stadium, and her mother Susan Buffett, Sr. gave the lead gift.

However, sometimes it takes Heritage months to form a good relationship with a com-

pany enough to get a large donation.

Susan Buffett Jr. was involved in the original talks between Joslyn, Creighton and Central.

The area has been working to create a campus-like feel for years.

Buffett became involved in the project because she wanted to provide an amazing space for Central for years.

"My mother raised money for the new gym in the '70s under the same idea that it will benefit generations to come," Buffett said.

Heritage Services was the one to pick Peter Kiewit for the stadium project.

Dye said the original finishing date of the stadium was supposed to be 2004, but by pushing it back a year, there will be less complications between having two major construction projects going on around the school.

Jerry Bexten, principal, said everyone benefited from the project.

Central and Joslyn both get new land and Creighton gets more money.

"We end up with a facility that will be a tremendous asset to Central," he said. "This will also be a great addition to downtown."

CHS class of '48 in awe of change in former school

BY KATIE BACKMAN

After 55 years, members of the class of 1948 revisited their high school that has been renovated by the recent constructions that started in 2001.

Elizabeth McNichols, Central High foundation president, said there are 238 graduates from the class of 1948 who are alive today.

At graduation in 1948, 375 students walked across the stage. The classes' age average is roughly 73.

Marti Ingdahl who organized the dinners said the banquets were held at Park Inn Regency Lodge, with 66 attendants.

Some of the alumni chose not to attend for different reasons, while others practically counted down the days to their 55th year reunion.

She said for the dinner the committee scanned and enlarged yearbook photos from their class.

Hearing the former students talk about how they once looked was interesting to hear, she said.

The attendants talked about how they couldn't believe they changed so much after 55 years, and most of them wanted to go back to their high school days, she said.

"At the tour we are supposed to have 26 alumni," Ingdahl said.

A small group of graduates walked in passing the construction barricades and 28 portables to see a building they could barely recognize after many years.

When they walked through the doors entering into the courtyard, many said their memories quickly came over their minds.

She said their eyes widened as they saw the sunlight shine through the roof in the courtyard they weren't really used to.

Alumnus John Berquist said that a lot has changed since his last day of school in 1948.

The hall lockers used to be made of wood. He said it was weird to see them made of metal. The lockers also didn't have any locks on them because they weren't worried about any thefts.

He said he also noticed that coal used to be stored on the practice field location. The coal was to heat the building.

Richard Undeland alumni said he remembers when the courtyard's ceiling was open. He said there was grass covering the ground except for the pathways to each of the four doors.

As the tour went on, the group arrived in room 144, the gymnasium. Alumna Joan Barnett said she remembers dreading gym classes because of the showers. She said none of the girls wanted to shower, but it was apart of their grade.

"The showers are probably the only thing I will never miss from high school," Barnett said.

Some less painful memories, Barnett said was the musical program at school. She said she remembers how the teachers expected excellence and none of the students would try to start a problem during class.

"We didn't want to have problems in school," Barnett said, "which made it a beautiful experience."

Besides certain classes, she said the dances are always a memory that she will cherish.

She said she remembers wearing formal dresses and the boys getting dressed up in suits.

"I can still smell the gardenias," Barnett said. "It was the popular flowers for a corsage."

At this reunion Barnett said she dreamed about seeing the building again, and trying to revisit the memorable experiences she had in it.

Custodians put in many long hours preparing for first day of school

BY BRIAN LEE

The custodial staff went above and beyond the normal call of duty this summer by working longer hours at their jobs while dodging construction crews.

During the normal school year, head engineer Deb Taylor said she and her crew had daily routines.

They started their day early in the morning before the students arrived and called it quits long after the final school bell rings.

During the school year, the 16 members of the crew work in shifts that allowed them to rotate and accomplish their daily duties.

The staff's duties include such tasks as: vacuuming floors, locking doors, straightening desks, emptying trash cans, and every other aspect of making a school this size ready for the next day's run through.

On an average night, the crew will clock in 80 man-hours (the total number of hours worked by the individual staff members added together).

However, nights featuring special events, like open house, demand an average of 96 man-hours.

Then the construction workers came.

With an empty school building, aside from the custodial staff, construction workers were allowed an opportunity to fully unleash the renovation process.

"It was a lot worse," custodian Rufus Haynes said. "The places we would clean up, the construction workers would just walk right through it."

Renovations filled the school, and the custodial staff found itself constantly crossing paths and overlapping with Hawkins Construction Company and the other construction companies.

Working during the summer for the staff is not a rarity because they work year round no matter what.

The difference between this summer and others in the past was that the staff worked more overtime to compensate for the renovation conflicts.

"I was here when the construction started," custodian Ernie Redding said, "and I want to see it through."

On average, they were putting in multiple hours of overtime a day in preparation for the first day of school.

"After they get it all completed on this floor," Haynes said, "it will look nice. It was a lot of work."

A service that is often overlooked, especially amongst the student body, the custodial staff works very hard to keep the school clean and functional.

Looking at how confusing the school can be to navigate, with dust walls and areas of the school restricted, the service that the staff provided over the summer was crucial.

If the crew had not been here picking up after the construction workers, moving the computers, teachers supplies and all of the other material that was stored around the school, the current confusion that is associated with navigating these halls could have been much worse.

"The whole custodial staff worked together," custodian Frank DeGeorge said. "It got done a lot easier because it was a team effort."

There is probably no other single group of people at the school that will be more fulfilled and satisfied than the custodians, when renovations are complete and they can begin following their normal regiment again.

The crew truly deserves recognition for its duties and its commitment to the job. They provide an amazing and very necessary service to the school.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Custodian James Nguyen pushes a trash can and vacuum to the next room he has to clean. It is a never-ending process.

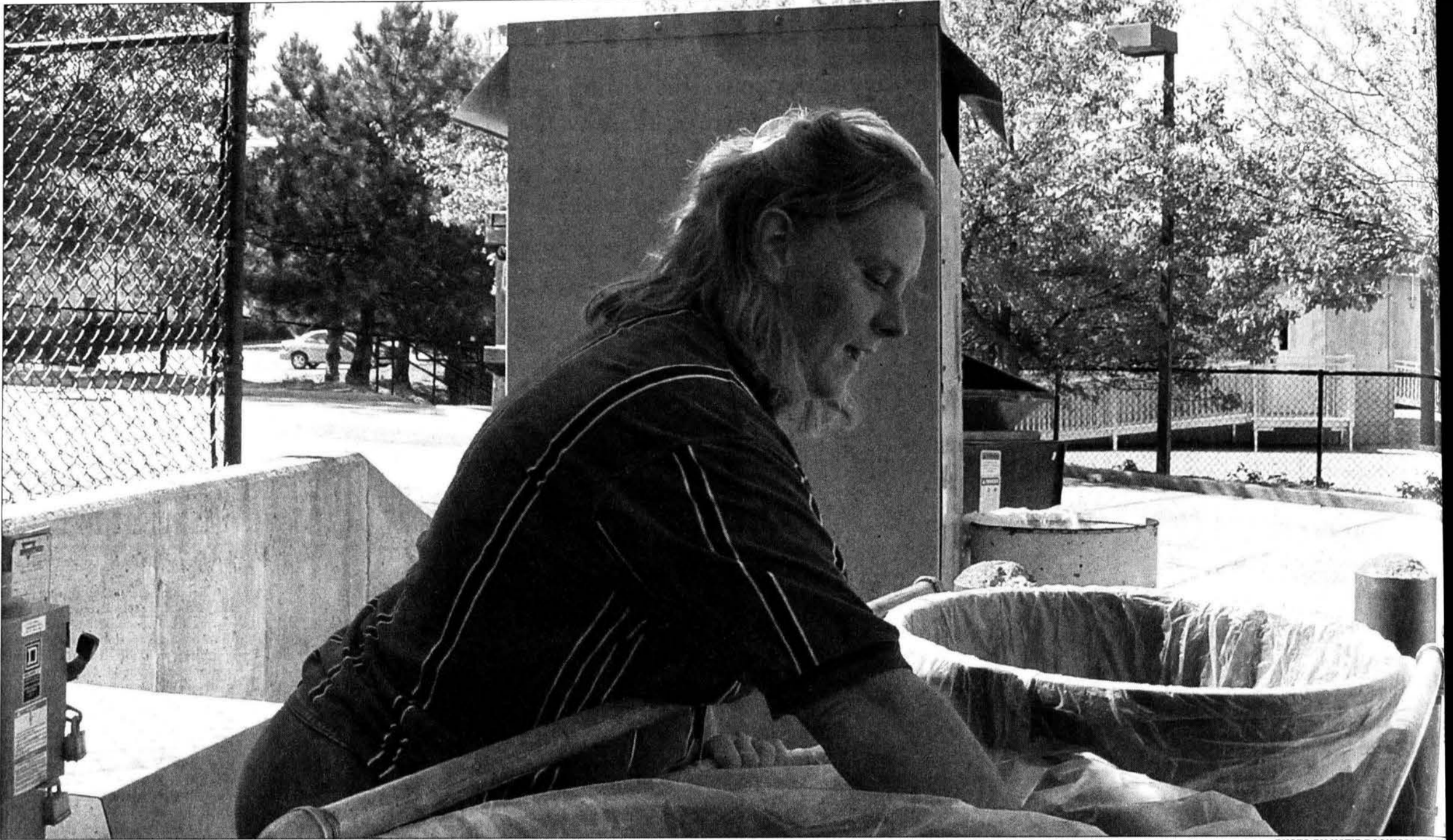


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGIS

Head custodial engineer Deb Taylor prepares the trash cans for the lunch hours during her shift. This is one of the many tasks she completes before leaving the school for the day. During the summer she managed different areas under construction. In order to keep up, she would work weeks without breaking.

Custodian puts in extra hours because of construction

BY KATIE BACKMAN

During the summer, head custodial engineer Deb Taylor worked at school seven days a week to keep up with cleaning and organizing the renovations.

In June and July, she worked eight hour shifts. When August arrived she began working about 15 hours a day on average. She had to work more because the school was scheduled to open soon.

Taylor had to organize the arrangements with different crews when they were putting back the furniture in the building and portables.

"I worked seven days a week," Taylor said. "I had to work all the weekend."

Principal Jerry Bexten said that he was very impressed with the dedication she had when putting the building back together.

He said she would go as far as working three to four

weeks in a row without taking any days for vacation. With this hectic schedule was when she was working the overtime shift.

"She worked long days and nights, not the usual eight hour shifts," Bexten said.

Custodian Mary Scianna said Taylor showed a lot of dedication to the school. She said not only did Taylor work overtime, but other members of the custodial team worked just as hard.

Scianna said anytime she was here, Taylor was here because she was the woman in charge.

The days of Taylor's work shift would start very early. She said most of the time in August she would come in at 6 a.m.

Her shift would then carry over until 9 p.m. working about 15 hours.

The main goals and assignments she said she had during the day was cleaning the building and moving the furniture

out of the courtyard into the classrooms or portables.

Not only would she move the furniture herself, but she also was the director of the crews that were hired by Omaha Public Schools to help.

She said there were many days she would only direct and relocate the furniture and supplies instead of cleaning.

During the renovations, if the construction workers had questions for her about the building or what they should be doing she said she willingly helped them and answer their questions.

She also had to do paperwork of the employees schedules and the plans for the days nearing the beginning of school.

Calling other employees was also one of her jobs. Taylor said she had to make calls to verify all of her co-workers planned on coming up to work. She never had a problem with getting respect from the construction workers or co workers. Both groups always listened to her and did what she asked.

"I would never ask them to do something I couldn't do," Taylor said. "If they couldn't do it, I would help them."

Bexten said other people on her crew helped, but she has the responsibility of being in charge of that undertaking.

"Deb takes a lot of pride with how the building looks like the students and faculty," Bexten said.

The amount of work she was doing did begin to affect her life at home with her newly engaged fiance and the teenagers she was going to be responsible for when she was married.

"I would go home and sleep then turn around and back to work (in the morning)," Taylor said.

She said she didn't have much time during the summer months to spend quality time with her family. But since school has begun, she said her schedule has gone back to normal by working the morning to afternoon shift. Now she can see her family more often again.

Manager uses experience, strict schedule to solve problems with building

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Imagine managing all the problems, safety precautions and scheduling of 25 schools undergoing renovations since the 1999 bond project.

Terry Page is the program manager of the bond issue and a person who learned how to handle this job.

Page works with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs), which is a company that manages events from construction on buildings to professional technology services.

He said his responsibility is to ensure that every school maintains the guidelines with the scheduling of renovations.

"I keep an eye on the budget," Page said. "The safety of the children come first."

With all the schools to worry about he said he tries really hard to keep them on time. He completes this task by communicating to the contractors and the officials working in the school.

He said Central is to be done Dec. 2004.

The bond issue will be entirely over when Burke High School is completed in March 2005.

"That is our goal," Page said. "We've missed a couple of dates but it's not always contractors. It is due to unforeseen changes in the schedule."

As of now, Page is only involved with Omaha Public Schools (OPS), but in the past he has worked on numerous job sites.

He said Jacobs is now a part of the OPS system that owns an office service through director of buildings and grants with the district, Mark Warneke.

Once the project is completed Jacobs will be finished with OPS and disconnect from the district.

To maintain his priorities he said he receives help from his co workers, but he handles the main problems. He is the communication hub for the school officials, architects and contractors.

If either group is having problems with the site he said he would inform the other.

The contractors and architects could negotiate the problems and come up with a complaint to bring to Page's attention.

After defining the problems Page said he would bring them up to Principal Jerry Bexten in Central's case, to inform him on of the changes.

Some of the problems with renovations this summer dealt with the guidance counselors' office, intercoms in the portables and the fire alarms in the basement.

Page said to they solved all the problems by redoing some work, but with the fire alarms OPS hired a security guard who is a fire watcher in the lower levels with construction zones.

"Jacobs has the overall responsibility of the OPS renovations," Page said. He said he has been a main part of solving the safety problems with the school.

