

WEDNESDAY
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the Central High School
REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
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FOUR TIME NHSPA CLASS A1 SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Teens fail to prepare for winter

Officials give advice to young drivers about handling vehicles on icy roads

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Junior Chris Manzer said when a friend's car spun into a ditch with him in the front seat, a cell phone was very important to have.

When he and some friends were driving in Colorado they lost control on the ice and snow and again he found himself in a ditch.

"We were there a few hours," Manzer said.

director Rose White suggested every driver have a winter safety kit in their car.

"People fail to pack for an emergency," she said.

Last Jan. and Feb., she said, AAA got over 20,000 emergency roadside calls. They generally got a thousand everyday the temperature was below zero.

SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

To be prepared for an emergency, she said the driver must expect any situation including a collision or getting stranded.

"Heavy blankets, socks, mittens and hats are important," White said. "It is important to protect your outer extremities because those are the most likely to get frostbitten."

She said if a car was stranded

Continued on **Roads** on Page 4

He said his friend was able to call a tow truck and the car was pulled from the ditch.

Everyone in the car was safe. When driving in the winter, he keeps blankets and canned food in the back of the car.

In a poll conducted by the Register, not a lot of Central students can say the same thing. Out of all the students polled, 79 percent said they did not have any of the necessary winter supplies in their cars.

AAA Nebraska public affairs

Career Center starts academy-like classes

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Construction classes at the Career Center are now being taught as an academy. There are now language, math and business elements to the class, lead teacher at the Career Center Jack Harkey said.

the academy were students with the same interest were in the same classes throughout the day and the class sizes were smaller.

Also, he said standardized test scores are better.

Andrew Naikelis, who is a math teacher at the Career Center, said the students interested in construction would learn the other subjects taught in school, except they were related to construction.

"We're answering the age-old question 'Why do I need to know this,'" he said.

Construction academy English teacher Erin Rinaker said the regular curriculum for English is taught to students at the academy, except for the construction addition.

She said the students still had to do vocabulary and term papers.

Rinaker said she the benefits of the academy were that the classes were smaller and the teachers could give the students more individual attention.

Junior Chris Snider is in the construction academy. He said he likes it better than the regular math and English classes taught at Central.

"If you have a question you can ask the teacher right then and there," Snider said.

The construction program at the Career Center started six years ago and just this year officials are changing to an academy approach.

Harkey said at the initial meetings about the academy, the issue was brought up that there was a huge demand for construction workers, and schools were not preparing students or giving them the chance to learn about the career opportunity.

"The math and the English are taught with the same rigor as back at Central, but taught in the context of construction," he said.

This year, he said, only one group of construction students is being taught by the academy approach. Next year, all the groups will.

This will include some sophomores from Central, as opposed to juniors and seniors from different schools.

Harkey said the benefits of



MORE THAN A HERO

Central alumnus James Lathan Jr. discusses being struck by shrapnel and paralyzed from the neck down while fighting in the war in Iraq

Story and photos by Clay Lomneth
Photo (above) courtesy of the O-Book
See related stories on page 5A, editorial 7A

When he first got back to the United States, he couldn't talk or eat at all. Alumnus

Sgt. James Lathan Jr., of the 1st Armored Division in Alpha Company 127 Aviation Support Battalion, was walking into a building in Baghdad, Iraq when he was hit in the back of the neck with shrapnel from a rocket attack.

The injury left the 1996 graduate with a damaged spinal chord and paralyzed from the neck down.

His first thoughts were he needed to get help right away. The doctors who treated him were from Omaha.

Lathan Jr. was put in a hospital in Washington D.C., then was moved to another hospital in Boston and finally back into Omaha at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

For the first few months, Lathan was not able to do much.

"Most people talk and they really don't realize how much power they have by

Continued to **Recovery** on Page 3

FIGHTING for FREEDOM



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/ REGISTER

Licensed practical nurse Jane Hill takes the temperature of Sgt. James Lathan Jr. He arrived at the Veterans Affairs Hospital after being treated in Washington D.C. and Boston for bruised vertebrae after being struck by shrapnel from a rocket attack in Iraq. "Instead of focusing on myself and the circumstances of what happened and feeling pity for myself, I think of the future," Lathan Jr. said.

INDEX	HENDERSON.....8
BICKELS.....2	CD REVIEW.....8
LATHAN.....3	MOVIE REVIEWS....9
WINTER.....4	YOSHIDA.....9
IRAQ.....5	THORNBURG.....10
ROTC.....5	MOVIE REVIEW.....10
ARMED FORCES.....5	WRESTLING.....11
COLUMNS.....6	DIVING.....11
EDITORIAL.....6	BASKETBALL.....12
STUDENT LETTERS...7	SPORTS COLUMN...12



Evolution vs. Creationism
Schools across the country are trying to push a new theory into the science textbooks.
PAGE 6

INSIDE

Henderson
Central secretary expresses herself through song.
PAGE 8



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Vegetarian meals cooked for CHEETA

BY EMILY HARRISON

CHEETA club was treated to a vegetarian snack after school when chef Sara Wehbe of the English as Second Language (ESL) department came to speak at one of its meetings about the alternatives to eating meat.

Wehbe brought bread and a variety of different tofu dishes for the club to sample. These included a tofu salad and a red sauce.

She gave advice on cooking tofu such as how to drain out the water before you cook it to give it a better texture.

Wehbe said there are many kinds of vegetarians: semi-vegetarians, vegans as well as other types.

She said she would classify herself as a semi-vegetarian.

Although the club's vegetarian members were not present, all students at that particular meeting said they ate meat.

"We are trying to raise consciousness about different foods and the way we treat the animals we eat," club sponsor Catherine Kennedy said.

Information was handed out on the cruelty to animals that occurs in the meat industry and the benefits of vegetarian eating.

This included a pamphlet from Farm Sanctuary.

The packet said, "Some animals reach the scalding tank or are dismembered while they are fully conscious."

It also had other facts and information about the inhumane treatment of animals used in food production.

Wehbe and a friend owned the vegetarian restaurant Dazy Maze, but high rent forced them out of business. Wehbe is not currently involved in a restaurant, but hopes to start another one soon.

Teens support art through volunteering

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Three of Central's students volunteered for Joslyn Art Museum's Jambassadors program this year, giving them the opportunity to gain a minimum of 12 hours of community service by helping the teachers in the program.

Seniors Ellen Mickle, Anna Vacha and junior Melissa Forster devote a few hours a day after school to the Jambassadors program.

Coordinator Susie Severson said she would love to have more of Central's students there.

"They don't have to be a regular, but it would benefit them a lot because they could come right after school," Severson said.

She said the Jambassadors program is sponsored by the Joslyn Art Museum Association.

She said they raise money for the education department to keep the program going.

When the volunteers are in the classrooms working with students, Severson said they are able to gain work experience for future use as well as help the students they are working with.

"The volunteers do a lot of hands-on work with the students," Severson said. "The students develop good relationships with them and become good role models for them as well."

Severson said she knows sometimes teachers can be a little intimidating, but with the help of the volunteers they can have one-on-one time during class.

The volunteers help do hands-on projects and watch the students when they tour the museum. Severson said the kids do work with pottery, landscapes, painting and much more on a variety of different media in many different styles.

However, the most beneficial thing is being able to see a professional example of the work they are doing and studying, which is displayed by the work in the museum.

"If the kids are working with clay, they have the chance to go to the museum and view how a real artist does his or her work."

Senior Ellen Mickle said she likes working with the kids.

"A lot of the kids have funny personalities," Mickle said. "Some of them are really serious and others are more frivolous about it."

She helps out most with supplies and helping the teacher.

Mickle said the teacher bases a lot of her teaching on famous artists when teaching the pre-school kids.

CALENDAR



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Junior Brittani Bickels stands in front of the clock tower at University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). She will begin taking a variety of classes at UNO including English and World History. "If I go through the program and do well, it will open up opportunities for scholarships in the future," she said.

Junior begins college classes at UNO

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior Brittani Bickels will begin an early college program next year in which she will take classes at Central as well as the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO).

She will receive college credit for the university classes she is taking after school.

Bickels said she will take English, World History, Sociology and possibly an elective course as well as classes at Central.

She said she had to finish all her classes at Central by about 1 p.m. and then stay until 6 p.m. at UNO.

"I'll basically be at school for 12 hours," she said. "Luckily, I'll get breaks and be able to work at my own pace."

She said she would have time between classes at UNO to work on homework or grab snacks.

Ann Grill, head of the UNO project, said the program gave an additional option to students who were ready for college and self-motivated.

"The sky is the limit," she said. "It gives an alternative to students who are ready to take it."

She said these characteristics were what made Bickels a good applicant for the program.

"She really wants to take control of her learning," she said. "She's very

self-directed."

Bickels said she looked forward to the change in schooling and the differences she would have after high school through the program.

"I'm not really in so much of a structured program," she said. "It's less of a classroom environment."

Grill said this program was good for students coming out of a high school atmosphere yet not ready for full-time college.

"This program is somewhere in between these two," she said. "It provides independent study for students and lets them prove themselves."

She said the program also provided a medium between high school and college teaching.

"The instructional approach is more flexible," she said. "Students have to accept more responsibility for their own learning."

Bickels said the counselors recommended her.

She said they chose her because she talked and asked questions about college scholarships and took a great interest in pursuing a college education.

Grill said students interested in the program should talk to counselors.

She said they typically look for kids who have the ability to go to college and like to try different

learning styles.

"It's a new idea that's being done across the United States," she said. "OPS (Omaha Public Schools) is funding it at Central."

Bickels said she thought her initiative as well as her effort made her a good applicant for the program.

"You have to make your presence known, ask questions and show a great interest in college," she said.

Bickels said she looked forward to how the program would benefit her in the future.

"If I go through the program and do well, it will open up opportunities for scholarships in the future," she said.

Although she is excited about the experience, she is also slightly apprehensive.

"It's like going to a new school, except I'll be in school a lot longer with people that aren't my age," she said.

She said this will be very different for her because she won't be able to spend as much time with her friends and will have to deal with adjusting to a new campus.

She said she was nervous because this was the first year the program was being done at Central.

However, she said she also looks forward to the opportunities it could provide.

Bickels said she felt fortunate to be chosen for the program.

"Things usually don't go my way. Right now, with my mom passing away, this gives me something to get up and look forward to," she said.

Bickels said she was glad she was picked for the program.

"I feel very lucky," she said.

She said after next year, she plans to continue her college education at UNO and then proceed to Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln for her bachelor's degree.

She hopes to get a degree in forensic science.

"I think (forensics) is extremely interesting," she said. "I'll be able to bring justice to what happened."

Bickels said she looked forward to the scholarship opportunities that would accompany the program.

She said this would also help her to prepare for a full-time college schedule in the future.

