

# REGISTER

Club gives students an outlet.

See Tae kwon do, PAGE 5

New softball coach takes over.

See Wilson, PAGE 12

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## District 66 celebrates King' day differently

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Some schools in Omaha and its surrounding areas do not celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day the same way Omaha Public Schools (OPS) does.

In fact, the students in District 66 do not go to school, unlike students of other districts who had the day off. They went to school and had homework for the following day.

However, during the day classes were not routine. Director of Communications for District 66 Peggy Rupprecht said the district's schools have been open on this day as long as she can remember.

"The schools have activities and we have people come in to sing and speak," she said.

Westside High School junior Israel Pommells said she once attended school at OPS, but is adjusting to District 66's setup.

"We had normal classes and we still had assignments to do, but when we got to history class, our teacher kind of brought the subject on the Civil Rights Movement," Ingraham said.

Central freshman Maria Harris had different views on whether school should be in session anywhere. Though OPS was not in session, she said she thinks the district should be offered some kind of program like in District 66.

"It is my first year at Central and I was amazed that there are not any assembly speakers for the students," Harris said.

Central freshman Israel Pommells said he likes the Civil Rights and Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but he would like to be able to talk about all the time, not just on one specific day.

"What he (Martin Luther King Jr.) did in history is amazing and this day should not have just one day to be remembered," Pommells said.

Director of Public Information for OPS, Joanne Nelson said OPS does not have school on the holiday, and it has been that way for years.

"It is a holiday and we feel it is important to honor an individual who was so involved with the Civil Rights Movement," Nelson said. "It has been the same way since 1986 and I don't think it is going to change any time soon."

Out of the 26 districts in and surrounding Omaha, only five don't report having students and faculty report to school. She said with Westside being one of the only high schools in Omaha that reports to school, the administration has gotten some grief.

"Sometimes parents call and wonder why they have school when other schools do not," Rupprecht said. "We simply tell them the students attend this day and learn about what happened in this man's life."

When she tells parents the circumstances, she said they usually understand and agree with the idea. However, she said there are some students who do not agree with having school and some do not agree with the day's festivities.

"Every once in a while, a student tells me that it is not fair to have school on this day and they often think they are the only schools in session that day, and it is completely incorrect," Rupprecht said.

Harris said she does not think school should be in session at all on the holiday.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a very important man and I think schools should be shut down on his day and people should pay a little more respect to him," she said.

Harris said Central should offer more cultural activities.

Ingraham said that now she has had five years at Westside, having classes on the holiday was not as big of a change as it was when she first started.

"It is all kind of normal now and waking up in the morning and going to school is not as hard as it used to be," Ingraham said.

## CENSORED KNOWLEDGE?

CHS students can't discuss topics like homosexuality in their human growth and development classes because of what some say is an outdated curriculum.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER

Some people think the human growth and development (HGD) curriculum in OPS should be updated since its 1985 implementation. They feel it "wraps" students up in an effort to protect them from this "touchy" information. It doesn't let students ask questions, or allow any type of dialogue concerning homosexuality, abortion and masturbation. They feel students are shunned away by the school, forcing them to have to look outside of the building for information. District officials say the current subject matter of the classes reflects what parents and society want.

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Human sexuality needs to be spoken frankly about to young people so they know how to protect themselves and are fully educated, executive director of the Nebraska AIDS Project Tim Sullivan said.

As of now there are three topics banned from the Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) curriculum: masturbation, abortion and homosexuality.

"Our wish is for teachers, parents and anyone else to talk freely about issues that can relate to the transmission of HIV," Sullivan said. "We would fully support these three topics to be reexamined for schools to cover."

Supervisor of family consumer science, human growth and development with OPS Karen Spencer-May said she doesn't know when these

topics will be discussed in class.

Some parents, OPS officials and concerned people of the community decided these topics would not be discussed in 1985.

She said the curriculum censors the subjects because a board of community and officials decided they don't want to offend the students or personal beliefs.

"Homosexuality is better left in smaller groups for discussion because it could hurt others' feelings," Spencer-May said.

Senior Johanna Murphy said she thinks the program isn't outdated, and even more areas should be eliminated from the curriculum. She said the curriculum should only teach abstinence.

A pro-abstinence curriculum means the school "pushes" not having sex and may not define any form of contraception.

"Not talking about all aspects of sexuality is like trying to think all teens are not sexually active," Sullivan said. "Teens just need to get the facts of life."

He said the AIDS Project wants teens to learn accurate information about AIDS because it has so much more information.

In the state of Nebraska, each school dis-

trict in the surrounding area such as District 66, parochial schools, Millard (MPS), Bellevue (BPS), Lincoln (LPS) and Omaha Public Schools set a different standard with its sexual education program.

Physical education and health occupation specialist Julane Hill with the Nebraska Department of Education said the individual school districts have the control of what topics are in the curriculum or not.

"There are 500 plus school districts in the state of Nebraska," Hill said. "They all vary. They may or may not be able to discuss homosexuality, masturbation and abortion."

The Department of Education in Nebraska doesn't take a stance on which topics shouldn't be mentioned, Hill said.

Freshman Briana Buffkins, who once went to school in Texas, said her previous school's curriculum allowed discussion concerning abortion and related topics.

She said she thinks each topic should be allowed in OPS because students need to know or be able to at least discuss the different choices

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## New cafeteria opens doors to mixed reviews on extra space, design

BY KATIE BACKMAN

As senior Tina Craig walked into the new cafeteria, her first reaction was it looked so different than it used to. The new lunchroom used to be the old gym.

"It's not Central," Craig said. "I think it's too new compared to the rest of the building."

She said the outside bricks didn't match the original building and the addition would always look unfinished.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the cafeteria missed its opening date by a month.

The entire old gym was gutted, taking out the bleachers, basketball hoops and other equipment used in gym class.

Sophomore Shapree Harris said she thinks the room is spacious and not too congested with the chairs and tables. She said the three lunch lines help people get their lunches faster.

The old gym will never be seen again, junior Sheila Connor said.

She said she kind of misses how it looked and doesn't really like what the room has become. Compared to the cafeterias that were upstairs, the area is a little tighter around the tables, she said.

"The three lines actually move slower, compared to upstairs," Connor said.

Even though she has complaints, she said she continues to eat there because it is closer to her class after lunch.

The lunch lines to pick up the food do move faster, kitchen staff manager Jodi Smith said.

She said it is because there are three lunch lines and including the courtyard, totaling five lines per period. She said she is impressed with how fast the lines move and that now the lunch staff needs to hire two more cashiers.

Art teacher Jane Taucreti patrols the cafeteria the last 15 minutes before the bell rings sixth hour.

She said the lunch lines are entirely emptied by the time she starts her duty. She said she thinks the lunch lines do work.

The room didn't impress sophomore Brandon Nazeck because he said it's "only tables and chairs."

He said the main problem with the cafeteria is the lunch lines because they don't go fast enough for him.

He also doesn't like the congestion by the exits, either. When it's time to leave after the lunch period is over, he said it's hard

continued to NEW LUNCH on Page 3

## Fire watchers help protect school during construction

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Renovations are not only closing off certain areas of the school, they are also causing some of the false alarms that have been happening lately.

When a fire alarm sounds, it is not always clear if there is a real fire or not. A new, better fire-alarm system had to be installed.

The law requires some form of fire detection when a building is changing fire-alarm systems, so the fire watchers were hired by Omaha Public Schools.

Many student know these people as the security guards in brown suits. They are not here to be security guards.

Gary Sherrard was one of the fire watchers hired. He said his job is to detect fires around the school and report them.

"Our function is to look, listen and sniff; to pay attention around the school," he said.

He is trained to fight Class A and B fires. These fires are the ones that could be found at a school because it is made of wood or paper.

Not all fire watchers are trained to put out the fires. It is not their main purpose.

"Our priority is not to fight the fire, but to detect it," he said.

Different fire watchers are in the building 24 hours a day and seven days a week, whether students and staff are there or not.

The fire watchers especially cover the older areas like the basement. Areas under currently and completed construction areas, such as the East Cafeteria, do not need to be monitored because of the new system was installed.

Sherrard said not all fires need an evacuation. If there was a small fire in a controlled area, he would first call his superiors and then try to put out the fire with an extinguisher. If the fire was bigger, however, he is instructed to pull the alarm and call the fire department immediately.

"The prime function that we have here is the safety of everyone in the building," Sherrard said.

Students aren't affected much by the fire watchers. Most have not noticed there are people walking around the building looking for fires.

Some students who have seen the fire watchers generally think they aren't needed.

"All he does is walk around; it's a waste of a job," junior Kelcey Lueninghoener said.

Sophomore Dena Rennard has a bit of a different opinion. She said the problem is with the false fire alarms and not with the fire watchers.

"It's really pathetic we have to resort to having people look for fires because of the false alarms," Rennard said.

Field manager of the fire watch team Larry Jensen said he hoped the students wouldn't take notice of the fire watchers because he didn't want to interfere with the students' daily lives.

He said he just wants to make the school safe.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Austin Stoots with Cornerstone Services Group wraps installation around the hot and cold water pipes in the new cafeteria's sink.

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### 'Big Fish'

Burton stuns the audience again with his recent release.

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### No More Pop at Central?

Students should be able to decide their drink choices at school.

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## Math Club gets ready for contest

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

Math Club will be holding a contest for 15 metro area middle schools on Feb. 4. The contest will be at Central from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Senior Philip Witchger said it would be run entirely by the students. Five different types of competitions will be held. Members of Math Club write, judge and grade the tests.

"We want to foster fun math at the junior high level," Witchger said.

Sponsor Amanda Beery said on Jan. 23 the Math Club participated in the Great Plains Regional Tournament at Brownell Talbot. Although the team didn't rank, Witchger said members did well.

"We did OK," Beery said. A typical math contest consists of three parts. A math bowl, individual tests and leap frog. Leapfrog is where the team pairs off and then takes half the test.

Mu Alpha Theta is a new addition to the Central math department. It is a national math honor society.

This year the department went to the trigonometry and calculus level to select members.

Students must have a 3.0 math GPA and at least four semesters of math. They must also have a teacher's recommendation.

In the future, Beery said officers will select members.

Mu Alpha Theta had a chapter at Central 20 years ago, and this year Central joined and inducted 54 members.

On Jan. 23, the members went bowling, and so far most of the events have been social. Beery said she hopes to introduce community service into the options of activities for the members to do.

## Publication gives outlet to students

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"Dimension," a creative writing magazine, has been a tradition since the 1920s.

Creative writing teacher David Martin said he has been told it is the oldest high school creative writing magazine in the country.

Last year over 400 entries were submitted and about 175 submissions were chosen.

Students in his creative writing classes edit and vote on which entries will be set to pages.

"After all of the entries are chosen, I have my students work in three groups, editing, layout and typing," he said.

Martin said he uses the honor system and trusts the work is actually done by the students, but there have been incidents of plagiarism.

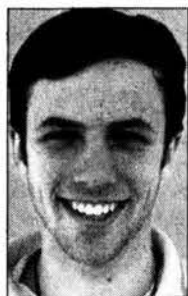
It's a much more elaborate version of "Duct Tape." "Duct Tape" is a four to eight page magazine written by the creative writing classes.

"Dimension" is much larger, has artwork and allows all students to submit.

He has a continuing relationship with the art teachers to give him the best works that their students make. Photography is also encouraged in "Dimension."

"We try to keep it positive and optimistic, but we do discuss controversial issues as long as they are in good taste," he said.

Martin said he likes the fact that both "Duct Tape" and "Dimension" give students a creative outlet and gives them chances to try new things.



Witchger

# CALENDAR

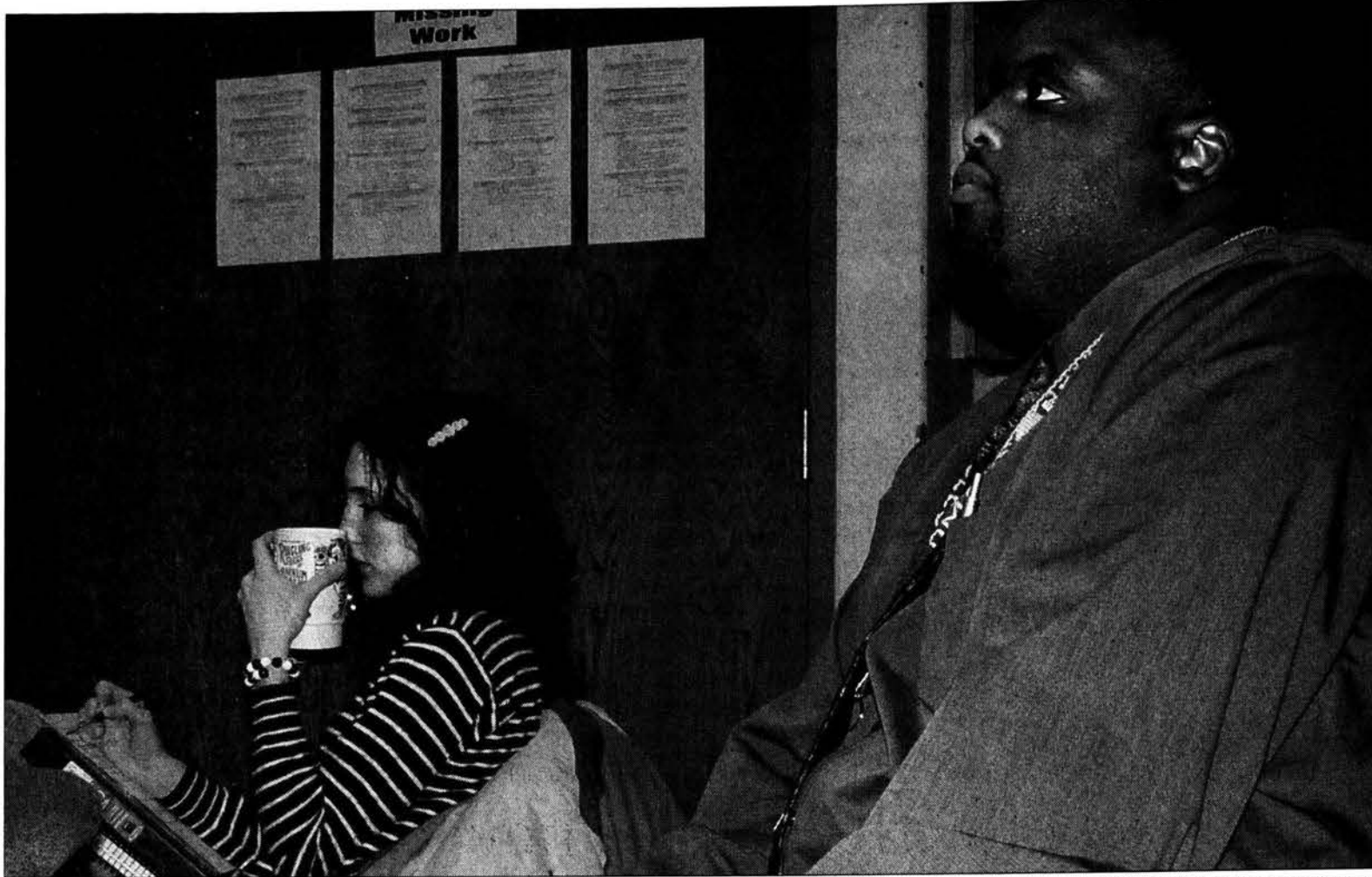


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

In a Marketing 1-2 class, a new business intern Randy Rouse observes one of the classes he hopes to teach. He interns at school for half a day and three school days a week.

## Intern hopes to teach business

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The goals are set: become a business teacher and coach varsity football. Business intern and alumnus Randy Rouse said he thinks he will reach these goals because he will remain dedicated.

For the students, he said he wants to get them on the right track with their own goals of being successful in high school.

"Just from my own youth, life can get kind of grim at times," Rouse said. "Some students get discouraged and I just want to let them know to set goals. Then they will look beyond the circumstances and meet them."

He said observing other teachers during their classes helps him because he watches how they interact with students. He said he wants to pick up different techniques the teachers use so he can inform students effectively.

Marketing teacher Harry Gaylor said Rouse is working with all three of the marketing teachers and getting familiar with how the curriculum works.

"I think he has a fantastic, upbeat attitude and he works well with the students," Gaylor said.

As of right now he has two degrees on his wall and is anticipating his third one, a teaching degree.

He had a few different jobs in retail credit management, production, working on computer motherboards and working on government computer programs.

Gaylor said he thinks his work experience and degrees are very impressive. If he were able to teach here, he would definitely add to the staff.

All of his experience relates to marketing and his goals he has will help the business students.