The partitions built is a good example of the work he did for caution.

Page said he is the only person a student or teacher should contact if they have seen a problem. Some people confuse him with Bexten, which could solve the problem.

He said he thinks what makes his job easy is that there is only one person who hears about the problem. He can figure out who to talk to and how to solve it once it has been addressed.

"I am the only one who branches out to the others," Page said. "It limits confusion in an already complicated area."



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGIS

Manager of the 1999 bond issue, Terry Page describes the developments in the new gym. He points to the walls and explains what should be done by Oct. 17. He said the students are supposed to move into the new facilities soon after it has officially been approved and finished.

Teachers work in various jobs for district over summer to help out with renovation

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Instead of taking a break during the summer, math teacher Lloyd Fitch and ROTC instructor Dwaine Sutter worked with the school during renovations.

For the past three years, Fitch said he has been delivering construction materials around the school district.

He drove a 16-foot truck which carried ramps for portables and possible tools needed for the particular job sites.

One thing he said he liked about the truck driving job was that he didn't have to work at one school in the same room all day. Fitch said he enjoyed moving around the districts.

Sutter said they didn't do a lot of hard manual work. He said they would deliver the materials while other workers would unload the truck.

Not only did they transport tools, but Sutter said they would take carts that would help moving furniture and boxes.

He said the work wasn't too difficult, but sometimes he would end up with a sore back in the end.

The two kept up with the school's renovations by frequently dropping materials off.

Sutter said he thought it was really interesting to watch the progress throughout the summer. Like seeing the building Creighton University owned on Davenport Street being torn down was astonishing.

There would be gaps between the times they came up to the school, and he said one day he couldn't believe that the building was entirely demolished and the landscape was flattened.

"Then the next time we were there (Davenport Street and Creighton's property) we could see the Missouri River from the school."

Watching the progress of the additions at the school, Sutter said the gym and cafeteria went up very quickly.

"There were many large projects going on around the district," Sutter said. "It was disorganized because the amount."

Going to the different locations and meeting people Sutter said entertained him. There were some slower days during the summer, but the time flew by when they had to

travel to all the schools dealing with renovations.

Fitch said their average work shift was from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. He said working during the main part of the days with the sun beating down wasn't as difficult as some would think.

He is used to the heat because he has worked inside the school for years without air conditioning.

During the 33 years Fitch has been with Omaha Public Schools (OPS), he has completed lots of renovations work during the summer.

About 20 years ago he said he repaired the interior windows around the courtyard and the floors. He said there are many reasons why he chooses to continue construction work on the school because he enjoys the change from teaching and manual labor.

Sutter said he has been working the construction during the summer for about three years. He said when he began he used to repair bleachers at different schools, but after he com-

pleted that work he took a brief break from construction.

Because Fitch put in a good word with the Human Resources at the Teacher Administrative Center, Sutter said he began work again this past summer. He doesn't think he would have received the job again if it wasn't because of Fitch's help.

"I couldn't see myself doing nothing during the summer," Sutter said. "I worked and went to college full time had to keep busy."

He said working with OPS over the summer is useful because it keeps him updated on the renovations occurring at school and keeps him occupied during the three months.

Fitch and Sutter both said they plan on working again for the district next summer.

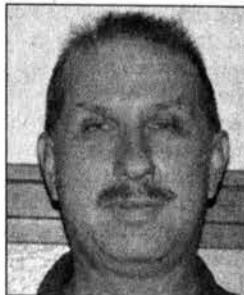
Fitch said he likes the summer because it gives him a break away from his classes, but still doing something productive during his time and with the school.

Since Sutter worked during the summer, he said he spent all the time put in by the hired movers, but never was a part of the process of moving boxes or putting classrooms back together.

After all the work, Sutter said it impressed him that the school was able to open on time for the first day of school.



Fitch



Sutter



GRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

students decided to use a locker this year, they were required to partner with two other people.

Construction zones force three to locker

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

Lugging around a 26-pound backpack all day leaves sophomore Ashley Minshall worn out by the end of the day.

"I have bruises all over my shoulders," Minshall said. "My backpacks already ripped twice."

Now that students are asked to have three to a locker, finding room for textbooks and binders is nearly impossible.

"It would just be a lot easier if there were class sets of books," she said. "It would save me a lot of pain."

Assistant principal Paul Pennington said there were originally to be 1,500 lockers available. However, 34 were soon taken away, followed by 36 more on the southeast side of the first floor.

Many lockers were not available for checkout until the second and even third week of school. Construction scheduling did not allow for it.

At one point, temporary lockers were to be brought in. However after the company supplying the lockers raised prices too high, the school was not able to afford it. The price was not within Central's budget.

The company raised the prices so they were officially much too high," Pennington said. "It was too much work for them at the time and they had too many other things to do."

The school never received the temporary lockers, which would have been located between the second and third floors and in the basement near the rifle range.

"We even had padlocks ready for the temporary lockers," Pennington said. "The school, neither I or Mr. Bexten have any control over the problem."

The school has thought of taking a different approach to the situation, much like other OPS schools have during renovations.

One example is Burke, which did not supply seniors with lockers during their renovations. However, Burke students are on a block scheduling system, which means only four classes are taken a semester. The idea would most likely not work as well at Central.

Pennington said he feels bad for the juniors and seniors who will not get to experience the air conditioning.

"The students have to go through the different construction phases, but won't get to be around when the air conditioning is finally completed and installed," Pennington said.

Administrator Nicole Regan said she has not heard many complaints yet, just small ones such as girls worried about where their coats will go in the winter.

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," she said. "It has not really been an issue quite yet."

Due to problems in the past, rules on lockers are more strict now. Students are not able to pick lockers on their own and must sign up for one in their homeroom.

"In previous years, we let students pick out a locker before the year started and we don't do that anymore," Pennington said. "We need to make sure that contraband is found, the blame is not placed on the wrong person."

Some Central students, like junior Natalie Bachtell, do not seem too distraught over the issue.

"It's not too big of a problem for me, I'm willing to utilize my locker regardless of the situation, since I know things are likely to be stolen without it," Bachtell said. "I'm not going to leave valuables in my backpack all day."

Another student, sophomore Kaitlin Waterman, believes the school is making the best of the situation, even though the problem will continue next year.

"I think they have made the right decision," Waterman said. "Some people do not really use their locker much, so why not have more to a locker."



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Mike Cameron (LEFT) and Bob Hellgren were part of the OPS moving crew that moved furniture over the summer. They are moving the Coca-Cola machine into the staff room. Moving items back into rooms marked the end of Phase 3B.

Crew moves items back into rooms

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Omaha Public School (OPS) workers dedicated their time to put the school back together after moving all the furniture and supplies out of art room, guidance department, foreign language classrooms, staff room and nurse's office.

The crew was in charge of both moves before and after the summer.

House keeping specialist for OPS Doug Fritz said the movers were constantly working during the day moving the school's items. The average work day for the crew was roughly 12 hours.

The crew was at Central during June and August.

It began after the teachers' last day last year once the faculty had finished packing their belongings into boxes. Fritz and his co workers were the people who moved every box, piece of furniture and computer out of the original rooms into the scheduled areas for renovations.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad was in charge of where everything would be moved to. He said his work was so detailed and thought through that he received compliments from Hawkins Construction Company and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

He said he had to be very specific because it was a large move and he didn't want problems after the summer, which they didn't have.

"The only thing that hasn't been found is a video tape that had to have been in a VCR," he said.

In June, Fritz said they moved everything to temporary storage locations in the courtyard, cafeterias, girls locker room, 144, hallways, various rooms on the first and second floor.

Fritz said the entire purpose was to clear out the rooms for the installation of air conditioning.

"We would report to Central's office (in the morning) with two wheelers for everyone (the movers)," Fritz said.

OPS moving crew and Fritz worked on 12 different schools in the district, but he said Central received most of the attention.

"In June, we took the library (belongings) out and moved it upstairs (in the cafeterias)," Fritz said.

Every single library book was placed in a box and the

shelves were torn off the walls. Fritz and his co workers also moved the art rooms' furniture and supplies in the cafeterias and the connecting hallways on the fourth floor.

The art room is now ready for air conditioning, but before completion, the crew had to move everything out into the passage ways on the fourth floor and the cafeterias.

Fritz said when they came back in the summer, the crew had very tight deadlines.

"It was difficult because the elevator was a juggling act between us and the construction workers," Fritz said.

He said his crew had priority for the elevators because the crew was supposed to have the school put back together before the first day.

"The elevator shut down a few times too, which didn't make it any easier," Fritz said.

Many times they had a huddle of chairs around the elevator door, spending much of their day waiting for it.

The movers were in charge of the courtyard which they completed on time before freshman orientation.

"Everyone had pressure (to complete the goals)," Fritz said.

OPS worker Tom Bush who was apart of the crew, said he cleaned the floors around the third side just in time for the freshman day.

"We worked 12 hours daily," Bush said. "They forced us to work."

The OPS moving crew's summer phase came to an end on Aug. 30.

Principal Jerry Bexten said that moving the teacher's lounge, guidance department and classrooms' items back to the correct rooms put an end to Phase 3B.

Moving didn't complete the phase. As the crew finished, a cleaning crew went through each room that was finished. Once the desks and boxes were moved back, they would wash off the dust that developed over the summer.

The head engineer at Norris Middle School Greg Gruber said the cleaning crew that worked on the school was employed by OPS and are regular custodians at other schools.

While other workers moved heavy oak tables and Coca-Cola machines on Aug. 30, Gruber braved standing on the window ledges outside of the guidance department.

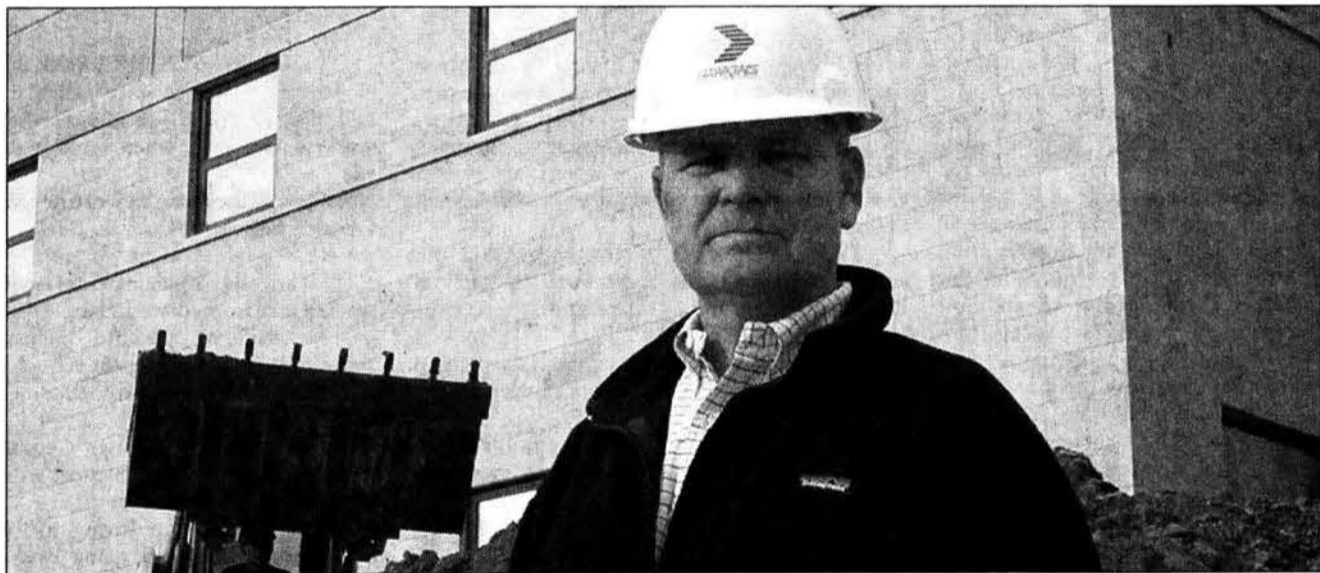


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Hawkins Construction Company vice president Dudley Rinaker stands at the Northeast side of the school checking the safety of the employees and if any materials are needed. He is the Hawkins representative that his workers would come to if there were any problems on the site.

Hawkins vice president checks on site, employees

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Vice President of Hawkins Construction Company Dudley Rinaker manages all the construction sites that Hawkins is affiliated with throughout the city.

His promotion of managing these sites began in early August of this year. Now he meets at the weekly discussions with Principal Jerry Bexten and other key people in charge of the renovation project.

At the meeting he brings problems to the table they are having on the sites. He usually informs Bexten or the Jacobs Engineering, Inc. project manager, Terry Page.

From informing both those men, the problem should be solved. The on site supervisor comes to him with schedule delays or needed materials are some of the problems that he could encounter besides schedule issues.

If there is a setting in time problem he has to inform Page who then talks to subcontractors.

Hawkins is in charge of all the other subcontractors, Rinaker said.

When he talks to the employees he needs to find out the reasons why it would be behind and what they need to get back on schedule.

He said scheduling of the completion dates need to be taken very seriously, even if it is just tentative. If the date is missed it will affect the next deadline and the chain of the phases as a whole, even the ones beyond the Omaha Public Schools project.

"Everyone procrastinates," Rinaker said. "My job is to bring them (the contractors) back into focus and finish the job on the

construction site."

Not only is the time factor an important aspect of the job, Rinaker has to make sure to keep his crew on task when working in a school building.

If it has something to do with materials Rinaker said he would order or find the needed supplies.

Rinaker is not the on-site supervisor because he must monitor all the other projects and job sites Hawkins bids on and receives. He said there is an on-site supervisor for each individual job.

Hawkins works on a number of city projects not dealing with any school districts. But Papillion High School is a district that is also receiving the its attention.

"Central gets 75 percent of my time making sure it stays on track," Rinaker said.

Meeting the completion deadline with the district is something he said he wants to achieve in a timely fashion. It makes him and the company look good for fighting through obstacles and getting to the end near the estimated deadline.

