

# REGISTER

Coverage of the North High invite.

See Track, **PAGE 9**

Death Metal takes center stage.

See Devils or Musicians, **PAGE 12**

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

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## Students sneak alcohol in backpacks, bottles

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Names changed to protect identity\*

Drinking alcohol at school is a crime worthy of suspension or even expulsion, but it doesn't stop some students.

Principal Jerry Bexten said if a student is caught with alcohol or intoxicated the student will be subject to disciplinary action, usually a suspension.

He said students can get expelled if they are caught with the intentions or actually selling alcohol.

If the students made a money but not alcohol transaction, they could get in more trouble than being intoxicated.

"We can tell if the have intention to distribute by quantity of the substance," Bexten said.

He said there is never any leniency on the punishment because the student is endangering

themselves and the members of the school by bringing in illegal substances.

Freshman Jane Doe\* has brought alcohol to school on several occasions.

She hasn't stopped even though she has been caught once. She was suspended for 19 days.

During the 19 days she was forced to complete a school-approved alcohol program and attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings once her suspension was over. She took NOVA Net classes while she was suspended, but she still failed her freshman year.

Although 1,066 teens were arrested in 2003 in the nine major Nebraska counties, according to the Lexington sheriff department, the police officers aren't catching 5 percent of underage drinkers.

Doe said she drank so much once she threw up in a bathroom at school.

She also fell down the stairs and had to go home.

When she came to school the next day, she didn't remember anything. She didn't know where the scratches on the back of her neck or all the bruises she had.

"I brought alcohol four times this year and once last year," Doe said.

Doe said her teachers don't seem to care about drinking or at least don't think it's their place to bring it up to the student's administrator.

"One of my teachers knew I was trashed and didn't do anything," Doe said.

Social Studies teacher Peter Pham said he doesn't think Central as a whole has a problem with drinking, but any student who does it at school has a problem.

"You have to keep you (teachers') eyes open," Pham said, "but you can't be specifically looking for it all the time."

He said there was an incident in his class where

Continued to **ALCOHOL** on **PAGE 5**

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER

This illustration shows how some students smuggle alcohol into school, but Principal Jerry Bexten said the faculty can look through students' bags.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the renovations for the summer should go reasonably well. He said the construction workers will have to remain focused to get the job done in time.

"It's exciting to be the principal of a school going through renovations. I just have more work," he said. "I have stadium meetings every other Thursday and (general renovation meetings) every Friday."

BY CLAY LOMNETH

When students return from summer break, they will come back to school with all floors air conditioned except for the third floor, which will be under construction.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the north side of the third floor will get air conditioning at the end of September. The south side will have air conditioning by December.

"It should be more comfortable in the building," Bexten said.

He said he thinks the new gym and the East Cafeteria look great. He is also pleased with how the weight and aerobics rooms turned out. He said the drawbacks were how long it took, the extra noise and the dirt.

The fire alarms frequently going off were a big drawback to most students. Bexten said that all the false fire alarms were set off by the construction.

Freshman Theresa Vacha sees no problem with the renovations except for the fire alarms. She said she thinks the fire alarms are annoying.

"I've never known anything different so it doesn't bother me that much," Vacha said.

An additional project that has to be finished is the new gym's floor. Bexten said the finished coat of the gym floor has peeled off in parts, it needs to be taken off and reapplied. He does not know when it will start.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said he is also very pleased with the renovations so far. He said the new cafeteria was especially a great improvement to the school.

"When this is all said and done, Central High will have some needed improvements," Semrad said.

Portables are a plus to sophomore Mike Greenberg because they have air conditioning.

He said he thinks portables are better than walking around the crowded school.

### PHASES

Four renovation phases are to be completed or started during the summer. The renovations are split

into 11 phases and six are finished. The final phase will start in September.

Phases currently going on are Phase 6A, which was scheduled to end on April 30. This phase included the old cafeterias on the fourth floor.

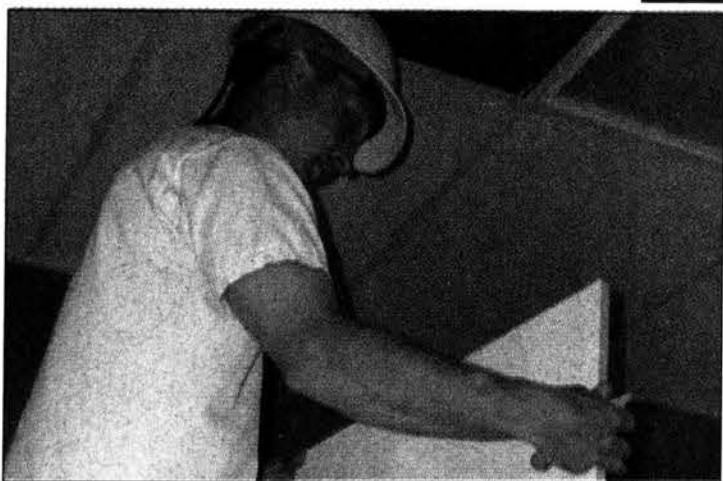
Phase 6B is scheduled to end May 28. It includes parts of the second floor.

"Things are moving forward and we're close to being on schedule for the phases we are in," Bexten said.

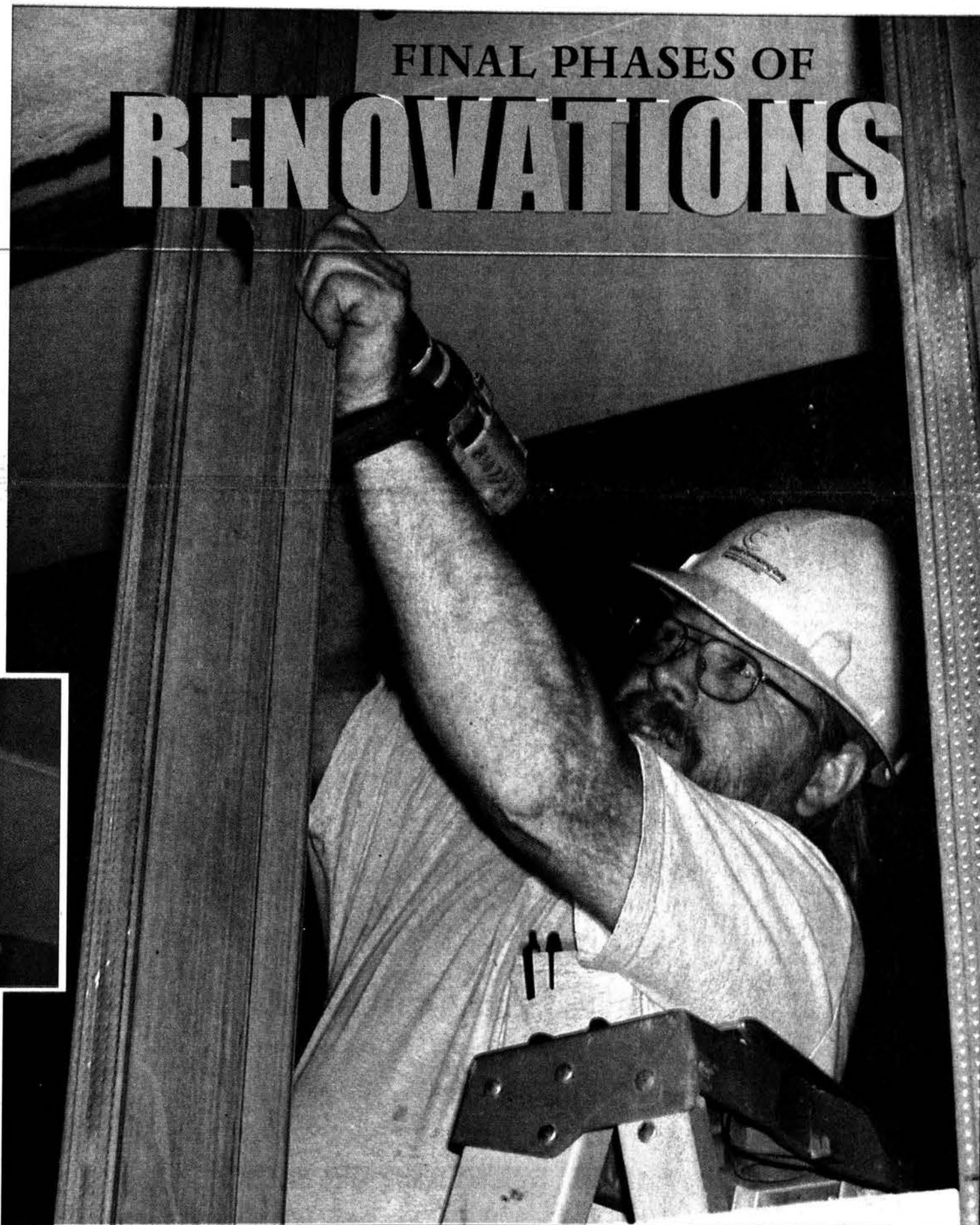
Phase 7A and 7B both start June 7. They include renovating most of the first floor, from the main office to room 149. The final phase will begin Sept. 27 and will end Dec. 24, and that includes the science and math rooms.

Program Manager for JE Jacobs Terry Page said every current phase is moving ahead and will be completed on time. The contract completion date for all the phases is Dec. 24, and Page said the renovations would be done

Continued to **BUILD** on **PAGE 5**



(RIGHT) Electrician Wayne Anderson with Sadler Electric Inc. works on installing the support beams for the cable trays in the new fourth floor computer labs. Anderson is particularly working in the future Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) classes. These classrooms should be ready for student use in the fall of 2004. (TOP) Corey Thiessen with the Johnson Drywall Co. installs the new ceiling panels in room 229. The ceiling was lowered 1.5 feet to make room for the new air conditioning vents, which will soon be ready for use. **PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER**



## Boys, girls fight stereotypes concerning their amount of sexual partners

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Some people in society view men as the gender that's supposed to have sex, but women are considered low and dirty if they do.

Sexually active women are often the ones getting the degrading labels, such as slut, whore and skank.

Director of education and prevention for Nebraska AIDS Project, Dr. Gerstandt said he discusses the sexual double standard in gender-specific workshops.

"We have a program that is for HIV positive women," Gerstandt said. "It isn't about condoms and protection as much as self-esteem and

stereotypes."

He sees everywhere someone looks there is the stereotype that women are a commodity for men.

"Men see women as objects, not people," Gerstandt said.

Sophomore Sarah Beck said she usually described men as the "sluts" instead of women.

She said it is overused on women, especially when it's men who are usually initiating sex.

"We're the youngest generation and we're all about fairness and equality, but we make a bigger deal of the double standard than our parents," Beck said.

She said to her a "skank" is not

necessarily someone who has many sexual partners, but a person who is physical with more than one person at one time.

Many people get their ideas from the media, Gerstandt said because there is more media geared to children and they learn about stereotypes at a younger age.

When a girl is old enough, she will look at the media's example of what a woman should look and act like.

"Just turn on MTV or BET any time of day and see women being objectified," he said.

He said he thinks the people at home and school should be held accountable, too.

He said he doesn't think schools are a safe place for students because they are not held accountable for their actions.

"Parents need to talk to their children, actually sit down and have a conversation with them about people unlike themselves, and how to respect differences," Gerstandt said.

Junior Philip Garcia said there is nothing wrong with having sex, but having more than one partner makes someone a slut, male or female.

"I guess men have to prove to each other that they're macho or whatever, or else they think they'll be cast out or something," Garcia said.

He said men expect women to

sleep with them and no one else, even though men feel like they should sleep with everyone.

Sophomore Guadalupe Vega said the sexual double standard could be confused with teenage behavior.

"There will always be gossip as long as teenagers are having sex," Vega said.

She said the double standard is prevalent in society because guys are expected to date more than one girl, but women can't.

Garcia said he cared about the people he has had sex with and doesn't consider himself a "slut."

"If someone has sex on a regular occasion with people they don't know,

then of course they are sluts," Garcia said.

Beck said instead of caring about why people have sex all the time, she worries about safety.

"If my friend was having sex with people she didn't know, I would worry more about disease and pregnancy than calling her a skank," Beck said.

Beck said the double standard is still perceived as normal to many people, and our society is not helping to change it.

"The media doesn't help it at all. You turn on MTV and you don't see a lot of guys in skanky clothes and you don't see girls in pimped-out Bentleys," she said.

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### Teen Voting

Teenagers need to be more involved with voting.  
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### Fencing

Junior Andy Seevers practices a different sport.  
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## Department earns money from art sale

BY ASHLEY BROWN

Art department head Larry Andrews said while the doesn't think there was as many people as last year at the annual art sale, he still thinks the turnout was good.

The department still managed to sell \$1,600 worth of art. It is only \$200 less than last year's sale.

"We're very happy with what we did," Andrews said. "There was a lot of variety. There wasn't much left over."

He said there was the normal rush at the beginning of the sale, but the prices were still marked half off with an hour left in the sale.

Students from all of the art classes made what was sold for anywhere from \$1 to \$60.

Among the pieces sold were paintings, pottery, jewelry, key chains and hand-painted paper gift bags.

There were even several pieces of painted furniture, including sophomore Dena Rennard's chair painted with scenes of Omaha including the Henry Doorly Zoo, Central, the Woodman tower and the First National building. Her chair sold for \$60.

Other pieces included hand-painted wooden boxes like junior Katlin Peterson's hand-painted floral box that sold for \$10.

Andrews said he priced the items to sell, but not to give them away. He called it a "white elephant sale."

The money made from the sale will be going towards the art department.

Art sale volunteer and senior Sarah Cavanagh said at first she was concerned the sale wasn't going to be set up in time, but they ended up only having to take a few trips from the art room to the courtyard.

## Club rebuilds, pushes people to think freely

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Sophomore Anna Wiksell started Philosophy Club again mid year. Last year, the club barely had members and it disappeared, but this year it is different.

Latin teacher Rita Ryan has been the Philosophy Club sponsor for six years. Ryan was very pleased with the enthusiasm of this year's club.

"Any club is only as successful as its officers," Ryan said.

Wiksell said philosophy is interesting because no other teacher talks about it, which helps her understand people more.

When someone has an opinion, she can understand the rest of his opinions because she can guess his philosophies.

Wiksell said it helps when she argues with teachers. She said according to the ancient philosopher Plato every opinion is right.

"It makes it easier to argue opinions with adults," Wiksell said.

The club picks a philosopher to study every month. Students give presentations about his works, life and thoughts.

Every once in a while the students hold a movie night. They pick a movie to either rent or go to. Afterwards, the students go to another member's house to discuss the movie.

Sophomores Sarah Beck and Nolan Keebler are both in Philosophy Club this year.

"I've always liked philosophy and I've always had ideas," Keebler said.

Beck joined philosophy club for a different reason. She said she enjoys philosophy, but joined the club because she was new at school and didn't know anyone.