"It's not going to be so much of a shock," she said. "It sort of eases you into college."

She said she felt she would be able to do more impressive work after her experiences with college classes next year, as well as in the future through her career.

"This is where I'm going and this is my opportunity to get there," she said.

Math contest presented to young people

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Central's math club will sponsor a junior high math contest open seventh through eighth-graders around Omaha.

The contest will be held on Feb. 15 in the cafeteria around 3 p.m.

Sponsor of the Math Club, Clay Lomneth, sent out invitations to both public and private middle schools. Sand said around 84 students participated last year, and he expected around 75 to 100 to show up this year.



SAND

Before the competition, however, the Math Club members have to work up the questions for the test.

Sand said he later proofreads and revises the tests for the students.

Each team of students from school is assigned a member of the Math Club, Sand said, to answer questions and cheer on the students.

Senior Abby Camp will help out with the contest. She said she is looking forward to it.

"It's an opportunity to show people what Central has to offer in our Math department," she said.

Camp said she had helped out in past years and thought it was fun. In the contest she said she would help write the questions, run the contest and grade answers.

Sand said he thought it was a good idea high school students helped with the contest because it was a good thing for the students to try different things while they were in high school.

"It's probably Central's best quality being able to try something else," Sand said. "It's a good experience for them to get under their belts."

Medical career seminar offered in February

BY LAUREN CRIST

The Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital is offering medical career seminars second semester.

They will begin on Feb. 1, when students will learn to fill out applications for Federal Student Aid and Scholarship (FAFSA).

Later classes aim to prepare students for specified medical fields within the career. Seminars include fields such as physical therapy, pharmacy, plebotomy, emergency medical technician and sports medicine.

"This program is for kids that want to go into medicine and don't realize opportunities other than being a doctor or a nurse," career counselor Rick Richards said.

The seminars will be sponsored by education Quest Foundation, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"This will give kids a chance to look into medical careers and learn about different fields that might interest them," Richards said.

The Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital will host classes on Feb. 15 for physical therapy, Mar. 8 for pharmaceuticals, March 22 for plebotomy, April 5 for emergency medical technicians and April 19 for sports.

Richards said in order to attend the seminar all someone would have to do is call the college.

The classes are free for employees and volunteers, but otherwise students will be charged a \$5 fee per session.

The Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital will also be offering a recruitment session on Jan. 25 for the team volunteer program as well.

"Right now, they're recruiting more kids in a variety of medical careers," Richards said.

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Upcoming Events

February

3-5 (THURS.-SAT.) National ACDA - Vocal Music

A concert is to be held by the American Choral Director's Association. Jennifer Castello will be performing in Los Angeles as a member of the Honors Choir along with four hundred other singers.

4-5 (FRI.-SAT.) Road Show

Road Show will feature 24 different acts including both skits and musical performances. There are three separate shows in the auditorium: Friday night 7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

7 (MON.) Alumni Association Meeting

12 (SAT.) ACT Exams

The exam begins at 8 a.m. at Central. Pick up your application in the Guidance Center. Students should bring all the appropriate materials.

10-12 (SAT.) All-City Music Festival

This concert, located at the Civic Auditorium, will feature 105 Central students. All-City is the oldest and largest music festival in the state. The music will begin at 7 p.m. and consists of multiple orchestral, choral and band arrangements. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for students.

17-19 (THURS.-SAT.) State Wrestling

The state meet will be held in Lincoln at the Devaney Center.

21 (MON.) Presidents' Day

There will be no school for students on Feb. 21.

22 (TUES.) Teacher Workday

There will be no school for students on Feb. 22 due to a Planning/In-Service Day.

Veteran back home after war injury

'RECOVERY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

speaking," he said. Lathan Jr. said his doctors said most people injured never get over the mental aspect of it. He said he always tried to remain positive and that helped progress.

"Whatever you want to do is in your mind," he said.

He started to think positively when he saw newspapers and television stations.

He approached him in the hospital. He said he was remaining positive for the media, he could help improve and touch other people's lives.

Lathan Jr. said since the first newspaper ran his story, the others picked up on his positive attitude.

"Instead of touching one life you can touch many lives," he said. "To be able to multiply yourself by using the media, you change more lives."

Lathan Jr. said even after the attention from the media dies down, he would still continue to help other people through their struggles.

He said he had always thought about starting a big business, and he could help people that way by offering jobs.

Lathan Jr. said he can stay positive when people visit him and likes talking with them.

Another way to stay positive, he said, was by thinking of goals for his future, once he gets out of the hospital.

"Instead of focusing on myself and the circumstances of what happened about starting a big business, I think of the future," Lathan Jr. said. "There's suicide for going on, and guess what, I don't have any hands or arms. As far as I'm concerned I don't have any other choice but to go on."

Two fund-raisers have already taken place for Lathan. One, a pancake meal, raised around \$8,500, but he still needed around \$12,000. Lathan's mother, Elisa Frison, organized the second fund-raiser.

She said she was still receiving money for that fund-raiser from people and organizations who could not make it to the actual event.

Frison said the money for Lathan was going to be put towards housing and a new van, amongst other things.

Frison said her son was making very good progress from when she had seen him in Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. She said he was

in good shape considering what had happened.

"When I first saw James, he couldn't talk," Frison said. "He has come a long way."

Lathan's wife, Amy Lathan, said when she found out her husband was going to Iraq, she wished he wouldn't go, but was used to loved ones leaving her for certain amounts of time. She said her father was in the army and she didn't see him for around two years.

"I was used to loved ones going away for long periods of time," Amy said. "But I wanted him to stay."

Amy said she first found out James was injured one night, when men in uniform showed up at her door.

Her first thought, she said, was they had come to tell her that her husband died. Amy said she could barely find enough energy to walk, and was very relieved when she found out James wasn't dead.

"As long as he was alive, I was okay," Amy said.

Lathan's father, James Lathan Sr., said he thought his son was recovering as he was in Boston. He said a problem with the VA hospital was the staff was different and was not as experienced with spinal injuries, but they were learning.

Lathan Sr. was in the army himself, and he said he thought his son joined because he was looking for something to do after high school.

He said the ROTC at Central prepared his son for the army.

"I think that was a factor in him deciding to go," Lathan Sr. said.

Frison said the doctors who treated Lathan Jr. in combat were from Offutt Air Force base.

She said she found out who the doctors were and got a chance to thank them personally. The doctors, she said, usually never got the chance to find out if their patients lived or died.

Frison said no matter what happens, she didn't give up hope and kept praying.

"Doctors said not to give him false hope. That doesn't make sense, hope isn't false," Frison said. "I don't give up."

Amy said the biggest change for Lathan Jr. coming out of the hospital would be him being at home all day. When he was in the army, he was often gone from 12 to 24 hours a day.

FIGHTING for FREEDOM



(Left) Sgt. James Lathan Jr. (class of 1996) sits in his wheelchair in his hospital room. The wheelchair is operated by a sip and puff system, which moves the chair depending on air pressure in the operator's mouth. (Right) A letter dictated by Lathan Jr. to the students of Central High School. Many students, especially those from JROTC, wrote him letters.

Letter From James

January 25, 2005

Dear Central High School students:

My name is James Patrick Lathan Jr. I attended Central High School, participated in the JROTC program and graduated in 1996. After graduation I joined the United States Army, where I served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Recently, a student reporter at Central High School contacted me asking that I tell you the story of my service and injuries while serving our country in Iraq.

I have also received a large quantity of letters from the JROTC students, which I have truly enjoyed and I have read them all. I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and prayers, to anyone who wrote me or those that would have liked to write me, but for whatever reason could not. I had some requests to come and speak with you. I would be honored to have the privilege of speaking with you if I am given the opportunity.

I enjoyed serving the military and I am glad that I chose to join. I encourage anyone who is thinking about joining the military to go for it! I also encourage all of you to find your niche in this world while doing and being the best you can be. So, to my fellow Eagles, thank you for touching my life and letting me be a part of all of you. Continue to soar high, Eagles!

Sincerely,
James Lathan Jr.
P.O. Box 641752
Omaha, Ne. 68122

PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

The challenge, she said, was that Lathan Jr. may get bored at home. Amy said she thought he would want to find something to do. She said it would be a mental challenge for him. But his life will go on to show his benevolence even with his injury.

Lathan Jr. said he does not believe he is a hero. He said he was just doing his job when he was injured, and he will try to make the best of his injury.

"It's all about giving back to the world. I'm going to try to use this to its full advantage with name recognition," he said. "I'm going to try to help people."

Lathan Jr. said he was only doing what the president was telling him to

do, and he just got injured doing his job.

"When you sign up (for the army) you know there's a possibility you may go to war and you may get hurt in war," Lathan Jr. said.

He said being a part of it helped him prepare for the army, and it was the reason he went in to the army as opposed to anything else, such as the Air Force.

"I really was proud to be part of the ROTC program," he said. "It was really the only thing I cared about."

Frison said Lathan Jr. does not feel angry with anyone for his injury.

"He joined the service to protect the country and he feels like he did what

he needed to do," Frison said.

Lathan Sr. said his son's future was first getting out of the hospital and into a house, and then on to helping people.

"I want people to know I'm very proud of him and what he was doing, trying to make a difference in the world," he said.

Lathan Jr. said he had plans for his future already. He said he would like to give to, if not start, charities for disabled people and homeless children. Later, he said, he plans on designing his own house after getting out of the hospital.

"There's just so many things to do right now, but I think I can get them done," he said.

Lathan Jr. said when the news of

his injury spread, he received letters from students at Central. He said he has already read the letters twice, and he has responded to them.

"It (receiving letters) was pretty awesome," he said.

Junior Will Stacy is in JROTC and wrote a letter to Lathan. He said he considers Lathan Jr. a hero, despite what Lathan himself said.

"It (Lathan's injury) was sad, but it was happening a lot over there," he said. "This was one that hit closer to home."

Stacy said he plans on going into the armed forces as well. He said he would worry about getting injured or killed when fighting, but that would not stop him from joining.

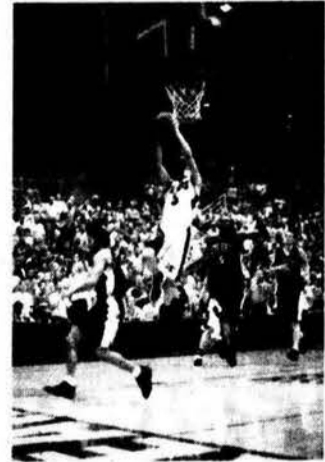
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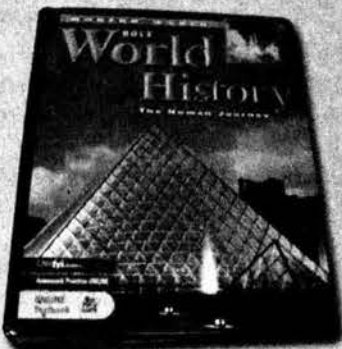
Or visit: STDOmaha.com.