By doing this, Hawkins can receive more bids.

Rinaker said he planned on being involved in construction when he went to college. He attended University of Nebraska at Omaha and earned a degree in construction management.

After he graduated college, he quickly became a construction worker with Hawkins. As the years passed, he was promoted to being the vice president, which is where he is today.

He said he doesn't think construction work is as easy as some think, especially with his job and the management skills that are required.

A quick look at some of the companies that took part in the renovations



This company was in charge of the main demolition, additions and renovating inside and around the building. Hawkins is also in charge of all the subcontractors working on this site as well.



The designers of the renovation project was provided by this group. It has been working in with the schools since the 1999 bond issue for renovations.



Heimes was in charge of installing the plumbing system for the portables. The job wasn't an easy task because it had to ensure a flawless flow to the sewers



Piltor & Son Inc. is in charge of the installation of piping for the air-conditioning system in the building.



All of the fences constructed around the building were provided by this company. Its main goal is to prevent trespassers from gaining entrance.



The electrical wiring of all the portables was completed by this company. It took roughly three weeks for it to finish wiring the remaining 24 portables that were installed this summer.



The concrete that was needed inside the loading dock and other areas, either temporary or permanent, was supplied by this company.



Kehm Contractors are brick layers who placed the bricks and blocks for the new additions of the gymnasium and kitchen.



Damaged or dirty boilers were cleaned and repaired by this company. Since the school is an older building, this company repaired the boilers in the basement that needed maintenance.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

One goal of a school is to keep its students and faculty safe. Now with renovations in full swing, there are aspects of the day that may put these people in unsafe surroundings. It's a struggle for school and construction personnel to cover all their bases.



Administrators expect fire drill improvements

BY KATIE BACKMAN

A siren screamed in portable 24 as junior David Fisher rushed out the door.

In the portables, Fisher said the fire drill sirens were much louder than he expected.

Because of renovations, administrator Dionne Kirksey wanted to practice exiting the building in a safe and efficient manner.

The walls built around the construction zones keep students and construction workers separated, but if a fire occurs, students can exit through the closed areas.

She said compared to last year, many of the classes' fire drill routes were changed so people could quickly exit the building and avoid the construction zones.

In case of a real fire she said these routes would almost be ignored and the classes would leave the building through the closest exit.

Junior Prestyn Paul said he thought there was a lot of confusion on how to get out of the school.

There were so many students attempting to leave by following the directions posted in the classroom.

Since it was the first drill, he said the students and faculty didn't know exactly where to go and it caused major traffic problems.

"It looked like there was only one exit students were using," Paul said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said some of the classes had to be redirected when they reached the first floor because the east side was closed.

Administrators wanted to encourage more safety, he said. Which means if needed the students could leave through the closed-off areas in case of a real fire.

The main doors are unlocked and can be accessed by the staff and students.

"The doors are made with emergency push bars," Bexten said. "Which students can pass through without (the worry of the doors) being locked."

He said they have made sure that all of the doors will always be unlocked and cleared of construction tools and materials.

Kirksey said she did change the fire drill exiting locations mainly due to the fact that there were 28 classes already planning on leaving to Davenport Street.

Senior Monique Wilson said she thinks the drill went smoothly, but did notice the kids had to go farther away from school this year.

She said she didn't notice overpopulation at school because the students were spread along so many streets.

Kirksey said the students go on 24th, 22nd, 20th, Davenport, Chicago and Dodge streets.

"We (administration) wanted to spread the students all around to prevent traffic when exiting the building and portables," Kirksey said.

She said she thinks the first fire drill went well and one reason was that the gates around the portables were unlocked.

Making sure the gates were opened was arranged for before the drill.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HUNT

Students, teachers and supervisors have smelled or seen smoke coming from construction zones on school grounds. This is a violation of the school's Drug Free Zone policy.

Officials say safety top priority

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Sophomore Jocelin Ford came to school to see walls built and fences constructed in and around the school. At first looking like an obstacle she had to overcome, she now sees them as precautions keeping her safe.

Program manager Terry Page is in charge of ensuring safety for the students and faculty.

SMOKING ON THE JOB SITE

Construction workers, who work on school sites, don't have any rule books to sign, but are expected to behave in the same way as students and faculty, vice president of Hawkins Construction Company Dudley Rinaker said.

He said there have been reports of construction workers not following these guidelines.

"Occasionally we receive reports of construction workers smoking at school," Rinaker said. "Hawkins did hire all the subcontractors so we try hard to keep all the companies in line."

Sometimes the smell of cigarette smoke is confused with the scent of welding, Rinaker said.

When a report is filed, Rinaker said he has the on-site supervisor go the location to try and find the disruptive construction workers. If a construction worker who is smoking on school grounds is found, he could be removed from the job.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he sometimes wears his hard hat and looks into the construction zones. He said he finds cigarette butts on the floor, but has never seen a person actually smoking.

If he saw anything while

walking in the construction zones he said he would report it to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs).

This company is in charge of renovations overall and has the power to remove employees from the school because they are violating codes and endangering the school.

"The teachers and students will respond to the cigarette smoke," Bexten said.

While traveling to and from the building, junior Ashley Minnifield said she doesn't notice any misbehavior with the construction workers.

She has never seen the construction workers smoking, but said it was difficult to determine if smoke was coming from a student or a construction worker.

Generally, Rinaker said that all his employees have been pretty good about where they take their cigarette breaks.

Bexten said if the construction worker really needed a cigarette break, he would just have to cross a street instead of violating the policies in the building.

Dean of students Nicole Regan said that smoking isn't one of the larger problems at school, but listening to a radio or cursing on the job during the school day is.

Minnifield said hearing the construction workers listen to the radio doesn't make her feel safe.

She has never heard any of the music during classes, but most of her classes aren't near construction zones right now.

"They (construction workers) won't pay enough attention," she said. "Because of that things could fall on them or hurt other people."

Regan said that the employees are asked not to have loud radios because it disrupts the learning environment at school.

Junior Adam Cornish said that in one of his classes he heard the inappropriate language of the construction workers.

He said the class he was in just ignored it and he didn't think about reporting it to administration.

"I don't think anyone in my class really cared or was offended," Cornish said. "It was just background noise."

His instructor in that class, Cornish said, didn't make any comments either.

Bexten said if something unsuitable for an education environment was seen or heard, then it should be reported.

One of the biggest complaints Rinaker said he receives is about the language of the workers. Junior Sheila Connor said she hasn't noticed anything wrong with the construction staff.

"I am not really paying attention though," Connor said. "I just go to class and focus on school."

She said the only thing that she hears during her classes are hammering and drilling in the ceiling bellow her. That is the most disturbing thing she has experienced all year.

"The guys are doing a good job in their work place," Rinaker said. "We do follow the normal procedures of checking up on the construction workers."

CONSTRUCTION WORKER RULES

Safety manager with Jacobs Dave D'Eagle said there are specific procedures the construction workers must obey when working on the school's site.

He said they have to write or give a supervisor a notice before they are leaving their designated zone.

"If anyone complains to us (Jacobs employees) we will take immediate action," D'Eagle said.

He said he tries to maintain a strong separation until it is after the school hours.

After school the construction workers can work outside of patricians.

Sophomore Anthony Gonzalez said he doesn't think the construction workers practice any type of safety outside.

"They never stop driving outside," Gonzalez said. "They just keep going even if there are students in the way."

Bexten said construction workers are not supposed to interact with any of the students or faculty.

Walking to and from classes isn't a problem for Ford. She said she thinks the construction workers mind their own business and obey the rules.

She said she has never heard any students talking about a problem they had with construction workers.

As junior Josh Davenport walks from portables to classrooms, he doesn't have any problems with construction workers hassling him.

"I walk by construction workers after school and they stay (focused) with their business," Davenport said.

Jacobs wants to avoid all possible problems

with interaction of their employees and school population.

Page said they allow safety cards that students or faculty can submit if they observed something wrong with the school and renovations.

"Safety is a big part for Jacobs," Page said. "I go to the building to make sure all the doors are locked that are supposed to be."

Sophomore Brianna Brei said there were always problems with safety when there is much construction going on.

"Basically it (construction) is still a danger," Brei said. "There can't be anything done about except to get the project done."

Overall Page said he had two main goals for Central. One was to keep main separate from students and construction workers. He said he hasn't ever been an issue yet.

Secondly to enforce the use of hard hats and safety glasses which is OPS and U.S. Department of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements.

Page said the school has walls built that separate the hallways to separate the students from construction workers. These walls have doors that are always locked or are connected to an alarm system.

Page controls the safety precautions. Bexten manages the discipline policy.

This policy has always been in the Student Handbook.

Bexten said, now a construction section has been added to it.

According to the Student Handbook, entering construction zones falls under the "leaving the building" or "being in closed areas" section.

A first offense is a parent conference by phone and one-day suspension.

Bexten said the only way students could be in construction zones is if they are escorted by approved administration.

"We are not trying to be mean," Bexten said. "but we don't want anything bad to happen."

He said there haven't been any problems with students wandering in construction zones, but the doors have been opened.

The School Board adopted a safety policy for construction zones, Page said.

It requires people in construction zones wear a hard hat and safety goggles at all times.

Bexten said they are required to wear steel-toed boots.

"I want to avoid all injuries," Bexten said.

ART ROOM

"Again the ceilings were lowered," Bexten said. "Ventilation systems were added along with new sprinkler systems, similar with all the other renovated rooms."

Junior Dan Crane said initially he didn't notice any changes in the room, but he only noticed in one part of the area.

After a few days he thought that the classroom ceilings looked lower, but it didn't look as if it was a problem.

The division walls were taken down to make the renovations easier on the construction workers.

Bexten said the room will also be ready for air conditioning.

Renovations continue into third year; end of construction process in sight

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

switched around at the beginning of the year didn't bother him.

He said the ceilings look like they are lower than in his other classes, but it isn't that big of a deal to him.

He said one of the rooms that were actually renovated was the guidance office. The office had its shelves torn off the walls and ceiling panels removed. After renovations, the room was freshly painted, new drywalls and ceiling panels were installed.

The end of this phase was scheduled for Aug. 8 of this year, but was completed on Aug. 30.

BASEMENT

Program manager Terry Page said the

construction company had to adjust to the lack of space in the basement.

The ceilings are very low as it is and there wasn't enough room to lower it.

"The solution was air socks," Page said. "An air sock is a heavy fabric material that has vents for air circulation instead of using ventilation ducts."

Bexten said there was no other solution. He said the ceilings were as low they could go.

He said he is still looking into that problem to see if there can be a different solution.

"The air socks are pretty ugly," Bexten said. "They are unsightly and can interfere with the student's sight during class."

Junior Andrew Horton said he doesn't have a problem with the air socks, but he did think they

were just temporary.

He said the air socks don't distract him from seeing anything in his culinary class.

The band department also received work, but it was separate from the renovation bond. Bexten said OPS maintenance department agreed last spring to work on the room. It was the only room to receive new carpet.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said the auditorium was used as a storage room. He said they put computers on every seat with boxes in between the chairs on the floor.

The other half of the auditorium was used to store drama department equipment.

"We didn't waste any storage space," Semrad said.

Administration tries hard to protect students, faculty

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Junior Amanda Stastny walks out her portable three class. She walks in masses of students, relying on her watchful eye to keep her safe, the surveillance camera mounted on the northwest side of the building.

Before each grade level assemblies, she said she didn't know of the camera. She said it's probably one of the ideas made by the school.

"I feel pretty comfortable," Stastny said. "People will want to help catch someone who did something wrong they can use these cameras."

Administrator David Andersen said cameras are for the students' and faculty's safety at school. He said there are six to eight internal cameras added to a second camera outside.

"We have one camera now," Andersen said. "We should expect there to be more in a month."

Andersen said the second camera should be mounted on the northeast corner of the main building.

"We want to provide safety inside and outside the school," Andersen said.

"The cameras have zoom controls and are set on a tour, but can be taken off course if needed to view a certain area. The cameras will be able to identify the direction if a trespasser was on campus."

Andersen said when all of the cameras are installed it will only observe a percent of the school's campus. He believes another reason for the cameras are instances like Columbine, 11 and vandalism.

The sweeping motion of the camera can stop at each view for a matter of seconds or minutes.

There was talk about purchasing cameras to make students behave.

Andersen said that if they had just a camera covering dome without the camera inside would be okay, unless anything really happened.