"I got to meet a lot of new people," Beck said.

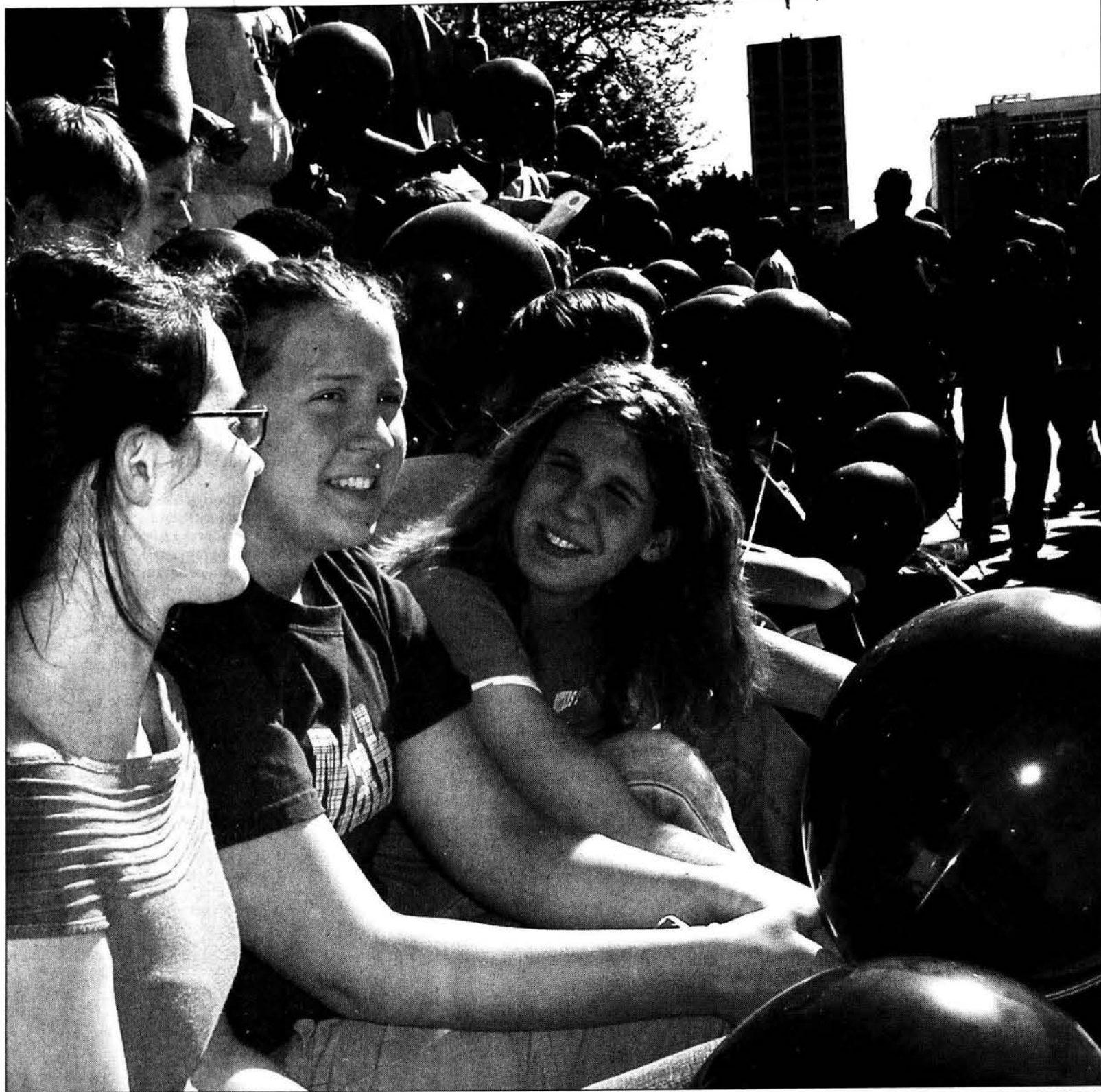


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Seniors (LEFT) Calli Shepherd, Amanda Lonegran and Elizabeth Sharpe sit on the south side of the school for the balloon release on Purple Feather Day. Some of the seniors were awarded certificates for having a cumulative 3.50 GPA or higher. There were about 500 students in the school awarded with this honor. The award ceremony took place at the Joslyn Art Museum.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY

#### 1 (SAT.) SAT EXAM

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

#### 16 (SUN.) SENIOR RECOGNITION DAY

Seniors are acknowledged at an award ceremony for the scholarships and prestigious awards they earned this year.

#### 20 (THURS.) FINALS FOR SENIORS

Seniors have to report to the new gym at 8 a.m. If students don't attend the finals, they will not get credit in the class.

#### 26-27 (WED. - FRI.) FINALS

Wednesday is 3rd, 4th and 6th hours. Thursday is 1st, 7th and 8th. Friday is zero, 2nd, 5th and 9th hours.

#### 28 (FRI.) STUDENTS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Students are to leave the building at 2:50 p.m.

### JUNE

#### 1 (TUES.) SENIOR GRADUATION

The 2004 graduation is held at the Civic Auditorium.

#### 5 (SAT.) SAT EXAM

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

#### 7 (MON.) SUMMER SCHOOL BEGINS

Students must be signed up for school before attending these sessions. The deadlines for registration has passed.

#### 12 (SAT.) ACT EXAM

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

## Teens start club to help fight bigotry

BY MALISA MILITZER

Sophomore Dena Rennard created and now manages two school clubs.

For the past two months Rennard has been working on an after-school club called United Students Against Prejudices (USAP). She said sophomore Jennifer Castello decided to start the club because she wanted to help fight against hate crimes.

Rennard asked economic teacher Derek Leslie to help out. He accepted.

"I agree with what they are doing," Leslie said. "Prejudices should be stopped."

Leslie said the most difficult thing about being a sponsor for a club is getting people to show up to the meeting.

Rennard said she hopes the club will gain more students from here as well as other schools. Right now she is getting the program known throughout Omaha Public Schools and other districts.

Since the start of the program, Rennard and Castello have formed a board of trustees with in the group.

President and adviser Bob Wolfson of the Jewish Anti Defamation League (JADL) in Omaha will come and give an open lecture. His speech will be on the prevention of hate crimes.

Rennard also started the History Club. She said she wanted a place other than class to learn about history.

In the club members study different cultures, past and current events. She said reenactments and movies are just two ways club members get hands-on learning.

## Popsicle sales go for college scholarships

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

The Latino Leaders are selling paletas (Popsicles) and chicharrones (chips) to raise scholarship money.

Spanish teacher Susana Lara said they hope to raise around \$1,000, but not sure if they can make that much.

For every paletas they sell for a \$1, they get 55 cents, and chicharrones have a return of 40 cents. Freshman Kenny Fischer he is encouraged to buy them because they are for a good cause.

Latino Leaders apply for the scholarships and are judged based on their involvement in the program, grades and if they have applied to college. Lara said they are selected by outside readers in the community to be unbiased.

Lara is working with a company called Topatila. It supplies both the paletas and chicharrones.

Lara turned to her Spanish Speakers class for volunteer sellers. Sophomore Michael Alejandro said he wanted to help out such a good cause.

"A lot of people are smart, but they can't go to college because they don't have enough money," Alejandro said.

He said he definitely endorses the product. All together Alejandro said the club sells around 100 a day.

Freshman Jared Dittman said he has already bought three.

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# Teacher wants to renovate home during retirement



**PHOTO BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER**  
Jurgen Shawver answers questions junior An Vu has on the theme she is writing in English 5-6 class. Shawver has taught English for 16 years and this is his final year at Central.

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

English teacher Jurgen Shawver said he does not plan to sit home and twiddle his thumbs when he retires after this school year.

He plans to spend more time on his garden and renovating parts of his house, like refinishing the wood floors.

For the last 34 years he dedicated his time to the students. Even though he loves teaching, he is looking forward to his free time.

Another goal he has is to travel to the East Coast. He said since he's been teaching he hasn't been able to get out there and see the leaves during the fall.

Since he has been teaching for 16 years at Central, he said he has seen a variety of things.

"Sometimes I think my generation was more academically oriented, concerned and respectful," Shawver said. "Then I wonder if I'm just deluded."

He understands that society as a whole has changed due to wars and technology. He said things like holding the doors open and picking up trash, are some respectful issues that seem to be lacking now.

In his classroom he said he wouldn't do one thing differently.

"If I can show you how to be a better reader, a better writer, than I feel that I have done my job," he said.

English department head Jodi Martinez said the department will be losing more than just a teacher. She said she would ask him questions on Latin and German translations, grammatical and even gardening questions.

"Dr. Shawver is social and cordial while being low key," she said. "He can go to a party, but not be a party animal."

He is also the only Ph.D. in the department.

"Dr. Shawver is an expert academician, which is somebody trained strictly in academic thinking and writing," Martinez said.

Shawver taught at college, middle and high school levels.

"All of it positively contributes to my happiness," he said.

He said there are aspects he enjoys about teenagers preparing for college and young adults preparing for the rest of their lives. For 10 years he taught at Horace Mann School in New York, which is for ninth graders. He said it was hard because he only saw the students for a year and couldn't follow up on their progress.

Shawver said he observed that students don't appreciate the importance of a diversified education. Even beginning classes in college are important for students to be well-rounded.

Though he does not find too many faults in education, he thinks other countries do a better job of placing students where they should be. He also thinks there is not enough emphasis placed on other types of learning. He said he feels not all students are book learners.

Shawver said he will miss Central and he plans to visit.

"I will really miss the students," he said.

He said he has followed many students throughout the years. When he hears about success stories, he likes to think that he had something to do with it.

Shawver said the school could use some updates. Things like air conditioning and materials would make learning easier.

Overall, Shawver said he is happy to be retiring. He doesn't plan to completely disappear from the school scene. He is very popular among his students. Freshman Brittany Krijan said she was disappointed because she won't have him as a teacher. She plays varsity tennis and has seen him coach it.

"He is a real character," she said. "He always cracks jokes and bursts out in German."

Senior Sarah Alston was in his English class last year. She said he didn't assign too much homework, which made the learning better.

"Dr. Shawver is eccentric, but a great teacher," she said.

Senior Anna Mueller said she thinks he is a good teacher because he makes the students work.

Alston said she likes that he will not give answers to students, but will point them in the right direction.

Martinez said there is a replacement teacher for Shawver. The teacher was selected based on experience.

"She (the future teacher) has been teaching juniors for a very long time so she is familiar with the curriculum," Martinez said.

The replacement teacher has talked with Shawver to become familiar with all aspects of his teaching.

"It's hard to bring in a replacement, teachers can become somewhat of a legend," Martinez said. "After all, who else will teach Moby Dick?"

# Security remains top priority for reasons of safety, construction

BY MOLLY MULLEN

*"Names changed to protect identity"*  
Students sat in silence commemorating the ones who were killed at Columbine High School five years ago.

Before Columbine in Littleton, Colo., Central had three security guards. The other four weren't added to the staff because of possible shootings, but because of the recent renovations. However, safety is always a concern. Security guard Joe Venditte said adult intruders enter the building well.

"It's just eyes and ears," Venditte said. "We are more safe than ever."

Security guard Herb Welling said the guards lock and unlock the doors to make sure there is no way to enter the building other than at the "C."

Security guard Frank Zavorka

said if an intruder knocks long enough on the four side door someone will let him in.

"We've had intruders," Welling said. "Students usually let them in."

Some say students at other high schools come to Central looking for trouble, and they have an easy access to the building simply by knocking on the door until a student lets them in.

"We catch them (intruders) within minutes," Venditte said. "There's usually seven of us circling the building."

He said security at this school is the best in Omaha Public Schools (OPS). He has been working here for almost 10 years and he can recognize if someone doesn't belong in the school.

"We check the parking lots all day and patrol the halls," he said. "Every passing period we switch."

Sophomore Katie Byrne said she

gets quiet every year on April 20 (the day of the Columbine shootings), but this year she made a point to stay silent.

"I knew someone who went there," Byrne said. "When my teacher turned on the television five years ago everyone asked me why I was crying. They didn't know I knew someone there."

She said she was worried something like Columbine could happen at Central. People have brought guns to school and been caught, but there are plenty of people who bring other weapons such as knives who don't get caught.

Economics teacher Derek Leslie said something like Columbine could happen at any school.

He said there is only so much that can be done to prevent school violence.

Byrne said it all depends on the student if he or she wants to bring a weapon to school or hurt another student.

"Some people are so twisted or depressed that they feel like they need to prove themselves or prove a point to students or their parents," Byrne said.

The security staff does its best to protect the students and faculty from intruders, she said. It would make her feel more safe if the school officials informed people if a situation like this happened. Having a metal detector in the school would make Byrne feel more comfortable because she said students at Central have a huge access to weapons.

"It's high school," she said. "Parents have guns. I am afraid of every student who has access to weapons."

She said the difference between Columbine and Central is nobody was

watching those students or paying attention to the signs.

"We have counselors, administrators and security guards always watching out for us," Byrne said.

Central high teacher Jane Doe said Central's size has a huge affect on the safety of the students.

"In a school this size it's hard to catch anyone (doing something wrong)," Doe said. "The teachers and security can't cover the whole area."

She said there are things that can be done to make the school seem smaller. She suggested students having the same homeroom teacher for all four years of high school because it might help teachers and students to develop a bond.

"Only music, ROTC and speech and debate have consistent teachers every year," she said.

Doe said for being such a big school, students are well-behaved.

"All big schools are at risk, but Central is less cliquey and more open-minded," Doe said.

Doe said going back to each student having a counselor instead of a daily response counselor would help. "They wouldn't have to regurgitate their story to five different counselors," she said.

Doe said she feels safe at Central. The only place Doe was concerned with safety was in the portables. She made a point not to stay out there when she was alone.

"I went inside when I had a plan (period) or when it was dark," she said.

Doe said Central is a good high school, and although something like Columbine could happen at Central, it is unlikely because of the mature students.

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# THREE THINGS WORTH REMEMBERING

(Well at least two of them are)

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George Washington Carver

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Calvin Coolidge

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# TOKING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Teens try to get away with smoking marijuana in public by using everything from pop cans to flashlights.

The latest trend has young people using what looks like cell phones to get high.

## Despite laws teenagers smuggle variety of pipes into concerts

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Names changed to protect identity \*

The crowd is going through the concert security check. Some people have marijuana hidden in their shoes or bras. While others use the new marijuana pipe, the one shaped like a cell phone.

A cell phone pipe isn't a difficult thing to make, sophomore John Doe\* said because he makes pipes all the time. He would sell his homemade pipes to his friends and they would usually sneak it in a concert.

"I used to make pipes out of plastic, glass, aluminum foil and metal," Doe said.