When he completes his internship, Rouse said he hopes to have his own style developed so he can be prepared for student teaching.

He said teaching was a goal of his for many years and he likes the fact he is meeting a desire.

Business intrigued him because he said he would always on the move and talk to people. Goals are important to him.

He said he tries to let students understand the amount of satisfaction they will have when they reach the mark.

He said he wants to tell the students they should struggle to beat what their parents accomplished and always try to be better. This attitude

is a good one to have in the business department, he said.

"I want students to think there are no excuses and they just need to do it," he said. "A big problem with them is they think sitting around will get them somewhere, when it won't."

Fall semester of 2004 school year is when he hopes he can begin student teaching at Central.

He said there is a possibility there will not be any open positions so he would apply to a different school.

Gaylor said he hopes to see the business department expand with the number of students so Rouse could be officially hired.

Central holds a place in his heart because he graduated from here in 1987.

"If it's possible I want to teach business, coach wrestling and basketball," Rouse said.

He played high school football and after graduation he played with the Omaha Beef.

He said he remembers head varsity football coach Joe McMenamin when he was an assistant coach. He said he hopes to be an assistant coach next school year, but the positions won't be decided until later this year.

## Club honors black history

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

The African-American History Club has a lot planned for Black History Month. Such plans include the 2,448 st African-American History Club year (AAHC), sponsored by social studies teacher Rod Mullen and members of the 100 Black Men.

The club meets every Wednesday and it is not required for those interested in joining the club to be black. It is open to all races.

The AAHC consists of members who attend any of the Omaha area high schools.

Any student is eligible to be considered for the team. Current members of the club can vote for members of the team.

This competition has a game format and allows students to compete for savings bonds, scholarships, as a chance to win an all-expense trip to compete nationally.

Trips of the past have included Vegas, Nev., Orlando, Fla. and Phoenix, Ariz.

The fourth annual AAHC is held this year at Benson High School during February and is open to the public for a donation of \$10.

The club members will be encouraged to support their teammates in the challenge and to have a better understanding of black history.

Mullen said they will put on a talent show for any students interested in showing skills of all types.

Club leaders, juniors Cassa Marisset and Dara Newson, will be the club in the production of the show, slated for Feb. 26.

The talent show will be open to young people.

The outcome of the talent show is to have at least 16 to 20 acts for a minimum of six minutes long. Students must attend Central to tryout. They are anticipated to be on Feb. 17 and 18.

The club members will be given out flyers for those students and fliers that the shop receives from Central will give the club members \$1.

This money will also be used towards any club projects.

## Club keeps fun, fondue alive, well

BY KATIE BACKMAN

French Club will have its annual "Film and Fondue" event at Abbie Handlos' house on Feb. 28.

Club president and senior McGuire said she doesn't know how long the tradition has been going. She said the movie for the night will be "Chocolat."

McGuire said she chose the movie "Chocolat" because it is based in France. The movie is about an American who travels to France and opens a chocolate shop. Usually the club watches movies spoken in French, but not time.

"Abbie and I just picked a movie we liked and both agreed on," McGuire said. "It works for the film and for the club because the movie is set in France."

The club officers will go to Abbie Handlos' house before the rest of the club comes to prepare all the dishes for the fondue, McGuire said.

The rest of the club members will bring the food.

Senior Ally Gumbiner said she thinks the event will be fun this year but she didn't know if the date was due to the snow days.

On Feb. 12 the club will also have a high school senior presentation for a retirement home.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

#### 7 (SAT.) ACT EXAM

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

#### 7 (SAT.) ALL-CITY CONCERT

All-City is a selective OPS-wide concert that displays the vocal and instrumental arts.

#### 16 (MON.) PRESIDENTS' DAY

Students and teachers do not have to report to school.

#### 17 (TUES.) TEACHER DAY

Teachers have to report to school, but students do not. Teacher meetings are planned for the day.

#### 19-21 (THURS.-SAT.) STATE WRESTLING

State wrestling will be held at UNL in the Bob Devaney Center. Competition should be tough.

#### 26-28 (THURS.-SAT.) STATE SWIMMING

State swimming will be held at UNL in the Bob Devaney Sport Center. The best swimmers will compete to see who is best.

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# District 66 will cap enrollment to help class sizes, official says

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Westside will hold a lottery for student placement next fall. Westside has 1,779 students currently enrolled. At Central there are 2,448 students enrolled at the start of the year.

Assistant supervisor for curriculum instruction for Westside Jim Findly said that student enrollment is not that far from Central's. He said the class sizes are the same.

District 66 is having a lottery because the district sets a capacity for each grade. For instance, the set numbers for the grade level at Westside High School are set at 400 to 450 students.

Currently Westside has 502 freshmen, 440 sophomores, 440 juniors and 419 seniors.

At Central, there are currently 740 freshmen, 588 sophomores, 530 juniors and 419 seniors enrolled at school.

The greatest difference between the high schools is the freshman enrollment. There is a difference of 238 students between the two schools.

While the senior class is very similar, there is a difference of 72 students.

The option enrollment plan is going to be implemented because the district has a set capacity. It isn't due to overcrowded classes, but to prevent overcrowding. Each of the schools has a set maximum amount of students. For example, kindergarten through grade 4 has a maximum class size of 20 students in class.

He said the classes are to be no higher than 25 students. Middle and high school is not as easy he said because the district has to deal with limited amounts of space.

The entire middle school has a set capacity by the district at 900 students.

Sophomore Stephanie Bauer said she thinks Central should follow District 66's enrollment methods because she thinks too many students attend and have the option to attend.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he has some say in the decision to cap the enrollment. He said for the next school year, Central will not have any changes with enrollment because its enrollment is going down.

From the number of students enrolled last year compared to this year, Central's enrollment has gone down by 50 students. Next year he said the enrollment would remain fairly close to this year's number.

"A decision like this we have to make earlier in the school year," he said. "There are eighth graders coming from across the district to visit and register at this school."

Bexten said he likes to keep class sizes no larger than 32 students.

He said a class of 30 students can almost be too many. Ideally 25 to 28 students is the most manageable for the teacher.

Junior Kyle Kenkel said some of his classes should be smaller to give the students the opportunity to learn. He said he thinks the larger class sizes actually affect his ability to comprehend, which is one of the reasons why District 66 caps. In his Spanish class

he needs extra help because it is a foreign language, but the teacher cannot always offer it.

"One of my classes the teacher spends more time trying to discipline the students than teaching them," Kenkel said.

Staff assistant director of research with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Duke Burgess said the official enrollment for the school district this year was taken on Sept. 26.

For the entire OPS district, including pre-kindergarten through grade 12 and the alternative schools, the total was up to 46,035 students.

He said all the high schools and alternative schools combined had 13,148 students alone. District 66 has 5,850 students. However, the district is much smaller than OPS.

Bauer said if Central put a cap on student in its area, she wouldn't really care. Even if it meant some of her friends who live in Benson couldn't attend Central, she would look beyond it.

She said the hallways and classes are too crowded. She has attended other schools with the classes set up like District 66.

At Westside High School, the goal is set for each grade level having 450 students, totaling the school's enrollment roughly at 1,900.

"A lot of students want in the ninth grade here," Findly said. "I expect there to be 525 students in ninth."

Earlier this month, Findly said there was a total of 310 students applying to the

district, which was a little higher than usual. But he said the district wants to keep class sizes reasonable because it helps the students learn faster and easier.

Each English teacher's schedule at the high school level is set to have at most six classes.

The most classes students usually take are seven. The problem with limiting enrollment is when a student is enrolled and his sibling wants to attend, he's supposed to be able to.

The amount of classes a teacher has is pretty similar to Westside, Bexten said. Findly said the average amount of students is 125 to 150 students per teacher.

"I think Westside can be closer to OPS' enrollment more than people think," Findly said.

The Nebraska Option Program allows any student to attend any school in the district if approved by his home school as long as it has room, Burgess said.

Another option enrollment in the state is called the Nebraska State Option, which allows a student to attend any district if both approve it.

District 66 is capping because the school is noted for excellence. In situations like this, the student can be denied the switch.

A larger class doesn't always obstruct learning. Junior Mark Pommels said he can pay attention and understands the material in his larger classes.

He said it just depends how well the teacher can handle the number of students.

# Students disagree about effectiveness of new cafeteria

## NEW LUNCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to leave the cafeteria because of the crowd of students by the doors.

Nazeck said the lunchroom doesn't have any bells that sound, which makes it even more annoying. There isn't even a clock any where in the room, yet.

Bexten said all of these setbacks will quickly be resolved. It is just something students will have to be patient with because the cafeteria is a new room with new equipment.

The hallways are congested around the "C" and the doors of the new cafeteria are a problem, Bexten said.

He and the administrators are looking for a way to solve these problems.

"We might have the East Side be the way in and the West Side be the way out," Bexten said.

Another solution is to let the students out a minute or two earlier.

Two cafeterias combined into one large room does put it more at risk for discipline problems, some people say.

Nazeck said he hasn't seen any fights, but he thinks there have been close calls.

He has seen students stand up or say verbal threats to others, but no punching has occurred, yet.

He said he thinks there will be a fight soon with all the different types of students in one room.

Taucreti said she thinks the students' behavior is good, considering the amount of students in one room.

She said the teachers and other security guards do a successful job maintaining an acceptable student behavior level.

Before the room was open, Bexten said he wasn't worried about the number of kids compared to supervisors because he knew there would be enough.

Security guard Dale Wuster said he can tell which students are from each of the cafeterias because they stay separated instead of trying to get along with the students

from the other cafeteria.

He said the students usually stay on their respected sides and get along.

He said thankfully there hasn't been any fights so far this year. He thinks the added restrooms help teachers maintain students conduct.

"Fights occur if there are enough supervisors or not," Wuster said.

Students fighting is the last thing on Smith's mind because the renovations did make a big improvement to the school.

The cafeteria was replaced with three lunch lines, tables, new chairs and bathrooms. Behind the scenes, the lunch staff adjusts to new appliances, utensils and a dishwasher.

Smith said she has a difficult time adjusting to the larger work area and the windows.

The first day the cafeteria prepared food, she said it was a rough start adjusting to the new equipment.

"It's like a bonus to me," Smith said. "Because I have been here for 15 years and it is an upgrade from the old kitchen."

The dishwasher is something she was excited about because the staff used to have to wash the dishes by hand.

Having a dishwasher meant the department could switch to washable serving supplies.

Craig said she thinks it is weird reusing the silverware and trays, but is now getting used to not throwing these things away.

"Reusing the trays doesn't bother me," Harris said.

On the first day Smith said 15 trays were thrown away during all three lunch hours.

"I just don't think the students knew what they should do with the trays, but now there aren't very many getting thrown away," she said.

The trays are reusable, but they are always clean despite what some students think, she said.

The dishwasher, like others found in restaurants, sterilizes the trays and silverware.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Man Jeremy Kush (left) puts his tray on the counter while the lunch staff runs it through the dishwasher. This is the first year the schools has reusable trays.

# Millard schools change lunch program to get more kids to eat

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

Millard Public Schools (MPS) introduced a new lunch program to increase student participation in the lunch program for second grade.

Director of communications for MPS Tammy Freedman said hiring new company, Aramark, is an attempt to increase quality of nutrition as well. She said MPS was not satisfied with its previous provider, but was ready for a change.

When the district officials decided to change, MPS had several companies submit proposals, including its previous provider that was run by the district.

"Our goal was to make a good program," Freedman said.

Aramark plans on integrating into the high schools in three phases, company representative Jim Stillwell said.

The first phase was completed when students arrived back to school after winter break. Awnings and new signs had been put in an attempt to make the cafeterias look "institutional."

The next phase is to open a pizzeria, deli and a hot sandwich shop. By offering these

items that students love, they hope to spur an interest in school lunch.

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has no intention of switching lunch programs. Though many high school students complain about being served the same portions they were served in elementary school, OPS is happy running its own program.

Director of nutrition with OPS Tammy Yarmon said everything is run in-house within the district. With such a large district and a high percentage of students requiring free and reduced lunches, Yarmon said the way the district does it now is the most economical way to do it.

The lunches at Millard will range between \$1.70 and \$2.70.

The focus will be less on a la carte items, but more so on "combo" meals. Instead of having a set price for a slice of pizza, it will include a salad, fruit and a drink.

Essentially there will be more food and variety for the student's money.

Options like a grab and go sandwich will be offered which include pretzels, soup or salad and fruit or drink. This increases the student's choices to five or six per meal.

Students were consulted in deciding

what options would be offered.

The student council was polled as to what kinds of pizza would be served, as well as on other decisions.

Freedman and Stillwell said they both felt the student input would play a major roll in whether the program is adjusted until a good fit is made.

For instance, one high school had a high interest in Mexican food, so a Mexican food place is going to be established.

Senior Sarah Alston is not surprised that Millard switched to a better program.

"It's Millard and they obviously have more money. It's expected," she said.

Aramark guarantees \$500,000 profit a year. This money will be put back into the lunch program to buy equipment and to make improvements.

Junior Callie Akin said she would like better choices at Central.

"It would be nice to get more for what you pay for," she said.

Junior Andy Seever said the lunch areas need improvement. He said he thinks the schools need to get "tasty" foods from companies people know about like Subway.

Junior Sarah Stowell said she sees

another, much larger issue.

Bringing in more food could fuel a growing problem with students. She said she thinks students are too fat now, but bringing in "better" food would make this problem worse.

Without a large corporation, all of the profit is poured back into the program. The money is used for food equipment, other expenses and increases in labor.

"While Millard focussed more on its la carte, we focus more on nutrition," Yarmon said. "We care about the kids."

Although Stowell said Aramark will offer options for free and reduced lunch, there will have to be an up-charge on many of the options. Not all of the options will be part of the reimbursable meal.

OPS has a high concentration of students requiring free and reduced lunch throughout the district and with the lunch program now, the needs of these students can be met.

Not everything about MPS' lunches will change.

Previously Millard offered a "works bar" that has a daily theme. These include: salad, nacho and breakfast. This will still be offered because of its popularity.

## COLLEGE CORNER



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

### Duke University

**Location:** Durham, North Carolina  
**Admission:** 24% of applicants admitted.  
**Type:** Four-year public University.  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 6,053  
**Freshman Admissions:** Majors available in African-American Studies, Asian Studies & Women's Studies, Anatomy, Biology, Neuroscience & Environmental Science, Bioengineering, Electrical Engineering & Mechanical Engineering, English & Literature, Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, Slavic & Spanish, Philosophy, Religion, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, Art, History, Art Design, Music & Theater, Computer & Information Sciences & Mathematics.  
**Application Deadlines:** N/A

### Hanover College

**Location:** Hanover, Indiana  
**Admission:** 76% of applicants admitted.  
**Type:** Four-year Presbyterian undergraduate enrollment.  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 1,042  
**Freshman Admissions:** Majors available in Latin American Studies, Biology, Business Administration, Elementary Education & Physical Education, French, German & Spanish, Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Psychology & Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science & Sociology, Theology, Art History, Music, Studio, Arts & Theater.  
**Application Deadlines:** N/A

### University of Arizona

**Location:** Tucson, Arizona  
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**Type:** Four-year University.  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 7,065  
**Freshman Admissions:** Majors available in Economics, Animal Science, Plant Sciences & Soil Sciences, Architecture, East Asian Studies, Hispanic-American Studies, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies & Women's Studies, Biochemistry & Biology, Journalism, Aerospace Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering & Computer Engineering, French, German, Italian, Russian & Spanish, Psychology, Dance, Music, Studio Arts & Theater.  
**Application Deadlines:** N/A

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**Location:** Little Rock, Arkansas  
**Admission:** 96% of all applicants admitted.  
**Type:** Four-year University.  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 8,986  
**Freshman Admissions:** Biology, Accounting, Business Administration, Business Marketing & Economics, Advertising & Journalism, Civil Engineering, French & Spanish, Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Criminal Justice Studies, Psychology, Art History, Music & Theater, Landscape & Nursing.  
**Application Deadlines:** N/A

### University of New Orleans

**Location:** New Orleans, Louisiana  
**Admission:** 66% of all applicants admitted.  
**Type:** Four-year University.  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 13,189  
**Freshman Admissions:** Biology, Accounting, Business Administration, Business Marketing & Economics, Finance, Real Estate, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Marine Engineering & Mechanical Engineering, English, French & Spanish, Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Geophysics, Physics & Anthropology, Geography, History & Sociology, Art, Theater, Art History, Music, Studio Arts.  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date July 1.