He said they chose not to do that

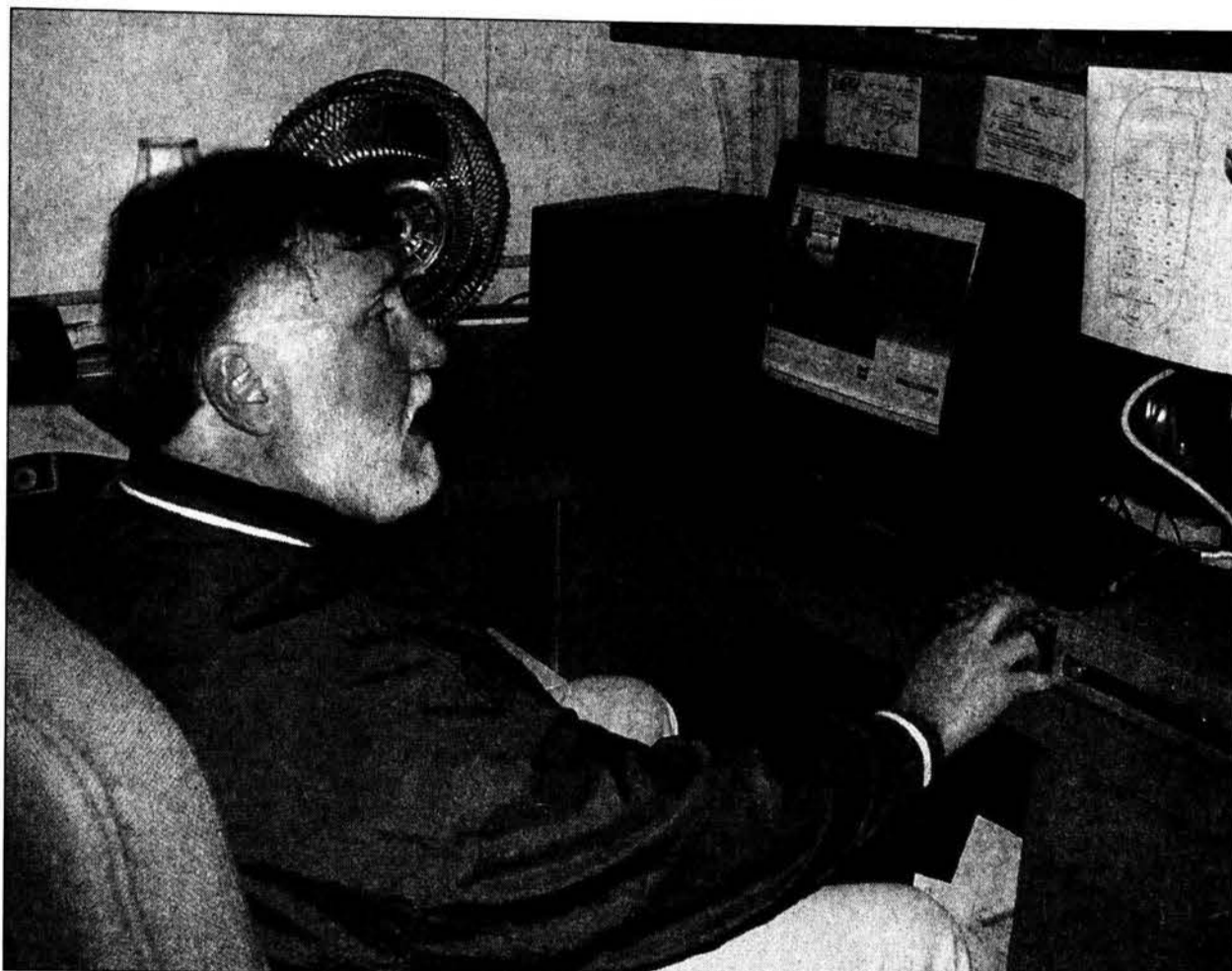


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

David Andersen is one of the administrators who has access to viewing the cameras from his office. He has a computer monitor with different camera views and a television screen to watch a particular view in a larger size for more detail.

because if a kid was in a fight and parents thought a camera was watching them they could use that against them.

"If we just had covers without cameras, liability issues would occur," Andersen said.

Sophomore Brendan Smalls said he thinks the cameras are an invasion of his privacy. He said he thinks that everyone gossips about events that happen at school, so eventually, the

administration would hear of it.

Since the camera is so far away, Smalls said the camera wouldn't be able to distinguish a trespasser from a student.

"They need to finish work on the building instead of setting up cameras," Smalls said.

Andersen said the cameras are mainly set up to observe areas with high student traffic and where there

are not many teachers. Because of the renovations and portables the cameras have to go up.

"We're one of the last high schools to receive a surveillance system," Andersen said.

He said with the cameras he could save an image and print, burn to a CD, a VHS tape or e-mail it to the Omaha Police Department. From then the department can tell the time, the height

of the person and possibly the person's dress.

"The cameras store 14 days of footage," Andersen said. "After that, it is erased and the new days are added."

The cameras will easily record if there is little to no light, but it doesn't record any audio.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the cameras will be installed in areas along side the auditorium. He said the cameras aren't to spy on the kids, but ensure their safety. He said the system will be available to administrators, security station and some secretaries.

Freshman Brittany Winston said she thinks the cameras are a bad thing because they are always recording, and she doesn't like the feeling of being watched.

"This isn't your home," Bexten said. "It's a public place and a building expected to be safe."

Bexten said it is the same as having cameras in malls and at banks. It is a public place that must be monitored throughout the day.

The school isn't just relying on cameras, Bexten said the lock the gates on Davenport Street to keep intruders wandering into the portable area. Two security guards also walk around the portables during class time and passing periods.

Sophomore Jasmine Elmore said she likes the idea of cameras.

She said they make her feel comfortable and safe at school.

"Kids need to be alert to someone (invading the property)," Elmore said. "Basically there is someone always behind the scenes."

Andersen said the cameras would have an excellent view of the stadium when it is completed.

They will never be installed in private places like offices, classrooms or locker rooms.

"Students who don't like the cameras are the ones fearful of breaking rules and getting caught," Andersen said.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING DANGEROUS AT SCHOOL DEALING WITH THE RENOVATIONS?



"I have smelled construction workers smoking cigarettes at school. They shouldn't be doing that in a school building."
Greg McDougle (10)



"The dirt blows in my eyes when I am walking outside of the building."
Kara Lambrecht (9)



"Huge trucks just stop out by the portables. It makes traffic move slower. Someone could trip or something and fall onto a forklift."
Jared Dittman (9)



"The bad fumes that are in the school probably aren't good for anyone."
Krista Killion (9)



"I don't think there is anything wrong with the safety. They just need to hurry up and get it done."
Derrick Russell (10)



"If students disobeyed the blocked-off hallways, something could fall on their head if they went inside. But since they are blocked off, it makes it crowded."
Emily Wence (9)

Security guards join new tasks, survey portables during class

BY JOHN KENDALL

Security at Central is having a little trouble with the extra duty this year, security guard Mike McWhorter said.

"The biggest change is the 28 portables," he said.

He spends more time outside than used to when he just watched over senior parking lot.

Regardless, he said nothing has come a problem.

"I think the students and the faculty subconsciously band together," McWhorter said. "It works out pretty well."

He said it is possible that things might be different once cold weather comes.

There could be problems with students wanting to stand outside in the morning, going inside a portable to warm up, and then coming back outside just to repeat that process.

"So far it's been running pretty good," he said.

McWhorter said that he and the other security guards just make sure there is nothing suspicious going on between the portables during class time, and before and after school.

The security staff also checks for students, people just hanging out, skipping classes and sneaking around.

"Right now I haven't seen any problems that have come up," he said.

Once the cold weather comes around.

McWhorter said that the security staff set up some sort of outdoor shelter in one of the portables and tell students to dress warmer.

He said that they try to keep security officers out around the portables each period, but their schedules are ultimately chosen by their supervisor, assistant principal Paul Pennington.

Either way, the point is that there is always someone out monitoring the



PHOTO BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER

Security guard Mike McWhorter patrols in between the portables every day. The layout of the buildings makes it tough to see everything that's going on.

portables.

Even at the turn of the semester with the change in renovation phases, McWhorter said he believes security will be able to handle it.

"Maybe, as time goes on, it could bring new problems," he said.

He said that the teachers out in the portables are good at calling into the office and reporting troublesome students.

"The teachers help us out a lot," McWhorter said.

Compared to portable traffic, McWhorter said that the student traffic inside is much busier.

For the most part, he said it remains quiet outside.

As for inside the school, he said that there are obviously certain places

that cannot be accessed in the building even by both the students and the security.

McWhorter said he finds himself patrolling mainly the main parts of the building from the basement to the third floor.

"Each period we switch to different areas," he said.

Security guard Charles Williams said with the renovations, security has to particularly watch the portables and make sure that students and teachers can get from the school to the portables safely.

He also said that along with the portable classrooms, security has to watch the outside restrooms to make sure they stay safe and that only students and teachers are using them.

Williams said that he has never really had too much trouble around the portables, nor has he heard of a lot of trouble.

"We had one fight early this year, but not much other than that," he said.

With the construction going on, security must also watch that only construction workers go into the building, and not some random person off of the street.

Williams also said that construction blocks off the east door, which causes a lot of congestion around the "C."

"We still need to work out some kinks with the 'C,'" he said.

He said that what he would like to happen is to see students using one set of doors to enter the building, and another set of doors to leave the

building.

He thinks this would help out with the flow of traffic in and out of the building.

Williams said that the new security cameras will eventually help out as well, which give them an extra eye on the portables, the porch and Davenport Street.

"The cameras have a wide view, so we can see a lot," he said.

Also with the gym construction, security has to make sure no students enter the gym area, and that no students are allowed to walk around the building.

"We also have to make sure that no one is harassed while they are on their walk," Williams said.

On the inside, Williams said that security mainly has to watch to make sure students do not enter the construction areas.

He said he does not often have a problem with students trying to go in on the two side, but the doors with the alarms on the one side tend to attract curious students who will open the door.

Williams said he believes that there isn't much of a difference in patrolling inside or outside the building.

It is just that their presence is now needed outside now that the school has so many students moving in and out of the building between the school and the portables.

Williams said that this poses the main problem with being outside.

"It is hard to patrol skipping," he said.

He said that a lot of students will try to merge with the flow of traffic, and that this happens a lot with the gym walks as well.

Williams said he believes that change in renovated areas will not bring many new problems.

"It'll be the same traffic," he said. "There will just be new people with new periods."

Alumnus presents administration with tool to keep students safe, help athletic department

BY KATIE BACKMAN



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Assistant principal Paul Pennington accepted a golf cart as a gift from Dr. Jack Lewis that was at first intended to be used by security personnel to patrol the areas in between the portables.

However, since the golf cart is gas-powered, officials decided it wouldn't work for that purpose.

"It is too loud," he said. "People would hear it coming."

Initially he wanted something that could fit in between the tight spaces between the portables, but the area is much like a maze.

One of his goals was to not only monitor students who are possibly skipping and hiding around the portables, but also to make sure no trespassers enter the building.

Two security guards are assigned outside throughout the school day to monitor the classes and passing periods during the day. The cart is supposed to help the guards during their different shifts.

"Our security guards are good, but we might not have the youngest ones on staff," Pennington said. "This golf cart will help them."

Senior Ean Garrett said the security guards shouldn't be on golf cart, they should be walking, because being on foot is easier to maneuver around.

Garrett said he likes the security guards, but if they are too old to stand up for 45 minutes then the school should hire a new security staff.

Golf cart won't help safety, Garrett said.

"Golf carts can't hop fences, security guards (on foot) can," Garrett said.

Sophomore Krystal Curry said she thinks with the cart, it will be easier to catch someone. She said it could protect students.

After testing the cart, Pennington said it will not be used for security around the portables. Instead it will be used for athletic purposes.

Pennington said it can carry injured players at sporting events, transport hurdles, thermoses and other equipment in its small tailgate.

"Bryan and Burke have carts like ours to help with sporting events," Pennington said.

Garrett said the golf cart would help with the stadium but for right now it is a waste of space and time. He said at least there is a use for it in the near future, just not now in between the portables.