Out of all the pipes he sold to his friends, he said none of them were caught when they went through concert security.

The different venues around the city have different policies and procedures if marijuana is found. The vice president of the Sokol Auditorium Dan Rannells said he does pat down the audience before it enters. The Sokol Underground does not have any security checks. He said the security guards are looking for weapons, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia.

Waiting outside before a show, freshman Trevor Moore said he saw a guy smoking a pipe. When he headed inside the guy did get patted down, but the pipe wasn't found.

Moore said he doesn't think the concert security is thorough enough. He doesn't smoke marijuana at shows because he said he would fear the repercussion if he were caught.

Rannells said once the person attending the concert is inside, there is an off duty police officer watching his every move. Rannells said a police officer is in a uniform along with an undercover officer.

If someone is found possessing any of these items, Rannells said the police are notified and the person is taken into the custody.

Alumnus Jason Goossen said he has smoked marijuana at concerts before. He said he smuggled it inside the venue by putting it in a cigarette pack or just in his pocket. He said he doesn't smoke at concerts anymore because he would rather enjoy the show and remember it.

Seeing many people get away with it at a show, senior James Ashby said he doesn't report it to any officials. Now it doesn't even bother him.

"I expect to see people smoking pot at concerts," Ashby said. "But I've never seen a cell phone pipe yet."

Cell phone pipe have been seen at novelty stores, assistant manager at Homer's Music and Gifts Scott Kracke said. It wasn't a store at Nebraska. He said it wasn't a real cell phone, but material molded together to look like one.

Assistant manager at Spencer's Gifts and alumna Jessica Mooris said she doesn't know of a place in Omaha now that sells any type of pipe. She said Spencer does not sell pipes mainly because it is located in the mall. She said she knows there are many legalities with selling any type of a pipe in Nebraska.

Kracke said Homer's did once sell pipes, but it stopped because a case happened in Lincoln, Neb.

A spokesperson for Homer's said the store management decided not to sell marijuana pipes because Homer's could have been put out of business or gone through a lot of legal issues. He said when Homer's sold pipes the customer had to be 18 years or older to buy one.

Now Homer's does not sell any type of pipe at all.

This doesn't stop senior Joe Smith\*. He said he has seen people smoke marijuana at concerts with pipes made out of flashlights, looking similar to a cigarette, snow boarding tools and high lighters. Smith said he has smoked marijuana out of those pipes as well. He said he has also smoked marijuana

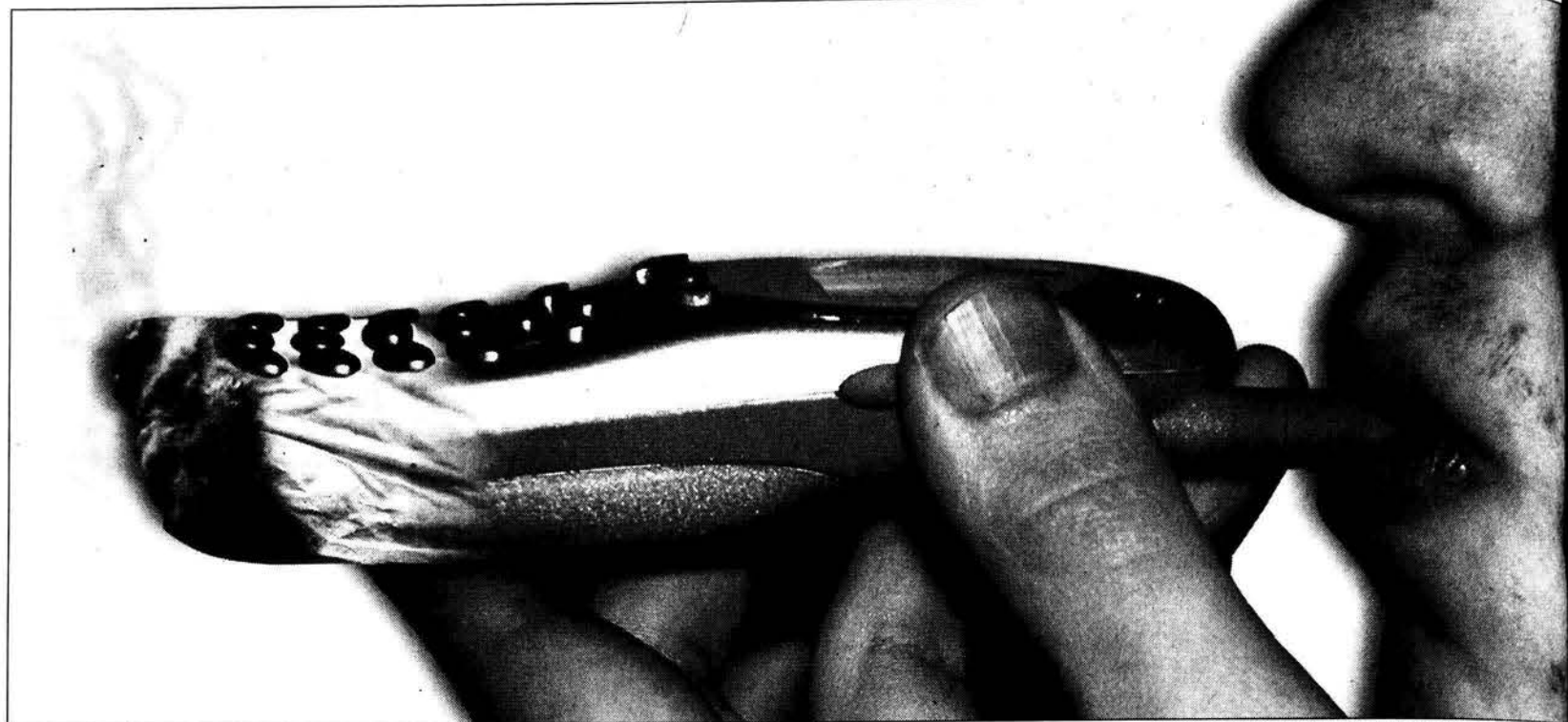


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER

Cell phone representatives say they do not approve of the use of cell phones for smoking anything. Local store owners say they do not sell any type of pipe because it is against the law.

out of a pop can and two-liter bottle.

"If I go to a concert with a girl, I have her put it in her purse or bra," Smith said. "The security never checks there."

Smith said he has never smoked marijuana at the Ranch Bowl because the venue is too small.

Manager at the Ranch Bowl Sid Glassbaugh said the venue's policy is if security finds marijuana on someone, it kicks the user out and confiscates the drugs. She said the Ranch Bowl does not bring law enforcement in to handle the situation.

"Most the time people smoke joints at concerts," she said. "People know not to bring pipes because they will keep flicking the lighter and the

security would see."

Freshman Brian DiCarlo said he thinks no one cares if people smoke at the Ranch Bowl or not.

He said people blatantly use marijuana, alcohol and cigarettes without getting in trouble.

"I've seen people smoke a joint and they don't try to hide it," DiCarlo said.

Alumnus John Johnson\* said he said he agrees with the Ranch Bowl's policy because he thinks marijuana is a victimless crime. He has smoked marijuana at a concert, but not with a cell phone pipe. Instead his friend sneaked it into the show by putting "the joint" in his shoe.

"I think it should be legalized

because the government spends too much time and money trying to keep it away from people," Johnson said. "If it was legalized, they (police officers) could focus on real crimes."

Glassbaugh said she doesn't think many people try to smoke it at concerts because if they are caught, the police and their parents will be called.

She said she has not seen the cell phone pipe, but now she knows to look out for it. When Smith heard about the cell phone pipe he wasn't shocked because he knows people can buy a pipe like that off the Internet.

The cell phone pipe can be made from an actual cell phone, but a sales and service representative from Alltel Tina Davis said a person has to buy a

plan when he gets a cell phone.

Davis said Alltel doesn't do this to prevent cell phones being turned into pipes. She said it is just its policy.

"Cell phones being used as pipes is not Alltel's intentions at all," Davis said.

Director of sales for US Cellular René Parson said she can only guess the phones are older ones.

"US Cellular definitely does not condone the using cell phones like that," Parson said.

With all the students at school having cell phones, Principal Jerry Bexten said if marijuana or drug paraphernalia is found during class, he said the teachers are to confiscate and report it.

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PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

This is a stationary Breathalyzer and the device is certified by the state. Nebraska's blood alcohol limit for minors is .020 percent. If a minor has alcohol in his blood, he is charged with possession. Some school officials in Beatrice made students take the test before entering a school event.

## School officials conduct intoxication tests

BY JOHN KENDALL

*Name changed to protect identity\**  
Senior John Doe\* admits to being drunk at school functions. He said he came to last year's prom and a couple of basketball games with a few drinks in him. Doe said he never drank too much, but it could be smelled on his breath.

Doe would get normal surprised reactions from his friends. He said they would say things such as, "Whoa, you're drunk?" or "Have you been drinking?"

"It's not a regular thing," Doe said. "It's way too risky."

Doe has known other people who have gone to school events under the influence of alcohol as well. He said it is just a social thing to do.

"If I could go back and do it again, I definitely wouldn't do it," he said.

The amount of money spent on alcohol wasn't worth it or the risk of getting caught just to get a buzz, he said.

"It doesn't make anything more fun," he said.

Beatrice High School recently held its prom where students were subjected to a Breathalyzer test before entering the event, Chief Bruce Lang of Beatrice Police Department said. The school has

done this for a number of years.

This year there was one case of a student having the alcohol show up on the test. Lang said he was cited for being a minor in consumption and turned over to his parents.

"It's done just to keep the event alcohol free," he said. "A lot of the kids there want it that way as well."

There are paid police officers at prom for security reasons in general and they also stand by to aide the Breathalyzer tests at the door.

Lang said he does not think it would be practical to perform alcohol tests at school sports events, simply because games are open to the public where as prom is just a student function.

He does not think it is necessary for the athlete to be tested either.

Doe said the Breathalyzer tests are not something Central should do.

"I think it's a little extreme," he said. "It would cost too much to actually do any good."

Doe said Central could try it, but a majority of people who come to Central events would not be drunk.

Senior Jason Pietramale said he thinks drug tests, such as Breathalyzers, should be administered at events such as prom as compared to sporting events.

He said it is more common to see people getting "trashed" before and after prom.

"At prom they (students) only worry about themselves," he said. "At games they worry about the team."

He said he has never drank or done any sort of drugs in his life. He could never think of doing something like that before a game.

Freshman Tanya Gallegos does not think it is a good idea for Breathalyzers to be present at proms. She doesn't think school officials should care with what students do outside of school.

Gallegos said since students do not actually drink at proms, it is not that big of a deal. She said she thinks athletes should be tested before games.

She said she goes to football games and would be very mad if she found out that the team she was rooting for, lost a game because one or more of the players came drunk.

Sophomore Marijn Van Latenstein said he thinks prom should have Breathalyzers, simply because it will prevent students from getting drunk before prom.

Sports are different, he said, even the fans in the stands should be tested before and after games to make sure they are not driving drunk.

He said too many people have the wrong idea with what makes a good time.

## Faculty watch students to prevent alcohol use

■ 'ALCOHOL' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a student was intoxicated and he called security.

Pham said it hasn't been a problem since. He said the student made a mistake and had to deal with the consequences.

Pathwayteacher Cindy Thomsen said she never suspected a student of being drunk in her class.

"I have suspected drugs," Thomsen said.

She said whether it is drugs or alcohol, she goes to the student's administrator instead of confronting the student.

She said the school may have a slight alcohol problem, as far as drinking in the building or being

intoxicated in the building.

"It doesn't seem to be a huge problem at school, as far as I've seen," she said.

Sophomore Kyle Samuelson said he has never drank at school. He said there is no reason to, and if a student wanted to drink they should do it in private with friends where they can't get suspended.

"I want to learn," Samuelson said. "I don't need to drink to get attention or to be funny and cool."

Sophomore John Jones\* said he has gotten drunk twice at school.

"Teachers never suspect me of doing anything wrong," Jones said. "They just don't care."

Jones said he has only brought vodka to school because teachers never assume anything.

"It could be water or Sprite, and there's no reason for them to ask," Jones said.

He brought the alcohol to school twice using Sprite Remix bottles he bought from the vending machines. The first time he brought alcohol Jones said he drank the entire bottle of straight vodka in first hour. Later that day he threw up and had to go home.

"I did it was because I was depressed," Jones said. "And my parents were out of town at my grandpa's funeral."

Samuelson said he knows people

who have done it, but he does not think it's a problem (at school).

He helped Jones on one occasion when he was drunk.

"I told him what classes he had coming up and what portable to go to," Samuelson said.

He said Jones was laughing really loud and yelling stupid remarks, but none of his teachers noticed.

The second time he was drunk he brought a bottle of vodka and a bottle of orange juice to school.

He said he made a screwdriver in the middle of his classroom.

His teachers didn't notice the smell and the students didn't say anything.

## Students anticipate the final renovation phases

■ 'BUILD' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by then. He said the contractor has all intentions to finish all of the renovations by that date. This doesn't include the stadium.

### NEW AND MOVING CLASSES

Semrad said although the plan for moving classes was tentative, it was unlikely it would change.

Math classes will be in the portables closer to the school because the classes may be moved back into the building sooner.

The portables farther from the school will be mostly science rooms.

Room 315 will be changed into a physics room, and journalism that was in room 315 will be moved to room 030. Computer Aided Design (CAD) that was in 030 will be moved into two new rooms where the West Cafeteria was.

The North Cafeteria will be changed into three business computer labs.

CAD teacher Trent Lodge said he is looking forward to going up to the new CAD room.

He said he was looking forward to the air conditioning in the classrooms. Lodge plans on starting a new CAD class in the new room.

"I just like the opportunity of getting a fresh start in a new room," he said.

CAD student Sophomore Frank Marescalco is also looking forward to the new CAD rooms.

Most of all, Marescalco said he is looking forward to the air conditioning in the rooms.

### SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH FLOOR

Page said because of the old wood floors on the fourth floors, there were some unforeseen flooring problems.

"He's making every effort to complete it in a timely manner," Page said.

Bexten said the fourth floor will be completed around six weeks behind schedule.

Bexten said it would be no problem because the fourth floor would still be done during the summer.

Even after the construction is officially completed, there is still work to do, Page said.

Minor things may not be completed and paperwork such as warranties and instruction manuals for new equipment will be taken care of.

All of the minor projects and the paperwork should be completed within three months.

Then the school won't have any construction workers on site.

The fourth floor kitchen will be changed into four new rooms, 438 through 441.

The new rooms will be all business rooms.

This was not part of the original renovation plans, and will be paid for by the district and not the construction bond.

Because this is a separate project,

it will not be done until 2005.

The four new rooms are needed to replace the first four portables that were installed.

The first four portables were needed because there was not enough classrooms at Central, and the extra 24 portables were needed to replace rooms under renovation.