IN BLIZZARD CONDITIONS

Driving in the winter for first-time drivers can be especially difficult. Officials said if a teen can't get a ride or take the bus to school, there are certain facts he needs to know before pulling out on the frozen streets.

What's in senior Nick Hoy's car in case of an emergency?

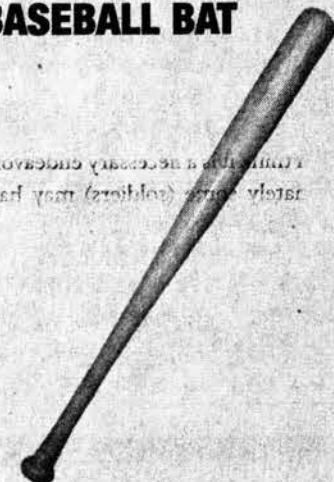
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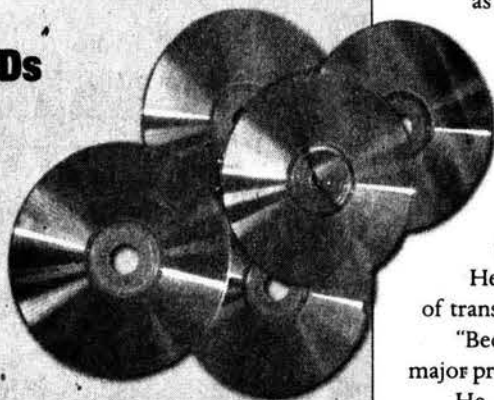
OLD MCDONALD'S FOOD BAGS



BASEBALL BAT



CDs



'ROADS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in a place with no phone, she recommended staying in the car and keeping the lights on in the dark for passers by to see.

She also said honking the horn at people driving by was an obvious choice of action.

If the driver was without a survival kit, White suggested in extreme conditions to use the floor mats as insulation and to put them between layers of clothing.

She also said newspapers and garbage bags would work.

"Try to keep the dome light on so other cars can see that there is a person inside," White said.

She said another way to keep warm would be to run the car in ten-minute intervals.

Every little bit helps.

"Make sure to clear ice from important parts of the car," she said. "Carbon monoxide can leak in. It doesn't have any smell and it's very important to keep the car clear."

She said there are ways to be safe and avoid getting stranded where there would be no phones.

"When driving in the country, never use cruise control. If you hit a patch of ice the wheels will actually spin faster," White said.

Even if a car got into an accident in the city it isn't a good idea to venture from it.

She said to try and locate a phone and return to the car. That is especially important in all white or blizzard conditions.

"In all white conditions people will not be able to see a hole or a frozen lake," White said.

She said inexperienced drivers need to know basic information about the difference between winter driving and any other time of year.

"We do advise if you are inexperienced to practice driving in a big parking lot before the roads," she said.

Clearing the entire car of ice and snow before driving was another important fact.

Making sure the whole car was cleared and not just places to see out of would keep the car running smoothly.

White also said checking the tire pressure and batteries would help prevent an accident.

"Some batteries may be guaranteed for five years," White said. "But in Nebraska with extreme summers with the air conditioning and the heater in winter, we recommend getting it checked every three years."

She said most battery and automotive shops would check the battery for free.

The winter is the time when more windshields are replaced than any other time of year, White said.

A way to prevent windows from cracking would be to increase following distance between each car.

It would keep people safe from icy conditions as well as decrease the risk of getting hit by flying rocks and sand the gravel trucks lay after a snowstorm.

Tony Staup is the regional manager of retail stores for Certified Transmission.

He said the main problem people have in the winter was spinning their tires to get out of a stuck position.

He said that was the most common cause of transmission failure.

"Because of the heat and shock, it causes major problems," Staup said.

He said spinning the tires could make a

person need a new transmission.

Staup said it could cost anywhere from \$900 to \$3,000, depending on the situation and the model of the car.

Staup said part of the problems with transmission breakdowns was people not paying enough attention to them.

"Transmissions tend not to be serviced as much as engines," he said. "A typical engine requires servicing ever three to 6,000 miles. Transmissions only need to be serviced every 12 to 18,000 miles."

Staup said the life of the transmission would be a lot longer and there would be fewer problems if the owner took it to get serviced with the engine.

He said if a car got stuck to try everything other than just spinning the wheels.

"Try to shovel as a first option," Staup said. "Or just call a tow truck."

A representative from Affordable Towing said a regular tow would cost \$48.15 including tax.

She said if the car was too big or for some reason needed a flatbed tow truck, it would cost \$58.85.

"We also have \$45 tire changes and \$35 jump starts," she said.

State Farm insurance agent Kevin Harnish said it is in a driver's best interest for people to avoid a collision, especially young drivers.

"Insurance goes down as you get older if you don't have any collisions," Harnish said.

He said a six moth estimate for a young person would be \$2,120.98.

That estimate is on a four door 1990 Saab turbo. In the case of an accident, regardless of the vehicle, the rates will increase.

"The rates go up 10 percent if you're at fault," he said.

Harnish said he does see an increase of accidents in the wintertime for a number of reasons.

He said although many are due to problems with the car, many are for careless driving.

SNOW DAYS

Director of public information services of Omaha Public Schools Luanne Nelson said the person to decide a snow day would be the superintendent, John Mackeill.

"He consults with other superintendents to make sure they are on the same page," Nelson said.

She said there are many factors that influence his decision.

"It depends on the time of day and when the snow is predicted to fall," Nelson said. "He looks at ice and wind chill."

She said canceling school doesn't have much to do with young drivers, but the number of drivers on the road.

"We always feel it is a lot safer for them to clear the streets with less traffic," Nelson said.

Custodian Rufus Haynes said there has never been a snow day while he's been at Central that custodial staff didn't come in.

"Somebody has to come in," Haynes said. "We try and have it as clean as we can before the students get here."

He said it is sometimes difficult to get the job done before faculty and students get to school because some arrive so early.

"We get off at 12 (a.m.) and we try to get here by 5 (a.m.)," he said.

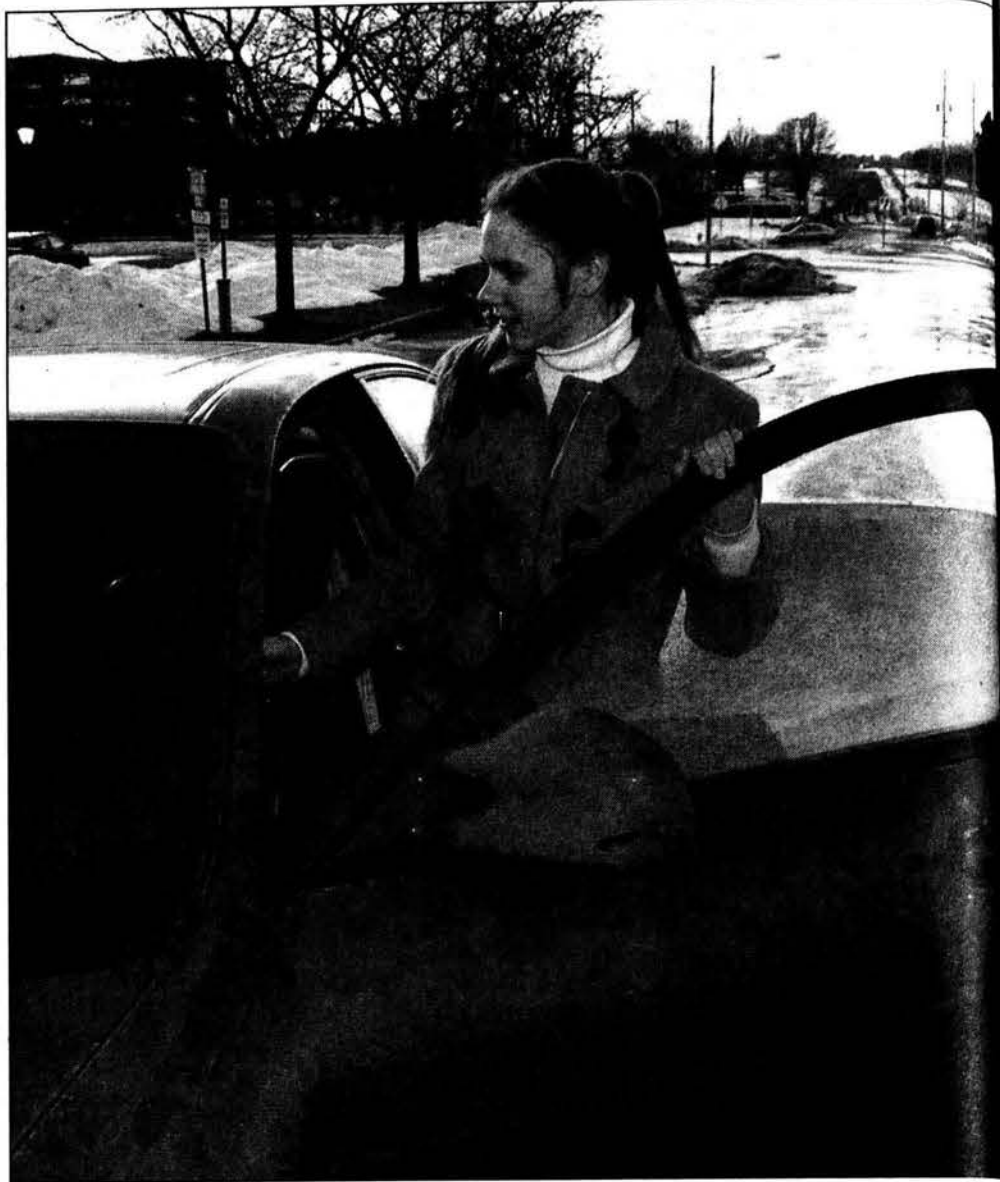


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Junior Brianna Brei gets ready to drive to a dance practice. She has to use her father's car after totalling her sister's this summer. She said after the accident, she is much more careful when driving.

Junior Brianna Brei said since she got in a car accident she doesn't take any chances when driving.

She now keeps a phone, blankets and food in her car in case of an accident.

She said she was side-swiped when turning a corner by the Civic Auditorium.

"I am definitely more careful and I always check my mirrors," Brei said.

RENOVATIONS

Driving can be difficult for new drivers, but parking in the winter can be hard as well.

Renovations took much of the student parking on Davenport Street even while much of the project was put on hold due to weather.

Athletics Director Paul Pennington said the stadium is still scheduled to be finished by August, although some workers had to stop in the middle of a project due to weather.

"I don't see hardly anyone working out there," Pennington said.