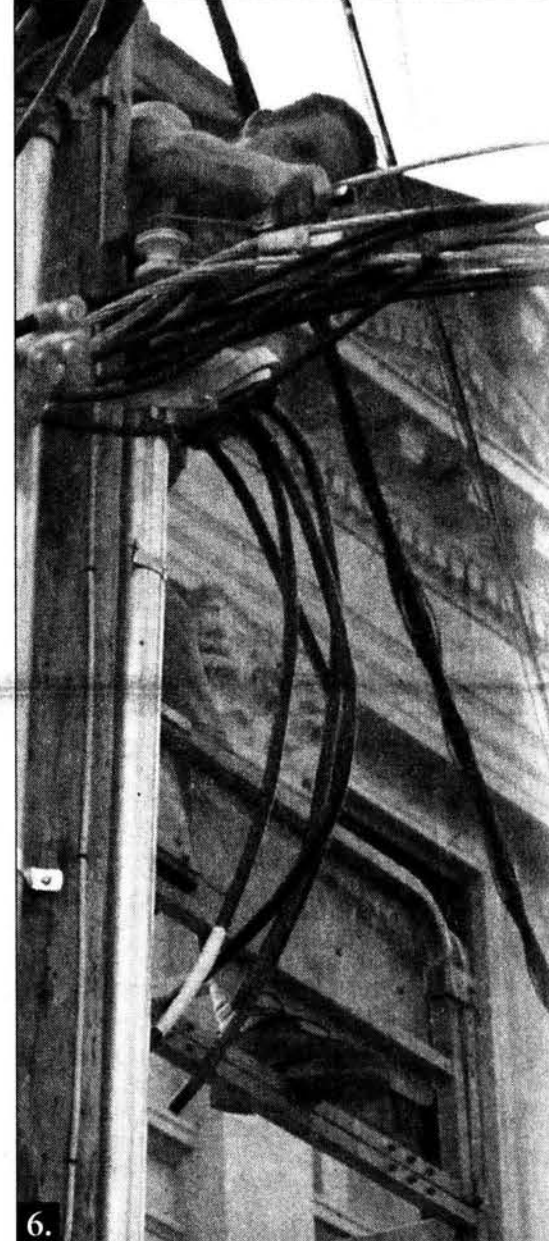
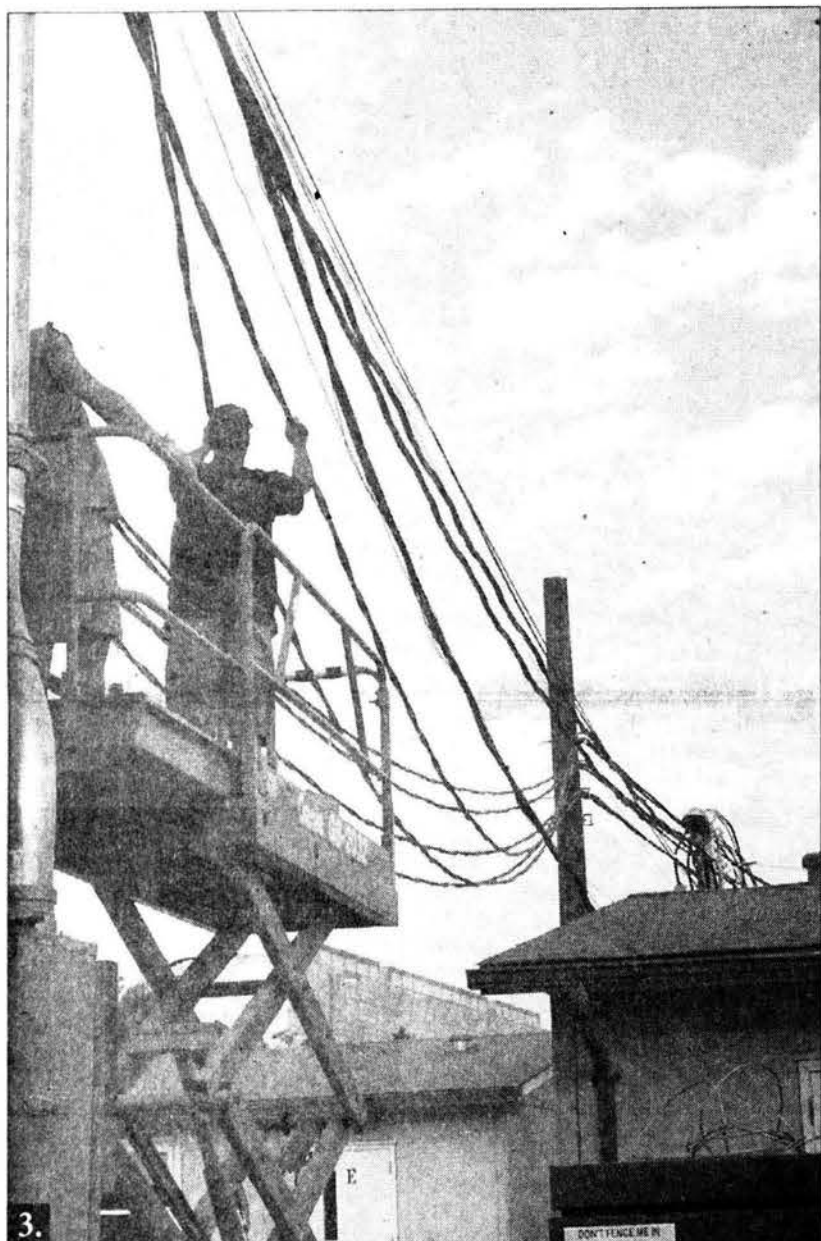
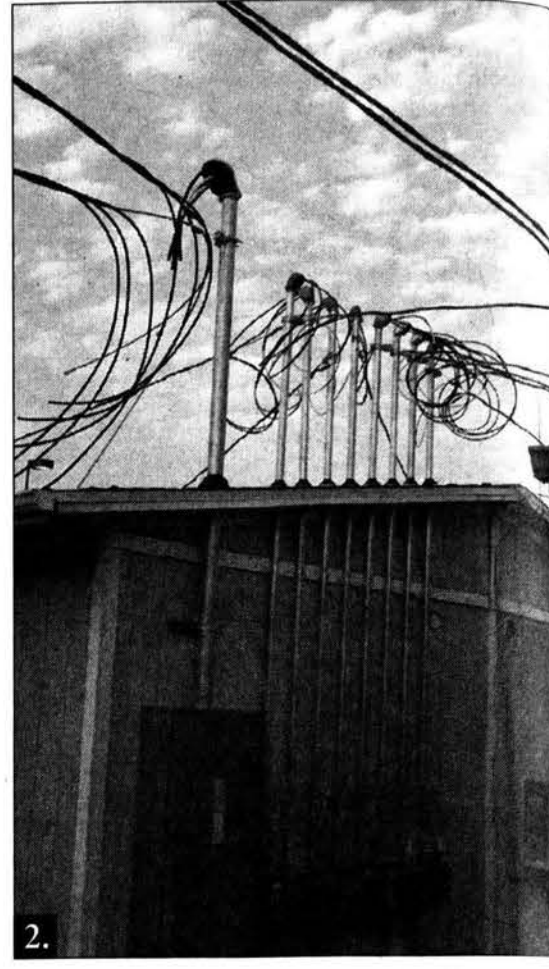
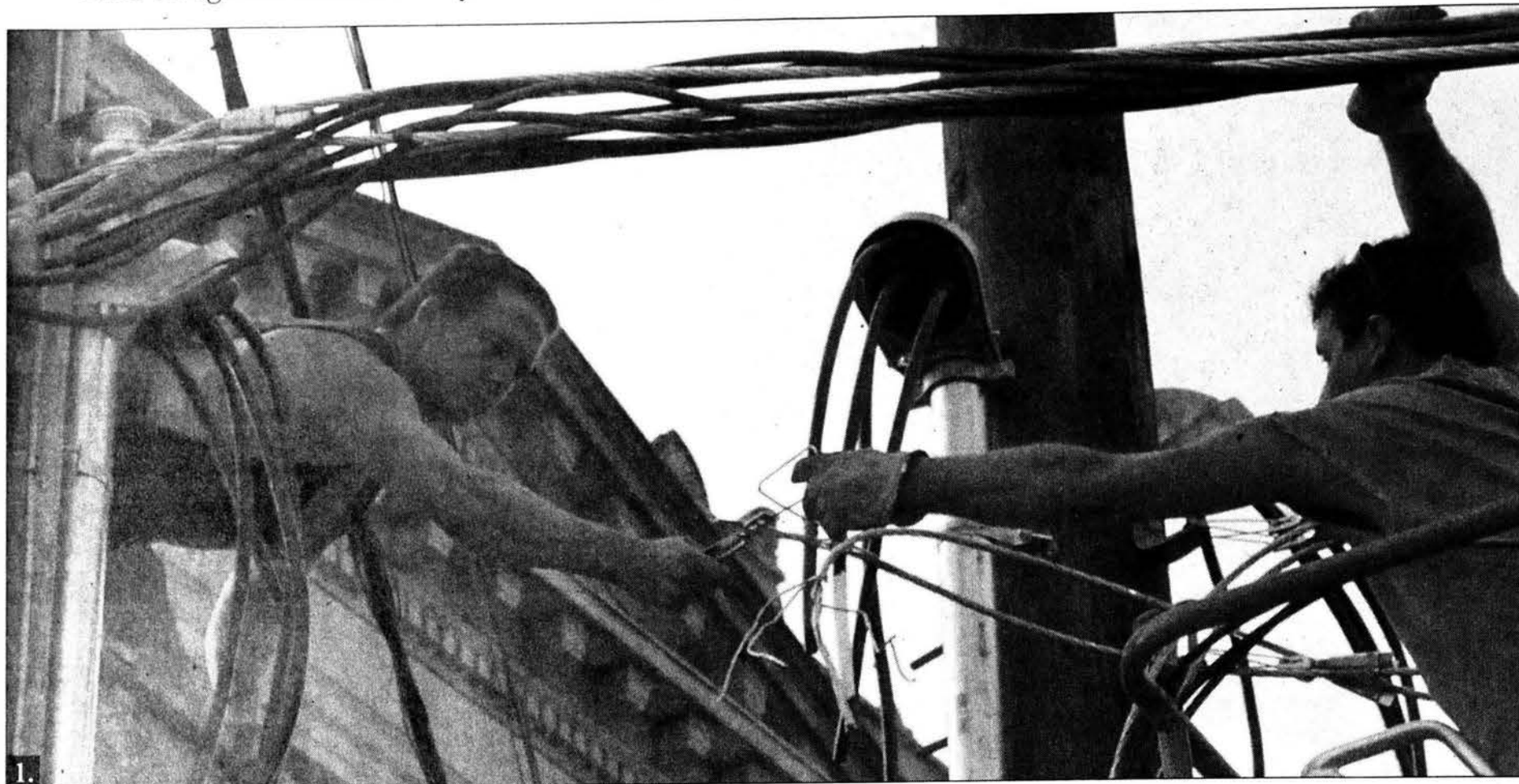
He thinks it would be good way transport injured players to the locker room like college and professional teams.

"I am very glad to have the donation," Pennington said. "We will use it as much as we can when the field is done."

Assistant principal Paul Pennington sits in the golf cart that was donated by Dr. Jack Lewis.

TURNING THE LIGHTS ON

Installing the electricity in the remaining 24 portables was a three-week procedure. Suburban Electric had four men on site to work out the problems. Even though the deadline was just around the corner, the many wires and cables had to be handled with care to get this job done quickly and efficiently.



1. Dan Campbell (LEFT) is cutting an electrical wire held by Randy Lavallie with Suburban Electric. The company installed the wooden poles surrounding the portables. 2. A view from a portable, the power boxes on the side connect wire to the buildings. 3. Lavallie and co worker Carnell Lambert are looking down the path of the wires to make sure it remains even untangled as the connections are finalized. 4. Lambert is preparing the cables for installation to the voltage box which run through all the 28 portables. 5. Lavallie is pointing to Campbell trying to show him what wire has to be connected to the certain corresponding connection to the voltage box on the ground. The installation process took the crew about three weeks to complete. Suburban Electric President Paul Cox said they didn't run into any unexpected problems. 6. Campbell is tightening the wires, Cox said the crew had 360 feet of wiring weighing 1.75 pounds per foot.

Cafeterias, gym classes, computer labs will move to different locations

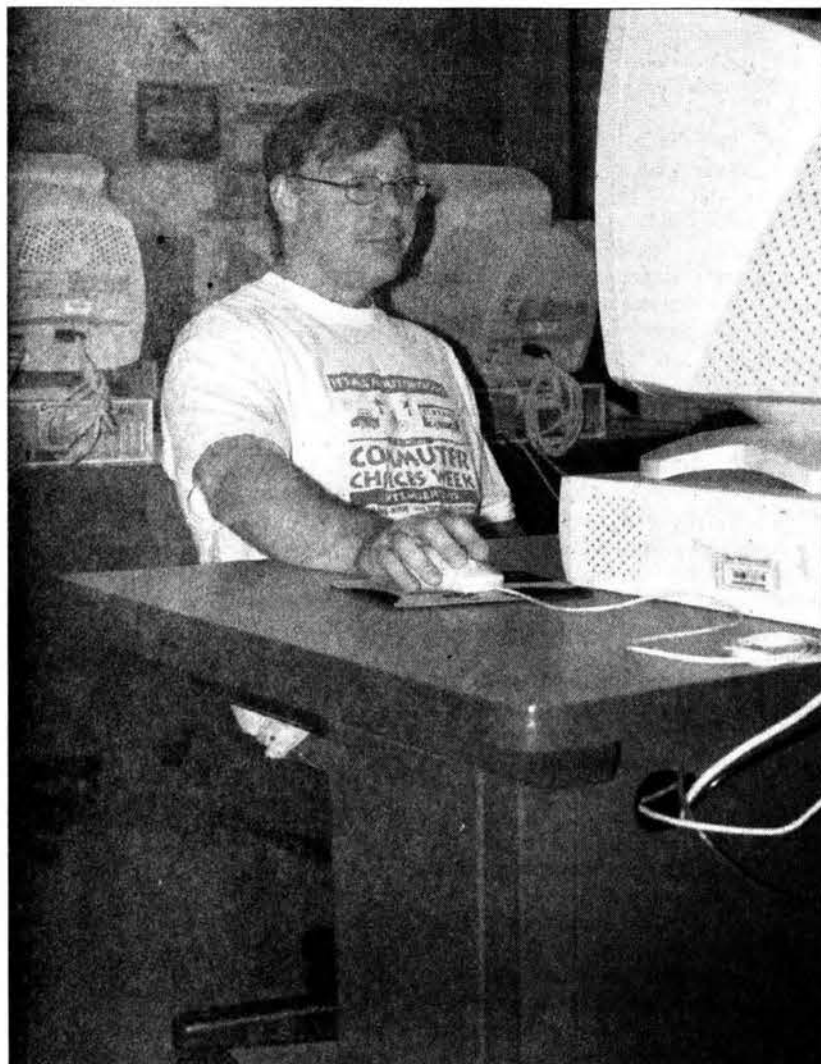


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Network administrator David Reinhart sits in the computer lab, which is currently still functional. The computer labs will be moved during the beginning of Phase 6A on Dec. 26.

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Room 144, west and east cafeteria will no longer exist after December.

Principal Jerry Bexten said room 445 will be transformed into classrooms and an office. Room 435 will be switched to two computer labs.

The cafeteria will be moved to room 144, which is receiving a new kitchen addition.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said fourth floor will not be open until April 30, 2004 the end of Phase 6A. The cafeteria is scheduled to open on Dec. 19.

"There will no longer be any eating or studying in those rooms (cafeterias)," Semrad said.

Freshman Maria Harris said she thinks it will be a good thing if there is enough room for all the students who will take the courses in the new computer labs and classrooms upstairs.

A problem with her study hall classes is when people try to leave the floor all at once.

She said the doors are too small for all of the students trying to exit.

"I slipped down those stairs so much because people are so pushy," Harris said.

Semrad said that is why he has been planning the schedule of the renovations to ensure that students and teachers are informed of all of the changes.

He said he tries to communicate to the staff to limit confusion later.

"The move happens during winter break," Semrad said. "We (faculty) are trying to get students to remember this before they come back to school."

Harris said when the students come back they probably won't remember and they will just have to adjust to the changes.

She said if students think about the changes at school, they should be happy because it is making the building a better place.

Manager of the food services at school Jodi Smith said during the winter break they will be moving everything out of the kitchen. Most of the staff they are moving out will not be placed downstairs.

"We (kitchen staff) are getting new stoves and equipment," Smith said. "Also a brand new kitchen."

After 15 years, Smith said she finally will have

new equipment.

She said she has to see it to believe it. When the renovations began by adding a new kitchen to the building it was unrealistic to her.

She said everything will be better for the school, easier to use and energy efficient.

Semrad said none of the computers in the building will be moved upstairs until the rooms are completely renovated.

One of the goals, Semrad said was to move the computer labs from the basement to the upstairs.

He said it would be easier if the computer labs were all closer together.

Network administrator Dave Reinhart said that he doesn't fully know where the computers room will be located in the end.

He said he has heard different things in the beginning of the phases.

He will just wait and see where all the labs end up.

Junior Joel Vidlak said the move is a good idea because at the beginning of the year he couldn't really find the classrooms.