With the new classrooms in the kitchens, the four portables are not needed.

When the portables are taken away at end of the next school year, the land they are on now will go back to Joslyn Art Museum.

Special education rooms will be moved from the basement to third floors, room 332 and 334.

Room 333 will be changed into the first special education office. Special education rooms should be moved by the second semester next year.

Sophomore Camielle Ehlers has two classes in portables, but she still doesn't appreciate renovations much. She said the worst part was having a routine to get to class, and then the renovations change that routine.

"You have to find a whole new way to class," Ehlers said.

Ehlers said she does like the fact that the building will finally get air conditioning.

She said she doesn't like sitting in class sweating because she can't concentrate as well on her school work.

Though she said she doesn't like renovations much, she said she looks forward to what it is bringing.

"I like knowing the end result will be something worthwhile," Ehlers said.

### STADIUM CONSTRUCTION AND PARKING

In addition to the renovations in the school, construction for the new football stadium is beginning.

Bexten said the current phase on the stadium is moving dirt and installing underground utilities. Installing the utilities should be done sometime during the summer.

A part of the staff parking lot was demolished before stadium construction could begin.

Bexten said there will be plenty of parking spaces when the stadium is complete.

Near Chicago and Cass St. there is a parking lot for 145 cars that Bexten said a lot of students park at anyway.

With the new stadium there will be two new parking lots, one with 44 spaces on 20th St. and another with 120 spaces on Davenport St.

When students return from summer break, the stadium's east and west side parking lot will be finished. Bexten said he is convinced that the stadium construction will be completed with no troubles.

"It's still early in the project, but I trust we won't have any problems," Bexten said.

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

# EDITORIALS

Mr. Jerry Bexten  
Principal  
Matt Deabler  
Adviser  
Katie Backman  
Editor in Chief



## Restricted paint sales stop graffiti

Minors are to blame for graffiti, which is why it should only be purchased with an ID of a person 18 years old or older.

Spray paint should be behind locked cabinets like it is at some cities in New Mexico, Oregon, Wisconsin, New York, California and Florida.

It is known as the Responsible Retailing Program in these states. This needs to be put into action at Omaha.

Vandalism is a crime. Too much of it is seen throughout the city. This program may cause some problems, but it will stop many others.

Graffiti is almost uncontrollable; it shows up on the school's property and throughout the city.

Most of the vandalism has to be caused by minors.

Graffiti shows up all around the school, but when the teens get out of school they go downtown. It can be found on building walls to dumpsters in alleys.

If Omaha officials put this program in to action, graffiti would decrease.

The cameras are installed around the spray paint department as well as outside of the store.

The states officials' intentions are not just to prevent minors purchasing paint. They also want to catch young people who still try to get away with it.

Too many teens try to get away with graffiti.

Omaha's amount of graffiti may not be compared to cities in California or New York, but it is relevant to the size of the city.

Omaha is still a smaller city and should look clean like one.

Graffiti simply spoils it. Rebellious minors getting a hold of spray paint ruins the city's charm.

Some cities are enforcing this program to prevent kids from inhaling spray paint fumes.

Some arrogant teens might think this program is trying to take the fun out of their hobbies. This program isn't trying to take the fun out of anything.

It is designed to protect minors who don't know any better. Inhaling paint will kill someone of course, but all the minors may see is a quick high with "legal" substances.

These two safety precautions may only be seen as a reason for minors to do it more. Some may think graffiti would increase, but not every minor has an older friend or a parent who would just buy them paint.

If a student needs spray paint for a school project, the parent will gladly buy it. When parents buy it for their kids, most of

them won't have any doubts of what they will use it for.

Most parents won't be mad because they will understand the reason of the program.

They will understand it is trying to prevent illegal activities and the safety with minors.

Even if it is an older man working on a house project, he won't care to flash someone his ID.

It doesn't take time away from people. It only helps people as a whole.

All the cities that ban minors the right to buy spray paint should be applauded.

Teenagers will get used to being punished for vandalism.

They will be getting punished before they even do it. That has got to stop some type of rhythm with disobeying the law.

It is obvious that putting a lock on a cabinet full of spray paint will cut down on the different crimes minors do with it.

If all the retailers do this, it would show Omaha officials are serious about the safety and the well-being of the city.

Rebels might show up initially, but the fun of it would slow down because the program would be very strict.

Getting arrested and having a permanent record is a huge deterrent.

Omaha officials just needs to lock it up and look at all the positives that will happen once it is done. See what the city can look like when there isn't vandalism.

## Teen ignores society's views on her sexuality

"Faggot" is not a common word in my daily life.

When I told my parents I was a lesbian, they weren't angry or didn't try to disown me. I wasn't grounded. In fact, my father was nearly brought to tears of happiness because I decided to be honest with him.

So why then, was I so uncomfortable with it for so long?

Still I am a little uncomfortable with my sexuality. My preference has been known for over two years and I still haven't told half of my family. I have never found it necessary to tell my grandmother, born during the 1920s in the South.

I don't want to cause any problems. I'm sure my grandmother would still love me, but I couldn't bare the fact that she would see or think of me differently.

I was accepted by everyone who knew me, even my peers didn't seem to have any problem with me. It didn't hinder me in any way, but I wasn't satisfied.

It was parents who had a problem with me. My best friend's mother didn't want her to talk to me and wouldn't let her sleep over anymore. I couldn't figure out why. She had known me for a year, she seems to like me enough, plus she was a huge liberal and believer in gay rights. When it came to her daughter's relationships with homosexuals, she was more than uncomfortable.

Neither my friend nor my mother ever talked to me about it. She had that fake nice quality to her, and it really hurt. I have this need for adults to like me, and knowing that she disliked me for no valid reason made me feel really bad.

Students who had never talked to me before started asking me questions. I was glad to have people talking to me, but it was as if my peers were trying to figure me out. Why did I wake up one morning and decide to be gay, or how could I be Catholic and be "this way?" Comments like this were common and although not degrading, they were hurtful.

After many realized that I am who I am, and they thought I was cool, I started hearing my name in more places.

"Oh, Molly Mullen, she's a lesbian, you know."

That really bothered me. Then people started seeing me as only a lesbian, so when they wanted to look more liberal, open-minded or just to spark up a conversation, that's where I came in.

That was when it hit. If I had any qualities that I liked in myself, no one saw them but me. I am openly gay, and that's all I am.

Even my close friends or those who I thought were close friends

openly admitted that me being a lesbian is all they saw in me.

So then I started wondering why do anything else if I can't get recognition. Why be in plays if I can be defined as an actress? Why write poetry if I'm not seen as a poet? I started to become a stereotype to many people, although I don't know why. I have short hair, I don't care what I look like and I'm liberal, so that means I am a stereotypical lesbian, a "dyke."

For a long time I didn't do anything and I talked to few people. I grew ashamed of myself, even though it wasn't my fault. I was so ashamed of my image, I didn't want people to know after awhile. I had digressed.

Looking back I can't believe how cowardice I was, how stereotypical. Not in the gay sense, but in the teenage sense. Worrying about what everyone thought about me. How I acted in front of other people, made me change. I used to make fun of those very people. I thought I was the only one who went through issues like that and I hid from them.

Now I don't care much at all. Those people who assumed things about me or told me I should act a certain way because of my sexuality are not my friends. They never were. If I care what people think about me, the criticism should only come from my closest friends, if even them.

I am still a bit surprised by my mother's beliefs on the subject.

She is the most left-winged, non-judgmental and open-minded person I know. She knew I had gay friends before I came out. Yet to this day she doesn't accept the fact that I was a lesbian, maybe because I'm her daughter instead of just any other teenager.

"You're too young to know," she said.

She was uncomfortable with me telling people at school. I'm not sure if it was because I am the only person in the family to ever attend public school, and she's worried about my safety, or she just thought I would change my mind.

Whenever we were alone driving together, she'd bring up the infamous question. "So are you still a lesbian?"

"Afraid so," I'd reply, and she would leave it at that until the next week.

It wasn't that my mother's opinions were making me feel unhappy. It just didn't help anything when I had to constantly think about something I didn't really want to.

These things still happen. People bring up my name for conversation purposes. My mother doesn't believe what I tell her, but I have learned to deal with it. Sure it bothers me that people can not see past who I date, but most people I know don't think too much of it.

## Student prefers cremation to avoid rotting with bugs

I want to be cremated when I die.

There is something about being stuck in the ground with thousands of worms oscillating around my decaying corpse. I think it is simply terrifying.

I'm not usually the one to scream in terror if I see a spider in my room. There is an exception though, I'm terrified of worms.

When I was younger, I wasn't really scared of worms.

After it rained, my brother and I would get our Radio Flyer red wagon down the street to pick worms up until we had a huge heap of pulsing night crawlers.

They would move in the giant mass until they spread out in our wagon resembling an abstract painting in constant slow motion.

We would haul the wagon back to our sandbox and build them huge castles with intricate tunnels. One by one we would free the worms where they probably died of suffocation from the sand drying and caving in on them.

Sporadically we would venture to the backyard, dig up patches of grass and set the worms free.

A lot of times we would grow bored and just leave them in the wagon where we would find them later, dried out and shrunken.

Maybe one or two would escape the heat-induced death, but the majority baked from the hot rays of the sun.

These actions I had changed to the point where I grew to be terrified of them. Approximately in second grade, I read the "Goosebumps" books. There

were books about almost every topic I read as many as I could, until I read the story about the kid whose worm farm rebelled against him.

My childhood worm play became a nightmare.

I had dreams about worms slithering through tunnels in the sand as they caved in. In an Indiana Jones fashion most wouldn't escape.

My brother grew up and as most boys in the fact he found it to be a great sport in tearing a worm in half, watching each part squirm around.

I would watch in pure fear and eventually walk away all the while watching my back to make sure the worms weren't following me.

In my head I would think the worms were going to get my little brother and me as well because I had not stopped them.

At night I would have dreams about the worms crawling into my room and slowly engulfing my entire house.

In the summer time we would go fishing. By the time I was 8, I was expected to bait my own hook.

I would bait with minnows. I would bait with leeches, but worms absolutely not.

My supreme dislike for worms didn't really affect me much, until biology when I dissected worms. I nearly passed out.

I can't imagine having to be near worms at will. Yet, everyone who decided to be buried when they died resided to letting their corpse lie with them.



YOU NEED TO BELIEVE  
A COLUMN BY MOLLY MULLEN

### EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

## Near-death event makes stronger friendship

Recently, one of my friends attempted suicide by taking too many pain killers.

The first words out of my mouth was "no he didn't!" I don't know if it was on accident or on purpose. All I know is that it hit me hard.

I met him when I was in middle school. He was strange, funny and known around the school as "the kid with the hair."

We weren't friends at first. He sat in front of me in German class. In middle school I was the one with all the friends, but I don't remember how we became friends.

When I started high school, I hardly spoke to anyone. It wasn't until the beginning of my sophomore year when I started to hang out with friends again.

We had so much fun together. Some friends were old and others were new. It didn't matter.

Sometimes we'd joke that

we hung out because we had similar lifestyles; we all had family problems. We all worked the problems out together by talking and comforting each other.

Then things changed. My friend's life got worse and mine started getting better. When this happened, we stopped hanging out.

This is when it became awkward and I grew numb to it all. At that time it didn't bother me, but it does now.

While I stood dumbfounded and tried not to cry about the news of his attempted suicide, I made myself believe it wasn't real. I felt sad, confused and angry; it was an emotional tornado.

The night it happened he injected the pain killers into his body. A normal dose was one-fourth of what he took. It's amazing he's alive.

I never thought he would ever try to kill himself. In my mind, I hoped it was a fun time gone wrong instead of attempted suicide. I felt guilty and

overtaken by the drama. Nobody ever suspected that he would attempt suicide.

If only things stayed the same between us. I just think I should've been a better friend and could have done things differently.

Reality has never hit my dysfunctional clique as strong as his attempted suicide. We had a lot of unspoken apologies and



WHAT YOU DIDN'T EXPECT  
A COLUMN BY MALISA MILTZER

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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 fall 2004 JEA/NSPA convention in Atlanta.

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 also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA.

It has been awarded Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

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

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Letters to the editor are encouraged.

They can be sent to the Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via e-mail to 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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Sara Rips  
Ads

Matt Deabler  
Adviser



# OPINION

"I think when the fire alarm is real, the kids will just do the same thing. They won't leave the building fast enough or take it seriously."

ANNIE RIPS (9)

## Beauty salon alters tough-girl attitude

I sat down in a swivel chair and somehow began explaining my life to a complete stranger.

As she ran her fingers through my hair I told her about my future plans through the next weekend to the next five years. Then I told her about my closest friend, school and personal problems.

She wasn't a therapist or a psychiatrist, but a hair stylist. For some reason those girls make people feel so comfortable, but sometimes it was the fact that they were so interrogative.

I just thought I was getting a trim and buying some new hair products. I didn't expect telling how some stranger's sentence was starting off with, "well I was on my period that week and..."

Most of the time I keep that phrase just for people who are so lucky like my sisters or someone from those to me to hear it.

These women must just be in the wrong field. I have never been more comfortable around people who I didn't even know their first names.

Just walking through those doors I could tell I was going to break some boundaries I had built. There were stylists sitting on those cheap counters holding the Goody combs with some girl crying her eyes out.

While the other girls were getting their nails done and gossiping with the stylists, I was just watching that what was going on around me. It was just the epitome of stereotypical girls. They were giggling, looking around before they told a juicy rumor and the smell of cheap stale perfume filled the air.

I personally didn't think I would be in or would even say one word. I considered myself to be pretty tough and always have the get-away-from-me, don't-even-think-about-talking-to-me expression on my face.

When I walked in, I let out a deep sigh because I knew I would have to deal with people I usually can't stand.

Not only that but I just don't act like the Barbie-type girl. I don't wear makeup, hardly shave my legs and don't wear revealing clothing. I don't do the stereotypical things like go to prom, get fake nails or put on highlights in my hair.

But here comes me, this tomboyish girl into a beauty salon and I felt like I fit in. During the time I was there, I caught myself giggling. I almost felt violated, but I brought it upon myself.

As she shampooed my hair, she started talking about her ex-boyfriend and what her new plan is for the dating scene. She was talking about the relationship topic for a good 15 minutes.

Instead of giving short choppy responses that push the hint that I didn't want to talk, I began talking in complete, well-thought-out sentences. It wasn't a conversation with just her and I, but the other girl and hair stylist as well.

Since it was a larger group our topics were very innocent, initially. It started on the latest chic flick released, then it got more personal when we started discussing our favorite movie.

Next thing I know we were sharing problems about boyfriends, financial issues and future plans in our lives.

They started sharing secrets about their boyfriends I know the guys would never want repeated. I didn't have much to contribute to this but at the same time I wasn't bored. It was weird.