He said before the snow some subcontracting companies were working on laying cement for bleachers, but it was left unfinished.

Principal Jerry Bexten said there is still some construction going on.

He said most of the subcontractors finished, but the general contractor would not be gone until the end of January.

"The goal from the start was Dec. 24, and most subcontractors made it," Bexten said. He said none of the renovation work was affected by the snow days.

By spring there should be additional classrooms built on the fourth floor.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said creating new rooms would also give another classroom to the English department for next school year.

He said after winter break, most students and teachers were pleased with the moves from the portables.

"They (students) had two weeks to forget where to go," Semrad said. "I couldn't have asked for a better move."

He said the students were very responsible remembering where to go and the teachers didn't seem to have any problems.

"I haven't talked to a teacher that wasn't pleased about the move," he said. "You really couldn't tell that a change had taken place."

Bexten said teachers and students alike were glad to move back into the building.

He said the only complaint he heard was students wanting to keep the six-minute passing period rather than drop a minute because they were used to the longer time to get to class.

"In the '03-'04 school year we had four portables and five minute passing periods," Bexten said. "Students should be able to get to class within the five minutes."

WHAT TO KEEP IN YOUR CAR DURING WINTER FOR UNDER \$75

GETTING STUCK

If the car stalls or breaks down, it is a good idea to have tools and a manual in case help is too far away. Sand or kitty litter, snow shovels and carpet strips give the car traction if stuck in the snow.

MAINTAINING VISIBILITY

Before driving, scraping ice off the windows is important to avoid a collision. If there is an accident, other cars might not be able to see it and a high-powered flashlight is a good warning to traffic.

STAYING SAFE

If the car breaks down one of the safest ideas is to stay in the car and wait for help. Putting a candle in a coffee can acts as a makeshift heater and always keep extra blankets and warm clothes.

TOOLS



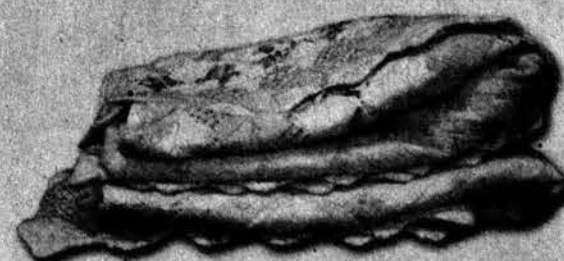
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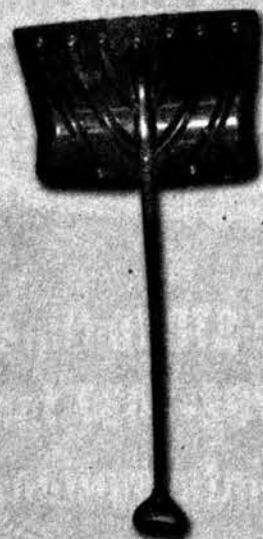
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CANDLE



Students take advantage of military option

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The average of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students going into the armed forces after high school is around 30 to 40 percent, Lt. Col. Mike Melvin said.

He said around the year 1920, the average was closer to 70 percent. These high numbers in the past, he said, may have been the result of every male student at Central being made to join JROTC.

FIGHTING for FREEDOM

Alumnus Max Kennedy (class of 1953) fought in the Vietnam War.

He said when he was younger, his father was in the Navy, so he grew up on a Navy base.

He said that could have been the reason he wanted to go into the United States Air Force.

He said he remembers the swimming pools and his paper route at the Navy base as a child, and that is what inspired him to join the armed forces.

Kennedy said he was in JROTC in high school as well as when he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

He said he thought the eight years he spent in JROTC classes prepared him for the armed forces.

In the Air Force, Kennedy said he flew B-52 bombers and AC-119K gun ships in the war.

Kennedy said he was surprised to hear the number of students from JROTC going into the armed forces was so high.

He said he thought the reason for that was students enjoy the atmosphere in the JROTC classes.

"I think they enjoy the relationships



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

Junior Tim Bertino, who shows his patriotism in this illustration, said he hopes to pursue a career in the armed services and become a military officer.

with the other students," he said. "They're a very honest and hard-working group."

Junior Andrew Bratcher said he would not consider a career in the military, but had nothing against anyone who did pursue a career in it because he had relatives in the armed forces.

"I wouldn't sign my life away," he said. Instead of war, he said, the United States should focus on its humanitarian aid. "Personally, I'm not one for war,"

Bratcher said. "I'm very pacifist. The United States should worry more about humanitarian aid than telling others what to do by force."

Bratcher said he believes not everyone in the armed forces is out to kill others.

Bratcher said avoiding war with current world leaders was nearly impossible, but that would not stop him from speaking out against it.

He said he has gone to some anti-war

protests, and is opposed to the current war in Iraq.

"It's basically going to lead us into World War III," Bratcher said. "It's going to get all those nuclear powers involved."

Kennedy said he wasn't sure what most people's opinion of the military was, but he said he knew there were a lot of different ones, based on the different experiences with military personnel.

"There is a tremendous difference of opinion of the military and people of the armed forces all across the United States," he said.

Kennedy said he appreciates the service of the soldiers in Iraq and what they are doing for their country.

He said the cadets in JROTC would enjoy a career in the military if they liked the environment in JROTC.

"I think they would find a rewarding and honorable career serving with quality people," Kennedy said.

Melvin said JROTC prepares his students for the armed forces in the best way possible.

He said when students go into the armed forces after being in a JROTC class, they have higher pay raises and have a better chance of promotions.

Junior Tim Bertino said he plans on going into the armed forces after college.

He said he plans on joining JROTC his senior year, then going to college to get an engineering degree and become an officer in the army.

Bertino said he just made the decision to go into the army within the last few years.

He said he was attracted by the glory, honor and pride associated with the profession.

"I grew up around war movies," he said.



PHOTO BY LINDY MYERS/REGISTER

From left: Junior William Stacy, freshman Elvis Servellon and Junior Nicholas Pierce-Cramer examine the written schedule of events for competition day.

JROTC excels in competition

BY LINDY MYERS

With moderate expectations and favorable results, JROTC cadets gained a better morale and higher hopes for the future from the recent drill team and color guard competition held at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs.

"It sets the mood for the rest of the year," senior Erik Servellon said.

Servellon, who was the drill team and battalion commanders, was in charge of practice times and days and other details of preparation.

FIGHTING for FREEDOM

"I trained the cadets the best that I could," Servellon said.

Drill teams and color guard practiced every weekday morning from 6:30 until 7:30.

Prior to competitions, cadets attended extra practices, including several on the weekends and after school. Though many practices were held, Servellon said cadets did not utilize the time to its fullest potential.

"We tend to smoke and joke a lot," Servellon said.

Junior Jonathan Kersigo said he felt practices were less organized than they should have been. He said this may have affected the teams' performances.

Kersigo said though marching sequences and movements were polished prior to the competition, cadets were not prepared for the Individual Dress Down Inspection.

He said many cadets did not know the inspectors would ask detailed questions regarding marching and other events taking place that day, and were very unprepared.

Kersigo said that surprise was a reason for the team's lower overall scores.

Junior Nicholas Pierce-Cramer, the color guard commander, said team members always had high hopes before competitions and put forth their best efforts though cadets knew it would be difficult.

"We go in there wanting to win, but from the caliber of teams there, we know that we have to do practically everything perfectly to place," Pierce-Cramer said.

Pierce-Cramer said he knew there were mistakes, but he said he still felt satisfied with cadets' performances.

Alumnus prepares for deployment to Iraq

BY MOLLY MULLEN

His time after basic training was spent making himself indifferent to death because he knew he had to expect anything to happen in Iraq.

Alumnus Greg Merrill is preparing to be deployed to Iraq in June as part of the Charlie Company 1st Battalion 121 Regiment Mechanized Infantry.

He said he doesn't think the United States will leave Iraq for a long time.

"I'm not afraid of dying," he said. "It is what I signed up to do."

He said although he did not want to go over to Iraq he expected it to happen.

He said somebody had to go over to help train Iraqi military and police so the citizens could live free lives without assistance of the United States and other countries.

He said he wanted to help other people.

"We were told that we would be called up sometime between November and December," he said.

He received the call on Dec. 2 and said his mother and grandmother were not ready for the news.

He said none of them liked the fact that he was leaving,

but they accepted it.

"They were shocked," he said. "I tried to tell them that it wasn't that big of a deal and that most of the casualties weren't from infantry."

Most casualties so far in Iraq were from support units, he said, because they had not been properly trained.

He said it will be hard to leave his family, especially his new wife.

"They will have to come to it on their own time," Merrill said. "I have said everything I can say."

He said many people have misconceptions about the war and they focus on the negative and the casualties are not that great.

Kelli Merrill, his wife, enlisted in the Air Force and will go to basic training in the next few weeks. He said no one knows if she will be sent to war or not. He said his family's fear for him was not in vain and he had worries, too.

"I'm worried about my unit and coming home with all my body parts," he said.

He said he was more prepared for both the army and

war because it was something he wanted to do his entire life and he entered ROTC because he knew it would help him prepare.

Lt. Col. Mike Melvin said Merrill was a good ROTC student.

"He did a really good job for us," Melvin said. "He was the leader of the Eagle Battalion."

He said he was not only worried about Merrill going to Iraq, but all of the servicemen.

"I think it is a necessary endeavor, and unfortunately some (soldiers) may have to be put in harms way," he said.

Merrill said people look up to him as a soldier and he likes the respect. Other people, however, have made rude comments. While in ROTC as an underclassman he was spit on by a fellow student and the student made crude remarks about the military.

"You could tell someone like that was looking for a fight," he said. "I disagreed with what they said, but I fight for their right to say it."

He said he doesn't know why he wanted to join the army since childhood, but he knows it was a good decision.