### Montclair State University

**Location:** Upper Montclair, New Jersey  
**Admission:** N/A  
**Type:** Four-year University.  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 10,939  
**Freshman Admissions:** Women's Studies, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Business Administration, Broadcast Journalism, French, Italian, Latin & Spanish, Music, Therapy, Philosophy, Religion, Chemistry, Geology & Physics, Psychology, Anthropology, Economic, Geography, Political Science & Sociology, Art, Dance, Drama, Music Performance, Studio Arts, Allied Health Services, Speech Communication & Justice Studies  
**Application Deadlines:** N/A

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PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Human growth and development teacher Jeanee Weiss assists sophomore Joel Torpy and his group in class while they discuss male-female relationships. Heterosexual relationships are mentioned along with various class activities, but homosexuality is only defined.

## OPS officials say current HGD classes work

### ■ HGD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in life.

"At school everyone has the right not to take the class," Buffkins said. "Everyone has the right to their own opinion."

Principal Jerry Bexten said there is always the option for the students to opt of the class. Another option is for the parents to simply opt the their son or daughter out of certain topics.

For the year and a half Bexten has been here, he said he has never received a complaint about the human growth and development program. According to the scheduling program SASI, eight students opted out first semester and 143 students opted out second semester this school year.

At Marian High School there is not a human growth and development class in the curriculum. Assistant principal Kathleen Thompkins at Marian said there is not an individual class discussing human sexuality. She said the only way human sexuality may be mentioned is in a science or religion class, but not as an in-depth way.

Freshman Danielle Goodwin said expressing opinions should happen in class. She said she thinks it would be good for the students and the teacher to be able to maintain class discussions in all areas.

Goodwin said learning about these topics in human growth and development classes could actually prevent the students from getting hurt or regretting an action. Knowledge could help confusion and worry on any sexual topic. She said if the parents of the students don't want the child learning about any of these topics, they should just opt out.

"Students should be informed," Goodwin said. In class the students are informed to an extent, Bexten said. The curriculum defines what these topics are, but doesn't go into any discussion or cover it anymore. He said if the school board revisited the decision of the teaching these three topics, the curriculum would remain the same.

"The issues human growth and development classes are for life," Bexten said. "It's not just for today. This is information students should know

about."

Senior Delilia Haywood said human growth and development should be designed to teach how humans act. She said she thinks it would be worthwhile if the class didn't discuss human development to its fullest.

"All humans do it," she said. "Why not talk about it at school to get the facts?"

When students start talking about abortion, she said if the class begins arguing it would be a good sign and the students should feel comfortable to voice what they think. She said she has discussed these topics in classes other than human growth and development.

Curriculum facilitator at MPS Barb Waller said the district's human growth and development classes are very similar to OPS. She said a committee of parents and clergy leaders reviewed the curriculum and decided not to discuss masturbation, abortion and homosexuality in class.

"These topics are risky behaviors and our society can't come to an agreement on," Waller said. "The class time is very valuable and can't be spent debating faith and beliefs."

Discussing homosexuality isn't done because she said it could hurt a homosexual student's feelings if he was in the class. Similar with abortions, she said it could be too close to home and hurt someone in class.

Senior Alex Driggs said he thinks homosexuality, masturbation and abortion should be a part of the curriculum because it's a part of life people have to deal with.

"If the class discussion got out of hand and codes were broken, the students in that class should be punished," Driggs said. "But if nothing breaks the rules than it should be fine to hold a discussion in class."

Dominique M. Davis said she thinks everything about human sexuality needs to be discussed because it could help prevent diseases from spreading.

"I think it is a big importance that they don't have one side," Davis said. "Sensitivity is the right

way to go and work with it."

For the subject of abortion, Murphy doesn't think it could be discussed in class because she said she thinks too many people pretend the fetus isn't a human. This topic shouldn't be discussed in class because some kids think the woman has the choice to kill another baby.

"It's just like the father doesn't have the right to kill his child inside his house," she said. "The mother doesn't have the right to kill of the life in her womb."

The only way Murphy said she thinks abortions can be discussed in class is if the teacher presents all the facts. All the side effects on the woman must be mentioned because she has heard it can put her body in shock and cause illnesses.

Freshman LaKeisha Carter said she thinks it is a good thing it is not in the curriculum because the different religious beliefs the students have.

"God gave up on homosexuals," Carter said. "Different people believe different things."

Family and consumer science teacher at Westside High School Maryjo Losen said if a student brings up a topic regarding homosexuality, masturbation, abortion or any other topic, the teacher could direct the student to more detailed information or inform the students themselves.

"Our goal is to not hurt anyone's feelings and for them to be safe and not ignorant," Losen said. "We can try to help depending on the question, but we are professionals."

Freshman Marquita Shavers said she thinks it should be in class because some people need to learn about abortions and related topics.

Curriculum specialist for health and physical education with Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Marybell Avery said the district doesn't prohibit any topics.

She said it doesn't ban any objectives and the program goes beyond just being a pro-abstinence curriculum.

"The teachers use their professional judgments when students asks questions relating to any topic," Avery said.

## OPS shuts doors on speakers from local, national agencies

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Abortion is banned from the human growth and development curriculum, which means Planned Parenthood and Right to Life speakers can't inform the students in class.

Human growth and development teacher Jeanee Weiss said these two organizations can't come to her class because they would discuss abortion. However, her department doesn't have a formal list of speakers who are accepted.

Junior Eve Mayberger said she thinks information is always the best way and these two organizations should be able to speak at school. She said she thinks the policies should be updated or looked at again.

She said she thinks it would make it easier for a girl to get the information from Planned Parenthood than ask a teacher.

"Abortion is one of our taboo topics," Weiss said. "We can't bring these up in class because the way the community views it."

Vice president of communications at Planned Parenthood Beverly Nolte said its representatives have gone to schools, youth groups and other youth activities to inform the teens on birth control options.

Having a spokesperson from an organization doesn't appeal to junior Caitlin Monaghan because she said she thinks there are other options than the ones Planned Parenthood would most likely discuss.

"The schools shouldn't endorse Planned Parenthood," Monaghan said. "If someone came to talk at school, that is what would happen."

Planned Parenthood wants the students to be informed and since some school districts don't allow them, they have information at the buildings in the

metro, Nolte said.

There are seven medical facilities in the metro area. She said each facility doesn't have any race, age or sexual preference. Instead it only hopes to provide knowledge.

Sophomore Nicolina Gaudin said the schools should allow these representatives to come to school to get on the updates with technology.

She said she thinks religious groups could find these speakers as a resource but they would just have to opt out the day.

"If people keep disagreeing, there will be no point in listening," Gaudin said. "So the students who disagree can opt out, so others could learn."

Executive director of the AIDS Project Tim Sullivan said school officials ask for specific speakers but most of them don't want to speak.

"Usually they want a Caucasian woman to speak," Sullivan said. "A white woman isn't truly the face of HIV disease and it doesn't represent truth."

At a school in the metro area, Nolte said she was supposed to present, but came a few days before because the school wanted to limit what he talked about. He said he didn't find that as correct, so he decided not to present.

"Even when we are invited to speak at a health class in OPS, we don't suppose to talk about specifics," he said.

Planned Parenthood officials said what specific birth control would better suit individuals is decided at these places.

Nolte said some schools offer contraceptives, but don't individualize what would work well.

Like some types of contraceptives, they may be offered to a teenager, but not a 40-year-old woman who smokes.

## No condom distribution in schools due to parental input, official says

BY KATIE BACKMAN

If condoms were available at school, sophomore Jesus Luna said students would be more likely to purchase them there than go to a local gas station.

He said he thinks there should be a dispenser in the rest rooms for both boys and girls to buy.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the school does not allow any distribution of condoms. He said the building will never have dispensers of condoms anywhere. Also in the human growth and development, teachers are not allowed to provide students with this form of contraception.

Teenagers are having sex, freshman Donald Hattix said so he thinks the school would be smart if it promoted the students to have safe sex. He said he thinks the students need to protect themselves and having condoms available in school would help them.

Family and consumer science teacher Linda Milliken said the department couldn't give away any condoms if a student asked. She said it doesn't have condoms the students would

want because the ones used in the metro area have expired.

The human growth and development curriculum advises students to stay protected if they choose to have sex.

"It was actually a big issue for setting up this class," Milliken said. "Parents thought we were going to give condoms to give to their children."

Junior Cecily Zdan said she doesn't think it would promote sex in the school. She thinks with how negative hormones are, if they are in the school all day they will choose to have sex even if they don't have protection.

Vice president of communications at Planned Parenthood Beverly Nolte said if someone asked for condoms, one of the locations, they could get them. She said they want to promote safe sex and protected sex.

Going to Planned Parenthood for a local gas station could be embarrassing, junior Shea Muth said.

She said she thinks kids are afraid to walk through the checkout line and would rather ask a friend for one.

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# Green belt tae kwon do student strives for self-defense

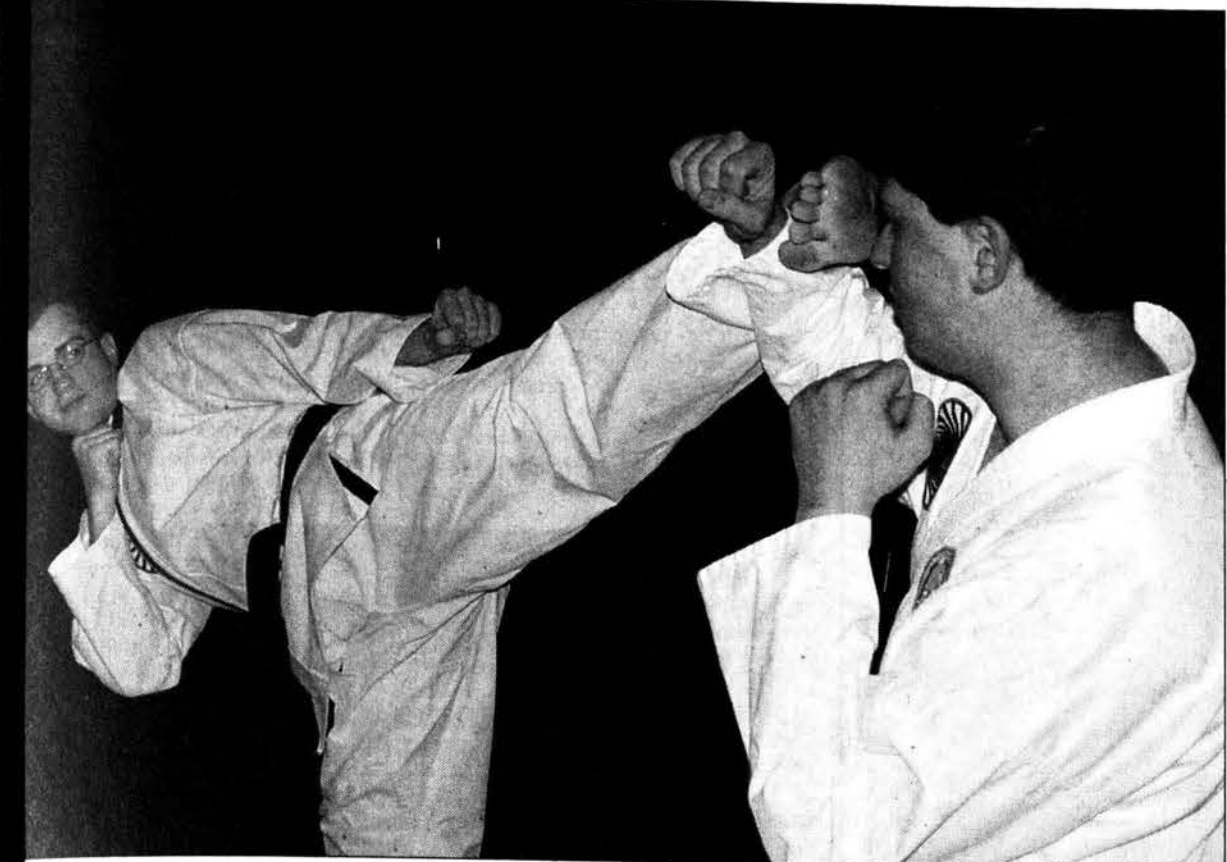


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Kyle Kenkel (right) blocks a side kick from black belt instructor Josh Carmean at practice in the courtyard. Kenkel is the highest level in tae kwon do compared to the other students involved in the club.

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Side kicks and lead hand punches are techniques junior Kyle Kenkel can learn at Tae Kwon Do Club.

To defend himself in any threatening situation is the main reason why Kenkel said he wanted to join the club. This is his second year participating in tae kwon do, and he has progressed to be the highest level among the other 15 students involved.

"I am a green belt," Kenkel said. "In this order it goes from: green, blue, purple, red, brown to black."

Since he earned a green belt, he said he thinks he has the ability to protect himself, but he still hopes to progress through the levels. He said he thinks it would be nice to be a black belt.

The black belt goes up to six degrees, which is the highest level in tae kwon do. Each degree takes five years to earn, Kenkel said.

"I haven't thought that far ahead yet," he said. "I don't know if I want to be a sixth degree black belt."

In two years Kenkel said he could have a black belt, but not in a specific degree.

The club began when alumnus Ricardo Renderos said he wanted to start it. When he thought about starting it, he said he remembered Central ROTC instructor Master Sgt. Sharon Cooper once practiced martial arts.

Cooper said she takes tae kwon do and enjoys practicing it, but wouldn't have thought of making it a club at school. When Renderos asked her if she would sponsor it she couldn't refuse.

From Cooper, the former extra curricular activity director Patti Gatske gave the idea for the club the "OK."

"Sgt. Cooper moved some rocks for me to get this started," Renderos said.

She said she likes the turnout of students because this year there are about 15 students.

"We only have three instructors," she said. "The smaller groups of students get more individual time with them."

After Renderos graduated from school, he continued to pursue the art and has earned his red belt. He said at school, the instructors demonstrate more of an ancient style, but in the future he wants to attempt the Olympic style of tae kwon do.

He said it started second semester of his senior year. At this time the club opened with roughly 12 students. Now, he said the minimum is 15 students who attend the meetings every Wednesday night.

Since Kenkel has participated in the club, he has tried to get some of his friends to come to a meet. Some of them have, while the others don't have time or the interest.

Senior certified instructor from Tae Kwon Do America, Michael Storm said he is glad Renderos had the idea to start the club because he enjoys seeing young people practice tae kwon do.

He said the club gives the person a sense of confidence because they can defend themselves.

"Since the club began, over the years it has been a growing experience," Storm said.

After 19 years of teaching tae kwon do, Storm said he can't get enough of it. He teaches many different students, not just people who attend Central.

Cooper is one of his students too, he said. Cooper is a blue belt and she said she hopes to test in March to advance to red.

He said he loves teaching all of his students. He likes showing a move then see his new students repeat it and remember.

"I don't think you will see any of these kids shot dead in an alley," Storm said.

An invite is happening with some of Storm's students outside of school. Cooper said she thinks Kenkel will do well if he competes.

# Local tattoo parlors, removal agencies try to maintain health codes

BY ASHLEY BROWN

On the morning of senior Missy Martin's birthday, she had a tribal design tattooed on her back.

"The first thing I did when I woke up was get a tattoo," Martin said. "I had wanted one since I was 12."

Although the large tribal heart design on her upper back was her first tattoo, it definitely wasn't her last. On Jan. 8, Martin got a picture of a rose tattooed on her inner side of her right arm.

She said she is very into body modifications and plans on getting more tattoos, including designs on both of her thighs, a tattoo on her lower back, a Smurf on her ankle and full-sleeve tattoos.

Martin said the places where she had the tattoos done were both "really clean," and she said cleanliness is the number one thing she looks for when choosing a studio. If a tattoo artist doesn't use sterile equipment or keep the tattooing environment clean, it can result in infections and diseases that can stick with you for the rest of your life.

So far, Martin said she has had no issues or side effects except for short term itching. All are so lucky. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is looking into the more unfortunate cases of tattoos gone wrong.

According to the FDA's Web site, the agency is taking a closer look at the complications that result from tattoos and tattoo removal, including infections from unsterile equipment, problems with tattoo removal, allergic reactions to tattoo pigments and abnormal scarring.

Dr. Joel Schlessinger, a dermatologist and president of LovelySkin.com, said the pigments are injected into the skin and are foreign material to the body. This can cause a reaction or even allergies. He said he has had patients who had to get their tattoos removed due to an allergic reaction to their pigments, especially cadmium, a red pigment.

Greg Morrison, a physicians assistant said there are metals that make up different pigments such as iron in red pigments. These metals can cause an allergic reaction to the skin much like cobalt or nickel in low-quality jewelry can cause itching and allergic reaction. Only tattoo pigments with these elements are imbedded underneath the skin.