I was bonding with girls. Not just girls, but the girly-girls who just wear pink. The types who get their nails and hair done for the hell of it, these girls have the need to have a boyfriend and love all the teeny-bopper soap operas. The scary thing is I had fun.

It was due to the fact that it was a break from my everyday life. This happened when I used to baby-sit kids. I would play the part. I would run around screaming and flaring my arms just as I did with these girls. I giggled and gossiped.

I always had a sense of "should I be doing this?" It almost felt illegal to me.

Giggling and chatting is something I never imagined and never intended on, but I am sort of glad it happened.

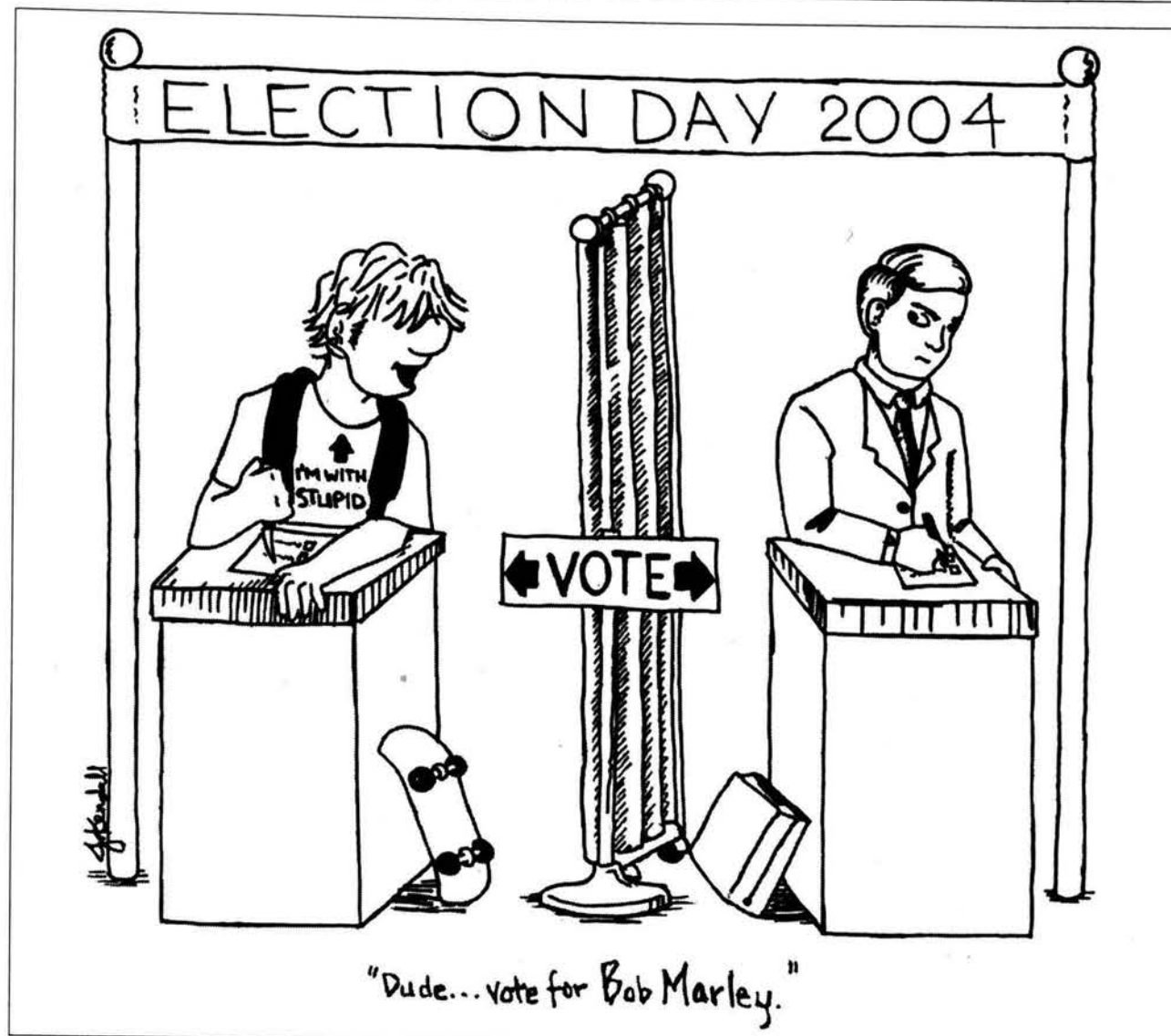
When I left the salon I was in a good mood. I have been in good moods other days, but this was different. The thing is I don't really know why.

The girl who cut my hair gave me her card, but within a few days I lost it or just threw it away. I know the normal me, the "tough" side of me, threw it away on purpose.

Because I don't need a place like that. I am content with my sweatshirt and often knotted-up hair.

There is still just this small part of me that anticipates going again, just to feel a sense of being human.

I know next time I walk in, I will have the irritated attitude, but before I know it we will be playing the "Mystery Date" game.



## Teens vote against politics

It's November and Joe has been 18 for three months. He is sitting on his couch playing video games. He is too apathetic and arrogant to register to vote.

This is the teenager in today's society. He finds the latest video game, concert or movie more important than politics.

Politics control many things, even if people don't know it. With the end of the school year approaching, more seniors aren't registering to vote.

They just shrug it off and buy cigarettes instead of making an opinion regarding the community and country.

This should be seen as a problem, a huge flaw with this age group. With the Nebraska voting age at 18 years old, it brings questions like when are people old enough to even care to vote.

Being 18 and too young is a generalization because some younger teens do care about the politics. Some school officials are saying there will be a government class required for the seniors next year and every year after that.

If this class is required, 18 year olds may have a better understanding of how important voting is. Most students are too naïve to care.

If a couple of students were to go out and vote together, it would suddenly turn into something like a test review.

The school needs a famous politician to come in and speak at a senior assembly. This politician could pick out 10 students and ask them if they are democrats or republicans.

Most of the students would respond with, "I don't care."

Which is a special code for the fact that they don't know the difference.

It is sad, but it is a given fact that not many high school students know the actual facts about government.

They simply don't even know where to begin. Schools share the in the responsibility of young people's education about the political process. Parents need to jump in there also.

There needs to be classes that help define basic terms, where teachers help to keep students informed on the politics going on each day.

Newspapers should be supplied to classrooms and students should read up on the government. Students' interest in the government is rapidly decreasing.

Having the ability to vote isn't as powerful and meaningful as it was decades ago.

Being 18 years old means students can buy cigarettes. Voting for or against the big issues in the state doesn't cross their minds.

Not even when these students are sitting in the DMV waiting. Between the drivers tests, there should be time to register to vote.

Politics are a dying thing in schools. Hardly any one even fully knows all or most aspects of being a political person.

Students probably don't know the difference between mayor and governor. These two positions are important while half of the students simply have never heard a thing about it or choose to sleep instead of listening.

Students also probably don't know the presidential election is this year. If they are aware it is only because they hate Bush.

Students are so uninformed and too lazy to keep updated. They probably couldn't give an exact reason why they don't like the current president.

Schools have to see this as a problem. A mandatory government class is a step in the right direction. Education is always a huge key.

High school students need to be informed about politics and government. What will the future hold if the young people of today are not informed?

### EDITORIAL The OPINION of the Register staff

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

### Gambling will bring in much-needed money

Dear Editor,  
Should gambling be legal? Yes. I mean why not? It would help the city so much. When you think about it, how many people in Omaha cross the river each day to blow some cash on a Roulette table?

A lot do. The only people who are against it are the bible-pushing and American-loving right wings. These people say it is immoral.

I believe gambling should be legal. It sure is helping Council Bluffs in the long run.

Andrew Bratcher (10)

### Student wants Roadshow matinee

Dear Editor,  
I would like to know why there was not a matinee performance of the Roadshow this year. Some form of the show should have been played to keep the tradition alive.

Not everyone can come after school and see it. If money is an issue, the drama department should get a cut of the student activity card money.

Alvin Samuels (10)

### Fire alarms need to be taken more seriously

Dear Editor,  
I think that it is stupid how people can pull the fire alarm and nothing will happen to them with the administration. All the students have to go and sit outside.

I think when the fire alarm is real, the kids will just do the same thing. They won't leave the building fast enough or take it seriously. It is getting on my nerves, leaving my classes and not being able to do my work. I just hope someone could do something about it because it has already gone too far.

Annie Rips (9)

### Teenagers should be more mature

Dear Editor,  
I think Central is a very good school. It has received many prestigious awards and has a good reputation. But some people act really stupid and uncivilized. For instance, people

### 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.

are always letting stink bombs out in my study hall. It gets to the point where I can't focus on my studies anymore. I just wish some people would grow up and realize that we are in high school.

Grace Phillips (9)

### Upperclassmen should be able to leave school for lunch

Dear Editor,

I think we should have lunches off the school's campus because our lines are too long to get through. Last lunch doesn't even have enough choices. I think one way to solve this problem is for juniors and seniors to have off-campus lunches. If not off-campus lunches, I think we should have a salad bar.

Josh Klepke (10)

### School rules are too strict about cell phones, PDA

Dear Editor,

Have you noticed that Omaha Public Schools is too strict at times? There are rules in the handbook that don't allow the students to do any type of Public Display of Affection (PDA). I mean, come on, we can't show any form of affection towards

### STUDENT POLL

Should student be allowed off-campus lunch?



335 students polled

anyone else.

After school we get in trouble for CD players and cell phones. I remember I once got in trouble for chasing someone because he took something of mine. The other student didn't even have to go to his administrator.

At lunch we should be able to go outside and chill. When we are outside, we should be able to talk and even play hacky sack. But because of the strict rules, we will just have to deal with it.

Zach Qualls (10)

### Matinee tickets raised money for the school

Dear Editor,

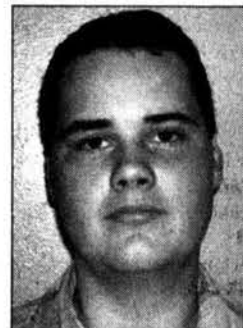
Recently the performing arts department was told Central could no longer hold a matinee because of complaints.

These actions will cutback the funding for the department. The matinees help bring in more money for the school's performing arts. It was a form of fund-raising that was supposed to supply the money needed for a performance. The money helps pay for costumes and sets. The money is needed.

Ashley Lidgett (10)

### REGISTER YOUR OPINION

DO YOU THINK RESTRICTING THE SALE OF SPRAY PAINT TO PEOPLE OVER 18 IS A GOOD IDEA?



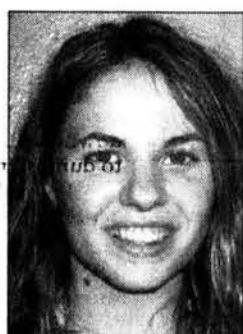
"I think it's a bad idea because it won't really reduce the amount of graffiti. People will find other ways."

Kyle Gawryluk (10)



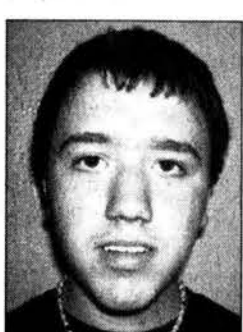
"No because there are other people who would buy it for people under 18 years old. I don't think it will work."

Danielle Goodwin (9)



"It wouldn't reduce graffiti. People would just have others buy it for them."

Katie Willis (11)



"No, some people use spray paint to build models and such. If this happens, it's limiting to them."

Chase Roseberry (9)



"Just sell it to everyone or else people will just start stealing it."

Darryl Hinson (9)



"Not at all. I have used spray paint before for purely artistic reasons."

Sarah Johnson (11)



# Sophomore goalie starts on varsity

BY JEFF HART

Sophomore Daniel Susman worked hard to be a varsity goalie starter. He is one of five underclassmen who play at the varsity level.

"Being a goalie is really a stressful position," he said. "I love the fact that the outcome of every game depends on my performance."

To get this position on the team he lifted weights and ran during the off-season.

He said he has strong abilities now because of his dedication.

He wanted to be the best and had to earn his spot.

He does not think he is the best player, but he thinks he is getting better.

"I feel if I work hard and never give up, I will be successful," he said.

He gives a lot of credit to a former starter and alumnus, James Boatright.

Susman said Boatright set the standards of what he wanted to reach this year.

"I had a lot to learn in such a short time from Boatright," he said. "He sort of took me under his wing and taught me how to play the game better at the top level."

The seniors play an important role on the team.

He said the team members supported him through his struggles and turned him into a talented player.

"The support really helps me get through the rough games and helps me get over the big losses," he said.

He said the team members are young and successful.

The young members have a good attitude and want to improve.

That is the key.

"The seniors on the team give me a lot of encouragement," he said. "They help get me through the season and help me get over my mistakes."

He said he makes a lot of mistakes. The team gets over the fear of making more.

He said he thinks the team will back him up whether he is playing one of his best games or not.

He said the support and his confidence helps him overcome the worst and best parts of the season.

The support helps him get over the fact that he will make mistakes which could cost them the game.

Susman said he found the love of the game when he played at YMCA.

He started playing when he was 5 years old and has loved it ever since.

"I was doing better than some of the other guys," he said. "So I decided to try out for Central's team."

He said he has high hopes for the remainder of this year and next season. He said he hopes next year the team will be the best ever.