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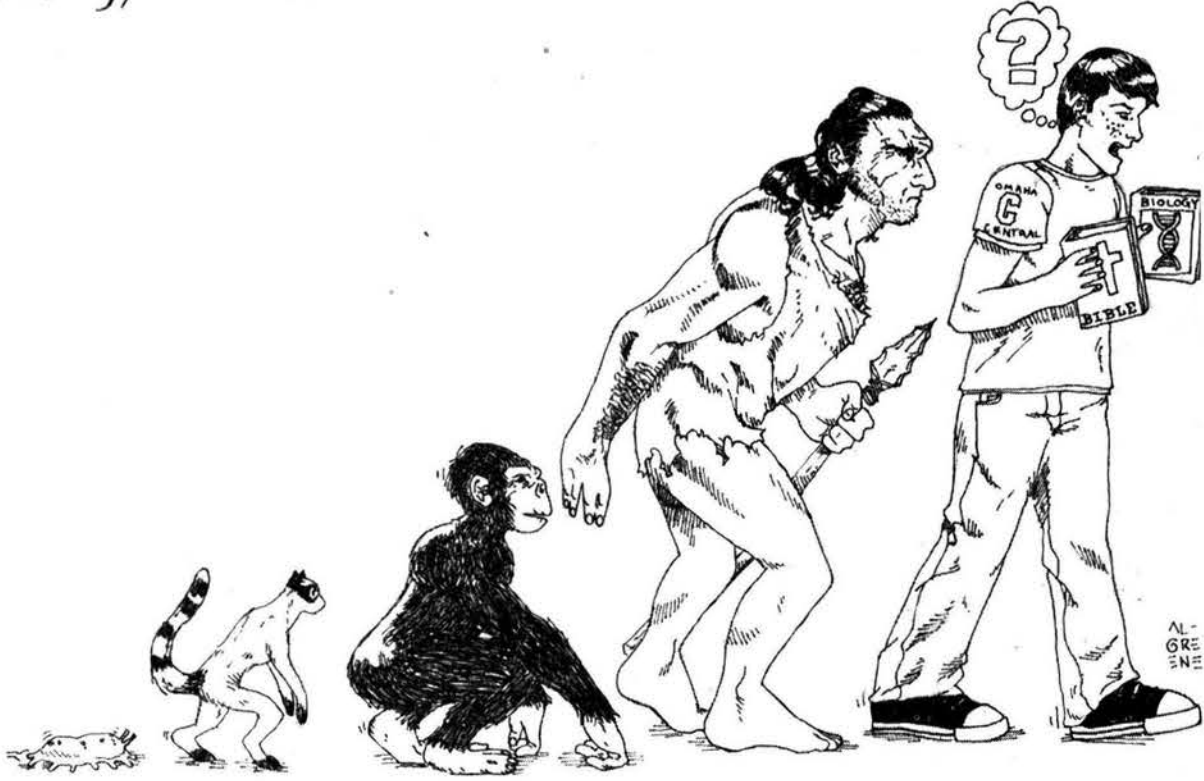
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FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

EDITORIALS

"Biology I supplies: textbook, pencils, paper, Bible?"



Jerry Bexten
PRINCIPAL
Matt Deabler
ADVISER
Molly Mullen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Keep God out of science textbooks

Intelligent design claims to be a secular belief crediting the creation of the world to a higher power. In truth, it is simply a cloaked form of creationism. It still carries a belief that is similar to that of Christianity. If these beliefs from the Bible were to be taught, other alternate theories of how the world was created would have to be taught in public schools as well. They would have to encompass all religious beliefs as theories, and that would have to include hundreds of religions. Even within major religions, there are countless denominations. So if the theory of creationism was included in the curriculum, countless religious beliefs and their variations would have to be included. Also, some schools put stickers in textbooks emphasizing that evolution is a theory, not fact. The fact that it is a theory is implied in the name, and putting stickers in books only diminishes evidence. There is scientific evidence supporting the theory of evolution, and with technology, more has been uncovered. With this evidence and the support it has received from many scientists, it is only logical that it would be taught in public school science classes. The Church initially pushed for separation to prevent the government from interfering or corrupting the Church. This separation is necessary not only for the government, but for religion itself as well. These walls between the two were created to protect both, and to include a principle such as creationism in science classes is the first step backwards. Separation has become more apparent in other

countries, such as France, where they outlawed religious propaganda from public schools. Teaching about religion should not be completely eliminated from the public school system. But, it should only be taught in classes that are more relevant to personal beliefs. Classes such as those dealing with specific religions or classes in which one learns about different cultures and their values would be more suitable. At Papillion-LaVista South a math teacher was suspended and then had his contract terminated when he was preaching about his religious convictions during class. His views are important and his beliefs should be respected, yet teaching them in a class where students should learn about math violates the separation of church and state. For years, evolution has been taught in science class in public schools without alternate theories. But at Pennsylvania's Dover Area High School, intelligent design was recently being taught. As a result, eight families are now trying to sue the school district for violating the separation of church and state. A case has reached the Supreme Court regarding the school putting stickers in science textbooks claiming that evolution was a theory, not a fact and reading a passage about "intelligent design" at the beginning of class. There is a fine line between violating someone's freedom of religion and neglecting or suppressing it. The United States is now struggling with the boundary these lines create. Teaching creative design in science class is taking the first step toward stepping over this line.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff

Student learns to love rural life

On the weekends, most kids go to Memorial Park or to the movies. My friends come over and dig a hole in the ground. With 32 acres, there is plenty of room for a large hole, just so long as it isn't in the cornfields. I haven't always lived on a farm. I lived on an actual paved road, within walking distance of Dundee, and I could look out my window and see my neighbors. I don't know why my family moved. I remember visiting the farm for the first time, I remember the grass being waist high, dogs running around and the whole place being a general mess. Not a good place to live, but apparently my parents saw it as a good fixer-upper. I saw it as the trashiest house I have ever set foot in. After we bought it, the first week when I was playing in the yard, I would actually find various



MOLDING THIS CLAY
A Column by Clay Lomneth

pieces of dog skulls in the ground. If I was really lucky, I'd find a jaw with some teeth still attached. Did they want to shelter me from the sinful suburban life? Not many people know I live on a farm, and I like it that way. So many people think they are original and hilarious to ask about how many horses I own or if I go cow tipping. I hated the farm for the first few years. When people found out I lived on one it was endless ridicule and the same type of questions over and over

again. They asked the obligatory "cow tipping" questions. I don't have horses because we don't have any stables to put them in. I've never gone cow tipping because I've never really had the urge to. I do live in Omaha, I am only 40 minutes away from Central. Of course people put these stereotypes on me. They assume that every fall, I go out into my yard wearing overalls and pick the corn to sell in the local market. That is not true at all. My family hires someone to harvest the corn because we cannot afford the machinery. All of that doesn't bother me anymore. I view people as jealous now. Jealous that I can get away with digging grave-like holes in my backyard without anyone around to ask questions.

Sparring accident ends aspirations for black belt

Run. This always seemed the best solution to many problems. This all changed when I joined karate. Sparring and self-defense brought a whole new venue. Through my form of karate, we didn't actually spar until we reached a certain level. Sparring was what I most looked forward to because I had never actually tried to fight someone before. Eventually, after a couple months of doing karate, I got a chance to spar early. I was really nervous as I got my gear on, and was trying to remember the techniques that might work. My mind buzzed as I tried to work up a sort of haphazard strategy to get some points against someone well beyond my ability and about three times my size. I stumbled out onto the chalky mat and looked at the brown belt across from me. My stomach felt like it was all twisted in knots, and I was beginning to regret having eaten dinner. I realized how cold the room was beginning to feel, and as we went through the bows, I bit my lip to keep from shivering. I started to recall a story my mom told me about a girl she had seen come into the emergency room who was paralyzed from neck down after a sparring accident. When Shiako told us to begin in Japanese, I froze for a moment and I felt my legs crumble as he punched at my stomach. I fell back a little bit as Shiako called his first point. I glared at him now, and my stomach was dully thumping with pain. When he went for a similar punch I stepped back. I blocked one of his kicks, then feinted once again. As he went to block, I tried to kick his stomach and he brought his hand down in a block a moment too late. I felt my foot collide with his finger, and I heard an unpleasant crack. I felt momentary celebration of getting my first point when I saw his face contort with pain. He was hopping in agony and holding his finger when Shiako rushed to him.



NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY
A Column by Lauren Crist

When I caught a glimpse of his finger, it was swollen and looking a bit purple. It was also sticking out at a bizarre angle and the knuckle wasn't in line with the rest of the finger. I felt terrible, and my momentary celebration disappeared. He gasped in pain and turned away from his finger. He walked to the teacher. "I don't even want to see it, just fix it," the brown belt said. The teacher looked shocked for a moment then grabbed the man's finger and there was a loud "pop." The brown belt howled in pain, and began limping around the room awkwardly. I felt as though my dinner along with my stomach had dropped to my toes, and my head began to spin. I sat down on the floor and stared at the ceiling to try to avoid everyone's accusing glares. The brown belt was holding his finger trying his best not to cry though his eyes were red and glossy. I stood up shakily and walked over to him. "I'm sorry," I said, biting my bottom lip. "Aw, don't worry about it," he said, trying to smile though it came out like more of a painful grimace. "Nothing a few beers couldn't fix." Needless to say, however, he was reluctant to spar with me after that. I felt really bad, though my teacher told me things like that happen all the time and it wasn't really my fault because he blocked incorrectly. However, I still felt terrible and when I sparred in the future, my little brother was always sure to mention that I had dislocated someone's finger once, with numerous exaggerations. So this led me back to my old method of running. A good deal of my time was spent running around the mat rather than actually fighting my opponent. I found I liked this method for awhile. I resumed sparring later, but was much more careful. I never expected that a simple kick could injure someone if slightly off. It taught me to find the balance between running and fighting as well as when and how to use it.

Cleaning out closet gives glimpse to family history

Looking through my grandmother's closet I was able to find a part of my history I have never known before. But it wasn't really my history I found. It was both my grandmother's and mother's history I ended up taking home with me. Grandma was cleaning out all of her closets and said I could have anything from it that I wanted. But in choosing some of the old, fashionable jackets and blouses she had, I found my mother's wedding dress. I showed it to her because this was like pulling out what happened to my mother almost 20 years ago. This was a dress that represented a day she gave her vows to a man who eventually became my father. It was a dress that symbolized the day my parents realized they wanted to start a family. A dress on a hanger never meant so much. I caught my mother reminiscing on old times. First it was the wedding dress that made her face shine and look as though she was shocked to even remember it existed. Then, I started pulling out old boxes filled with shoes wrapped in plastic bags. My mom would say, "I remember when I used to wear these." And then I would ask her why she chose to be so obscure with turquoise low-topped sneakers. To me they were almost the most ugly pair of shoes I have seen. Not to mention the rust and dust balls that stuck on them over ten years time. But to her, those bright-colored shoes took her back to some time when she probably didn't even think about having kids or buying a wedding dress that would later on show so much truth. I kept looking through my grandma's closet, and lo and behold the perfect jacket was mine. It made me ecstatic to see that my grandma had such good taste in those days when the most popular colors were brown, olive green and gray. This jacket was hot pink, the color that most girls in my generation love. I thought clothes from the '60s were supposed to be like the ones on "The Brady Bunch" or "That '70s Show." Hot pink was not a color I

expected to appear. What can I say other than my fabulous dress style must come from two sassy generations ago. This jacket had a pattern from the '70s era of peace and harmony. The material was velvety but it was so old it felt like corduroy. But it didn't matter to me. My only concern after that night was to find a matching hat and purse for the jacket. It was great to think that no one else would have this same jacket on. If my grandmother had not called me over to decorate her Christmas tree, I would never have had such a treat. My grandmother and I didn't think I would like anything from her old dusty closet, but that's what happened. I guess you can discover a lot more than



FLEXIBLE WINGS
A Column by Joanna LeFlore

just clothes from a relative's closet. I found years of memories in her closets. I also ended up having a ton of questions to ask her. I wanted to know if she remembered the last time she wore some of those high-heeled shoes. Or did she remember the day she bought them? She hadn't worn some of those things in over 20 years, and had been permanently sick since she was two years old. Ever since then, I knew she had some style in her walk. She doesn't walk much anymore, and when she does, it's to the kitchen to cook a meal or to use the bathroom. Her style, however, came from more than the clothes in her closet. Her style had evolved from the years past. It was like her favorite pair of pants had lasted for a certain period of her life, but eventually she would grow out of them. Still, there will always be days she wore those pants that she will never forget. The things she remembered became a part of her walk and her character. It may be fair to say that a pair of pants can make you walk a certain way, but they can never change the day you wore them or the way you started walking after you put them away. My grandmother has probably had a lot of shoes and pants and jackets that gave her a different style. But overall, they didn't change her state of mind.