This can cause chronic itching that can be removed, although it is not always guaranteed the tattoo will be able to be removed completely.

Tattoos can be removed by a laser, which in itself can be very painful, time consuming and costly. Morrison, who has done over 3,000 laser procedures, said treatment could take a year and a half with one treatment a month and cost \$2,000 for a small tattoo and \$5,000 to \$6,000 for a large tattoo.

The cost of removal can be almost 500 times what the patient paid for the tattoo in the first place, he said.

The laser procedure, which is a laser light that shoots a controlled amount of energy to break up the pigment particles, has many risks involved along with the tattoo itself.

Morrison said patients who have very active pigment cells (i.e. tans easily or with darker, ethnic skin) can develop hyper or hypo pigmentation.

Hyper pigmentation is a reaction to the laser where the skin is lightened or darkened for a few months to a year and can be treated with topical creams.

Hyper pigmentation can potentially last indefinitely.

Other risks can include scarring, bleeding, crusting and secondary skin infection, which is where bacteria gets into the treated area and overgrows the skin.

Scars or keloids (a scar that does not stop growing) are also risk factors.

The scarring factor can be somewhat avoided. Morrison said he does a test spot with every patient by shooting three different intensities of laser energy at the tattoo and sees which one heals the best.

Morrison said patients require anesthesia or numbing such as Xylocaine (related to Novocaine) and can have an allergic reaction from that. They can also react to LMX, an over-the-counter numbing cream.

Even after several laser treatments, the tattoo may not even be able to be removed completely. Morrison said lighter pigments such as white, light blue and pink are by much more difficult to remove because the pigment reflects the laser instead of absorbing it.

While the treatment is very tedious and can be very costly, Morrison said patients are willing to go through with the treatment because they are desperate to remove their tattoos.

He said a lot of patients want the tattoo removed for cosmetic reasons. Schlessinger said without a doubt he thinks the number one reason patients want to remove their tattoo is because it is a boyfriend or girlfriend's name that

is no longer in the picture.

Morrison said he also gets patients who want their gang tattoos removed. He said the dominate age between most of these patients are in their early 20s who are getting out of their youth and growing up.

Morrison removes these gang-related tattoos for these patients free of charge. This is a service Morrison provides for Omaha. Some of these patients he gets from being contacted by the Omaha Police Department and others from the Chicano Awareness center. Others have been in to support a friend and found out about his services that way.

"They want to remove some of the stigma to get a job," Morrison said. "These people want to turn their lives around."

If society rejects them and they don't give them a chance, they will go back to the gang Morrison said.

He said this was his way of making a change, but the risks and procedures are still the same, no matter what the reason for tattoo removal is.

Schlessinger said the only way to avoid the risks of tattoo removal is to not get the tattoo in the first place. His advice was to put off getting a tattoo until you know that you want it.

Besides the problem of dissatisfaction and infection, lifelong diseases can be contracted through tattoos. A recent study showed that one third of Hepatitis C cases are caused by tattoos.

Local tattoo parlor Big Brain productions takes many precautions to prevent the spread of germs, disease and infections.

"First and foremost, everybody is certified by the Red Cross and Disease Prevention," said

one of Big Brain's owners, Chris Blinston.

There are many safety and health precautions Blinston takes when performing a tattoo. Everything in the shop that touches the skin covered in plastic and sanitized with TBX, which is a germ and viricide.

The TBX solution used kills germs and disease such as Hepatitis, AIDS and tuberculosis to name a few. The solution used to clean the floor, Quat, has the same germ and virus killing effects.

Martin said one of the main things she looks at when getting a tattoo is the floors.

"If the floor doesn't look clean I don't want to get a tattoo there," she said.

Blinston said all tools that penetrate the skin or are meant to come in contact with blood are individually sterilized and prewrapped. Everything else that touches blood is disposed of.

The chair used is covered in plastic like saran wrap or dental bibs and is sterilized with the TBX solution. The "color palette," which holds tools and colors, is completely disposed of and disinfected with TBX.

Anything else that can come in contact with skin, such as power cords and water bottles are covered in plastic wrap. Also near by is hand sanitizer and rubbing alcohol, which cleans the skin prior to skin penetration.

Blinston said the most important thing they do to prevent the spread of germs is using rubber gloves. He said Big Brain has three different sizes of gloves to make sure they fit properly.

Blinston also said Big Brain doesn't allow food, smoking and drinking in the back area where tattoos are performed.

# Flavored cigars appeal to youth because scent, ability to replace tobacco

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Name changed to protect identity\*

Being a minor won't stop junior John Doe\* from smoking flavored cigars. He said the reason why he buys the cigars because the taste and scent.

Some of his friends buy him flavored cigars. Sometimes he smokes the cigars normally while other times he replaces the tobacco with marijuana. He said he has heard many of his friends doing this.

He said thinks flavored cigars could appeal to kids more because of the strawberry, honey and other candy-like flavors.

"I think it should be up to the people who buy them," Doe said. Tobacco companies shouldn't stop making them even if it could only appeal to teenagers."

He said he thinks there are some adults who probably smoke the flavored cigars as well.

Alumnus Jay Welter who owns Cigar Man said his business doesn't really cater to teens because the cigars are hand made and cost \$3 each. Welter does have flavored cigars and sells them. He said the main type of person who buys from him are a high-class businessmen, who in fact like the flavored cigars on occasion.

Even though his business doesn't cater to many teenagers he has to take the same precautions to insure minors don't get a hold of the

tobacco products.

"We have to take them (tobacco products) off the shelves and keep it locked up," Welter said. "I know every tobacco retailer is anti-underage purchases so we always ask for ID."

He said he knows trying to keep cigars out of the hands of minors has its flaws because older siblings or friends buy it for them.

Welter said he has heard of kids buying the flavored-wrap cigars to throw away the tobacco and replace it with marijuana.

"I don't know everything the kids do," Welter said. "I just hear things about why they would like flavored cigars."

Tobacco Hut manager Lori Lawson said the policy for this tobacco location is anyone who looks 27 years old or younger must have his or her ID checked.

She said if a clerk is caught selling tobacco products to a minor, he will be ticketed and lose his job. If there are multiple accounts of clerks selling to minors, the specific store could be fined \$5,000.

"I like the customers to have an ID out and ready," Lawson said. "I don't even like minors to be in the store, I ask them to wait outside."

Replacing the tobacco with marijuana is very common, junior DaRae Moody said.

She said she thinks the flavored cigar manufacturers are trying to appeal to young people, but that doesn't mean they all will.

Each person has a choice to buy them or not even if they are

minor.

Senior Alisa Kelsey said she thinks producing flavored cigars do try to appeal to teens. She said she doesn't smoke the cigars and has never wanted to.

Tobacco Free Nebraska program manager Judy Martin said she thinks if a teenager starts smoking flavored cigars, he will then graduate to harder and more harmful tobacco products.

"In my opinion I would certainly say they are directed towards kids," Martin said. "Much like Kool-Aid flavored drinks are aimed to them because of the flavors."

Freshman Sam Watson said he couldn't taste the difference in normal cigars to flavored ones.

"Selling cigars at a store isn't a problem because right when you walk in they don't say flavored cigars are for sale," Watson said.

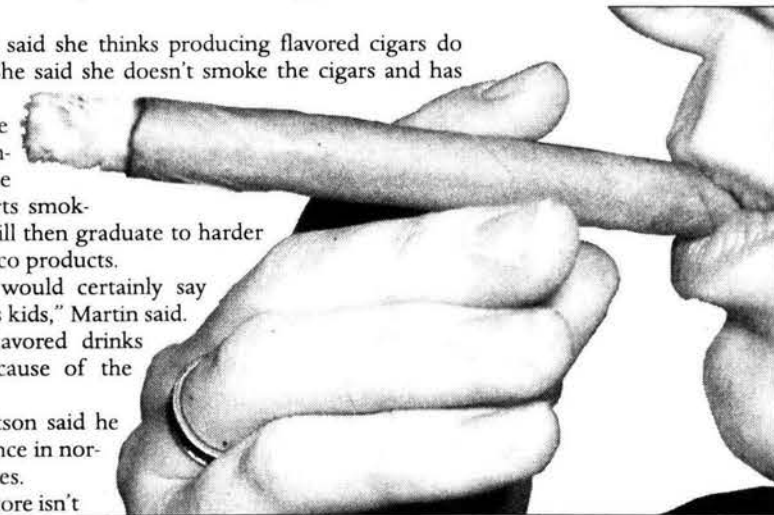


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Flavored cigars are thought to be more appealing to teenagers because of the taste and some believe teens ignore the health risks.

# Holocaust survivor speaks at assembly to juniors about importance of decency

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

"People who go around hating do not live, they take up space," Judith Meisel, a Holocaust survivor, told the juniors at a recent assembly.

The assembly was on Jan. 24. The students welcomed the comment she said with a burst of applause.

Guidance counselor Ron Moore was able to arrange her visit when he got a phone call from a representative from the Anti Defamation League. Meisel, from Santa Barbara, Calif., came to Omaha for one day. Moore said he jumped at the opportunity to have her speak.

Meisel travels to different schools, lecturing about the importance of taking a stand against bigotry. After being sent to the ghetto, and literally having one

foot in the gas chamber, Meisel has a lot of experience to back her up.

She took the stage and sipped from her bottle of water. After the auditorium was silent, she gave a brief autobiography.

She was born in Lithuania, but was sent to the ghetto. From there she went to a concentration camp. As the students sat in awe, she continued with her story.

She and her sister escaped a death march and made it to a convent. The nuns were welcoming and nice to them, but told them that in order to stay they would be forced to convert.

The two sisters decided they would not live unless they could be Jewish so they left the convent and made it to Denmark until the Jews were liberated.

When she found out her brother

was alive in Toronto Canada, she moved there and met her first husband. Later she and her husband moved to Philadelphia.

After she talked about her past, Meisel opened up to students' questions.

She took the time to answer each question honestly and left the students feeling as though she had a fireside chat with them rather than a lecture in the auditorium.

She stressed the importance of appreciating the United States.

"I'm lucky I live in this country; it is the greatest in the world," she said.

Meisel has seen Martin Luther King Jr. twice and thought of him as her role model.

Meisel said she helped to organize that March on Washington. She took

an interest in civil rights after she had lived in America. She discovered no one asked about her experience with the Holocaust so she never felt obligated to tell.

It was only after a racist mob near her home that she and other minorities started speaking out.

During her presentation she stressed the importance of taking a stand.

She said too many students remain bystanders while their peers use derogatory language.

Over the years, Meisel has seen her fair share of young people.

"I think the young people today are exceptional," she said. "They really want to be involved."

Moore also talked about the emphasis being put on "anti-hate."

"I don't think that Central has a problem with hate and bigotry," he said. "It is there, but it's everywhere."

Groups such as the Unitown, Anytown projects and Gay Straight Alliance help some students understand the importance of acceptance.

Meisel's presentation was not only to expose students to what happened during the Holocaust, but also to show them that the same principles that started the Holocaust are still happening today.

"Look at it this way," Meisel said. "It's so easy to get into a way, but how do you get out of it?"

Moore likes to live by what he calls the "golden rule."

"Do unto others as you want others to do unto you," he said.

Overall students had a positive

reaction to Meisel's presentation.

Junior Elisa Berzins said she liked the speech and thought it was a great opportunity for students.

"I was a little disappointed with the quality of the some people's questions though," she said.

Meisel has made two documentaries about her experience, both times returning to the places where she was belittled and condemned for her religion.

"Each time I return to the gas chamber I look for the scratch marks from the finger nails of my mother," she said to students.

She hopes that her lectures will change people's view on racism and bigotry.

"One person can do a lot," she said.

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FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

# EDITORIALS

## HGD CURRICULUM

- ☒ Puberty.
- ☒ Relationships.
- ☒ Safe sex.
- ☐ ~~Abortion.~~
- ☐ ~~Homosexuality.~~
- ☐ ~~Masturbation.~~

Mr. Jerry Bexten  
PRINCIPAL  
Matt Deabler  
ADVISER  
Katie Backman  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



## Outdated curriculum needs changes

Homosexuality, abortions and masturbation can't be discussed in human growth classes at Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

This is wrong. The curriculum needs to be updated so it can educate its students on each topic entirely since the main purpose of the class is to inform on humans' sexual and other behaviors.

After 18 years, the local public and curriculum officials haven't found the need to update these guidelines and these groups of people should be ashamed.

Sexual education classes are set up to educate, so it should cover each aspect of sex. Even if abortion lectures can stir up arguments or go against people's beliefs, it should at least still be there to inform the students.

It is possible to inform about abortions with or without describing the procedures, how it has evolved and the different views from society. All of this can be done in class, by a lecture. The only questions teachers should be able to answer are regarding how it works.

Other school districts in the surrounding area allow students to ask any question in school and leave it up to the teacher if they choose to respond.

OPS teachers already say no. They can't respond because the curriculum states they can't. The facts should be stated and let it be covered. At the very least the district should strive to inform the students.

A list of contraceptives the class can discuss include the Intrauterine Device (IUD). The IUD attaches to the uterus and inflames the lining of the uterus making it unable to support a life form. To some this is considered a form of abortion because the inability to attach to the uterus.

The Morning After Pill is considered a form of abortion, but can't be discussed in school. Some could say the IUD is a form of abortion because it makes the uterus unable to maintain life by being chemically altered.

Both in one way or another imbalance

the woman's body, so in that sense each method is a form of abortion and one is taught in school.

Human growth and development classes can discuss rape, but doesn't cover abortions or Morning After Pills as an option if the girl is impregnated and doesn't want a second victim.

This is not the age of a communicating society. Parents don't have "the sex talk" with their children anymore.

They leave it up to the school to inform the students, while the school can't fully cover each sexual topic. It

doesn't make sense. The district needs to do something.

Masturbation is another touchy topic, but it shouldn't be, because it could help maintain abstinence, what the schools strive for.

So many times teens are blamed because they can't control the drive of their hormones and go directly to sex. If they were ever fully informed and told masturbation is a healthy and normal thing to do, teen pregnancies and sexual activity could dramatically drop.

School seems to be the only place where this type of information could be discussed naturally, but it can't because of concerned narrow-minded families.

None of this can be discussed because parents told OPS officials not to bring up these topics up or the families would fight back.

The families should rather want the youth to be informed and not consider the education corrupting. The curriculum teaches the meaning of abstinence before the use of contraceptives.

Forms of birth control ranges to chemicals in the body that can alter the body's normal functions and hurt the user. But masturbation, which is harmless, can't be discussed.

From what the curriculum states should be taught to what really is covered in classes doesn't always fully match.

An example is when girls should visit gynecologist and the specific ages and reasons why they should go. When girls should

go to the gynecologist is discussed, but a recommended age is never really given.

A local gynecologist office said the girl should go if she is sexually active or when she turns 18. Then from the first appointment, the girl needs to have a checkup yearly.

Some of these pieces of information may be mentioned, but never enough to leave an impact for students to remember.

Not many people walk away from these classes knowing they should make an appointment on their 18th birthday at the latest.

This curriculum needs to be updated. The one wish every school has is for all students to get along, but it won't be possible when the class doesn't touch every type of lifestyle.

People should admit that since 18 years have passed, teenagers should be able discuss issues concerning homosexuality. Teens can handle it.

Not talking about the this in class isn't how the real world is.

People can't simply act like multiple sexual preferences don't exist.

Yes, students could laugh, which could be hurtful.

This should not be a worry. If there is a teacher in the room who can maintain the class this would not be a problem.

Plus the students who have had abortions or think they're homosexual should be mature enough to handle the opinions of others.

Teens are more tolerant and most students would be completely comfortable with these "touchy" topics.

People need to realize society is not back in the past with the "Leave it to Beaver" way of life. Times have changed.

The curriculum is generations behind and needs to keep up with the changing times. Sexuality, whether it is masturbation or one's sexual preference, should be discussed because it is there; it is 2004.

All the program would do is toughen up the teens for the future when there is more than dirty looks in a hallway.

Stick to the school's Mission Statement which states "responsible citizenship, and pride in diversity..." and simply inform the youth on things they should know about.

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### 03-04 REGISTER STAFF BOX

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 seven time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas and Washington D.C.

The staff hopes to repeat this at the spring 2004 JEA/NSPA convention in San Diego.

The Register staff is also responsible for the publication of the Edge feature magazine, which has won 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 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 represent 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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## Senior fights old vision of what a female wants

I am not pregnant and I won't be getting married in the next four years.

It is because a woman doesn't have to put off her life to get married and become a stay-at-home mom. This is the way of life women now, and has been recently proven that most women don't have a first born until their 30s.