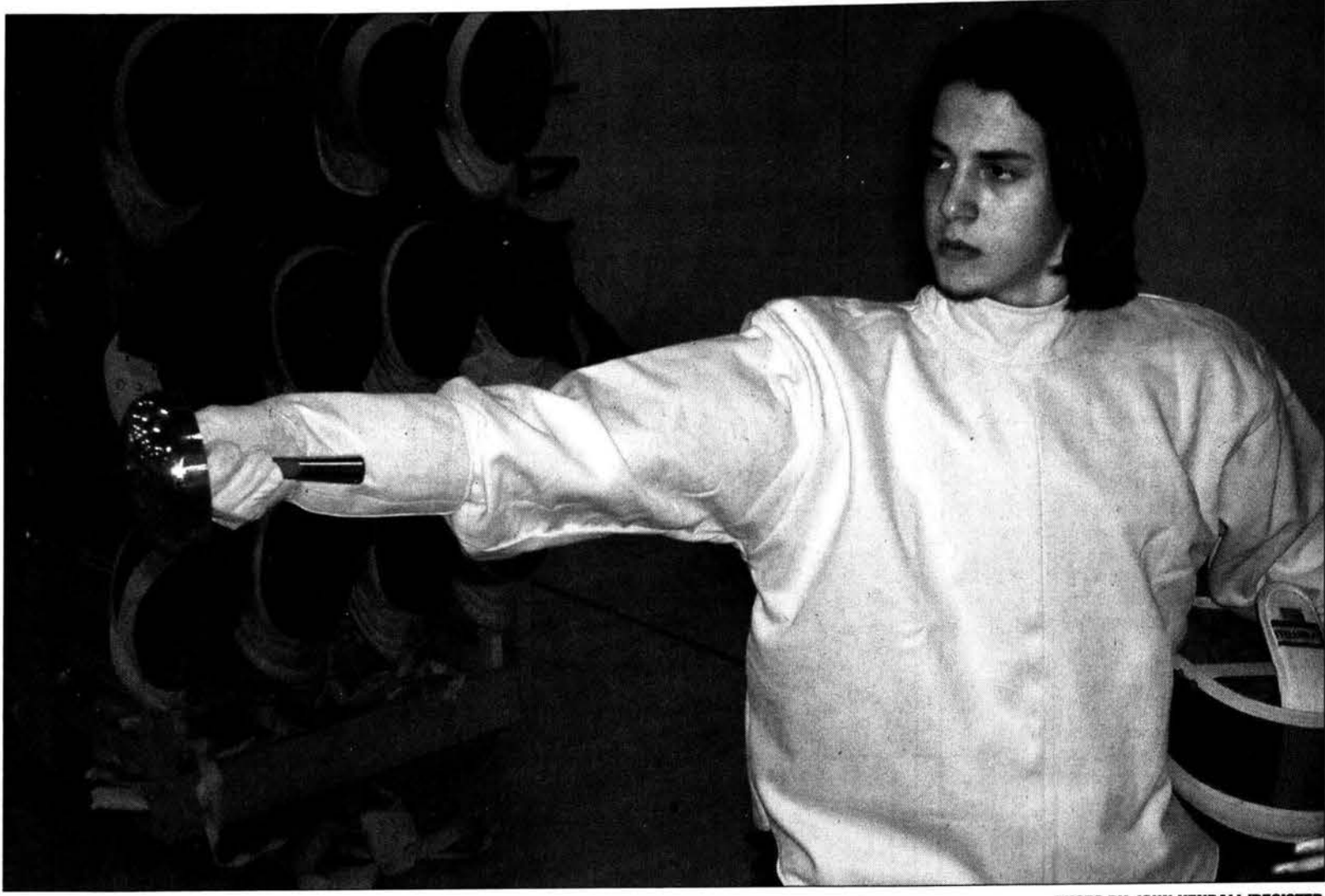
He said he thinks this year's experience could help the team place in the State competition.

Next year could possibly be one of the greatest teams, he said.

He thinks the team may have a chance at the State title within the next few years.

It is a main goal of his to win it all.

He knows that practice makes perfect.



Junior Andy Seevers practices his lunging technique before his fencing class at the Montclair Community Center. He practices his footwork and trains against other students in duels during class to help sharpen his skills.

# Fencing maintains modern appeal

BY JOHN KENDALL

Swords, masks and disciplined techniques are all part of junior Andy Seevers' Wednesday nights. He practices fencing at the Montclair Community Center.

It was something he has always wanted to do since he has always been fond of swords, but recently he found a program for it.

The program teaches Olympic-style fencing, which awards points for hitting specific targets as well as involving many other rules. He said this is opposed to classical fencing, which is more like actual sword fighting.

The program teaches the use of three different types of swords involved in fencing: the foil, the epee and the sabre. Seevers said each weapon requires a different style and targets to hit on the body.

Seevers said fencing practices are strenuous at times, he has used all three of the swords, but he is focusing on the epee because it is closest to dueling swords.

"It's a little more challenging," he said. "There's no right of way and the whole body's a target."

Right of way in fencing is the means which points are determined if both fencers hit each other at relatively the same time.

It says whoever extends first gets the point. This is void with the epee.

"Sometimes it gets really hot in the gym," he said. "If you don't think, you get hit. If you get hit in the leg it can hurt because there's no padding there."

A blade once broke at a practice when Westside Middle School eighth grader Michael Vann placed a hit on Seevers and the blade snapped.

Seevers said he was not sure exactly what happened, but he was caught by surprise. He felt the guarded tip hit his shoulder, and the next thing he knew several inches of the blade had broken off leaving a pointed edge.

"It was kind of funny, but it was kind of scary at the same time. It could have done a lot of damage," he said.

Volunteer fencing instructor Glenn Sowell said this was the first time he has ever had a blade break in one of his classes. He said it is a big deal, but it is also just a part of fencing.

He said the first thing he does when he has a report of a broken blade is to find out if it broke because of bad fencing, or if it was just an accident.

"Breaking a blade is a serious thing," Sowell said. "It is taught in fencing to stop if you see a broken blade."

Each part of the sword is a separate piece. They are taken completely apart when a blade breaks, and the blade itself is thrown away. Then a new blade is put in its place and the sword is reassembled.

"I used to give old blades to UNO (University of Nebraska at Omaha)," he said. "The janitors would put golf club handles on the ends of them and use them to pick up trash."

Seevers used to just use the equipment supplied by Montclair, but on his 17th birthday he was given his own gear.

The clothing worn in fencing is a mask, a cloth sleeve that fits over one arm and shoulder area, a jacket and a glove.

Though this is his first time learning how to fence, the practice of swordplay is not completely new to Seevers.

"I used to take Kendo, which is like Japanese sword fighting," he said.

He said he believes his previous experience with using swords may help him out a bit in fencing.

Sowell said any experience with swords will help a person in fencing because there are similar methods in each.

"Any sport that has you pay attention to the other person will help," he said. "Kendo especially would be a good thing."

It would definitely help him understand the balance involved as well as being familiar with working with something in hand.

"He's quite good," Sowell said. "He hasn't been fencing long, but he picked up the footwork very quickly. I've been very impressed with what he can do."

No matter what the students in his fencing classes do, he said they would always start off with the basics such as physical warm-ups and footwork.

"Movement in fencing is very important. You have to have good balance," he said.

Each weapon has slightly different techniques. He said the foil and epee, for example, are both thrusting weapons so the point with those weapons is to try to touch the opponent with the tip.

He said the United States Fencing Association ultimately oversees classes such as his, and occasionally will set up competitions for fencers to attend.

He said there are big fencing clubs in places such as Lincoln, Neb. and Des Moines, Iowa that have the local support it takes to hold competitions.

Sowell said he has had students of his attend these competitions, but Seevers has been fencing for a short while. Seevers said he would probably think about taking part in one of these competitions, but only when he believes he is ready.

"I think it'd be fun to participate in one," he said, "but I don't think I'm good enough yet."

Vann said he has been fencing for four years at Montclair.

He said Seevers is doing very well considering he has not been involved with fencing for very long.

Vann matched up against Seevers with electric epees in hand.

In this kind of match, the swords are plugged into a machine by a long, thin cord and the tips of each sword are rigged with a button on the tip.

When either fencer hits the other hard enough to push that button down, a buzzer goes off on a machine when they are hooked up to.

A fencing match begins with each fencer saluting to each other, the referee and the audience.

Then they put on their mask, test the tips of their swords on each others guard bell and then fence. Basically, whoever hits first is awarded a point.

"The guard bell (the part of the sword that protects the hand) isn't targeted," Vann said. "So they check to see that they don't get a point for hitting the other person's bell."

He said points are also given if one forces the other off their own end of the fencing strip which the duel on.

Sowell said a standard fencing strip is about 43 feet long and about six feet wide.

Ten-year-old Noah Keller sometimes fences against students older than himself during practice, one of them being Seevers.

He said he has been fencing for about a year, and believes the main disadvantage he has against older students is his height.

"It's just that he's older and taller, and I'm younger and shorter," he said.

Keller said he puts himself against students like Seevers because it will help him get better.

Seevers started fencing in December of 2003, going through different sessions. Seevers said the first session was for beginners, and it was pretty much nothing but the foil.

The second was intermediate where he practiced with the sabre, and finally the third session is practically all epee.

Seevers said he thinks fencing is a lot of fun. He loves spending time practicing it and he plans on practicing it as long as he can.

# Off-season helps player swing high for success

BY JEFF HART

Junior Corey Tomasek has progressed from a junior varsity player to one of the leading hitters on the varsity baseball team.

He is in the top 10 in the state in hitting.

"I just worked hard in the off-season," Tomasek said. "I lifted and ran to improve my strength and performance."

Tomasek has pushed his game this year to become a different player from what he has been throughout his life.

"I worked hard to help improve every aspect of my game," he said. "I just wanted to see if I could help the team's success this year."

Head varsity baseball coach Scott Hodges said Tomasek's attitude and work ethic is one of the best he has ever had from a player on his teams.

"Corey (Tomasek) is the type of player every coach wants to have on their organization," Hodges said.

Tomasek works out in the weight room three times a week.

He said he thinks it makes him to be a serious player.

"The heart and determination he shows during the off-season workouts are a model for what every player should act like," Hodges said.

The work during the off-season is one of the reasons why Tomasek is at this level now.

"I want to be the best player I can," he said. "The only way for me to achieve that is through hard work and stay determined."

Tomasek said he hasn't been a standout player who is considered the "star" or heavy hitter on the team.

"I am not the type of player who could hit 50 home runs," he said. "I have always been the player who can get the game-winning hit or the player who can get the clutch hit when the team is depending on you."

His life has been revolving around baseball since he was 5.

He said he has seen a lot in baseball and made him see how some players without making big mistakes.

He is confident he will make the right play at the right time.

Hodges said Tomasek is an incredible athlete who can play anywhere in the infield and even pitch with some success.

Tomasek said he thinks more about the team's success than his own ability to play the game.

His success is nothing if the team isn't successful.

Key players need to have a certain attitude to be successful in college, Hodges said. He thinks he is talented offensively and defensively.

Hodges said he probably would play Division I, but Tomasek has a chance to play Division II as a pitcher or a first baseman.

"He has the possibility to play in college," Hodges said.

Tomasek said if he did play in college he would probably play for a team in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the colleges that are under Division I and II teams.

"I would have the most success there," Tomasek said. "I would have a better chance to play more often."

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PHOTO BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER

Senior Shawntel Vaughn (SECOND FROM THE LEFT) gets her mark at the North High School Invite. At this meet the girls performed well, which is getting them closer to State and District competitions.

## Track teams hope to win State, Districts

BY JEFF HART

At the North High School Track Invite both teams had ration their rosters to prepare for the Metro tournament.

They had to limit their key athletes to avoid burn out.

Head boys track coach Jeff McCune said both teams were running a weaker schedule rather than the normal running one.

The major goal was to make good time and to place.

"We didn't want to tire or hurt anyone before Metro," McCune said. "We just went out and tried to win what we could on a limited roster."

Both teams finished fourth place overall.

Sophomore Virgil Mitchell said it could have been different if Metro wasn't as close.

Assistant coach Fred Faulkner said the team sound a couple stars who surprised the coaches with their success.

The runners who stepped up were all overshadowed by freshman Jasmine Johnson who received three metals.

She won a sixth place in the long jump, first in the 400 meter sprint and she was a member of the 4 x 400 meter relay team, which won first.

"I feel like I just accomplished something great

and I hope to build on that for State and Districts," Johnson said.

Head girls track coach Trent Lodge said he is excited and happy for Johnson and he hopes she can keep it up.

"If she keeps working at it she will soon be a very good runner," Lodge said.

The teams both focused on the hard work and effort the runners have put into their season.

Faulkner said the team was trying to find the players who were willing to step up their game. He said some of the athletes who normally don't get the chance to run or throw on the varsity level had an opportunity to prove themselves.

"We're improving with hard work," Faulkner said. "People are going to be stepping up all the time."

The boys and the girls both ran very well in order to prepare for the end of the season.

Lodge said the girls had a lot to do before Metro and they worked hard to be ready.

Each of the tournaments and invites helped the team members to prepare for State and Districts.

"It will be interesting at the tournaments," Lodge said.

McCune and Lodge both said they were hoping for a successful year with the teams. They said they were hoping for a chance in future tournaments.

"Our team is great as a whole, and there is a lot of

hope for us in the future," Faulkner said.

The girls team is steadily improving, too. It did have a rough start at the beginning of the competition when an athlete fell and hurt herself.

The hurdles were the first events and Central lost a runner in the first race because one runner hit the hurdle with her foot. It caused her to fall and injure herself.

"It surprised us," Lodge said, "but she will shake it off and compete later this year."

Not too long after the incident at the hurdles, the lady Eagles claimed their first medal with a third-place finish in the 3200 meter relay run.

The team bounced back to set a meet record in the 1600 meter relay, and won two out of the three relays.

"We struggled through the hurdles," Lodge said, "but we came back and won a decent amount of races to overcome that."

Throughout the day the girls placed in the top six in nearly every running or jumping event.

The team didn't have any throwers at the meet.

It finished behind the teams of Fremont and Kearney, Neb.

The team continued to win by taking half the awards in the 400 meter by Johnson winning a first, seniors Stephanie Williams with a fifth and Kaitlin Hartnett with a fourth.

## Golfer says next year will rebuild the team

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The boys golf team has won three out of six tournaments this year.

Head boys golf coach Jim Galus is pleased with how well the team has performed. In the past the boy's golf team has usually won about two or three tournaments every year. They qualified for State two years in a row.

"They've had a pretty good career," Galus said.

The team is made up of six seniors and five sophomores. Other years the team had about 20 players. This year's team barely had enough players for a junior varsity team.

"We need to do a better job of getting the word out," he said.

Galus said at first he was worried because the seniors may be distracted because it was their last year. He was pleased that they concentrated on their game and won the tournaments.

"Obviously by winning two tournaments, they've showed me that they want to compete," Galus said.

Senior Steve Hogan placed third in the tournament hosted by Abraham Lincoln-Thomas Jefferson High School, sixth in a Central tournament and won a medal in the match against Bellevue East.

Hogan has been offered full-ride scholarships for golf from colleges such as Creighton, Hampton, and Jackson State University. He said he hasn't chosen a college to go to yet, but wanted to attend the college for the education and not the golf. He wanted a good educational background and because he could play golf anytime.

Hogan said he hopes to play golf professionally. He said he admires golfers such as Tiger Woods and Greg Norman.

Hogan said he thinks that even though most of the team is leaving next year, it will be still fairly good.

"They've showed some sparks of good plays," Hogan said.

Hogan said the sophomores returning to the team should practice

more often to prepare for next year. He said he thinks they did a really good job during the year, especially the sophomores who beat the seniors for a chance at varsity positions.

"They've proven themselves already, they just need to keep working," Hogan said.

Sophomore Drew Meier made the varsity team this year. He said it was a big advantage for him. He will gain more experience being on varsity as a sophomore.

Meier placed in the top 10 in three of the six tournaments this year. He said he thought he had a good year but could improve with his consistency with his drives.

Next year, Meier said it will be a rebuilding year. He is looking forward to being one of the best players on varsity along with sophomore Guy Smith.