04-05 REGISTER STAFF BOX

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NOT GONNA LIE TO YOU

A Column by Molly Mullen

Shopping ignites online obsession

I could spend \$100 in one sitting whenever I log onto Ebay. I have been doing it since around eighth grade.

It is so easy. I never got anything I really needed, and most of the time after I bought it I realized I didn't want it anymore.

It was something about the auction. I felt like I had to win it.

When there were other people going for the same item as I was and it got down to the final minutes, I began to get really excited.

My heartbeat got faster and I started smiling to myself. It was nearly in my grasp.

I keep clicking, moving up the price in 50 cent increments so it doesn't feel like I'm wasting tons of money.

What's 50 more cents to beat this guy out? More often than not I ended up "winning" the item.

I could picture in my head some man halfway around the world hitting his computer, so angry that he could have been defeated in the final moments.

Then a minute or two would pass. I went back to the e-mail to see what I had won. I won an "autobiography" of someone I have never heard of.

I had originally gone to Ebay to see if I could get a cheaper price than what Borders and Barnes and Noble were charging.

At the bookstore it cost \$13 in paperback. The starting bid on Ebay was less than \$1. What a deal! After an hour or so the price went up.

I ended up spending \$9 plus shipping and insurance on this book that would take over a week to be delivered. How did I think this was a victory?

That was one of many instances where I hopped on the computer and wasted my money.

Sometimes I sat in front

of the computer, staring at that little white search box with the blinking cursor, trying to think of something I could bid on.

I didn't need anything. I couldn't even think of anything I wanted. The only thing I wanted was to start bidding. It was like a game.

I had to win. I was a complete sucker.

I always thought I was getting a deal. Soon that idea seeped into other areas outside the computer.

I had always shopped at Goodwill to get cheaper clothes. It always seemed like I was getting a good deal by wearing someone else's clothes who didn't want them anymore.

If I went to the mall with \$10 I could only get one shirt, if that. If I went to Goodwill, I could save my money.

After awhile I'd walk into Goodwill with my \$10 bill and leave with no money. I'd have two new shirts and some pants and a skirt, but no money.

The last thing I needed was more clothes, but as long as I was getting a deal on them, I didn't feel bad having more than I should.

I have become wasteful. My grandmother even noted the difference between our generations the last time I went to visit her.

She grew up in the Depression and never wasted anything. Even today she always clears her plate.

I leave half of the plate full of macaroni and cheese and leave and crusts of bread that I don't feel like eating.

It used to be I felt above my generation because I was raised differently or maybe I thought I was more mature. My grandma was right, I am just as wasteful as everybody else, despite what I pay for books.

Wait a minute. Is it time? Time for Ebay? Who wants to play?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

War memorials show the respectful attitude generations have toward those who fought and gave their lives for others. Above are various memorials inside and outside Central. The names above are as they appear on those memorials.

Respect for veterans appreciated

One hundred fourteen and counting. That is the number of Central High School war casualties in the last four major wars: World War I, World War II, Vietnam and Korea, but none have been reported since Vietnam.

With around 30 to 40 percent of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets going into a division of the armed forces after high school, there is a good chance everyone at school knows someone who may go to war after graduation.

Appreciation and respect need to be shown to the JROTC students, veterans and current soldiers.

These are the people who protect the country, and there have been many from Central.

From veterans to casualties, the soldiers from Central in all the armed forces have represented CHS to the best of their ability, and that should make students and staff proud.

Recent vandalism at the Vietnam Memorial has shown the lack of respect for the war casualties that this school has.

Harming a memorial dedicated to someone who gave their life to protect the country is perhaps one of the lowest and most pathetic things someone could do.

The freedoms the soldiers from CHS fought to protect are now being taken advantage of. We should be honoring them

for their contributions and protection, not defacing the things that honor them.

Students with even half a conscience would know that defacing something dedicated to a war hero is nothing more than a shameful act against the very people who fought for them.

Though obviously it was not every student at Central who vandalized the memorial, there are other students who in their own way show pathetic underappreciation for their relatives who may have fought in a war.

They do have their right to freedom of speech, but being blatantly offensive against the United States Armed Forces is wrong.

Some students do it for attention, almost like a competition to see who can come up with the best insults for those who have saved their freedoms time and time again.

In the case of Sergeant James Lathan Jr., he gave everything short of his life in Iraq.

He almost lost everything that most Americans take for granted, including the ability to move freely on his own.

Lathan came back to a country full of hostility not only to the war, but to the soldiers as well.

Speaking out against the war is not wrong, but speaking out against war heroes, dead or alive is.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

FIGHTING for FREEDOM



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think Creationism should be taught in schools?



"No, because people have different religions and different beliefs. It would cause a whole bunch of problems."

Camille Ehlers (11)



"I think it would be a good idea because some people are really serious about not believing in evolution"

Nolan Keebler (11)



"No, they should stick to evolution. It's a lot better to use in the real world."

Princeton O'Neal (10)



"Yeah, some people are religious and they might like that."

Corey Adkison (9)



"No, because some people just don't believe it."

Jasmine Washington (9)



"Definitely. It's a theory, I don't see the harm."

Erik Servellon (12)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Team spirit helps performance

Dear Editor,
I think the basketball games this season are going great. Attendance is high and every game is packed. Not only are people attending the games and very spirited, the team is working well. They seem to work a lot better this year as a team. I think that maybe the freshmen reserve teams should do a little better or get more students to support them. Also the varsity girls should have more students go to their games to cheer them on.

Elisabeth Garvin (10)

Talk doesn't harm study halls

Dear Editor,
I feel like we should be able to talk in study hall. Not loud or anything, but to the people next to you. If you're done with your homework and you don't want to go to sleep, we should talk. Or when we need help, we should be able to get help.

Chelsey Goodwin (9)

Traffic in building big problem

Dear Editor,
I don't understand what people don't get. You do not stand where you please, then get an attitude when you get asked nicely to move. And there's so many people standing by the "C" that it's making other people late. It's called common courtesy, so move!

Alisha Lamb (12)

Socializing needs to stop

Dear Editor,
Socialization is a part of being in school, but I think there is a line that needs to be drawn. At times I can barely hear the teacher in front of the classroom. It seems as if the teachers are afraid to tell the kids to stop talking. But if the teachers won't, who will?

Ally Nazeck (9)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via e-mail to Central.Journalism@OPS.org or can be placed 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.

Vending machines should be open more

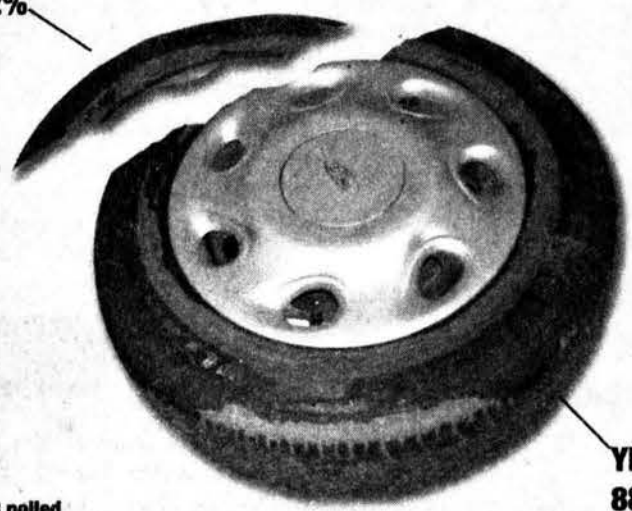
Dear Editor,
I'm mad because the school won't let us buy pop and candy after the bell. Sometimes that's the only time the person can eat. The candy and other snacks are better than the lunch food so we want to eat that. We should be able to buy it at anytime.

Karl Perry (10)

STUDENT POLL

Have you ever been in an accident or stranded in a vehicle where winter supplies would be necessary?

NO 12%



YES 88%

263 polled

STUDENT POLL

Would you consider a career in the armed forces after college or high school?

YES 28%

NO 72%



272 polled

Decorations lift school morale

Dear Editor,
The school should be decorated more. It makes me happy. It lifts the morale of the students.

Casey Christensen (9)

Students should drive in snow

Dear Editor,
I think it wouldn't be right to ban teenagers from driving in winter conditions. There comes a point in time where they'll have to learn to take risks, why not start early? If they ban teenagers, they should ban the elderly drivers.

Jamar Triplett (12)



P'LL BE QUIET

A Column by Zach Pluhacek

Junior finds emotion in parents' musical tastes

Years ago I was digging through my parents' CD cabinet to find a series of albums made by a band called Bad Religion.

I turned it off seconds later. I couldn't bear to listen to it because the band's sound was so different from what I was used to.

I reopened the cabinet again about a year ago while looking for a CD of mine that my mom had accidentally put there.

As the CD began playing, I realized the music was really good. The band played traditional punk music, a sound foreign to me at the time.

Since that day, I have been digging through my parents' music on a regular basis, where I have discovered many of my favorite bands.

I don't just like these bands because I have heard of them before, but because I have developed a more open mind. Ever since I was a little kid, my family has constantly played music while they cooked.

There are a few songs that cause my entire house to erupt with singing and dancing. We may seem crazy to any neighbors who walk by, but it's fun.

I also often discuss music with my parents. My mom and I share a love of grunge and experimental rock groups.

My dad introduced me to old punk groups such as the Clash, as well as '80s bands like R.E.M. and the Talking Heads.

Both of my parents are very supportive of me musically, encouraging me to attend shows at Sokol Hall, the Ranch Bowl and other concert halls.

They also bought me a cello and paid for me to take private and group lessons when they weren't even sure

how seriously I would even take it.

When I was younger, I preferred to listen to songs and melodies I had heard before, either by repetition on the radio, or overhearing the music at friends' houses.