Through my arrogant eyes, this age seems too old to try to raise a family of three. When I step back and think about the plans, I have for my life such as graduating from college and establishing a career, the family life will hardly fit in.

My way of thinking now can be considered to be very selfish.

It is. I consider every other person, but when I think about feelings I choose to ignore everyone else. It must deal with how I was raised. I will now only do what makes me happy and disregard everyone else.

Another change with girls lately is there have been reports of a decrease in teen pregnancies, which is still debatable. I still have seen about five pregnant girls. The only change lately is girls talk about not having time for a baby.

It seems like more girls have heard the horror stories of not being able to have time for lives of their own because they can't afford childcare so they simply don't want kids.

Now it isn't very common at all, but the fact that some high school girls feel the need for independence can't hurt.

For me it is comforting to think my life will be based around me and what I want to do with it.

Not everything is magical yet because girls still complain and discuss how they need to please their significant other and forget about her own feelings. If there was some way to get to all these different girls to tell them to move the focus from guys and put the spotlight back on themselves.

When my mother was my age, she probably thought of being a housewife and taking care of her kids.

Not until now after raising children, she thinks of starting a dream career. She wants to go to college and start her plans.

Just about 30 years later, why I don't know what I would do now anything I get there. While I was in elementary school, my dad and a bone did start working together. I did miss my dad, but the stories have been my other dad. That is reach her dad thing. and be sure. When than bake cream in the with me. I asked him

With the 30-year-old mother who wonder what they would do when they finally do have babies. If they stay at home and not go back to work, or immediately get back in the response was hear. If I want to do in this situation. There was a women holding jobs and running a president. It shows the world isn't one dominated. It will be very interesting to try see if a woman will be president. As I was I probably just sound like a woman in this world wanting to be a "burn the bras," but there was a be much of a problem if I did it. He doing it. Society should be some hear teens having backbones. was going A clear aspect to blame is the old me ev tale movies that manipulate young and he was mind. It's characters like Cindereew days and Snow White and Sleeping Beauty. I girls sit around, clean houses and couldn't sea for prince charming.

The sad thing is every girl can't serve to wanting this lifestyle or think I can't would really happen. These people are just their lives away. An old friend of he has been told me she is engaged and plans to in June right after graduation. The biggest mistake ever. This was all the others who have done this. even left time for them to establish our staff and we won't strong personalities.

Instead she will have to bending her life, setting off her. We insta and have her husband's traits. I think was h hurt. For me it is comforting to think my life will be based around me and what I want to do with it. Not everything is magical yet because girls still complain and discuss how they need to please their significant other and forget about her own feelings. If there was some way to get to all these different girls to tell them to move the focus from guys and put the spotlight back on themselves. When my mother was my age, she probably thought of being a housewife and taking care of her kids.

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**BITTER BY CHOICE**

A COLUMN BY KATIE BACKMAN



**EXPERIENCES IN PRINT**

A COLUMN BY ASHLEY BROWN



# OPINION

"I feel he (the Westside student) was being disrespectful and trying to be funny."  
MARISA PARKER (11)

## Teen copes with friends struggles through cancer

My friend Mike Alfaro is fighting leukemia. Watching someone fight is heartbreaking. The bad part about it is I hardly know anything about the disease. He recently gotten his chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Since treatment, he found out that his blood has accepted the transplant. He has been released from the hospital and is now at home.



**SEEING THE BIG PICTURE**  
A COLUMN BY DANA CLEASBY

That is a very hard thing. When I visited him in the hospital, I saw him and his mother what would happen if the chemo transplant worked or not, and their lives were not really what I wanted. If it did work Mike would be in two weeks, but if it did not he was a choice to try the chemo and transplant again or not. Mike said he was going to go home either way, but if treatment did not work, he was not going to try again.

As I was sitting there and hearing him say that, my heart fell into pieces. I started to stare at the wall to keep my mind from going to cry. When she left he said everything would be alright. He asked his mom to go get some ice because he could see that he was going to cry. When she left he said everything would be alright. He was only going to feel sick for a few days and then he would be up and going. I started to cry and said he didn't scare me like that. All I could think was how could someone so great have something like this?

I cannot believe someone so honest and genuinely great have something so terrible threaten his life. He has been one of the few people who actually cares enough to call and now I was doing and listen to me. I was upset. I met Mike through a book. During the summer, at staff meetings, he would come and we would discuss all of the new information on the bands we listened to and instantly became friends.

At one of the meetings, he told me that he found out he had Leukemia, he said it like it didn't bother him. I thought to myself, why are you not upset having a nervous breakdown? We really didn't get to know each other until school started. Mike would go on a ride to the hospital to get his blood drawn every week. While we were out, we would go to lunch and goof around. When we would go back up to school, everyone would be around, calling him cancer boy. Mike told them to say it and it was OK. I refused to let anyone say it

in front of me. I knew the cancer was bothering him and he only talked about it in a joking way. I would just say, if you need anything or someone to talk to, I'm here.

He has not talked about his feelings until recently. When he went into the hospital, the reality hit him. He called me one day and was crying. He told me he was scared and didn't know what to do. All I could really say was everything was going to work out for the best and I was here for him.

How do you help someone when the fact is you cannot control what is going to happen? Technology may be great, but how can we think that we can have the control of something so valuable as life?

Mike had the choice to live or die, but only so much. I do not blame him for the choice he has made. If the treatment did not work, why would he bother himself to fight for something that he wasn't meant to win?

I hate the fact that I cannot do anything to help the situation. I feel I am only endangering his life if I go to see him. Talking on the phone is not easy either because when I can talk, he's asleep.

When I went up to the hospital the one day, he just looked so sick and tired. He was having throat problem and was taking morphine because of it. He said he hadn't been sleeping well because of the pain, but also the nurses kept coming in to check on his status.

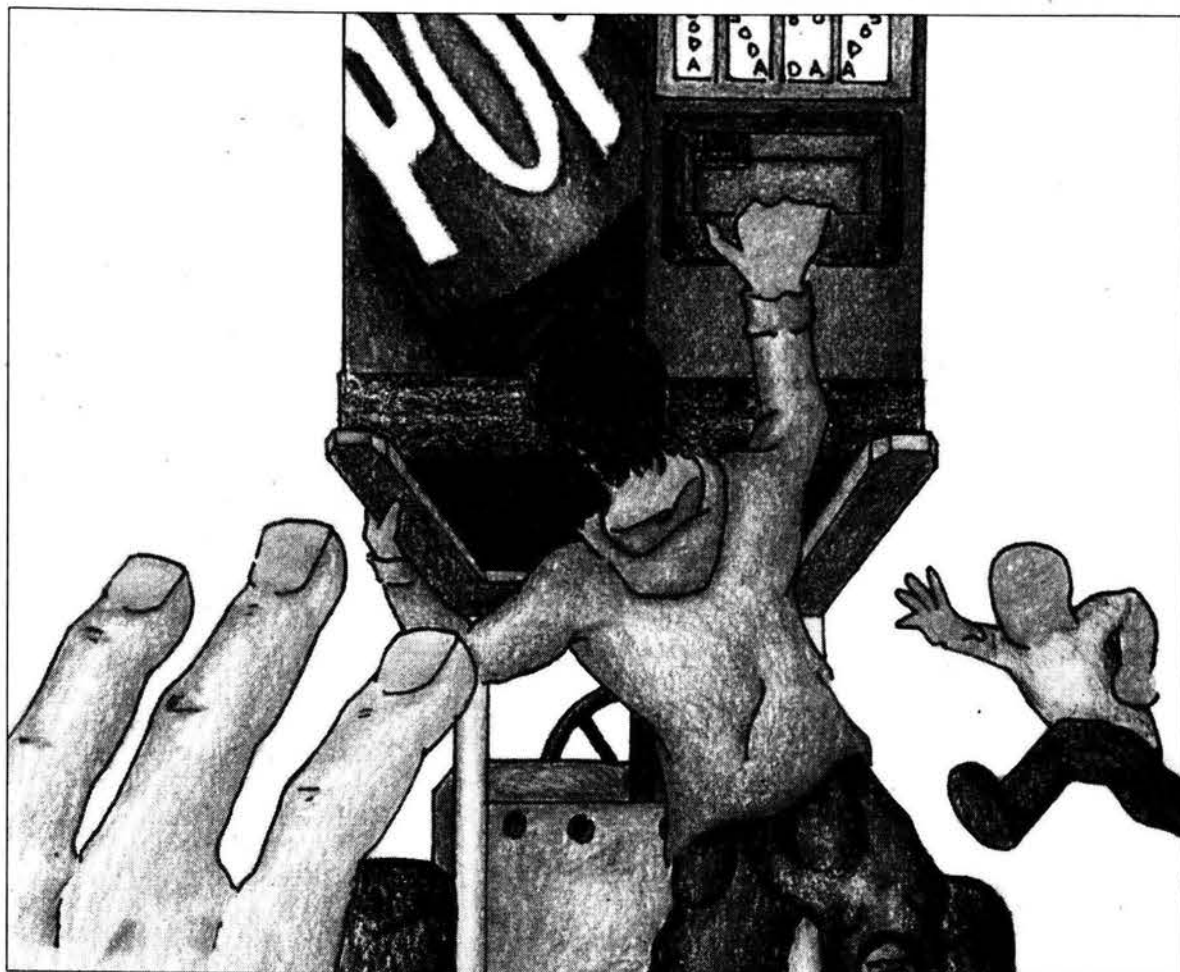
He told me the day after I saw him, he took a shower and was able to pull his hair out. I have not been able to see him, but I don't know if I want to. I feel that I would only hurt the situation by endangering his health and not be the best of company. Knowing how I reacted the last time I was there, I would not be able to control crying.

Every time the subject is brought up, I want to cry. I can only imagine the pain he is experiencing and the fact that he might not live scares me. Life is too precious to be taken for granted.

I feel that I have not been the greatest friend since he went into the hospital. I barely called him, but that was because his throat was so bad, he could not talk.

He is home now and everything seems to be going much better for my friend.

Obviously nobody knows what the future holds, but I'm just glad my friend is getting better.



## Pop machines should remain in school

Buy one pop for breakfast, another at lunch and for an after-school snack. This is just one choice a high school student can make if he wants.

He is a teenager, he shouldn't need a pediatrician hovering over his shoulder, ranting about the empty calories he is consuming when he should just drink milk.

High school students should be old enough and know if they want to risk the fattening side effects of a Mr. Pibb at 6 a.m.

According to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Web site, The American Association of Pediatrics has announced a new anti-soft-drink policy, saying pediatricians should work to prevent soft drinks in schools because it promotes obesity in kids.

A study conducted by Georgetown University showed there is not a link between pop consumption and obesity.

The study showed that on average, a kid who is obese consumes a shot glass more soda per day than a kid of normal weight does. Only 30 more calories, which is equivalent to a carrot.

Pediatricians can make suggestions, but no school high school official should take it seriously. Healthy eating habits should have been learned in elementary school, when the teenagers did actually visit pediatricians.

Growing up is all about learning from choices and mistakes. A bottle of pop should not be one of the fork's in the road of development.

It should never come up in a question like "what is wrong with the teenagers today," because there is way more than Coca-Cola or Pepsi.

A toddler weighing 100 pounds should be more of a pediatrician's worry than a 135-pound-teenager sipping on

a carbonated beverage. The solution of taking all pop machines out of the building does not make sense.

In this school, the pop machines don't only provide soda products, but water and juice as well. The machines should stay because the school has over 2,000 students with different preferences.

If these pediatricians are so inclined to worry about the stubborn teenage group, they shouldn't try to take away machines. They should push to add more machines to high schools. More Minute Maid juice machines should be added because sometimes the fruit juices do sell out. This is not to say the entire student population would switch to 100 percent healthy beverages, but it does give the chance of it happening.

The empty calories should be considered much more than wasted energy. Because students do need caffeine at times. Having soda machines in the school provides for an energy jolt to get through the rest of the day.

If the student isn't sleeping through class, he can then be more alert and eventually move around enough to work off the calories.

Even if soda machines were banned from schools, students would still find a way to drink pop during school. Most likely they would bring a shipment of pop and leave it in their locker, possibly even sell it to other students.

The school should continue to have pop machines in the building because they will drink pop whenever they feel like it. Just let the teenagers grow up and learn by their mistakes. Keep the annoying pediatricians' advice away.

If students want to drink soda, they are going to drink it. That goes the same for students who are going to drink fruit juice. If students are buying it, the schools should sell it and benefit from it.

### EDITORIAL The OPINION of the Register staff

## LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

### Classes should cover the three topics

Editor,  
I feel that if people want to talk about homosexuality, abortion and then why shouldn't they. It's important to teach us about that so we don't make mistakes in the future.  
It is also freedom of speech and it should be discussed.

Chloe (9)

### Cafeteria adds to school's appearance

Editor,  
The new cafeteria is great. Even though I have only been for a year, I can tell it has made a big difference to the school. I think it makes the school look better and the lines go faster.

Tracy Griffith (9)

### Discussing sexuality will answer questions

Editor,  
I feel it is unnecessary to not be allowed to discuss such things in class. We encounter these issues day in and day out. I talked amongst friends and such quite often. Most the time some of the kids have questions about sex. They could be too shy so if we discuss it in class, we will have better knowledge on the topic.

Brandon Nazeck (10)

### Cafeteria adds to Central's dining, studying

Editor,  
The new cafeteria I think is a big improvement to the school. The extra space and lighting really adds to the high school experience. The windows give a beautiful view of the Omaha community.

Chris Culliver (9)

### Westside student ignores meaning of award

Editor,  
I feel that the student from Westside High School was being disrespectful and trying to be funny by applying for the African-American award. Because he knows what the award is for black students. He could have been trying to get a scholarship, but there is much out there for blacks.

### 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.

I think there are so many opportunities for whites in the community, and it was wrong.

Marisa Parker (11)

### Westside controversy should not suspend the student

Dear Editor,  
I think it was wrong to suspend that boy running for the award from Westside. Because he was raised in South Africa, it's a racial thing and he was put up to it by his peers. If he is suspended, so should those who forced peer pressure on him to try running for the African-American award.

Nakia Johnson (11)

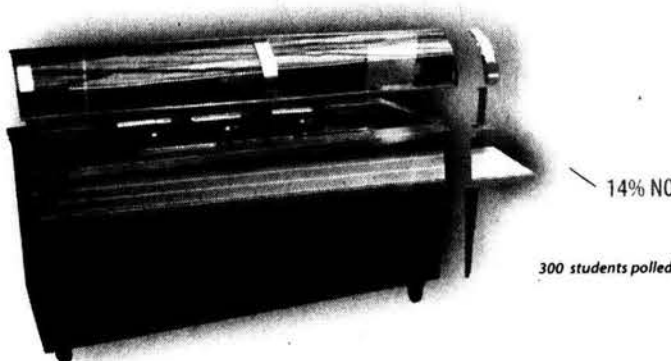
### White teen is eligible for African-American award

Dear Editor,  
I think it's funny because everybody is making a big deal out of something so little. He was born in Africa and now he lives in America. So he is African-American. This means he should be eligible for this award.

Darryl Hinson (9)

### STUDENT POLL

DOES THE NEW CAFETERIA ADD TO THE BUILDING?



### STUDENT POLL

Should the pop machines be taken out of school, in hopes to prevent teenage obesity?



### Teen wants apology from District 66's teen

Dear Editor,  
I believe that the young adult from Omaha Westside was wrong in running for the African-American award. He was 100 percent white. That isn't what "African-American" refers to.

I believe he should apologize to the school district because he caused problems that caught national news' attention. I don't think the young adult really understood the meaning of an award like that.

Joe Albright (9)

### Class prevents knowledge of real situations

Dear Editor,  
Abortion, masturbation and homosexuality are not to be discussed in the human growth and development classroom.

I cannot simply figure out why. All three of these topics are part of normal, everyday life. They are especially prevalent here at Central.

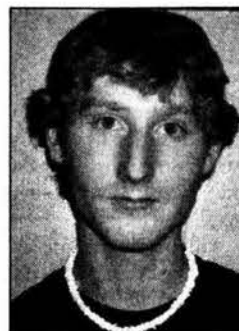
High school students should no longer be shut out of what is really going on out in the real world. Since that is what high school is for. It is for us to prepare ourselves in life.

I feel that without these topics discussed, those who have been sheltered all their lives are in for a rude awakening when they leave high school.

Allison Hartnett (10)

### REGISTER YOUR OPINION

#### DO YOU THINK HOMOSEXUALITY, ABORTION AND MASTURBATION SHOULD BE IN THE CURRICULUM?



"Abortion students need to know and homosexuality no one needs to hear about in class."