"They (computer labs) are in good condition," Vidlak said. "It would just be easier if they were upstairs."

To make passing periods easier, with the classrooms on the fourth floor, portables will be eliminated when renovations are completed.

"The four portables we had last year weren't a cause of renovations," Semrad said. "It was because we didn't have room for the classes."

Freshman Terrence Hall said without the portables students will be able to make it to class on time.

He said the school building is large, but a lot of kids try to exit and enter the building for the portables.

The cafeteria will be changed entirely. The kitchen upstairs will not look the same it does now.

Gym classes in room 144 will be moved to the new gym addition. Semrad said it should be complete by Oct. 17.

He said aerobic classes are in the basement that is room 080 and the new weight room is in 070, which is

the upper level.

Aerobic teacher Lisa Studer said there will fit be more room to do the exercises in her class because they won't have to share a gym.

Studer said not only are they receiving a new gym, but she also ordered 40 more steps for stepping exercises.

She also hopes to fund raise or have a donation of 20 spinning bikes.

"It's going to be really nice in there," Studer said.

Sophomore Ashley Greenwood had aerobics year and remembers how sharing the gym with weight room would always distract her learning.

She sees the other side of it being in weight training this year and attempting to ignore the music in aerobics.

"It will be a good thing because we (the class) won't hear each other," Greenwood said.

The information of a new gym didn't impact the students.

Junior Brianna McLaren said that she didn't care about the noise when she was in aerobics. In fact the class is getting a new gym isn't that impressive to her.

The gym in room 144 is a large room, but when it is cut in half students can get cramped.

Sophomore McKayla Clark said she thinks new room is good because her class has 35 students trying to exercise in that space.

Mirrors were supposed to cover an entire wall of the gym, but now Studer said that is being debated.

She said she would share that gym with the wrestling team and the mirrors would distract them from the floor to ceilings.

She said she would like it if the mirrors were a couple of feet tall so when she teaches steps she can face the same direction as the students.

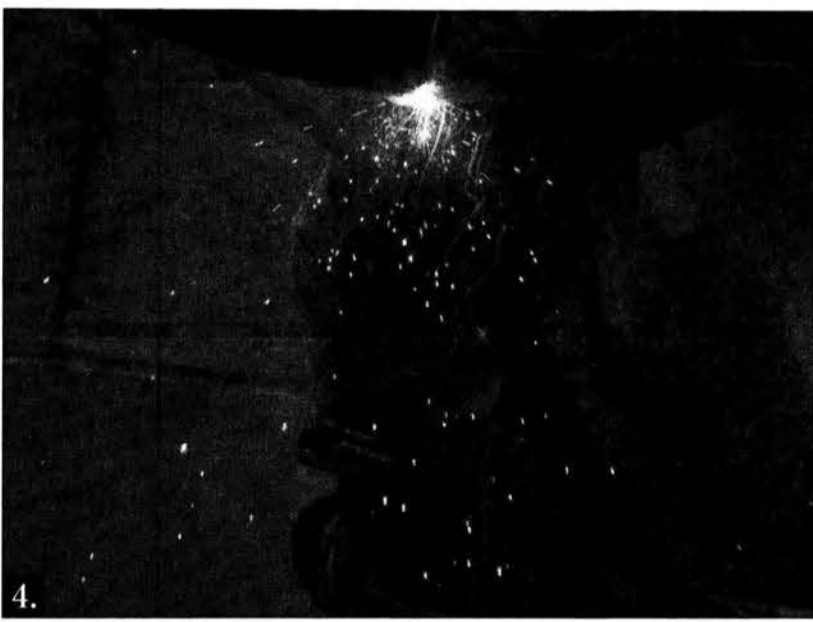
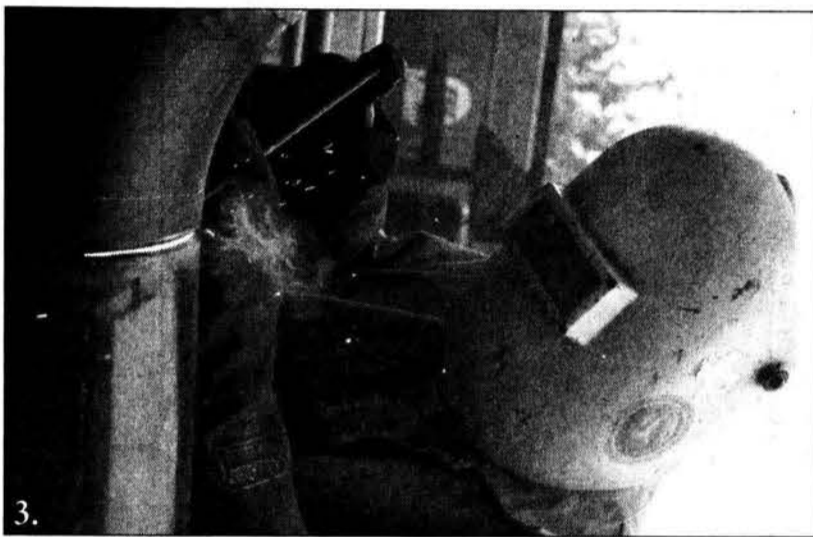
While looking in the mirrors seeing if everyone is keeping up with her.

Clark said the mirrors would be a good benefit because it will help the students keep up and follow the instructors lead when doing some exercises.

"Everything planned on with the school has gone as planned," Semrad said.

WORKING HARD TO KEEP IT COOL

Pitlor and Son, Inc. cut, welded and installed many feet of piping for air conditioning and heating inside the building.



ALL PHOTOS BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Ronnie Bonin Pitlor and Son Inc. (PSI) uses a torch to cut through the pipes. The black piping is used for the air conditioning that will carry cold water to the processors. **2.** Bonin is looking at the elbow piping and scratching a test line on where will make the cut. This tool is different than the torch, because it does not melt the metals together. **3.** Bonin continues his precision welding on different shapes of pipes because it has to bend a fit according to the locations in the building. **4.** Different angle of Bonin's welds he makes on the pipes he works around the different bends and successfully completing the tasks he could while he was away from Texas. **5.** He has to wear the protective mask because the light would damage his eyes if he looked at it directly.

Company works hard installs heating, cooling pipes; air conditioning closer to being used

BY KATIE BACKMAN



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Steam fitter and welder Jim Mitzlaff describes the old units that were used for heating. The company he works with is in the process of replacing these machines.

Pitlor and Son, Inc. (PSI) is the company that is in charge of installing the air conditioning throughout the entire building.

The company began working on the school before 2001 to see what was needed before starting the installation. Jim Mitzlaff supervisors of the company said the blueprints that we given to him by the contractors and engineers looked simple, but were deceiving.

"The blueprints had four lines that were going straight around the building," Mitzlaff said. "But the blueprints didn't show the holes they (PSI) had to make in the walls."

He said what made this job with the school difficult is the different chases, which in the school's case are basically brick tunnels that served as ventilation ducts and were built with some of the original construction.

In some parts of the building during recent renovations, construction companies tried to add metal duct work in place of these shafts. He said his company just hammered down the metal vents and installed their piping over it.

Before the piping was placed, Hawkins Construction Company cut square holes into the walls for the pipes, but in some areas of the school Mitzlaff said there are gaps between the brick shafts along the walls and ceilings.

"Support beams were placed in the holes of the wall," he said. "If they weren't there the floor above could cave in

because we cut holes out of the ceilings."

When the brick was cut and hammered out, he said most of it fell into the old dampers in the east fan rooms. Which doesn't cause any technical problems, just a mess.

"There's simply a lot of brick in this building," Mitzlaff said.

The school has more than 20,000 feet of pipes installed by PSI employees.

The pipes are for chilled and heated water. For heat the water is steamed and forced through circulating pumps that will travel along all the ventilation to heat the building.

"Hopefully we will have a good heating system set up before February," Mitzlaff said. "The students will probably be freezing during the winter."

The cooling system works similarly, except the water isn't steaming, but is maintained at a temperature 45 degrees.

Welder and steam fitter for Pitlor and Son, Inc. Tom Bartley said it is important for there not to be any leaks in the pipes they weld and cut together. He said he went to a local union and passed a test on welding pipes.

"I work nine hours a day six days a week welding pipes all day," Bartley said.

PSI has 17 steam fitters or welders and two plumbers working on the site.

Mitzlaff said the piping will be complete on in the basement, first and second floor on the east side by Dec. 19. The areas that he said are complete are the art room and

the library is almost done, but it has to be linked back to the main fan rooms.

"We skipped the entire third floor," Mitzlaff said.

Due to the students at school he said the company has to hop around the building and work behind the designated construction zones.

He said according to the schedule, he is supposed to be done at Central by the spring of 2004.

By the time of completion, each classroom will have updated heating and cooling systems. Each room will have its own blower coil and depending on the size, it could have two.

A blower coil looks like a rectangular air-conditioning unit suspended from the ceiling. Suspended ceilings with panels will cover up all of the piping and other system equipment.

"The ceilings were 12 feet tall," Mitzlaff said. "After this (renovation) they will be 9.6 feet tall."

PSI was also in charge of the plumbing and the water systems for the new kitchen. The heaters and coolers are different than the ventilation system for the school because that water is treated.

With a building this size and this old Mitzlaff said he didn't expect all of the minor details.

With the heating and cooling pipes that travel throughout the building, some of them require a box form built around them.

Students have to wake up early to find parking, due to shortages caused by school construction

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

"Parking is definitely a problem," Principal Bry Bexten said.

Bexten said the senior parking lot helps, but does not solve the problem.

Shortly after school began, there was a new parking lot which sits behind the portables.

But not all seniors were given spots in the lot and that left juniors and some sophomores left wondering where to park.

To answer that question, many students came to school early, very early, which got them a spot, but did not guarantee entrance in to the building.

Junior Michelle Inzauro gets to school at 6:30 in the morning.

She pulls into a spot and instead of turning the ignition, she gets comfortable.

"I have been bringing a blanket to school for about a week," Inzauro said.

In the morning, Inzauro reclines her drivers seat and falls asleep until about 6:30 a.m., that's

when she goes into the building and sits with her friends for a early morning breakfast.

Bexten said that some of the parking went to the construction workers who are working on the school.

"About 80 spots were purchased so that they could park there," Bexten said.

Inzauro said that is a waste of parking.

"Yeah, they are working on the school, but I don't think that they need to park there," Inzauro said.

Sophomore Brandon Nazeck said that he does not get here until 6:45 a.m. and he gets a close spot, even though at that time he is cutting it close.

"I usually get close and park on Chicago Street," said Nazeck.

But sometimes he does not get that lucky, and has to walk a little bit before he gets to school.

"Sometimes I have to park on the other side of the interstate over by Creighton since the parking is so bad," said Nazeck.

Junior Stephanie Simmons said that the

senior parking lot did not help the situation at all and that the parking mess is not going away.

"I usually get here between 6:20 and 6:40 a.m. for a spot and I think I get a decent one," Simmons said.

She said she thinks that she gets here early enough that the parking is not a problem and when she gets here, she can just go inside the building. But having a good parking spot does not mean that the car is safe.

"My car was side-swiped and all I got was a note that said 'Sorry for hitting your car,' which really sucked," Inzauro said.

Both Simmons and Inzauro have had altercations with other drivers.

"I got a ticket for parking just three inches into a no-parking zone. Three inches," Simmons said.

It is apparent that the school has parking problems and Nazeck said that he thinks that he knows one way that would help.

"If all of the classes had an individual parking lot then it would not be a problem," Nazeck said. "Everyone would know where to go."

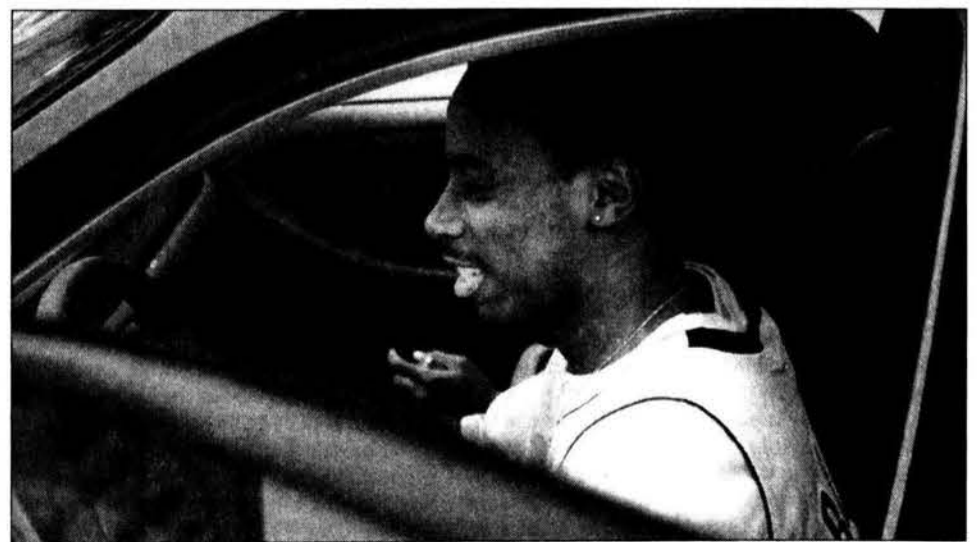


PHOTO BY MIKE SMITH/REGISTER

Junior Lamar Davis has to get to school early in the morning to get the coveted Davenport Street parking spot.

RENOVATIONS THEN AND NOW

Central has gone through many changes over the years. Its rich history is very much a part of the tradition of the largest high school in the state. People look back with a great sense of pride about where this school has been and look ahead to where this school is going. *On the opposite page* is a brief look at how the building has changed, along with a few brief descriptions, in chronological order, of some of the renovations that have occurred over the years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEBRASKA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Central is known for having a wide-variety of clubs. The above photo shows the Engineering Club that helped build the steps on the building when Dodge Street was lowered in 1920. The club was a part of ROTC. The steps, which were added when the 20-foot drop was made to level Dodge Street, are still there today.