More recently, since I have been talking even more with my parents about music, I have found listening closely can be very important in developing musical taste.

Every type of music has both positives and negatives. For example, pop and punk rock generally sacrifice more creative lyrics to fit into a very specific pattern of rhymes and rhythms.

Now I regularly search the Internet, record stores and my parents' CD cabinet for good music. There are a few record labels that I really enjoy, such as Asian Man Records and Saddle Creek.

I keep a dialogue with several friends who know about particular genres of music, and are able to point me towards bands that I may enjoy.

I have, in the past year, fallen in love with punk, grunge and indie rock bands such as Cursive and Desaparecidos.

I enjoy listening to classical and jazz music as well. My newest favorite band is Sonic Youth, an experimental rock group.

I am continually finding new bands and types of music I can listen to with a more experienced and enthusiastic ear.

Listening to different types of music also helps me not only be a more tolerant person, but a more emotionally-rounded one as well, as I am able to change the musical genre I'm listening to in order to fit my mood.

I have developed a certain amount of disrespect for people who put down forms of music they haven't even heard or don't understand.

Some bands are like food, they can be an acquired taste.

When I hear them or my mom and dad are thrilled about me abducting their CDs, I'm sure they are glad it's good music I'm stealing.



Guidance Department secretary Melissa Henderson sings karaoke at the Brass Knocker. She said she usually sings somewhere every week.

Secretary searches for fame, fortune

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Karaoke night is almost a ritual for a Guidance Department secretary who said regardless of the record deal she has a chance to win, she competed in the live karaoke show just for her love of live television.

Melissa Henderson signed up for the singing show "Fame and Fortune" sponsored by Harrah's casino and the radio station Retro 106.9. The show is a live recording of karaoke music.

"Fame and Fortune" is recorded every Wednesday in the evenings and later aired on the KM3 news channel the following Saturday.

Known to some students as Missy, Henderson competed and placed fourth out of 18 during her performance with a scoring of 15 points.

"The highest score a judge could give was a seven," Henderson said. "But I was happy with what the judges gave me."

The talent coordinator who goes by the name of Chandler decides who the judges are for each week the show is on air.

"I contact all of the judges and coordinate which days they will judge," Chandler said.

But one of the most interesting parts of her job involved Chandler hearing the contestants before they appeared on the show.

"When I hear them for the first time," Chandler said, "I check for a lot of things. I check for the genre of music that they choose to sing and the tempo of the songs they sing them in. I do it so every person fits in the show."

As the backstage host, Chandler said she also explains the order of the show to the contestants.

There a total of three judges who pick one winner each week. The winner will be awarded a dinner for

two at Harrah's 360 Steakhouse restaurant.

The contestants are allowed to compete again only six weeks after their first performance and a second chance to place first out of the other 18 participants in the finals. Two finalists will be chosen for a trip to Atlanta or New York City to audition for a Sony record contract.

"It's a good idea for them to know the song," he said. "A lot of people think they don't have to know all of the words for their song just because it's karaoke. But a record label is not going to sign someone who doesn't know what they are doing."

Like many karaoke bars, the words for the songs are displayed on a small screen at the bottom of the stage.

Judges give their recommendations to each contestant after they perform. They tell them what to work on to better their talent. Bizzy B said he also looks for singers to have the ability to sing a song that fits their voice.

Bizzy said he sees a lot of talent in Omaha and "Fame and Fortune" is a show for people to finally show their talent. The show is eligible to young adults starting at age twenty-five.

Henderson said the judges gave her some legitimate responses to her act. But she will still continue to sing.

"I've been singing for years," she said. "But I do it because I love to."

Besides karaoke, Henderson said she sings for weddings and funerals.

She also had the opportunity to sing in front of her largest audience when performing the national anthem at the Rosenblatt for a baseball game. She said singing at Harrah's was another large crowd she sung

in front of.

"There was a good crowd to perform in front of," she said. "There are people who are from many different places and at the show there is usually standing room only. The crowd is really big."

Henderson said she faithfully sings karaoke at least once a week.

"I love karaoke the most," she said. "My favorite place to go is to Brass Knocker's."

Henderson said she sings because it's good exposure for her. She said she likes to perform in front of crowds the most. But it wasn't until she turned 23 years old that she did her first karaoke solo. She thanked her husband for encouraging her to take the first step.

"I used to be so scared of performing in front of crowds," Henderson said. "He told me that other people need to hear my voice. He gave me a lot of support."

Even though she was told by her husband to go for her dreams, she said she feels too old to become a record label artist.

"I'm 34," Henderson said. "A lot of producers are looking for a younger face."

She said singing for a company might change her style of singing. She would rather have her choice of singing wherever and whenever she wants instead of having the record labels try to change her. She said she just sings because she loves it.

"The money would be great," she said. "But I would want to do my own thing."

This is Henderson's third year at Central. Before she came here, she was an athletic secretary at Benson. She said her mom helped her out a lot, too.

Henderson said she does not plan to leave the school for a career in music, but hopes she will be able to go back to school and learn to teach like her mother.

Disassembled, pathetic lyrics classify new band as emo-metal



COURTESY OF CAPITOL RECORDS

BY JOE DELICH

The band OTEP categorizes itself as an art-project, brainfusion-movement process and a death-metal-at-its-emo-core of heavy mental rock (that's not a typo, it's mental). Its description concludes with "OTEP is poetry." Unfortunately, this is far from the truth.

OTEP plays at the Ranch Bowl Feb. 4. Its album "House of Secrets" is indeed best classified as emo-metal, and the results of this clash are rather horrifying at times.

As for the bold claim that OTEP is poetry, the band falls far short of performing up to its own hype, coming across as repetitive and pathetic.

The album does have some redeeming moments, even if it can be hard to track down in this mess of noise. If there was

one good thing to say, it would be that the drummer is fairly decent, employing an impressive display of talent over the double bass on several tracks.

The title track is slightly above the standard set by the rest of the album, beginning with a somber beat reminiscent of a large army marching into town to burn your city to the ground, then bursting into a fury of noise.

The lead singer of OTEP also manages to whisper some intriguing lyrics into her audience's heads, and demonstrate some familiarity with poetry.

Unfortunately, all the aforementioned accomplishments are for the majority of the time overshadowed by its shortcomings.

The guitar riffs were frequently simplistic, loud and often boring.

That became painfully obvious on tracks like "Buried Alive" where an embarrassing reliance on power chords could put the listener to sleep.

The singer in OTEP had problems of her own.

On a number of occasions she opened tracks by simply talking, like she's the narrator for a book on tape.

Artistic the first time, but it's redundant after occurring on three or four tracks.

The words themselves also merit some scrutiny.

Repetitive laments about God or the

lack there of, tragedy and how awful her life was gets old.

Think Conor Oberst, but replace the whining with screaming, and subtract Oberst's mastery of the English language and ability to employ allegory and symbolism.

The conflict between the adrenaline of the music and the pitiful nature of the lyrics made for an excruciating experience.

In the end, the album failed as a whole despite the few commendable qualities listeners could find if they searched hard enough.

This would definitely be a tough process.

A true fan will find the narrative delivery of OTEP's lyrics a turnoff quickly.

Only hard-core music lovers might like this latest release, but even that's questionable.

ALBUM REVIEW

'HOUSE OF SECRETS'

By: OTEP

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX/SEARCHLIGHT

Liam Neeson plays Alfred Kinsey, a college professor who brings sex education into the mainstream.

MOVIE REVIEW



'Kinsey'

Starring: Liam Neeson

Film fails to explain true story

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"Kinsey" was supposed to tell the life story of Alfred Kinsey, a college professor and one of the first to push sex education.

It had no definite ending and left the audience wondering what will happen next.

However, as far as entertainment film goes, it was definitely worth watching.

It gave good insight into what little sex education there was in the '50s and what has changed not only in the classroom, but in society over the past 50 years.

It was appalling to see what misconceptions and lies were being spread about sex and pregnancy back then.

Seeing Kinsey's work was important in knowing how far America has come in that area and who helped change college curricula across the country. Watching Kinsey, played by Liam Neeson, was difficult at times.

Explicit and graphic language was used through the movie, obviously, due to the subject matter. Aside from the language, slides and films he showed in his college classes plus a few love scenes made this movie well worth its "R" rating.

Neeson did a great job pairing up with his two lovers in the film, Laura Linney and Peter Sarsgaard. He did an incredible job showing a man with incredible emotions.

Anyone watching could see the depression and downfall as well as the hope and confidence it took to make the character. He did a good job within his limits. He has been known to play the scholarly characters or quirky geniuses.

In the remake of "The Haunting" he played nearly the same character, only studying hysteria rather than sex.

"Kinsey" showed many different angles to the study Alfred Kinsey was working on for decades.

It showed his in-depth sex history questionnaires to study patterns in different regions in the United States, the same way he would study wasps and insects.

It showed his scales of homosexuality that really brought certain questions into the mainstream after he wrote about it in more than one book.

"Kinsey" was a good movie, but the end was one big question. What happened to him and his family? Did he ever finish his work? In the end it didn't tell his life story like it should have.



PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

Senior Juliet Yoshida practices her violin concerto at an Omaha Area Youth Orchestra rehearsal at University of Nebraska-Omaha. Yoshida will be performing the piece on Feb. 20 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Strauss Performing Arts Center.

Senior shows talent with solo

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Senior Juliet Yoshida was given a chance to show off her musical talent as a soloist in the Omaha Youth Symphony, a group which she is the principal chair.

Yoshida had already played her violin with the Omaha Symphony and the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra, and on Feb. 20 she will be playing a concerto in the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras (OAYO) concert.

Yoshida will be performing the "Mendelssohn Violin Concerto" in E Minor, a solo piece accompanied by the Youth Symphony, the highest-level group in OAYO.

She was asked to play her concerto as a reward for her victory in OAYO's annual concerto competition, where she played the same piece.

"I like it a lot," Yoshida said. "It's a lot prettier than a lot of other concertos."

She said she chose to play the piece partially because of the challenge it would present to her.

"My old teacher told me there was no way I

could play it," Yoshida said.

She said her only concern was stage fright.

Aviva Segall, the conductor of the Youth Symphony, said she expected an excellent performance.

"She is a terrific musician," Segall said.

She said she has been working with Yoshida for over five years.

"Yoshida has made great progress through her hard work and overall musical skill," she said.

"It's been really wonderful to watch her grow up into such a wonderful young woman," Segall said.

Yoshida has also played her violin at Central for the past four years, but recently made the switch to viola, a change she said was a standard one.

"She wanted to do it, although I did encourage it," Central Orchestra conductor Molly Moriarty said.

She said playing the viola as a secondary instrument makes violinists more marketable in the music world. She also said Yoshida switching instruments has benefited the orchestra as a whole.