Meier said he hopes to get offers for full-ride scholarships as Hogan did this year. Meier said he cannot decide whether to have a career in golf or basketball.

"It's probably easier to do golf as a career because there are so many tours," he said.

Galus said he also thought the five sophomores on the team did good job this year. He hopes to have Meier, Smith and other new golfers on the team next year.

Galus said he does not teach the team members how to play golf or even give them tips, because all the players should know how to play.

"I don't like the term coach, I am more of a sponsor," Galus said.

Galus said he hopes next year there will be at least one teammate at every tournament who places in the top 10.

He also said he hopes to improve on how they play against schools that are not in Omaha Public Schools.

To be on the golf team, Galus said, one must already know how to play, own a set of golf clubs and maintain passing grades.

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**From a Central Alumnus**



# Roadshow entertains for nearly a century

BY JOHN KENDALL

The 90th Annual Roadshow ranged from performances containing people dancing in colored bags to classy music, which never ceased to capture the audience's attention.

The theme of "Mardi Gras" was loosely intertwined through the decorations or the acts performed by groups such as the orchestra and Bel Canto.

The nights' best performance came in late in Act 1, when junior Juliet Yoshida and senior Philip Witchger teamed up for an astounding delivery of a violin and piano duet entitled "Hungarian Dance."

This was followed up by "The Last Dance," a ballet by junior Anna Vacha. She danced fluidly to the music, and she made excellent use of such a large stage.

The percussion ensemble had an electric performance with an extreme amount of power that would never let the audience get bored.

Act 2 peaked early when sophomore Leonardo Añez and freshman Luis Lopez gathered together center-stage with their guitars and played a very "Desperado-like" piece entitled "Maleguena." These two underclassmen proved themselves to be extremely talented. Their hands would be a blur playing a fast-paced tune and settle down to a more comfortable and peaceful pace in a heartbeat.

The most interesting performances of the night perhaps belonged to the CHS Dancers. They showed up early in Act 1 in colored elastic-like bags moving within them to a dance that they called "The Diversity Dance."

They appeared once again around the middle of Act 2, this time just in black sweatpants and a solid-colored T-shirt. The way they danced was very similar to their previous performance. Perhaps there was a deeper meaning to their two dances, but they at least get points for just being bizarre.

The formal Master of Ceremonies (MC) was senior Megan Prosterman. She was the one to first introduce the Roadshow and dressed the part of being the host, very elegant and hardly ever in the same outfit twice.

Seniors Steve Hogan, Andy Regan

and Matt Storm soon began to interrupt Prosterman in an act because they wanted to be MC's as well. Their "I-have no-talent" personas added comic relief to the downtime between the acts.

The fifth MC was Philip Witchger, who was mentioned earlier. He displayed his many entertaining talents ranging from juggling certain objects to performing tricks with his Chinese yo-yo to riding a unicycle. He was much more of a jester-like character and seems as though he was made for the circus.

The five hosts progressively became more intertwined with each other as they began to run into one another on stage.

This first began with the "no-talent trio" butting in on Prosterman's speeches. It was both Regan and Storm trying to be cool, or Hogan hitting Prosterman with no success, which forced sympathized reactions from the audience.

Witchger was discovered when Prosterman found him taking over her job. Hogan, Regan and Storm then acted as "body guards" to make sure Prosterman got the spotlight.

The use of multiple MC's was a plus to the show because it kept it fresh from the individual's mediocre and seemingly scripted performances. The only one who was really entertaining as an individual act was Witchger.

The decorations for the Roadshow were fairly simple. Occasionally seen on stage were one or more rectangular wooden cutouts depicting an illustration of the face of a court jester.

On either side of the stage was an old-fashioned light post with a street sign reading "Bourbon Street" and small fake flower arrangements around them. The presidential boxes contained larger flower arrangements as well.

It was enough to keep the audience who decided to stretch their legs outside the auditorium enough to look at in order to keep them entertained and interested during the break in Roadshow.

One aspect of the Roadshow that was a little discrediting was the occasional reiteration of "diversity," which seems to be a catch phrase.

It has just been beaten into the ground, especially at this year's Roadshow.

It was fortunately not mentioned enough to really take away from the show.

## REVIEW



"ROADSHOW"

Directed by: John Gibson



Freshman Luis Lopez (LEFT) and sophomore Leonardo Añez practice their guitars for their performance in Roadshow. The two mixed their cultures from Venezuela and Guatemala to form the catchy sound, which many of the audience members enjoyed.

## Talent show starts guitarists' road to fame

BY CLAY LOMNETH

A new sound was heard at this year's Roadshow, coming from both Venezuela and Guatemala.

Sophomore Leonardo Añez from Venezuela and freshman Luis Lopez from Guatemala played a song that was part of their own compositions and part of a song titled "Maleguena" by Esteban.

The song "Maleguena" is a Flamenco style song. Flamenco is a style of music that has Spanish roots. Lopez said that "Maleguena" was perhaps the most popular Flamenco song in Spain and South America.

Lopez and Añez chose to play a Flamenco song because it was so different from what people in Omaha usually hear.

"They barely here Flamenco around here," Lopez said.

The crowd seemed to have loved the music, with multiple people standing up and dancing. When the song was over, even a few people stood up to give a standing ovation.

Añez came to the United States in 2002, leaving his old band from Laracas, Venezuela. The reason he came to the United States to have a better life and live more comfortably.

Añez started playing guitar three years ago. In

addition to guitar, he plays many other instruments, including the electric guitar, maracas and tambourines. Añez started out playing a "cuatro," which is a Venezuelan instrument that looks like a small guitar that has four strings. He has been playing the cuatro for five years.

The secret to his skills in guitar is that he practices every day. Añez said he practices four to five hours every weekday and around eight hours on weekends.

"The most important thing is to practice every day," he said.

Añez said he wanted to play guitar because of the challenge of six strings instead of his four-stringed cuatro. As far as role models, Añez said he admires God first and Esteban.

Añez and Lopez both give lessons to those who want to learn to play guitar. As far as advice, Añez gives three tips.

"The first thing is to love guitar. The second thing is to practice," Añez said. "The last thing is to keep it up; ask for help."

Lopez came to the United States three years ago. He said his family moved because his dad is a missionary and moved to the United States to start churches. He also came here for his education.

"We came to have a better education

opportunity," Lopez said.

Añez and Lopez met in the lunch room this year when they were introduced by mutual friends. Lopez said Añez mentioned something about guitar playing, and that's how they began talking. The very next day Lopez and Añez practiced together. They decided they wanted to enter into the Roadshow.

Lopez said he has had previous experience playing in front of people when he used to play bass at his church.

Before the Roadshow, Lopez said he wasn't nervous at all. He has a good feeling when playing in front of people. When he's done playing, Lopez said he feels very pleased.

He said his music is meant to make people feel good and have a good time, and people's reactions to his and Añez's music has been positive.

"They ask a lot about our music and think our music is pretty good," Lopez said.

Lopez's started playing because he loves playing guitar and said that for him it is an easier way to worship God. Lopez admires a professional bassist named Emmanuel Espinosa.

Drama teacher John Gibson thought Lopez and Añez performed very well.

"Just listening to them play was wonderful," Gibson said.

# Director Quentin Tarantino stuns 'Kill Bill' fans with the second edition

BY ASHLEY BROWN

This tear-splattered, violence-smothered blood bath will tear the heart out of any Quentin Tarantino fan, contort it and shove it back in their chest.

"Kill Bill Vol. 2" is nothing short of a masterpiece.

Only the talented director Tarantino could pull off the combination of old kung fu movies and spaghetti westerns.

The highly anticipated new cult film "Kill Bill Vol. 2" was so over the top, it sent even the non-Tarantino fans into a state of shock and irrational thinking for days. Well, at least during the movie.

The action is so delicate yet deadly, every person leaving the theater afterward can't help but be slightly and permanently more paranoid, let alone

have a strange new urge to take kung fu lessons.

This movie will change anyone who sees it.

The fury in The Bride's face, played by Uma Thurman, says it all. She is going to get her revenge; she is going to kill Bill.

Revenge is apparently much sweeter when done with a priceless Hatori Hanso Samurai sword, although the movie is not nearly as much of a blood bath as "Kill Bill Vol. 1."

In fact, the second half steers away from slapstick gore and focuses more

on amazing and terribly realistic kung fu techniques.

The special effects seem a little too realistic. Brilliant sound effects replace spraying blood and chopped off limbs to conjure up any emotion.

Everything from queasy disgust when The Bride steps on Elle's last eyeball, for classic yet eerie humor. Imagine all the suspense and terror in a murder scene from "Psycho," packed into the single sound of a coffin being hammered shut nail by nail.

The cinematography alone is heart twisting.

The camera is constantly perfect. In any other movie the angles would seem awkward, but Tarantino films can easily get away with it. It puts the

viewers in the movie and makes them feel as if they too are getting revenge.

Tarantino pulls this off so well. He seemed to have invented a new form of action.

The film is packed with scenes where the audience can't make a face.

That isn't even to mention the tear-jerking moments, where one can feel as God-awfully blissful and satisfied as Uma Thurman, who did a phenomenal job at her role.

As the veins on her forehead and neck are brought to a boil, her eyes fill with fury.

Her face flushes a deep red and the audience is easily lost into thinking they were actually in the pine coffin with her.

As if they were dealing with her struggling with a flashlight while being buried alive, this scene will make any

claustrophobic viewer squirm in his seat.

There couldn't have been a better actress to play The Bride than Thurman. Tarantino must be obsessed with her for a reason, and that reason is evident to anybody who watches his films (like "Pulp Fiction") as to why he thinks she is so fantastic.

There is no other movie out there similar to "Kill Bill Vol. 2," unless one considers the first volume.

Thurman's acting is perfect for the role like every actor who seemed like they were born to play his or her part.

David Carradine did a great job of playing charismatic Bill and Darryl Hannah as Elle played the best heartless witch with a "b."

Although Hannah did seem to have a just reason for every seemingly unjust killing, such as Budd, (Michael Madsen)

for burying alive the best warrior she had ever met.

Chai Hui Liu as Pai Mei, the Bride's sadistic martial arts master washes just the right amount of humor over the movie with his bizarre beat flicks and overbearing name calling, yet his extreme actions, stories and consequences to his students demand respect.

But nobody compares to Thurman. She should be given an award for all the weird things she was put through in the movie.

Buried alive, shot in the head and chest; she went through some hard times.

No matter how pumped up and excited one gets about "Kill Bill Vol. 2," nothing will prepare anyone for the magnitude of impact the film will have. Life can never be the same.

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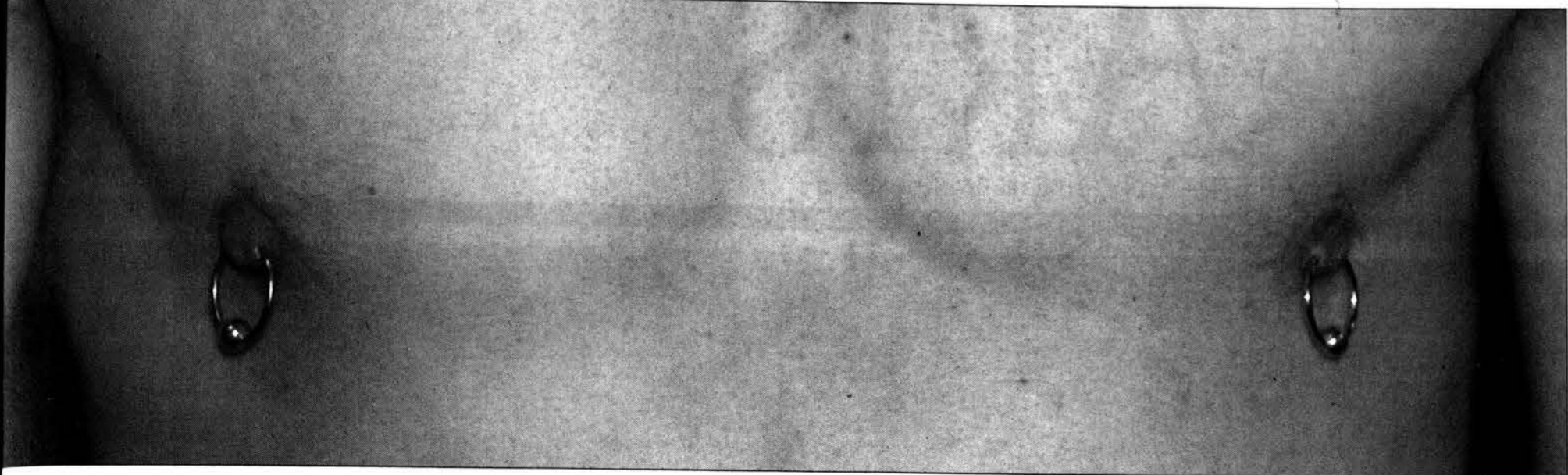
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Senior Blaine Stratton shows his nipple rings he got when he turned 18 years old. Some students should avoid being spontaneous when they get their nipples pierced because there could be infections. Stratton said he didn't have any infection or problems with the piercing. PHOTO BY BRYAN SWOTEK/REGISTER

# Official says nipple rings risk infection, discomfort

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Pinch, grab, stab, insert, pay the man and call it a day. It used to be taboo to have more than one piercing through an earlobe. But now, teens are getting nipple piercings. Senior Blaine Stratton got his nipples pierced in March. He said he wanted to get it done and on his 18th birthday, he went through with it. For \$25 and slight pain, an artist from a local shop shoved a needle through his left nipple. "It was just something that I thought looked cool, so I wanted it done," Stratton said. "I did not want to wait anymore." Stratton said he wanted express himself in a way not very many people do. He said getting his nipple done seemed like a good idea and he hasn't seen many people with it done. Chris Martini from Lil Bros' Tattoo and Piercing said he has seen a lot of people get their nipples pierced, but very few of them become infected. He said an infection is rarely ever the piercer's fault. "I have never seen anything go wrong, but if you have a feeling a

piercing is infected, have the person who pierced you look at it," Martini said. "He or she can usually tell you if it is infected or not." Martini said a spray can be used on a piercing that will help the healing process. The person could go up to two days without washing it as long as they use the spray. For about three weeks, Stratton said his piercing was healing. During the healing process, he said his nipple was red and slightly irritated, but the pain wasn't horrible. Now, he said the pain is gone and it is completely healed. On prom night, Stratton said the dance was not what he thought it was going to be, so he left and had a little more fun. "I walked down to Big Brain Productions in my tux and got my other nipple pierced," Stratton said. Martini said in order to get a nipple piercing, the person has to be 18 years old no matter what. He said the possible customer has to have the parent's permission. Stratton said most people ask about the pain and if there was any or not. He gave reassurance to people because it is safe and fun.