Cody Oltrogge (11)



"A lot of people know about it, but they should learn it from a book instead of hearing lies."

Paris Tyler (12)



"Abortion should be discussed. Masturbation no one cares about."

Holley Willits (10)



"Keep it out because the confrontation and arguing isn't needed in class."

Chelsea Osbahr (9)



"Students should talk about it. If they are not mature enough, there should be a second-level class for it."

Alejandra Najera (10)



"They should understand and know about it. It all happens and they shouldn't hide it."

Hillary Velez (10)



# Valentine's Day: Sweet Endings

Cupid's day wouldn't be complete without a little bit of sugar to end that very special evening. These are the *Register* staff's picks of the best places to go for dessert.



Location: **1206 Howard St**  
Best buy: **éclair**

BY ASHLEY BROWN

Sweet whispers will pour out of the couple's mouths as they share a cherry French soda through two long straws and gaze into each other's moonlit eyes.

Love will be in the air at Délíce with its sweet desserts. The chocolate will turn into an aphrodisiac for the young couple.

Délíce is the perfect place to fall in love and with its romantic atmosphere and sweet coffees. It's hard not to.

The price is something to adjust to, but the desserts are so rich it is worth it.

Couples don't need a passport to enjoy a Valentine's Day dessert in the heart of the romance capital of the world. Délíce is like a little bit of Paris on a corner in the Old Market.

Délíce is a prime, quick dessert shop that's perfect following a Valentine's Day dinner at M's Pub or Spaghetti Works with no reservations required.

Dinner may not even be necessary because the food is filled with sugar.

That extra cash needed to shell out for a flaky éclair covered in a smooth layer of chocolate bursting with creamy filling is more than worth it.

It also has light and fluffy cream puffs as well as servings of crème brûlée that are just enough for two people to share over a couple of chai lattes.

For those who want to stay within their comfort zone, the seat-yourself café offers cookies, bagels and cake by the slice, as well as ice tea, coffee, lattes, French and Italian sodas and a wide

variety of sodas, juices and teas by the bottle.

There shouldn't be a problem of finding something to drink or eat here.

A couple can expect to spend around \$10 for a light and romantic quality dessert.

The guests pay for the atmosphere, as well as the food.

Even in the dead of winter, the simple red and white French-inspired atmosphere truly feels like a sidewalk café in Paris.

French posters placed tastefully on the walls add kitsch while the new tables and chairs add class.

While the wine bar will be off limits to students, it can still convince one they are on European dining excursion.

On a starry night, Délíce is a very tasteful ending to a hopeless romantic's date.

Make that night extra special.



Location: **4416 Dodge St.**  
Best buy: **chocolate silk pie**

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Village Inn may not be the cream of the crop when it comes to Valentine's Day dinner, but it is an excellent choice for dessert.

The restaurant offers a wide selection of pies and cakes and anyone can find something they like for \$3. Whether it be elegance or simplicity, Village Inn's pie has what lovebirds are looking for.

If going for elegance, go for the chocolate silk pie. This creamy blend of chocolate and whipped cream is sure to satisfy the sweet tooth of anyone who has got one.

Or, if going for the more traditional approach, the apple or cherry pie is another excellent choice on the menu.

The restaurant offers the warm pie with vanilla ice cream on the side. This is an excellent choice not only for this holiday, but for any day of the year.

Since we all know that the color red is associated with Valentine's Day, the Strawberry Rhubarb is another great choice. It is little more seasonal and has more of a Valentine's Day look to it.

Pieces of strawberry and all things unhealthy are tossed together for this pie and though it may seem like a lot, once someone has started eating it, they want more and more.

Because the couple may not want to go to Village Inn, they can have their pie to go, so they can eat it at home while nestling up by a fire.

No matter where it is eaten, Village Inn pies are some of the best in town and are always going to be that way.



Location: **1022 Howard St**  
Best buy: **crème brûlée**

BY SARA RIPS

V. Mertz is a great place to go with your significant other for Valentine's Day. However, be prepared to pay at V. Mertz.

While the atmosphere of the passageway is a very pleasant and romantic one, being embarrassed by not having the cash to pay for the bill is neither pleasant nor romantic.

The passageway's dark lighting and vintage feel makes for the perfect feel on Valentine's Day.

The restaurant's mood lighting is set at a twilight-esque level to top off the romantic atmosphere.

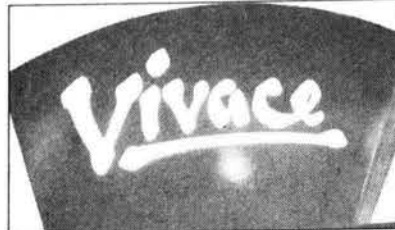
Although the bustle of the stores across the way can be semi-distracting, the restaurant still has a great feel to it.

You will never eat a sub par meal at V. Mertz. The wait staff is incredibly

friendly and helpful.

These people will be happy to help you decide between two platters. They will make sure that your evening is pleasant and happy.

The dessert menu also offers a wide variety in choices. So once again there is no reason to not find a dessert you will enjoy.



Location: **1110 Howard St.**  
Best buy: **tiramisu**

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

An elegant and intimate atmosphere, accompanied by an enticing array of desserts, combines to make the perfect Valentine's Day dining experience.

Vivace is in the Old Market is one of Omaha's best for both dessert and dinner.

Valentine's Day isn't complete without some sweet food to end the night.

Whether it may be chocolate or fruit, Vivace has something for every sweet tooth. A pastry chef visits daily during the week to prepare their specialty desserts.

Vivace Koo-Koo is tempting to anyone.

Featuring dense layers of coconut and cream, along with a rich chocolate cake and chocolate icing. Drizzled with raspberry sauce, it is impossible to pass.

If your Valentine's Day date is a chocolate lover, this dessert is definitely for her.

The only downside is the coconut throughout the entire cake that makes the dessert a bit too heavy.

If you're looking for a specialty dessert, Vivace is definitely the place. The pastry chef's desserts are one of

a kind. Only one of the reasons for Vivace's local fame is its ever-changing dessert menu.

Everyday in the restaurant you are bound to find a dessert that is new and different, not to mention delicious.



Location: **1120 Jackson St.**  
Best buy: **dutch chocolate ice cream**

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Ted and Wally's ice cream parlor is a perfect place to get a cheap homemade ice cream soda after walking around in the Old market.

Walking into the door you can see the atmosphere: a vintage Pepsi machine, an ice cream maker, and fliers and pamphlets of upcoming local events.

Posters of Elvis Costello, Bright Eyes, and other bands litter the walls and add the unique look of the building.

Ted and Wally's is a very 'homegrown' establishment. Local artists are able to display single pieces of artwork, or entire installations on the walls.

Free concerts starring unknown Omaha bands also makes Ted and Wally's an interesting place to hang out.

The attitude is very mellow and cool. Which helps for the couple on the Valentine's Day outing. The ice

cream isn't very expensive.

With the blaring music and neon lights, it is the perfect place to dessert after eating or shopping in the Old Market.

The romantic mood may not be there. The mood is more comfortable than anything else.

The ice cream is very unique as well. It has flavors invented by Ted and Wally, all of which are worth trying. Dutch chocolate and pumpkin are two that are very interesting, especially topped with cookies or candy.

Ted and Wally's seems to have ice cream down to an art form. It has desserts ranging from vanilla phosphates to strawberry sodas.

The servers cram a lot of good into every order. You can't beat the prices, so check it out.



Location: **7855 S. 83rd St.**  
Best buy: **strawberry shortcake**

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

The Summer Kitchen Café is one of the better choices for Valentine's Day supremacy. If considering taking date here, think again, this dinner is for the romantic holiday.

This restaurant serves cheap desserts, but does not cater to the loss of the crowd, or anyone in the crowd that matter.

The sitting area is usually noisy and the wait can be long. The food received, the wait was unnecessary, and screaming children and ignorant parents do not help the situation either. The name of the restaurant sums up the time when good to go there, in the summer, Valentine's Day people are looking for sweet desserts they can share with date.

The best looking dessert they offered was strawberry shortcake. It was tasted and looked like it had all been bought in a package and overpriced the restaurant.

Take your date some place because this is not the place to go to any day.

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# Female refuses to quit even after sexist remarks by fans



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Desert City Soundtrack vocalist and guitarist Matt Carrillo plays at the Ranch Bowl last year. He said the band is planning a second visit to Omaha soon.

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Caitlin Love with Desert City Soundtrack walks away from her drum set after a show, only to hear fans say "you play good drums, for a girl."

Desert City Soundtrack lives in Portland, Ore. and has just finished a tour across the states. Love said after performing a show she sometimes feels the need to complain about the male-female drummer ratio after hearing fans negative comments about her.

"When people always comment, it can get kind of rude," Love said. "It would be nice to be considered just as a musician, not a female."

Lead vocalist and guitarist Matt Carrillo said Love gets a lot of grief from fans.

He said she has a strong presence in the band and is almost more of a "man" than the rest of the members.

"She is just a human being playing drums," Carrillo said.

Last year the band was on the Too Young to Die Tour and had a temporary drummer to fill in Love's position. She said she couldn't go on tour because she had difficulties with her friends and band mates' personalities.

When the band finished the tour, Cory Gray the pianist and trumpet player said it signed up to play shows in California. But the temporary drummer left the band early and the band without a drummer.

Once the members went back home, Love said she decided she only wanted to play drums with Desert City Soundtrack.

"I chose to play with them again," she said. "I have been playing now for a while and it's been great."

Bassist Mike Casanova said the band lived in Santa Rosa, Calif., but didn't officially form until they each met up after they moved to Portland. At first Casanova and Carrillo played in a band called Edaline. Edaline would play the same shows with Love and the band she was in.

After moving to Portland, Carrillo said he and Gray started Desert City Soundtrack. Casanova and Love joined the band shortly after.

It has been formed for two and half years. San Diego is what inspired the name with its "desert" appeal.

The band released its first album "Contents of Distraction" with Deep Elm Records on March 3, 2003. Then went on the Too Young To Die Tour, which visited 31 cities, including Omaha.

On Nov. 10, 2003 Desert City Soundtrack released its second album, "Funeral Car," and started to tour again.

Carrillo said he thought it would be nice to keep touring and playing music.

"We haven't spent two years on making one album," he said. "We toured for half a year and released two albums in one year."

Desert City Soundtrack does plan to come back to Omaha preferably to the Ranch Bowl sometime from now to early summer.

Carrillo said he wants to see the Ranch Bowl's bowling alley.

The band has been going on a lot more tours and may be going on one this spring. Carrillo said he hopes the band can come through Omaha again.

Gray said he thinks things have changed and touring will be better because on the first album the band spent 28 hours making it, compared to 150 hours recording its second release. It could get more creative and use different types of instruments.

"Our last tour was more successful," Gray said. "We went around to cities like Chicago, Boston and Buffalo. We even made it out to Canada and Mexico to make our music known."

Casanova said the band circled around the states to build a fan base.

A tour cannot be complete without a near-death experience. Gray said the band was leaving New York and crashed the van when it flew into a barbed wire fence. None of the members were hurt and the van could still drive once it was freed from the wire.

"We planned on staying on the road because I thought it was a good idea," Carrillo said. "But who was driving had something else in mind."

Touring and playing music is all Gray said he wants to do. He said he would tour all the time knowing he is playing music.

Working part-time jobs isn't something the band likes to do. Gray said the band's career is starting to happen, bringing more gigs into the picture.

Desert City Soundtrack is now selling a lot more albums. Gray said on the last tour the band ran out of "Funeral Car" to sell. Casanova said the music in "Funeral Car" is just as personal as the first one, but with more emotions and thoughts of death.

His father died and some of the band's friends did, too.

"The music just got darker and darker," Casanova said. "A lot of relationship themes and death (were included)."

The main writer of the lyrics is Carrillo, but sometimes others throw in a line, Casanova said. He said he couldn't pick a favorite album or song because each one represents different memories and chapters in his life.

Carrillo said the first song, "My Hell," comes from a horrible and real experience. He said he chose the title "Funeral Car" for the album name because it is the most honorable car with important people in it at funerals.

"Right at the end I wanted to change the name to something like 'Captain Kangaroo,' so it wouldn't be expected to sound depressing," Carrillo said. "I just kept with it because it was too late to change and one day we will all be in a funeral car if we like it or not."

In the near future the band will also release a split album with Settlefish from Deep Elm Records and possibly another band.

Gray said the split album is going to be more aggressive and the songs are in the making.

Carrillo said the band is going to make a quick turnover with writing the songs.

There are also plans to tour in Europe. The band will probably meet with Settlefish and other bands in Europe signed to Deep Elm Records while they are there.

With all the tours, Casanova said he would play any show, but smaller crowds are his favorite.

# Native country performer travels to Iraq on tour to play for troops

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

They ate, slept and talked with the men and women who are protecting the country in Iraq.

Local country band Jolie Edwards and the Wanted became soldiers with the Stars and Stripes Tour with Craig Morgan.

The tour brought music for the working troops.

"It was a life changing experience. It was so hard to explain. I am still trying to find the words," Edwards said, "I still try and talk to my family about it, but then I don't know what to say."

While in Iraq, Edwards said she

learned many valuable lessons and her views changed on the war. She was able to come to terms with the decision to fight.

"Freedom is not free and we have boys and girls over there putting their lives on the line so that we can be free," she said. "I think people are taking it for granted. We need to be praying for those people who are over there."

When the band went to Iraq, the members said they didn't know what to expect.

Though she had previously been on a tour called the USO Tour in November 2001, she said this one was a little more intense.

With the Stars and Stripes Tour, Edwards said she was able to get to the more remote camps that the USO tour wasn't able to.

"We traveled a road called Ambush Alley and many of our soldiers had been killed there," she said. "We could see where bombs had previously gone off, it was very emotional."

The band went there right after the attacks.

This time, while in Iraq, Edwards said she met a lot of soldiers from Nebraska and the most impressive thing to her was when some of them started singing her songs.

"Over the five days we did three

performances a day at different camps, but we would sing whenever they wanted us to," she said.

With the Nebraska troops, Edwards said she talked about the Huskers and she had a little red "N" that she took on stage with her.

Edwards said her and the bands convoyed across Iraq and their lives were in danger wherever they went. She said while they drove and slept they heard gunshots and mortar shells going off.

"When we flew to the camps, we had to land and run to the armored car which was guarded by gunmen," she said. "We really got to feel how the

soldiers live and how they deal with everyday life."

The band will be spending about a week in Europe where she will perform country music festivals.

Edwards said while she is doing the festivals, she will be doing shows for the troops as well.

"I really hope there aren't anymore troops over there, but this is a problem that is not going to be fixed very easily," Edwards said. "If going over there means I am helping people, I will do it."

Despite the danger she was in, Edwards said it would not take much for her to go back and do it all again.

Some fans came up to her and thanked the band performing before the troops.

"The most memorable moment for me was when one of the generals came up to me with tears in his eyes," she said.

He was crying because the music boosted the soldiers moral and they forgot where they were for the concert.

She said she didn't know the power and ability a band has on fans.

Also how the music and lyrics can change people's state of minds to the point they forget they are fighting a war.

She said that's the point.




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# Powerful rock makes album memorable

## ALBUM REVIEW

"LEAVE YOUR NAME"

By: Statistics

BY BRIAN SWOTEK

Statistics has a lot more to offer to the emo-indie fans with the release of "Leave Your Name."

Though the album is a little more rock than t is depressing, the message is the same as other emo groups.

It sounds like Desaperacidos, Denver Dalley's other project, had a lasting impression on him. He sings vocals in Desaperacidos and plays the guitar.

Both of the bands have a lot of the same sounds in the guitars and Dalley who played a lot of the guitar in Desaperacidos, obviously has a lot of influence on the sound of Statistics.

Though the two bands have some similarities, they also have their apparent differences. Statistics is not as politically angst-ridden as the other project.

This makes the Statistics release a little more relaxing and a lot less whiney.

Dalley talks about turning back time and going back to when things were easier. The new album, which came out on CD and vinyl, should be in everybody's music collection.

The band brings back a '80s style synthetic rock. It adds many new sounds and instruments to make the project stand out a lot more among his comrades.

By using toy-like instruments, the band has been able to capture fans that normally would not like this type of music.

Most of the lyrics in the album are sung through a megaphone. This makes Dalley's voice stand out and makes the album sound unlike anything else.

The instruments he used also made the band sound retro, like it is a re-release, but it is solid, straight-forward rock.

With slow songs and upbeat tracks, everyone has something they can take in from this album.