Alumna, faculty reflect on rich history of largest high school in state

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

The building is almost unrecognizable to some students who graduated as the class of 1977, but some teachers adjusted over time.

Elizabeth McNichols is the Central High foundation president and is an alumna from the class of 1977. She has seen many faces change at school and even the building itself.

The building is quite different now, even with the pastimes students did during the school day.

"When I was at Central, the big thing was stripping the vines off of the walls in the courtyard," McNichols said.

The ceiling in the courtyard was still open when she went here, and it didn't protect the students from nature.

In the winter she said she remembers playing freeze tag in the snow with then principal Gaylord Moeller. But this wasn't generally allowed during the season.

Even though the courtyard wasn't supposed to allow students inside during this time she said she remembers him letting them go play in the snow.

"He probably wouldn't remember that, but I do," she said.

Latin teacher Rita Ryan began teaching in 1971.

She has seen the building transform, but the most memorable one was the ceiling added to the courtyard.

"The floor used to be dirt and there were maybe four marble benches, that was it," Ryan said.

While the roof wasn't installed, she said she remembers students rushing across the area trying to escape the cold and get to their classes quickly.

Comparing that year to this, she said it will be hard for the students, but everyone should be

able to get through these kinds of obstacles.

Once the courtyard was covered, the support beams were installed by using helicopters. She said it was done during school and remembers hearing the loud noises during her lessons in class.

After the courtyard was covered, the next aspect of the building that had to be changed was the wooden hall lockers.

"They were big wooden lockers that everyone put their stuff in," Ryan said.

During the renovations of the hall lockers she said the construction workers found old memorabilia.

Items varied from tickets and invitations to dances dated back to the 1900s and early 1920s.

"They found the little beanies that freshmen wore below those lockers also," Ryan said.

Renovations outside of the building remind McNichols how the school is different.

The surrounding area of the school was different. She said there wasn't a lot of green space because everything was empty except a parking lot to the west.

There were also no trees in the area.

McNichols said that there was a tree-planting program while she attended Central and that is how the campus got trees onto the property.

Much like today, there was also no practice field, 22nd Street was still in existence and there were many buildings surrounding the school.

"My grandmother lived in one of the houses that was across the street and I always liked the area," McNichols said.

She said that there were also many apartment buildings and other unique houses covering the area but were torn down for business development.

Ryan said that one of the past years, the entire building was being sandblasted and new windows were being put in, all while school was still in session.

The stairwells used to have designated restrooms for the boys and girls because they were on the landings.

But that was then, this is now. Now, students have bigger things to worry about.

"I really sympathize for the students at that school," McNichols said. "It just gets so hot inside that school, and it is so over crowded."

McNichols said that she thought that students had it bad in 1977, but that perception has changed due to what she has recently seen.

McNichols also commented on this year's location of the homecoming dance.

"Yeah, it is a tradition to have homecoming at school," she said. "When I was in school there wasn't a homecoming, so traditions are meant to be broken," she said.

McNichols said that she is definitely looking forward to the new field. She said that it looks like it is going to be used for a variety of things.

"Since I was a Latin student, I can definitely see the chariot races going around the track," she said.

The renovation project that has been happening since 2001, Ryan said is the largest project she has ever seen at school.

"It is the biggest, but it is also a pain having to run in and out of portables," she said. "It gives teachers a lot less time to plan."

Most of her teaching is done in a portable but she said she has had to change rooms many times.

"My room used to be in what is now Mr. Bexten's office," she said. "I remember when there was a tunnel that connected the courtyard to outside and I heard small tractors going in and out all day."

Ryan has been teaching here for 32 years, Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson has been here since the fall of 1969.

She has always taught Spanish and vividly remembers the changes the school has under-

gone. The courtyard being covered was also the most important thing she remembers.

Anderson said that in the winter the courtyard would be closed and since the doors did not fit very well at the time, the cold air that came in through the courtyard would blow through the hallways and make the building really cold.

She also said that before the courtyard was covered, there were rarely days that the heat was unbearable.

"The windows above the lockers used to open and that created a cross-breeze throughout the entire school," Anderson said. "We rarely ever had heat days."

Besides the ending of segregated stairwells and the relocation of bathrooms, Anderson recalls some of the other changes that took place.

"I remember when the swimming pool was supposed to be where the band room is," she said.

At that time, Anderson said that the band room was just a big cement room with horrible acoustics.

"Later down the line they redid the band room to make it more fitting for a band," she said.

She said that there was a smokestack that sat next to the faculty lot on the west side of the building.

"The smokestack was used to heat the school," Anderson said. "When they stopped using the smokestack, they once used the custodial work room as a boiler room, some of them still call it the boiler room."

Like Ryan, Anderson has also had to relocate her room many times. She said that she was once teaching in what is now the counselors office and that her now room, was used for something a little more private.

"My room, 127, used to be the women's faculty restroom, very comforting," she said.

Anderson also pointed out how many times the ceiling was lowered over the years to air-condition the building.

"The ceiling was lowered twice, about 18 inches per time," she said.

Think the renovation project looks like a big mess? Anderson said she thinks that it is as dense as it looks. Most of the work is for conditioning.

She said that all of the construction is generally taking place outside and in the new addition to the school, which Anderson has many emotions about.

"I am reserving judgement on the new cafeteria right now, it all seems like it is going to be a little crowded," she said.

The cafeteria was described to her and she said it sounds like it will be small, but the benefit is for the cafeteria staff.

She said that she was told that the cafeteria will have the same area as the old gym, which she said does not seem like it would be an adequate size for students.

"The fact that the cafeterias are all going to be close together, the food delivery will be much easier on the cafeteria staff," she said.

She said that the new extension to the north side of the building seems to stick out from the rest of the building.

Anderson said that it takes away from the symmetry of the original building and that members have always been worried about the disruption of the building.

"When they put new windows in, they really wanted to make sure the building was unharmed, and we did not want the windows to take away from the look of the building," she said.

One thing that all of these women agree on is that this is the biggest renovation that Central has ever undergone.

"Besides rebuilding everything, this is the biggest change the building has had," she said.

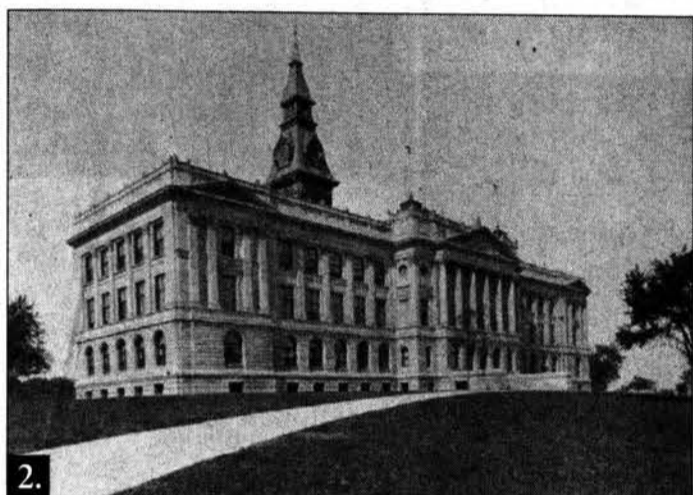
THE CHANGING FACES OF CENTRAL



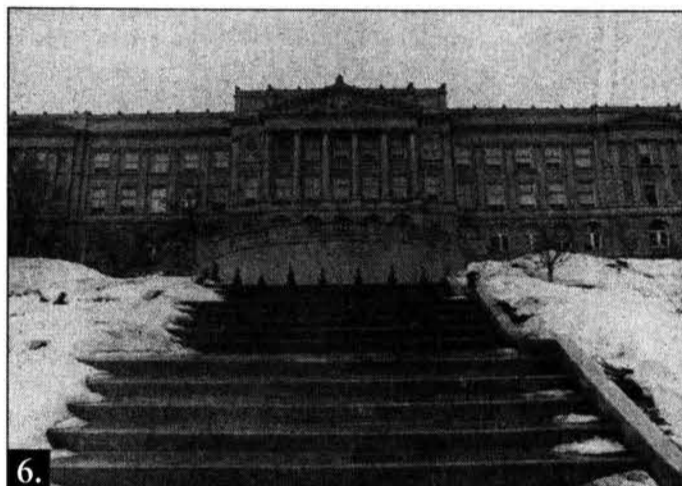
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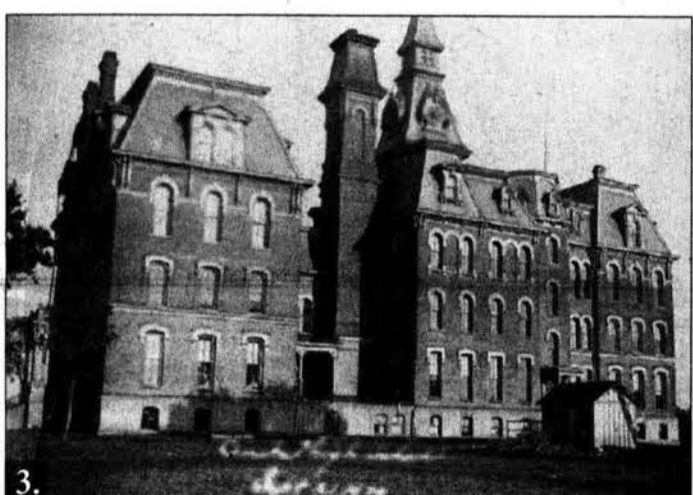
1941



1897



1975



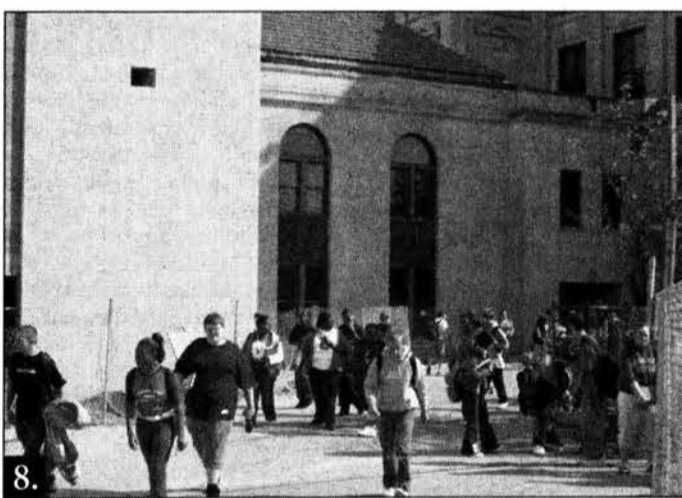
1900



2003



1932



2003 KITCHEN ADDITION

PHOTO BY MIKE SMITH/REGISTER

PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

RENOVATIONS TIMELINE

1. 1857- The territorial capitol sat where the building is now. Land donated by Legislature in 1869 on the condition that it would be used for a high school. It was never used for a school and was declared unsafe and torn down in 1870 to make way for new building

1870- The red brick building was built on a ten-acre campus and was a source of pride for Omaha residents.

1876- Lights were installed in the tower on July 4, which gave the school and Omaha its first demonstration of electric lights.

2. 1887- Omaha High School completed in 1871. A 150-foot spire in the center of the building was built.

3. 1900- Plans for new Omaha High. Inadequate ventilation was a threat to the health of teachers and students and the president of the School Board wrote in favor of building a larger building in the same spot. The new building was constructed around the old tower.

1907- During construction classes were held in the old tower and the building was constructed side by side. When a side was finished, classes began in the rooms that were completed.

1912- Before the North side of the new building was completed in 1912, the tower was torn down. When the north side was built, the area where the tower stood was converted into the courtyard.

1920- In result of petitions from motorists, the grade of Dodge Street was lowered 20 feet and the angle of the hill was made more level. New stairs were added to Central High to present the grounds.

1926- The first cheerleading team is formed consisting of only four men. More after-school activities followed including ROTC, band, a basketball and a football team.

4. 1930- After the lowering of Dodge Street in 1920, the School Board approved the addition of the gym wing and the auditorium wing to the north side in 1925. The addition was complete in 1930 giving Central what is now the old gym and the auditorium wing.

6. 1970 through 1975- Major renovations took place in the building. Roof repair and much of the plumbing was fixed. The fire department required that the school added fire doors to the building.

1977- The courtyard was bricked in and the new gym was added. The gym was not completed until 1979 and during that time, the smokestack that sat on the west side of the building and supplied the buildings heat, was knocked down.

1980- Courtyard was covered and the construction took place while classes were in session. Helicopters lowered the steel beams that were used for support into the courtyard, which has remained the same ever since.

1982- Windows were replaced along with lights. Workers also refinished the woodwork and they updated the electrical system. Carpet was installed and the wooden lockers were removed.

7. 2001 through 2004- A major overhaul to the electrical system, installation of air conditioning which includes piping and duct work was complete. Major additions of a gym and a kitchen were completed. The fourth floor will be renovated to hold two computer labs and seven more class rooms. Among many other changes to the building.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM
INFORMATION COURTESY OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ARCHIVES

Hawkins construction worker shares renovation history with grandfather

BY KATIE BACKMAN



PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER

Brock Campbell, a construction worker with Hawkins Construction Company, walked into the school to see some of the original renovations completed by his grandfather in the 1900s.

He said his grandfather worked around 1910 on the original woodwork, auditorium and windows. Some of his grandfather's carpentry is still functioning at the school.

The windows had to be replaced years ago for installation and technology purposes.

The original work is actually captured in photographs he said his mother has on what his grandfather completed "It's kind of ironic," Campbell said. "Me his grandson is working on the same building he did almost 100 years later."

Campbell said when his grandfather worked in construction, it was much harder because he did all the labor with his hands. Everything was manual labor. The average workday was 12-14 hours. Now Campbell said he works 8 hours a day at the school site.

The average workday for Campbell could vary depending on the project he is working on which may be slightly over 10 hours.

Construction and carpentry interest has been running in the family for generations. He said his grandfather, himself, his two sons and his own grandson partake in a form of construction.