"I am very pleased with the way it looks and I am lucky that I had people who knew what they were doing and knew that I was not going to get an infection," Stratton said. Though there is a lot more males getting the piercing done, Martini said it is mostly women who do it. He said they are also the most probable to get an infection resulting from the piercing. Senior Cari Simon has her nipple pierced. She said she was not informed of any precautions from the man who inserted the ring in her nipple. "I think he saw all of the piercings in my ears and figured I knew how to take care of it," Simon said. Martini said because of a woman's natural instinct to wear tight and conforming clothes, the piercing can not breathe through the tight clothing. "Most women try to wear bras a week of two after the piercing, and they should at least wait a three weeks to a month before applying pressure," Martini said. Infectious disease doctor Alison Friefeld said she has seen a few infections resulting from piercings, but nothing was too extensive.

"Of course the site will have some redness and tenderness after the piercing, but if any of that persists, the person should seek a medical professional," Friefeld said. Along with a lot of piercings getting sore and causing discomfort, Friefeld said 9 percent of piercings get infected and have major problems. She said the infection can cause damage and disease. "If there is an infection, the bacteria can get into the blood stream and the person can get Hepatitis B and C, heart valve infection, or many other things," Friefeld said. "However, most cases go extremely well and as long as the piercing is taken care of, there is generally not a problem." Stratton said his mom does not know about the piercings and he is not sure how he wants to tell her. He said he has not been bothered from others who know about it. Simon's parents do not know about the piercing either. She said she would take them out before she told them. When it comes to her kids and piercings, Friefeld said she would like to talk to them before she gave an answer.

"I am a mom, of course I would tell them to wait," she said. "I would examine motivations first." Martini said for some people getting a piercing is about being rebellious and for others it is just something they want to do. Most people who get it done are about to go to college or are already there. He said he does not see very many people who's goal was to intentionally make their parents mad. "A lot of people get it done because it increases the sensitivity of the nipple and that is appealing to a lot of people," he said. Simon said she was rebelling, but she was not completely against her parents. She was just expressing herself in ways she could not before. She said it was a spur of the moment thing and she didn't think much about it. In a few years, Stratton said he still hopes to have the piercings. He would not like to take them out. In the mean time, Stratton said he enjoys showing people his new body jewelry and he is proud of it. "I will take them out if they reinstate the draft," Stratton said, "I like the way they look and I don't want to take them out."

## 'Mean Girls' create shallow tones, settings

### MOVIE REVIEW



**"MEAN GIRLS"**  
Starring: Lindsay Lohan

BY DANA CLEASBY

"Mean Girls" covers an overdone topic of the popular group, the "Plastics," inviting the new girl Cady Heron (Lindsay Lohan) into their social group. This could have been entertaining, if the viewer was still in middle school. The actresses didn't have talent, but they didn't need it since the roles were ditsy teenagers. After the story unfolded, the viewer will see the actresses trying to teach a moral lesson, but quickly fails because the lesson is fake. "Mean Girls" made a social pyramid like every other teenage movie. It simply isn't real and it is overdone. Every girl in the movie was portrayed to be helpless because they wanted to be like the popular girls. Each girl talks behind another's back. Just like any other teeny-bopper movie, Heron has a crush on the cutest guy in the school. One second he hates her and another they're making out. Yes, because this is how life works. With all of the development problems, the weirdest scenes in the movie were when the characters start acting like wild African animals, which was a little out of place. Heron would relate their behavior or thoughts to the natural ways of animal behavior in Africa. After the strange animal attacks, the viewer was back into reality of what really took place. The wardrobe of the characters fit much like "Clueless." This is where the girls would wear mini skirts and small tops. It doesn't help when the audience is mainly 12-year-old girls. The movie lacked substance and viewers should just stay at home.

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## DEVILS OR MUSICIANS?

Death metal has been blamed for many teenagers' violent actions. Is this genre spewing forth a terrible message or is it just a creative outlet?

## Daring music entertains teens

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Some people say this music is the main reason for the shootings at Columbine five years ago. Others simply call it musicians expressing themselves. They both call it death metal.

It is often thought this genre is just fast-paced music that sounds almost like children are playing the instruments. The lyrics are seen by some as morbid and full of death and other inappropriate images.

This is not the case to junior Tracina Avant. Death metal is her music, her outlet.

She said she can relate to some of the artists' lyrics. Some of the band she considers to be in this genre are Coal and Slayer.

The frequency contaminator for Relapse Records Dean Edington said some death metal bands on this label are called Cannibal Corpse, Agoraphobic Nosebleed and Halo.

Relapse Records was established in 1990 in a basement. Now it is a company with 30

employees. Edington said there are about 40 active death metal bands on Relapse. He said he breaks the different types of metal up into the categories of modern, techno, hard core, noisy and flood rock.

"I think people would find the most diversity on this label," Edington said.

Diversity is not the first thing found in death metal. He said a main stereotype is that a death metal fan wears a trench coat and is automatically accused of crimes.

"I think generally the perception of death metal is widely misunderstood," he said. "People assume it is all about hacking people up, but most bands don't employ that in their lyrics at all."

Some of the bands on Relapse Records do push the button with the lyrics, Edington said. He said some of the bands just want to see what they can get away with while the others have a sense of humor shown through its lyrics.

The lyrics have never made Avant want to hurt herself or someone else. It makes her mad when parents blame the music for some teenagers' actions. She said she doesn't think there is a negative message or hidden meaning in the songs.

"I don't know how they (adults) judge the way they (death metal fans) look," she said. "I don't know how to explain it. We are not mentally ill."

Junior Brent Johnson said his mom doesn't care if he listens to death metal music.

He said sometimes his mom thinks the drums sound like gunshots, but other than that she doesn't have much opinion.

"I don't think it makes me angry, just energetic," Johnson said.

A Drastic Plastic employee Ryan Kingkade said he is a fan of death metal music. He said he isn't that picky on music, but does think the band Goatwhore is a pretty straightforward death metal band. Some of the bands like Agoraphobic Nosebleed play drums 230 beats per minute, which he calls "blast beat." Another band on Relapse Records called The Locust is borderline "screamo."

He said there are different types of metal such as black, death, speed, grind and thrash. Then it can get broken down even more in those categories. A band called Nile is Egyptian black metal for example.

"Black metal is super dark and the songs are about anything," Kingkade said. "Some (black metal) will be dark, powerful and very fast."

Avant said some people are scared to go to death metal concerts, but her first concert she went to was metal. She went alone, but some of the other fans would try to protect her from the mosh pits.

At some concerts the crowd did get wild and sophomore Scott O'Doherty said he gets enough energy to fight or push back.

"Music doesn't give people the right to do anything (violent)," O'Doherty said. "It doesn't influence people to get in a mosh pit or act differently."

Avant said she could be uncomfortable because the fans would push her around and call her vulgar names.

"I'm black and some people feel that I should stick to black music," she said.

Kingkade said he doesn't think people should have to listen to a type of music because what race they are. He said there are too many misconceptions with music and people should just be able to listen to what they like.

He said black people can like death metal just as well as white people. He said he thinks that it just another stereotype people push on this type of music.

Kingkade said parents defined groups as they were growing up. They have certain views on how kids should act and in what type of things they should be involved with. Death metal doesn't really fall into this state of mind.

Avant listened to the music she liked even if it made some people she knew angry. When she started listening to death metal she said she did a lot of research on it. She would read books about metal and rock music.

"I was drenched in Hot Topic clothes my freshman year when I started to listen to it a lot," she said.

Now she doesn't like the stereotype black clothing has on death metal fans. She said some adults know death metal fans as having mohawks, piercings and violent tempers.

People who listen to death metal are stereotyped as wearing black clothing, Kingkade said. He said many bands just make shirts on black material. He said he doesn't know why but bands prefer it for some reason.

"Black and death metal fans are stereotyped to wear all black," Kingkade said. "Even if kids are wearing spiked necklaces, people should never ever judge someone on that."

Johnson said he doesn't think death metal music affects how people act or dress. He said for example, if someone listens to Marilyn Manson he is automatically a "Gothic" person.

He said people might think the lyrics are violent, but the main problem is people quickly judge it.

When parents or other adults blame death metal for their children's problems is one of Kingkade's biggest pet peeves.

He said artists like Ozzy Osbourne and Marilyn Manson are usually blamed for violence when they shouldn't be.

He said performers like Ozzy Osbourne can't even carry a coherent conversation with anyone any more. He said he thinks too many people put death metal fans into categories without caring to know or accept their opinions.

"Metal doesn't tell kids to shoot up school," he said. "There is no part in a song telling the kids to kill someone."

The devil portrays a common stereotype some people have for death metal bands. An official at Relapse Records said the musicians know the label does get blamed for encouraging violent acts, but insists that's just not what the music is all about. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/REGISTER

## Addictive online diaries cause more social problems for some

I have always been interested in sharing my thoughts with my friends and people I don't really know. It is exciting to have that sort of exhibitionism.

It is a cool way to make friends and get acquainted with new people. I don't think there is anything wrong with it.

So I started an Internet live journal. It gave me the opportunity to share my thoughts and opinions to have other people comment on it. It was cool for a while. I received a lot of comments, usually good and had a lot of fun with it.

I was able to design the journal to what I like and have other people read it. The journal expressed me without me having to give my life story.

I had to get used to writing in a journal, which I had never done before. It was something

I have never done. Sticking to something so routine was difficult, but I figured I should do it.

Since people were reading it,

I kept up with it.

I did a good job

posting a new one

at least once a day

and letting people

know what I was

going through.

Then it all

went awry, and

someone I didn't know

started leaving posts in

my journal. It was not that big of a deal at first,

but then it got a little uncomfortable.

Every time I posted, this person would do

the same. Arguing with what I said and what I

thought. That was not the point of the journal, and if I had known that, I would not have started one.

It was like you had a journal or

diary and your mom read it and made

comments on the pages. It was just

not cool. The whole point of starting

this thing was to let other people

know what was going on inside my

head, not get criticized for it.

All I knew was that I was

threatened, teased and ridiculed by

this person for about a month.

My friends asked me why I had stopped

posting. I just said was busy and didn't have time

to write new entries due to my schedule. When

in all actuality I just did not want to talk about

it.

Having someone anonymously slam your opinions is one of the most painful things. I mean, I did not know this person or how to get a hold of them. I could not even defend myself.

It was fun trying to create something that would make the person tick. In fact, I did it quite

often. Knowing that I was making someone mad

gave me a sense of power, but it got old quick.

Then, the strange and uncomfortable feeling

came back and I knew I had to say something or

stop writing all together.

I waited about two months before I began

posting again. When I started, the person had

stopped responding in my live journal. However,

I had not finished hearing from that mysterious

person.

Since this person found out what my e-mail

address was through my personal profile, I still

got someone sending me mail, arguing with my

points of views and opinions.

He was no longer leaving messages on my

journal, but my e-mail was flooded with the

person's views on what I said. Something had to

be done.

I thought I would just be able to delete the

messages and that would be the end of it all. So

every time I signed on, I had to delete an average

of 10 messages every week. I do not even know

what they said.

I tried to report this person, but the address

was deleted.

I haven't received e-mail from him and I

have been able to get back in to my live journal.

I was just trying to let people know what was

going on inside of my head and I did not want to

be criticized for it.

## Saddle Creek Record label gains international recognition by touring

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Local music was put under a microscope and something was discovered. It was like an infection because it kept spreading.

It was Saddle Creek Records.

The labels popularity busted out of the United States borders and into Europe, where the bands are some of the hottest ones out there.

Label owner and operator Robb Nansel started Saddle Creek Records in the mid '90s. He said the amount of popularity the label and bands have received in the last couple of years is "awesome" and it is doing nothing but good for the label.

This past couple of years is when Saddle Creek Bands began going to Europe.

Nansel said he would like to continue this success.

Nansel said in Bright Eyes was the first band to go to Europe.

Sophomore Samuel Zaccone said the label is something he has been a fan of for a while.

He likes the exposure the bands are getting, but wishes it was more exclusive instead of getting to be so popular.

Sophomore Joseph Bonacci is one of those fans who has grown an interest for the label and the artists that are performing at local venues.

Bonacci said he has been listening to the music for a few months now and has a favorite band on the label.

"I am really into Bright Eyes," Bonacci said.

"I have seen them twice and they just seems to stand out to me."

He said he tries to go to every Saddle Creek show in Omaha and has seen some of the other bands on the label. He said he has seen other bands like Azure Ray and Rilo Kiley.

Bonacci said he thinks the scene has grown so much because it is local and available here. The music gives him a sense of pride since it is a local band.

"When I first started getting into the scene I listened to mostly new stuff, but I have started to like the older stuff too," Bonacci said.

Nansel said despite what has happened to

the other labels, he hopes Saddle Creek Records will stick around.

He said he likes what other labels have done, like Sub Pop Records out of Seattle, Ore. and Merge Records out of Athens, Ga.

"The stories that people read generate interest without a doubt," he said. "Merge Records and Sub Pop Records were able to expand and function as labels even after some of the press had worn off."

Tilly and the Wall band member Derek Pressnall is from Athens, Ga., who as an outsider,

said the label has always been big.

He said the change was not recent because it has been looked at for a long time.

"From an outside view, the label and the city have always seemed really cool," Pressnall said. "It is awesome to be in the town with so many talented musicians."

Tilly and the Wall is with another Omaha label, Team Love Records, and is getting ready for its first full-length album to be released from the label.

The band called it a "sister label" to Saddle

Creek Records. Nick White, who plays keyboards

for the band, said that the album has been a long time coming and a lot of people are not yet aware of Team Love.

Jamie Williams and Neely Jenkins, who are also involved with Tilly and the Wall, both said they saw the scene and the music get noticed.

"I played guitar in a band called Park Ave., and also played the drums," Williams said.

Jenkins said she admires the dedication and drive that all of the bands in Omaha have and they all deserve everything they have worked for.

Zaccone said he has been in to the scene and listening to the music for about two years and he got interested through a friend of his.

He is interested with the Sokol Underground where most of the shows are played. He said the venue is very fitting for the type of music.

He would rather the shows be there than at other venues in Omaha.

"Part of me is excited that something that I am into has gotten to be something so big all around the world," he said.

By starting out listening to the newer music

by the artists on Saddle Creek Records, Zaccone said he then began listening to the old music the bands put out.

He said he recently bought the album "Media" by The Faint, which was released in 1998.

The Faint and Bright Eyes are two of his favorite bands on the label.

Zaccone said it is surprising there is such good music here and that the impact of the label is so great. Zaccone said the lead singer of Bright Eyes, Conor Oberst, is known for being able to compose good music and putting on

good shows.

"It is cool that the guys on the label are just regular people that you see all over and they are actually very talented," Zaccone said.

Nansel said in 10 years he hopes the label is in a similar position it is now.

"We will certainly want to redefine ourselves in ways I am not aware of yet," Nansel said. "We don't want to become a huge record company either."