The lyrics on the album are enough to make anyone who listens to the album fall in love with it.

The song "Hours Seem Like Days," is the most memorable song on the album.

In this song, Dalley sings about going back to a time when things were easier and technology was not even an option. The track will be obligatory for all mix tapes and albums out there.

"Sing a Song," is another one of those tracks. It sounds like Dalley's way of making things better.

With his lyrics and his melodies, it is no doubt that the people who listen to this album will like it. "Sing a Song" sounds like a lesson on how to fix a bad day.

There are a lot of bands and other projects in Omaha that are making marks on the scene and Statistics new album is one of those new projects.



COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES

Ewan McGregor and Alison Lohman, who play the younger bride and groom, have very convincing roles in the movie "Big Fish." Above, McGregor's character convinces his wife to be that his love is real.

# 'Fish' stuns audience with plot

BY JOHN KENDALL

"Big Fish" is yet another classic tall-tale, fantasy adventure directed by Tim Burton. "Batman" and "Edward Scissorhands" that takes the viewers' eyes for a visual ride of a lifetime.

The screen play of the movie, written by John August, was based on the book "Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions," by Daniel Wallace.

If there was any name commonly associated with Tim Burton, it would be music director Danny Elfman. His work with "Big Fish" amplifies his seemingly innate ability to make musical scores fit along with the events in movies.

It is enough to make one's eardrums dance and become simply lost in the moment, which has always seemed to be an outstanding quality of Elfman's work.

"Big Fish" stars Albert Finney as the elderly Edward Bloom, a sickly old man who always has a story to tell no matter how hard it may or may not be able to believe.

Ewan McGregor plays a magnificent performance as the younger Edward Bloom, a young romantic fool overflowing with determination and astounding ambition, who appears in all of old Bloom's flashbacks.

In the flashbacks, young Bloom is chasing after young Sandra Templeton, played by Alison Lohman, the woman who time literally stops in his life. Jessica Lange, who coincidentally and fortunately looks like an older Lohman in terms of facial and bodily

structure, plays the elderly Sandra.

Billy Crudup plays Will Bloom, the estranged and skeptical son of Edward and Sandra. Will is a journalist who is fed up with his father's asinine stories.

Other star appearances include Steve Buscemi as Norther Winslow, a runaway poet turned thief turned Wall Street executive, and Danny DeVito as Amos Calloway, the conniving leader of a travelling circus.

Perhaps the largest star, literally, would be the gargantuan Matthew McGrory who plays Karl, the giant. This

7-foot-6-inch tall actor has amazing talent which makes it no wonder why he has landed himself in Hollywood being seen in such television shows as "Malcolm in the Middle" and "The Drew Carey Show," not to mention his co-starring role in Rob Zombie's "House of 1,000 Corpses."

The movie is reaching the brim with amazing characters and creatures: giants, witches, werewolves, and people of hidden towns that have never been touched by outside civilization. However, the producers and visual designers did an excellent job at keeping it realistic.

The special effects do not dominate the story. They only provides a sturdy support for the supposed fairy tales told in the movie. It can make almost any viewer actually question whether or not the event could really take place.

Many events in the movie prove gaudy computer-generated effects are not even needed to make a movie look good, which is

another excellent quality from the director.

Burton makes an excellent use of color and composition and is not afraid to make use of any hue on the palette or tackle any situation, no matter how awkward or out-of-the-league it may seem. After all, this is a movie "bigger than life itself."

Perhaps one of the most shocking qualities of this movie is at times it does not even seem like it was directed by Tim Burton. The man, who is known for elaborate stories of heart-felt fantasy, was able to touch base with the real-world interactions between the people who exist outside the tall-tales.

This film is a definite growth for Burton.

A movie as multifaceted as "Big Fish" will, however, require a bit of focus from the audience, or simply anyone who is not used to following along with two story lines at one time.

On one hand there is what is perceived to be the "real world" story, involving the older Edward and Will Bloom, and on the other hand there is the past-time adventures of young Edward, following his seemingly impossible youth and young adulthood.

It is not long however, before the mind gets used to it, and one can almost know where the story is going and make connections through hints dropped here and there throughout the movie.

It can then truly be realized how much deep and profound thought was put into "Big Fish," which leads to an ending that can make even the most cold person have a sparkle in the corner of his eye.

It is a shame such dynamic and innovative movies like "Big Fish" are not commonly what Oscar voters look for because this movie would take the prize.

## MOVIE REVIEW



"BIG FISH"

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Jessica Lange, and Albert Finney

# Omaha band impresses fans with stage presence, musical ability



PHOTO BY BRIAN SWOTEK/REGISTER

Jenny Lewis of the band Rilo Kiley tunes her guitar before her set. The band was successful again and kept the audience enchanted.

BY BRIAN SWOTEK

It was a big show for a smaller portion of Rilo Kiley.

Lead singer Jenny Lewis and guitar player Blake Sennet made a stop in Omaha while on the band's acoustic tour, a stop some dedicated fans will never forget.

The Sokol Underground was overflowing with fans singing along and show its dedication to the music.

Expectations were met by the fans, an electrical performance.

The slow melodies started by Neva Dinova. The music relaxed the listeners, but anticipation of the following acts still resided.

With almost a one-man band approach, Neva Dinova performed an excellent 30-minute set, but when it ended, fans were ready for something a little more intense. This show ended Neva Dinova's spot on the tour.

The striped clothing practically hypnotized the audience when Tilly and the Wall walked on stage.

A tap dancer acted like a drum set for the evening. The band performed without a drummer and so the dancer kept the beat of the music going.

Tilly and the Wall quintet sung catchy lyrics and also kept the audience in a trance with their wardrobe.

The band's most memorable event of the evening, besides the exciting set, was the cover of Outkast's "Hey Ya." Judging by the bands dancing and synchronicity to Andre 3000, the

song was obviously well rehearsed and appreciated by the audience. This marked Tilly and the Wall's last performance on the tour.

Shortly after Tilly and the Wall cleared the stage, Rilo Kiley loaded its equipment. A last minute request by Sennet put the two performers on tables so everyone could see them play.

This band succeeds in entertaining new and old fans because change is always happening. Sometimes the members sit on tables while other times they have new guest appearance.

This time, the band had a different line-up. Lewis, who played keyboards, guitar, and various other instruments, also sung most of the songs. Her voice was the perfect pitch for every song.

Rilo Kiley proved to the audience with the first song how incredible the set was going to be.

## CONCERT REVIEW



THE RILO KILEY ACOUSTIC TOUR

At Sokol Underground with Tilly and the Wall, Neva Dinova

# Movie lacks excitement, actors' talent

## MOVIE REVIEW



"CHASING LIBERTY"

Starring: Mandy Moore

BY JEFF HART

"Chasing Liberty" is another movie about the boring life of a teenage girl. The only twist she is the president's daughter.

Being his daughter doesn't add to the movie, in fact it takes away because she has to act innocent.

The producers went the wrong way when they hired Mandy Moore and Matthew Goss to star in the film.

Moore's acting ability hasn't matured yet. Her father sends some of his security agents out to spy on her dates.

In actuality, the watcher would hope the president's men would have something more important than spying on teenage rendezvous. But realism was suspended when this movie was written.

The film introduces a new image of the president's daughter's personal life is like the life of a teen who can't control her hormones.

"Chasing Liberty" is based on the pathos of other teens, to rebel.

Sound familiar?

The movie doesn't have a good message and it fails to keep the watcher focused.

Other movies have tried this topic, but producers at least picked talented performers. Sex is attempted to keep the audience entertained, but it doesn't succeed. Moore's thought of as a sex-object and couldn't pull this aspect with her role in this movie.

Moore plays Anna "Liberty" Foster, the president's daughter who wants to have sex and freedom so she can have sex with her boyfriend.

Teenage sex is a great way for this actress to appeal to the young girls who idolize her.

The movie also shows running away from a secret vacation is also what a teen should do.

This probably is not the right thing to do. Each aspect of the movie is predictable. Within the first minutes the viewer can guess who will fall in love and how crazy Moore's act.

Director Andy Caldic has been able to make a good film, yet.

Luckily there is a slight amount of hope for him because he is able to get good camera angles and angles. He is able to show the critics that he has the talent. Now he just needs the right script.

There is some hope for his career, yet it is not something could always happen.

If the audience is lucky, this movie will be interrupted by a technical difficulty or a power outage and they will have to go home.

Because if that doesn't happen, the audience will feel obligated to stay and waste hours of time.

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## Eagles beat Bluejays in Bird Cage

BY JEFF HART

Senior point guard B.J. Valentine, injured from a serious car accident to 15 points to help the Eagles to 64-40 victory against Prep in January. Valentine transferred from Prep last year.

"I did well, but I could have done better if I wasn't worried about aggravating my injury," Valentine said. He had 16 stitches in his forehead and a cut was very jagged that left him feeling very fatigued.

This game was the first time Valentine had touched a basketball since the accident.

He had not practiced with the team but was confident. He wasn't worried about playing in the Bird Cage, Prep's home basketball court, for the first time since the transfer.

It's the same game, just different venue," he said.

He played the whole second half and shot five of eight three-pointers. The team and fans cheered him until the end.

A lot of emotion was in the air. Senior guard Courtney Grixby, with B.J. back in the Bird Cage, took the lead from the accident.

Grixby also helped get the win for the Eagles. He put on a good show with his dunks, powerful blocks and assists. Grixby also shot three out of four free throws.

The team as a whole played well and showed it could win under difficult situations and hard games.

It's tough to come to Prep and play at head basketball coach Eric Schaefer's house. "We won and I am happy with that result."

The game started off with quick ball and the Eagles dominated the first period. The first half ended, 21-11, Central.

Defensively and offensively, Central dominated the game.

The second quarter slowed down, but Prep still struggled to earn

Senior guard Davon White scored his seven points during this time. He scored on a 20 foot three-point shot as the last seconds ticked off the clock.

Prep made a quick comeback, but was not enough to take over the game. Prep senior Mike Hoarty scored more points for his team, which won the half. The halftime score was 21-11, Central.

In the third quarter, Central scored 10 points, three of which were from Mike Hoarty. Prep scored 10 points, which put the team six points behind.

In the fourth quarter, Prep was in a bind with five minutes left after two pointers by junior Joe Temme and senior Hank Jenkins.

When Valentine drained two back-to-back three-pointers, which gave the Eagles a lead. Grixby scored two points, followed by two baskets from seniors James Cannon and sophomore Derrick Russell.

The game ended with the team's seniors finishing off the Prep starters.

It was a high intensity game," Schaefer said. "The team really played as a whole. We knew we had to get ready to win and that is what won the game."



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Junior varsity basketball coach Matt Shafer draws a play for the girls to follow against Millard South in January. Shafer said he hopes his players learn a lot and have fun a long the way.

## Coach pushes work ethic, having fun

BY JEFF HART

"Coach of all trades" is a title that could be given to the girls junior varsity basketball coach Matt Shafer because he has coached five different sports.

"I coach because I love to teach and help the athletes," Shafer said. "I coach improve their skills and work ethics."

In the past he has coached these sports at different high schools: soccer, tennis, football, baseball and basketball.

He started coaching 10 years ago when he began his teaching career.

He said the different experiences from coaching different sports carried over to the next sport.

All the information he has learned has made him a well-rounded coach.

His main goals is to have a successful practice. Shafer is a firm believer in a good practice leads to a good game.

From his years of experience he has learned to heavily teach the skills in practice and challenge the players.

A main idea he wants to teach to the athletes is to keep the same frame of mind

and intensity if the team loses or not. He said a loss should never affect the playing ability of the whole team.

Junior Darcy Rutherford said she thinks he is an excellent coach because he treats the athletes with respect.

She said he always boosts up the players and makes them feel confident.

Rutherford said she likes how he doesn't show favorites on the team.

She said this helps the players learn how to play and increase their talents.

A goal for Shafer is to help the girls junior varsity (JV) basketball team any way he can.

In the past he coached a different schools' teams and he wanted to coach at Central.

"I have coached both boys and girls in many sports," Shafer said.

Out of boys and girls, he said he enjoys coaching girls more because they listen to his advice and usually follow through with it.

This year is his most successful year for the team he is coaching.

He led the girls JV basketball team to a victory at the holiday tournament. Earning the girls the championship title.

This is one of his first awards in his coaching career.

"This team works together very well and is one of the most athletic teams I have ever coached," Shafer said. "These girls are going to find a lot of success in the future."

He said he thinks this year will end with very prestigious awards and victories for the team.

The players want to show throughout the season that they have the skills to win a lot of games.

"They play with a lot of confidence and have shown they can pull off anything in the future," he said.

He said coaching made him a better teacher. He didn't decide to be a teacher until he was in college and started coaching his younger brothers' summer baseball team.

After this experience he discovered he really wanted to teach and coach.

"Coaching that summer baseball team made me change my major and made me a coach," he said.

He said the summer changed everything he wanted to do he can't imagine what he would be doing now without his passions, coaching and teaching.

## Coach starts new security position

BY JOHN KENDALL

Central boys basketball assistant coach Herb Welling continues to strive to make a national name for the team and bring his work and passion together after transferring from Northwest High School to the Central security staff.

"We always want to win the State tournament," Welling said. "That is always our goal."

The farthest the team has ever gone is the State semi-finals. The last two years it has reached State, only to lose during the quarter-finals. The team has not won the title since 1975.

The coaches and teams mission is to aim for the top and keep it there.

"We want to get to that level and maintain it," he said. "We want to earn our ratings."

Welling said the renovations made it a lot easier to create a skilled and strong team. The new weight room is the best he has seen at any high school.

"We are also at a school that breeds success," he said.

The Central basketball team has won a majority of its games this season and though it is good, Welling said there is always room for improvement. He said he thinks the team will become better as the years continue because the program is very well established.

The key is to just keep the team focused and it helps that the staff and students get along well, he said.

The coaches care about the members of the team and try to help them in any way possible, which he said is uncommon among high school coaches. They go so far as to try their best to get every senior as many scholarship opportunities as possible.

Welling has been coaching at Central for three years and 25 years all together. He coached at Ralston for a few years in the early '90s, and also co-founded the Omaha Cardinals for about 12 years.

Sophomore Andre McIntyre has known Welling since the fourth grade. He said he has not known him personally, but he has played on teams that have played against other teams coached by him.

McIntyre said he believes the team is having a good season so far, and they just want to keep its success rolling.

"He's a good coach," he said. "He knows a lot about basketball."

Welling started coaching through head basketball coach and his friend, Eric Behrens. He said they both have the love of basketball and kids. When Behrens got the job as head coach, Welling was hired along with him.

"I've always been a basketball junkie," Welling said.

He started coaching at Five-Star Basketball Camp 18 years ago. It is a camp where coaches are taught better coaching skills as well as training athletes. Welling said roughly 250 coaches who came out of the camp went on to coaching at a college level and about 25 coaches went so far as the National Basketball Association (NBA).

"I've worked with those kind of people for the past 20 years," he said, "as well as many pro players."

Aside from coaching, Welling works as a security aide. Up until recently, he has worked at Northwest.

He had worked at Northwest for the past five years. After Charles Williams left, who is also a friend of his, he saw it as an opportunity to bring his work and passion closer together.

"It put me in an awkward position being in two places," Welling said. "This way I don't have to travel as much."

He chose to work security in high schools because he wanted to work during the day, as well as work with high school teenagers.

"I never wanted to leave high school," Welling said. "High school was my favorite time of my life."

He found Central was a good choice to work at anyway, considering he knew almost all of the other security there. His daughter graduated from Central in 1998, so he was familiar with the school as well. Security aide Frank Zavorka showed Welling around the school when he joined the staff.

Welling goes to him or any of the other security staff, and ask for a little help when he needs it. As with any school, the security policies at Central a bit different from Northwest, but the fact Welling came from another school gave him a bit of an upper hand.

"He is good with the students and he knows how to handle situations," Zavorka said.

## Wrestler breaks tradition, wins first in heavyweight class

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

Senior Kendall Dorsey did it. He broke the chain of years since a weight had won first place in wrestling. He won the high ranking at the Metro tournament.

He has been 15 years since a Central wrestler won this award.

Metro, referred to as "mini state," is the next tournament among Omaha Public Schools' wrestling teams.

Dorsey won all three of the matches. The match went into overtime.

Overall his record is 10-2.

The Ralston Tournament was also a win.

Dorsey said he also took third place at the Tri-Center tournament.

"I just practiced hard with my coaches and my team to prepare for this," Dorsey said.

Head wrestling coach Jimmie Foster said he attributes his success to being so athletic and dedicated.