Now Campbell is 55 years old and he has been doing construction for 35 years. Campbell once owned his own business for 18 years, but he said he plans on doing construction for four more years.

"I've changed history and buildings all over the United States," Campbell said.

The school is the only current job he is working on and he said he would remember it when he is finished. He said

when the renovations are done, he will have a huge sense of pride in what he accomplished.

He has done work in the cafeterias, gymnasiums and installed equipment for air conditioning.

"Central high school is a big thing," Campbell said. "My dad worked at OPS (Omaha Public Schools), my brother works at this school, and my grandpa help renovate it."

His brother and day shift engineer, Mike Campbell said it is nice that he works in the same building with his brother.

"When Hawkins told me he was going to be working here," Mike said. "It kind of threw me off."

Mike said he got into the district by his dad being involved with maintenance and recommended the job to him. He has been at Central for 14 years.

He is not only working at the place his grandfather did, but also works where his brother is.

During lunch breaks, Mike said is mainly the only time he sees his brother.

With the two working here at the same time since the start of renovations, Mike said they do see and talk to each other more.

Campbell said he hopes the tradition will stay in the family for many years. He said his younger son owns a business in town that his older son also works with. During the summer his grandson comes to visit and works construction.

"I think it is very possible to have a chain," Campbell said. "To have grandson in construction working on the school years later saying that his grandfather and great-great grandfather worked on the same building."

With the outcome product of the renovations he said he would be very satisfied with it. He said it is he making his mark on the school for his generation.

"I am taking a part in history and changing it too," Campbell said.

Brock Campbell is a Hawkins employee and his grandfather worked on renovations on the building in the early 1900s. During the summer, Campbell built the partitions that are on the second floor, first side.

RENOVATIONS

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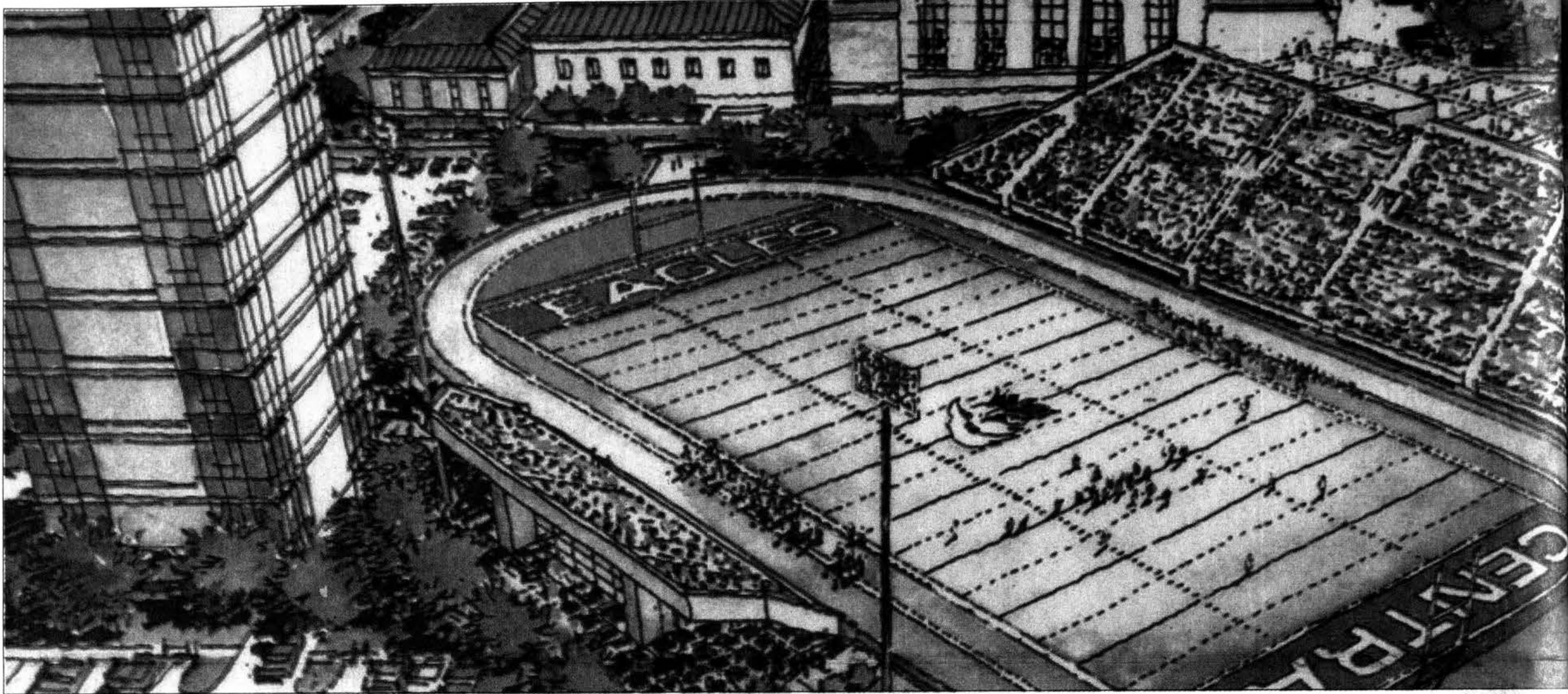
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CHANGING TIMES

With the fourth phase of renovations almost completed, many dramatic changes are just around the corner.



An artist's rendition of what Central's new stadium shows how it will fit in with the surrounding buildings.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF DLR

Renovation officials postpone stadium due to conflicts with construction

BY MIKE SMITH

Construction on the new stadium has not started, yet. Principal Jerry Bexten said that the completion date for the new stadium has been delayed from August 2004 to August 2005, adding up to a one year delay for students. Construction hasn't begun because of the renovations happening at the school. He said that the addition to the gymnasium and the kitchen take up the working space needed for the stadium. He said the school's main priority is to meet its deadline with the 1999 Bond Project that provides for the renovations. Sophomore Joseph Wallace said he will be happy when the stadium is finally constructed and able to hold sporting events. "I look forward to when we will have one (a stadium) and when the construction of it is finally done," Wallace said. Bexten said that Peter Kiewit and Son are in charge of the construction that is scheduled to occur for the stadium. Peter Kiewit and Son then hired Anderson Excavating Co. to

demolish the Creighton building once located on Davenport Street. Apartment complexes were also torn down for this project. Hawkins Construction Company, which is doing the renovation on the school, had a conflict with Kiewit's plans to tear Davenport Street up during the summer. If this construction began, it would close off Davenport Street. Bexten said if that were the case, Hawkins would have no way of getting equipment, trucks or supplies near the building. "Preliminary discussions were discussed and the stadium's construction was postponed a year," Bexten said. The stadium delay won't slow down renovations at school, but junior Natalie Bachtell said she is upset that it won't be built now because she may not have the chance to experience the development while she is a student at school. "I wish that we would have had the stadium," Bachtell said.

She said even though she won't be a student she is glad that it won't slow down the construction here. The renovation project seems to already be behind schedule. "It would cause a lot more congestion," Bachtell said. "We (the school) don't need any more of that." Without a practice field or a stadium, junior Katie Krance, who is on the cross-country team, has no place to run. She said she thinks that the idea of the stadium is pointless. "I think that people need to stick to their schedules," Krance said. Even though she has no place to run, she agrees with finishing one mess at a time, which is the school. Because she said she thinks the school's renovations are more of a necessity than building a stadium. She has already had to adjust to the practice field being gone. "They (construction companies) need to finish what they started and then move on to another project," Krance said. Head football coach Joe McMenamin is disappointed in

the delay, but knows that it is part of the process. "The juniors lost it because of the delay, and the bus to Conestoga for practice is also a disappointment for football players," McMenamin said. Assistant principal and athletic director Paul Pennington said that he wished that we had a stadium sooner so we would not have to bus so many students to games practices. "I hope that they speed up the construction of the so that it is ready on opening day," Pennington said. Pennington said that the stadium's construction will continue again in April 2004. He said he hopes that when 150 teacher parking spots taken away sometime in April, the problem can be solved. He said despite all the delays, the school will have a stadium and that's the goal. It will be a place where the teams can play home games that are actually near the school. He said that if Creighton University's Stadium could be put up that fast, then Central's shouldn't have a problem

Classrooms switch before, after winter recess; new phases begin

BY KATIE BACKMAN

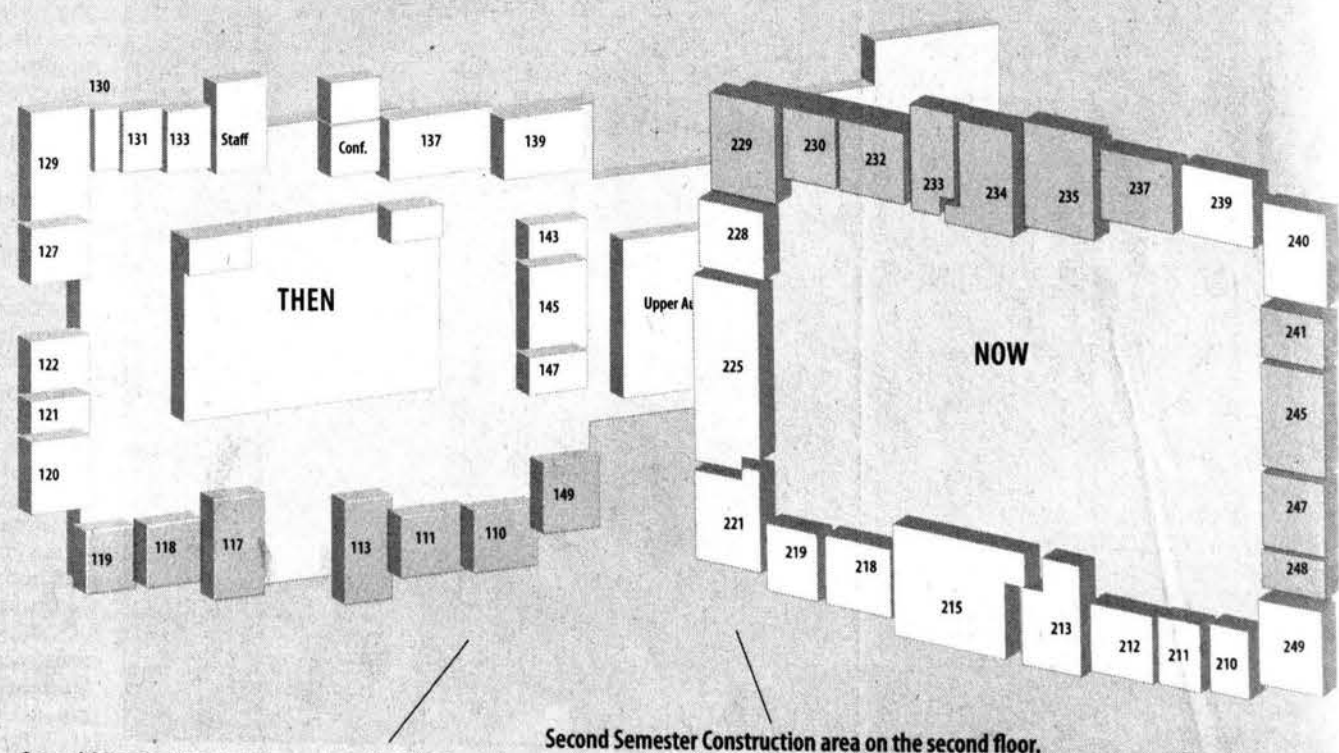
The future for renovations will begin after the phases that are in progress are completed. Dec. 19 will begin future phases. After that date there will only be five more phases until renovations will be officially completed. The last phases invade larger parts of the school, such as the fourth floor, courtyard and auditorium. Principal Jerry Bexten said in December Phase 6A, which is the fourth floor cafeterias and phase 6B, the three and four sides of the second floor are scheduled to begin. Junior Mindy Sotello said she thinks when everything at school is complete it will allow the school to perform better traffic flow and even academically. He said renovations for the second floor are to install duct work, update the sprinkler system and upgrade the electricity. The fourth floor cafeterias will be fully renovated into classrooms and computer labs. These two phases should be completed at the end of May. Bexten said the goal is for the rooms to be functional by the time of the 2004 to 2005 school year. By June 7 of 2004, renovations will start on the main office. The renovations in that room should be completed before school starts in August 2004. Along with the main office, the courtyard and the auditorium are scheduled in Phase 7A. To install efficient air conditioning in the courtyard Bexten said he doesn't know what the construction companies plan on doing yet. Sophomore Hannah Andahl said she thinks

the construction workers should begin work on the courtyard earlier than June. She said there needs to be extra time in case the project runs behind again. "If we didn't have a courtyard in time, everyone would have to eat in the cafeteria," Andahl said. Along with this phase, the science labs on the fourth floor are to be renovated by lowering the ceiling that means it will receive new paneling. Sotello said the rooms are so bad that it almost distracts with her learning. "The paint is peeling off the walls, the ceiling is old," she said. "It needs to be cleaned." The auditorium will be receiving the basic renovations of duct work, sprinkler system and electrical improvements with the stage but that is it. "The seats won't be new," Bexten said. "The chairs have recently been redone about 10 to 15 years ago." Sotello said the auditorium should have better seating made for the school. It can't even seat the entire student body. To prevent the need for new seating, Bexten said they will protect the chairs during the summer. The auditorium will also be adding more mechanical equipment above the stage as well. "This entire phase should be completed in middle August of next year," he said. With the old gym being remodeled into a new gym, Bexten said they scheduled bathrooms to be installed. "We (the school) are going to be removing the basketball hoops and bleachers," he said. "So it is going to look a bit different."

SEMESTER SWAP

Many second floor classes (BELOW) are switching locations at semester. The rooms in orange on the right are moving to the first floor due to construction areas moving. The construction companies have finished their work on the first floor and are now moving to the second.

If you have a class in one of the rooms below, your class will be moving between October and January.



Second Semester Construction area on the first floor.

Second Semester Construction area on the second floor.

INFOGRAPHIC BY ROB HUNTER/REGISTER