"Dorsey is very athletic for a heavyweight," Foster said. "His cardiovascular is fairly good and overall is in good shape."

The team's performance as a whole is what matters most to Dorsey.

He said he tries not to think about himself and how well he does as much. Instead stresses and works for team unity.

"As a team we are a unit," he said. "We are

always joking and kidding around. We are one big happy family."

Foster describes Dorsey as a team leader.

He said he tries to keep all of the wrestlers happy and confident, even if they are not winning the matches.

Dorsey said watching his teammates wrestle.

Since he is in the heavyweight class he typically wrestles last. He thrives off of watching his teammates wrestle.

"When they win, it pumps me up," he said. "When they lose it makes me want to get out there and wrestle harder."

Dorsey said he likes it when other wrestlers show leadership qualities.

"Terrance (Smith) and Cavin Cooper, they are all good, too," he said. "It is about the entire team."

This is Dorsey's second year with Central. "I wish he would have started as a freshman," Foster said.

He started wrestling with the North Omaha Bear's Club.

Last year he qualified for State but did not rank. This year he has higher expectations.

Dorsey's ultimate goal is to help his teammates win and have the wrestlers focus more on listening to the coaches' advice.

"Coach Foster is one of the coolest and best coaches in the state," Dorsey said. "Even the volunteer coaches are great."

Dorsey expects to keep wrestling in college, but hasn't decided on where he wants to go.

He said he plans on deciding after the wrestling season. He also plays football in the fall and is in track in the spring. Wrestling is his prime focus though.

"I go to the YMCA on the weekends to lift and run. I have to keep in shape," Dorsey said.

He said he thinks to himself to wrestle with his fullest abilities and never hold back.

Foster sees a good chance that Dorsey will go to State.

"I want to win everything," Foster said. Some say the team is on its way.

To get to State, Dorsey must place in the top four of his weight class at districts.

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## Senior orally commits to Cornhuskers

BY JEFF HART

Senior Cortney Grixby, the fifth best cornerback in the nation, chose NU over Notre Dame.

"I chose what my heart wanted," Grixby said.

After two and a half years and over 20 schools, he has been getting offers to play football and possibly basketball.

Grixby informally visited Lincoln at the beginning of January, where he met the new coaches and trainers.

He said he received many compliments on his playing ability.

He left the campus fairly confident with what he had just experienced.

"On my first visit I met all the academic counselors and most of the teachers I would have," Grixby said. "But I needed another visit to meet the new coaching staff and get familiar with the new system of things."

Head football coach Joe McMenamin said Grixby had called him on Jan. 24, and told McMenamin he made his decision.

"Cortney really likes the coaches," McMenamin said. "He probably would have picked Nebraska in December if the old staff would have stayed."

McMenamin said during the time Nebraska didn't have a coach, Grixby had other college recruiters talking to him.

He said it caused Grixby to start questioning if he wanted to go to Nebraska.

"I had doubts," Grixby said. "My doubts were lifted when I was the first prospect to be visited by Bill Callahan after he was hired."

Grixby said Callahan impressed him and erased all the doubts he had about Nebraska. He said he felt like he made the best choice he could have.

"Coaches Callahan and Blake both wanted to visit me to make me feel comfortable with the other coaches," he said.

After meeting the coaches he said he really could tell they would get along next season.

"I had my heart set on Nebraska," he said.

The coaches were important to him, but it really was one thing he wanted in college. He knew a good coach would have been selected in time.

"Coaches are a plus," he said. "The firing really told me Nebraska wanted to win."

He said he is looking forward to the college life at NU. He didn't always want to go to Nebraska because he wanted to keep an open mind to other programs.

"My family and friends did not pressure me to make my decision," he said. "It was also just a rare chance that I chose the same school as my brother."

He is planning to be a walk-on basketball player and said his scholarship will not be affected.

"I originally wanted to play basketball at Syracuse, but people change over time," he said. "Offers were given to me and I accepted them."

Head Central basketball coach Eric Behrens said Grixby would do well in college basketball.

"He has the tools to be successful," Behrens said.

## Alumnus honored for football achievements by friends, coaches

BY JEFF HART

Alumnus and hall of fame football player Gale Sayers attended the Omaha Press Club Jan. 17 for a ceremony honoring his achievements.

He said he enjoyed being remembered for what he has done during his life.

Sayers, who graduated from Central in 1961, was commemorated for his life-long achievements by other Nebraska legends and people from his past like: Tom Osborne, former Nebraska head coach; Fred Abboud, who coached his middle school midwest football team; and Roger Sayers, his brother.

Over 250 people attended the dinner. Principal Jerry Bexten and head football coach Joe McMenamin were also some of his guests.

McMenamin said he is proud for Sayers and he shows how the athletic department at Central shines.

"Students are proud to walk the same halls that Sayers did," McMenamin said. "He has brought a lot of pride to Central."

The accomplishments Sayers made impacted Central's reputation and attention to the athletes attending the school McMenamin said.

"He is one of the greatest recruits in Nebraska history," he said.

He said Sayers produced the first image

of a football player from I-Back High.

Sayers said he has never taken credit for many of his achievements in life. He said he believes he is just a simple man who was blessed with talent.

"I had a God-given gift that's all," Sayers said.

Sayers was an all-state track and football player at Central. He led the Eagles to a state championship in 1961 and was one of the top recruits in the state.

Kansas University recruited him, which made a lot of Nebraska fans mad at the time.

Kansas recruiters offered him a full-ride scholarship and he accepted the offer.

Sayers said Nebraska wasn't a good team and didn't really offer him a chance to get his name out. Kansas had also just won the Big Eight title.

"I wanted to go to a school in which I would both play and win at," he said.

He said the choice didn't bother him and the reaction of the Nebraska fans. He knew the talent he had would be useful at Kansas.

"I had a lot of success at Kansas," he said. "I was a two time All-American and became a number one draft pick in 1965, by the Kansas City Chiefs, but I ended up becoming a Chicago Bear."

The Chicago Bears made his name famous, he said. During his first season he

will respond well for him, and perform the best they can," Murtaugh said. "I think he'll do a good job."

Junior Allison Rutherford, an outfielder on the team, has no doubts about Wilson's coaching abilities.

"He'll do a pretty good job," she said. "He's been coaching for a while, and he knows how to work with girls."

She also said he is someone who will know what he is talking about.

He said he coached baseball here at Central for four years and one year at Burke.

He has coached summer teams for two years as a hitting coach for a team called the Echoes. Also, he coached his own team which had some former Central students on it, called the Ducks.

Rutherford said it was hard on the team to hear of Murtaugh's resignation and many girls cried.

"I didn't know how to react to her telling us that. I was speechless," she said. "She's going to be missed."

Pennington said he did not know Murtaugh was resigning until less than a week after the softball season was over when she sent him her letter.

He said it was better to know sooner than at the end of the school year.

"Softball starts before school starts," he said, "so we need to know before school ends we have enough time to find a replacement."

Pennington said Murtaugh gave the administration plenty of time in order for it to happen. It always isn't the case with different coaches.

He said when he and Murtaugh spoke about her resignation, Wilson came up as a possible replacement.

Murtaugh gave him a very detailed recommendation, stating his achievements and abilities to work well with the team, Pennington said.

With this recommendation he quickly considered Wilson as the new head coach, but he couldn't make the decision on his own because of policies.

It was then Pennington and Principal Jerry Bexten talked about the applicants, and then discussed it with Human Resources at the Teacher's Administrative Center (TAC) to come to a final decision.

Pennington said it did not take long for Central administration and TAC officials to come to an agreement on Wilson.

He had the experience with the team, and is just a qualified leader overall.

"He cares about them, and they care about him," Pennington said.

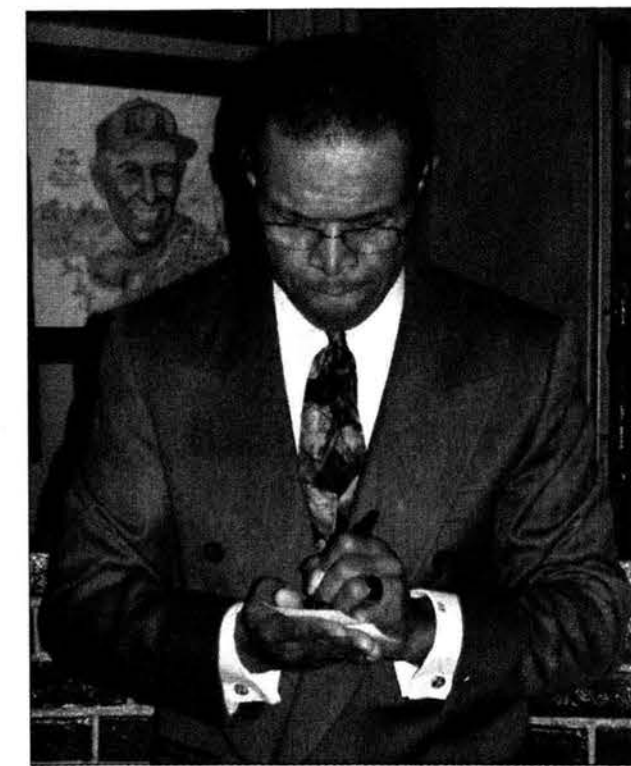


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Gale Sayers signs autographs at the Omaha Press Club where he was congratulated for his achievements in football.

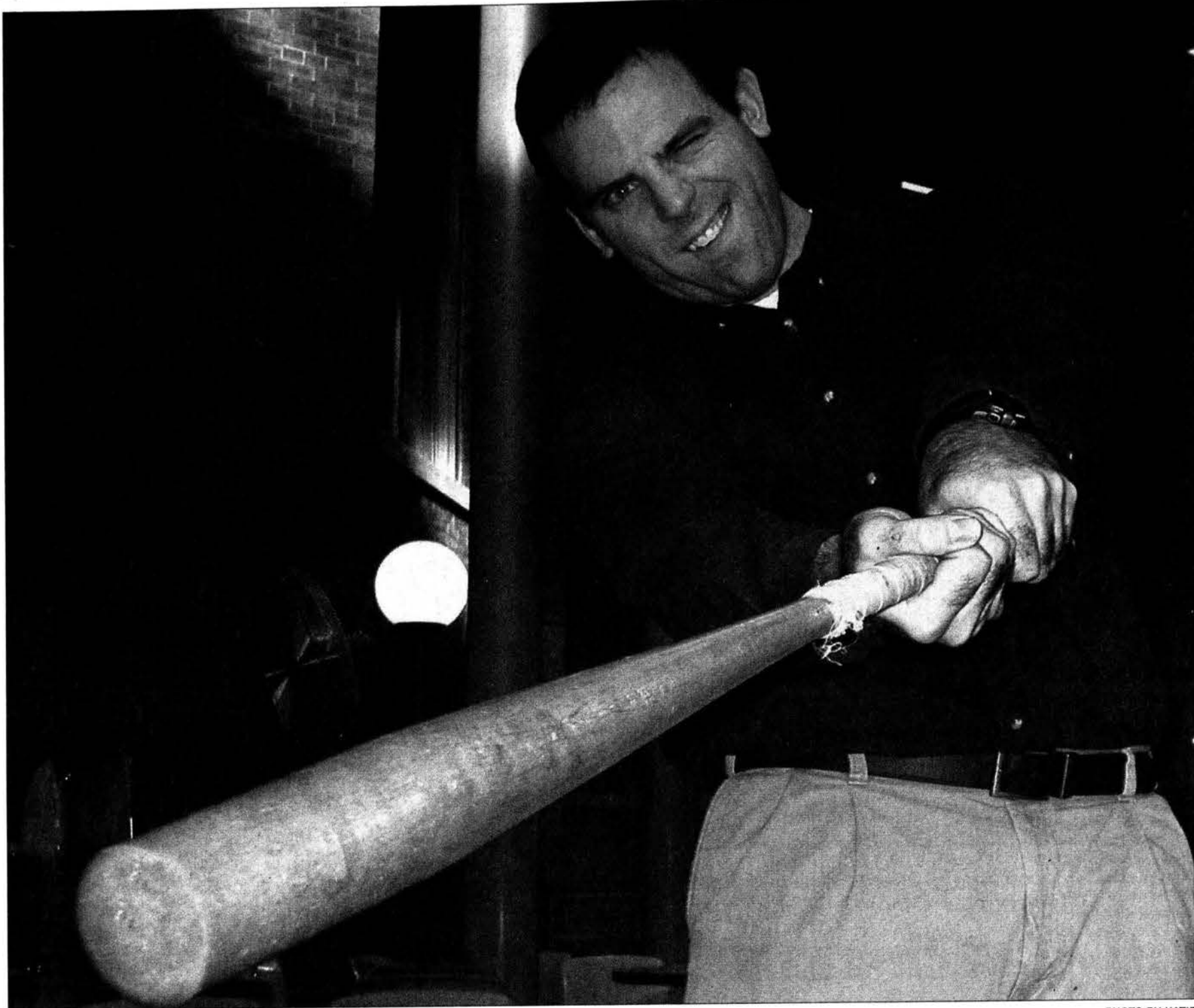


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Social studies teacher Scott Wilson will be the new girls varsity softball coach starting next season. Wilson, who used to be the assistant coach, said he expects next season to be just as successful as when former head varsity coach Kerri Murtaugh ran the show.

## Wilson is new varsity softball coach

BY JOHN KENDALL

The girls varsity softball team has social studies teacher Scott Wilson as its new head coach.

He said he feels the pressure is on to measure up to his recently resigned predecessor, Kerri Murtaugh.

"It's like going on stage after the Beatles," Wilson said.

Six months ago is when Wilson said he knew Murtaugh was going to resign. He didn't know athletic director Paul Pennington was going to have him be head coach.

Wilson said Murtaugh announced the news to the team after its last game, which was around the middle of October. He knew he had the job on Dec. 31.

He said several of the girls asked if he was going to be the new coach.

"All I could say is that I was applying for it," he said.

Wilson got started with coaching the softball team five years ago when Murtaugh asked him if he wanted to coach junior varsity.

"Kerri and I have known each other since junior high," he said.

At this point, Wilson was replacing the previous coach before him, social studies teacher Lisa Donahoe, who left because she

was having a child.

"It's turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences in my career," he said. "The girls are just awesome."

Kerri Murtaugh said she had coached the varsity softball team for seven years.

"I just wanted to focus more on my family," Murtaugh said. "Coaching is a huge time commitment."

Murtaugh said she knew at the beginning of this year's season it would be her final year coaching. She said she didn't want to tell the team so the girls would be able to keep their focus on the game.

When she told the girls she was resigning they were a little shocked and disappointed, but seemed a little more easy-going when they figured Wilson would still be involved.

"It's a big support thing for them to know someone they knew would be in charge," she said.

Murtaugh said she was expecting Wilson to get the position.

He has the experience with the team, and when she resigned his name was brought up when talking to Pennington.

She said she can understand the pressure Wilson might be feeling, but believes he will be able to handle it.

"Every year is different. I think the girls

won the Rookie of the Year award. He set many rookie running back records, many of which still exist today.

"I had success for a while until I got injured," he said.

Sayers' career turned in 1967 when he injured his knee and it shortened his career.

"I felt bad for a while," he said, "but football is not a career, it is stopping off point in life."

Sayers went back to school to finish his degree and got his masters in 1976 in education.

Five years later he started his computer company, which is still very successful today. He said it has lasted for over 23 years.

He said he was very surprised when he was elected to the hall of fame in 1977 because he was the youngest player to have been elected. He was 34.

"I had only played in 68 ball games and the rest of the players in the hall average at least ten years (of games)," he said. "I must have impressed them in my short time in the lime light."

Sayers has looked at the game of football in a whole new way since he retired and is starting to dislike the antics of the game today.

He said teams have turned from great all-around teams to one-man-shows.

"The game is the same," he said. "They

still have the blocks and tackles and we score touchdowns, but there is too much 'me' in team today."

He said the money in the game and love of the game is being lost in a pay-to-play era. He said officials and coaches of today crack down on the problems of the game.

"You play to be the best," he said, "to make the most money or earn the publicity."

He wished he had many of the opportunities that exist for players today. He said he also wished he would have received his degree on time, rather than getting it many years later.

"I am proud that athletes like me went back to school and got their education, even though he really didn't need it with the money he is making," Sayers said.

He said education is more important than football.

Sayers said his career was the best he could have done, but he didn't quite meet his goals.

"I never played in a Super Bowl or never had a chance at the title," he said. "I won everything that he could win in his pro career, including the Rookie of the Year, Comeback Player of the Year and time all-star, but he said he would trade his awards for one chance at the Super Bowl."