"In a way its kind of good for her not to be playing violin because the other violinists sometimes lean on her," Moriarty said.

Aside from that, Moriarty said Yoshida had a positive influence on her fellow students, providing a good example of a young musicians' potential.

Yoshida has also played in small groups with many of her fellow orchestra members.

Junior Korie Christiansen, another violinist in the Youth Symphony, met Yoshida four years ago in the Philharmonic Orchestra, the group just below the Youth Symphony.

"She has influenced me a lot," Christiansen said.

Yoshida leads the first violin section in the Youth Symphony where Christiansen plays third chair.

Christiansen said Yoshida makes a good leader, and is always aware of what needs to be done in her section. She also said she was amazed by Yoshida's performance of her concerto after seeing her play in OAYO rehearsals.

"You can tell she worked really hard on it," Christiansen said.

Sequel lacks plot compared to first film

BY LAUREN CRIST

Take a former hippie and an emotionally-open dad who quit his job to raise his son.

Add in an uptight man who thinks self-preservation and competition are the best methods to life. The result is the heavily-anticipated sequel, "Meet the Fockers."

Put them and their families together on a tiny island house with one bathroom and the fun times supposedly begin.

"Meet the Fockers" displayed some of the promised humor and continued jokes from its prequel.

However, although good for a laugh, this movie lacks quality in plot or creativity in the story line.

Male nurse Gaylord Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) begins the movie building up the promised hilarity in a slapstick manner.

Starting with a continuing pun of his name, Focker prepares for a day with his parents and soon to be in-laws, the Byrnes.

Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro) plays the retired CIA agent and father

in-law of Gaylord. His composed, stern character and acting style is ironically funny and conflicts comically with the situations he has to endure.

Little Jack (Spencer and Bradley Pickren) also adds a humorous twist. The baby brings out interesting qualities in the characters and splits the already distant family farther apart.

To further the conflict of the movie, Gaylord's parents Bernie Focker (Dustin Hoffman) turns out to be a former hippie and "house dad" who argues about the CLIA (Central Lack of Intelligence Agency). His wife Roz (Barbra Streisand) is an open sex therapist who tries to counsel everyone including the Byrnes and her own son.

When all the differing characters are thrown together, havoc reigns. Two different lifestyles clash, and Gaylord is cornered into some truly humiliating circumstances.

As in the first movie, Brynes's scheming character tries to reveal Gaylord's dishonesty and character flaws to his daughter. Again, this leads

MOVIE REVIEW



'MEET THE FOCKERS'

Starring: Ben Stiller

to an extreme set of circumstances leaving the audience wondering how Gaylord could possibly manage to weasel his way out of such a situation.

"Focker" puns litter the movie throughout, ruining any humor found in it by the end.

Other jokes from the prequel are carried over, almost exhaustively by the end. Characters from the past movie also make subtle but humorous introductions.

One of the prime characters from the first movie, however, is left with scarcely any role and no character development in the sequel. Pamela Martha Focker, as she is soon to become, (Teri Polo), Gaylord's fiancé has hardly any lines throughout the movie.

In the first movie, she is independent and decisive, as well as intelligent. In "Meet the Fockers," her lines don't portray any of these traits.

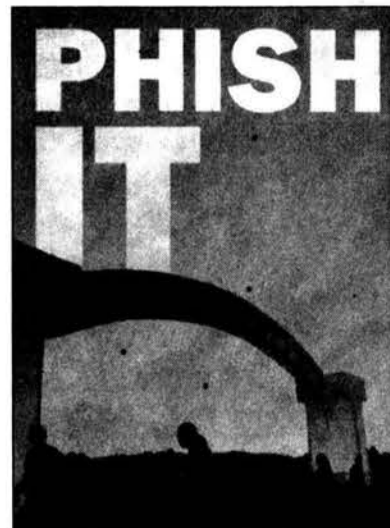
Sexual innuendo is also significantly more prominent in this movie.

Roz is fairly open about her opinions, and advises seniors who are struggling with their sex lives. All though this is comical, it also can leave some not-so-great images of senior men and women practicing "yoga" together.

The movie achieves its goal through prominent humor. The puns (aside from those overused,) were clever. Reverse psychology twisted with a run of bad luck also brings out humorous traits in the character.

By far, the greatest new addition to 'Fockers' is Little Jack, the genius baby whose tactics land Gaylord into another conflict similar to that of the first.

Overall, "Meet the Fockers" is humorous in similar manner to its prequel, yet leaves something to be desired.



COURTESY OF RHINO RECORDS

DVD REVIEW



'Phish IT'

By: Phish

Interviews hurt magic of jam band

BY DEDE HEARTY

The greatest jam band of the last two decades has finally let technology catch up with it.

Phish has put out its first DVD/CD combination, "Phish It."

After calling it quits, Phish finished its tour with grace and made this collection to show its last days as the ultimate king of jam bands.

This release was above average, but it did not go far enough to bring the audience into the magical world of this band.

The musical aspect of "Phish It" was as great as the live Phish CDs and had the aura of being at a real concert. However, the interviewing that was mixed in with music, did at times ruin the flow of the concert footage.

The groove and improvisation among the intricate guitar riffs and rhythmic indulgences are things that have made Phish king, but in the first DVD the listener receives no taste of this glory.

Phish's name is tarnished because of how this DVD/CD was put together. Simply put, the interviews and where they were put in this final product, disrupted the flow and the message of the songs.

The songs are emotional and the guys are up on stage speaking to each other in their genius way that no mere mortal could comprehend.

Pouring out their hearts to all those around and being completely honest is a typical Phish trademark.

The great songs came to life, making the viewer and Phish fans crave to be there and experience the freedom the music brought.

To sit and share in the knowledge it had to offer, not through language, but through music, was simply wonderful.

However, once a person gets into the music and the moment and starts to feel like she is there as one of the die-hard Phish fans, another interview comes and the feeling of ecstasy is viciously torn away from the mind. It ruins the moment.

PBS did a dishonorable job to Phish's name and legacy by putting out this collection.

Phish's music is great and will always be available to the public in some way.

The same can not be said for this DVD.



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Film holds own next to phantom opera classic



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PRODUCTIONS

Gerard Butler plays the phantom in "Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera." Elaborate costumes and sets were among many things that separated the movie from the traditional opera.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

A clash of symbols and a burst of light. Hundreds of dancers in black and white are singing the opening song of the second act.

The patterns of stripes and checkers made everything seem like it fit together in "Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera." The entire film seemed to flow well.

With the screenplay written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the original composer of the opera, it was bound to be amazing.

It was incredible to see the similarities between the opera and the movie that many people would never catch or think about.

The Masquerade scene described above had the same over-the-top characteristics of the opera, but had different parts as well.

With the use of cameras, the movie was able to easily show every aspect of the masquerade ball and close-ups on each character's emotions.

Unfortunately a few parts in the opera that made it unique were left out of the

MOVIE REVIEW

'ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'

Starring: Gerard Butler

Because the movie was made on a set, the directors had no trouble making different caverns and corners of the opera house and using special effects that went above and beyond the stage.

The exploding chandelier at the beginning of the opera is always a surprise to theater-goers because of the different light effects.

Because people are so used to seeing big, bright and loud aspects of films, what was so special in the opera was lost in the movie.

The fact that it was a movie also gave "The Phantom of the Opera" some advan-

tages.

The elaborate costumes made every different scene special, something that could be done on stage because of the quick scene changes.

Gerard Butler who played the Phantom was magnificent.

He played the role very delicately and sang everything well.

He didn't copy Michael Crawford, who made the role famous on Broadway for many years.

Some people were angry that Crawford didn't play the role in the movie.

Butler had the charisma and attractiveness the 63-year-old Crawford wouldn't be able to pull off on camera.

The female star, Emma Rossum, played Christine Daae. She played the role completely differently that one would see on the stage.

She played off the innocence of the character to really let her lust and ignorance show through. She made herself more lovable than a stage actress could.

Alumnus adds beat to jazz quartet, plans to pursue career in music

BY DEDE HEARITY

Sit back, relax and let the music take you. This is the theory of most jazz musicians, and Quartet Unshut is no different.

Quartet Unshut has a unique and close bond. Formed under a year ago, the members practice jazz in their own way.

Alumnus and drummer Chase Thornburg, pianist Jordan Elsberry and trumpet player Pablo Masis started the band. "We became friends because of our equal love for the music," Masis said.

Elsberry played with Thornburg in the University of Nebraska-Omaha jazz high school jazz group Metro Area Youth Orchestra (MAYJO).

Elsberry started talking to Thornburg who later invited Elsberry to jam sessions at Caffeine Dreams Coffee Shop.

During one jam session, Masis expressed an interest in starting a regular group in which the core of the group stayed the same throughout the process, but the bassist was interchangeable.

Although the group would like to play with an up-right bassist, it is currently playing

with a "convertible" bassist.

The band's regular bassist, much like the rest of the group, plays with other bands.

Elsberry said he became interested in jazz after selecting three CDs from his father's jazz collection during his eighth grade year. One of those CDs was Nat King Cole's Christmas album.

"I started playing jazz music the summer after my sophomore year," he said.

He said he was exposed to jazz all of his life because his dad was into it. After grabbing those three CDs, Elsberry said he made numerous trips back to get more.

Thornburg said he also had parental influence in his musical career.

His mom is a drummer and his father is a trumpet player, both of whom are involved in music, specifically jazz.

Masis attended Lawrence University and graduated as a trumpet major.

He then attended a college in Wisconsin as a graduate student. After one year there, he went to New Orleans as a graduate student. He stayed a year and a half and received his masters in jazz studies.

Each member of the group has different

reasons for playing jazz, but none of them have any major regrets.

"There is a great deal more freedom with jazz because you are able to bring a lot more of yourself to it," Elsberry said. "(Jazz is) the language I am used to expressing myself in."

He said jazz allowed him to be open in a closed way.

Elsberry said the connection with the group was great and everyone was always listening to each other.

Thornburg and Elsberry had a knack for playing the same chord or rhythmic figures at the same time while having their eyes closed and not planning it, Elsberry said.

Masis said the easiest member of the band for him to read emotionally is Thornburg.

He said he can get a good sense of what Thornburg is feeling and tries to play off of it. Elsberry is tougher to read, but he does get a small sense of the emotion.

Thornburg and Masis can relate on many levels while sharing ideas and collaborating with each other.

Masis said the members of Quartet Unshut use the group as their exploration

grounds in music.

The group members said they all don't feel the same exact emotions brought on by playing jazz, but all agree their emotions affect their playing.

Elsberry said he never experiences pure emotion.

It is always a mixture that depends on what is going on in his life at the time.

He said he sometimes feels overjoyed and his playing always has a joyful tone mixed with other emotions.

The group is planning on preserving its music by putting out a CD.

It started one in December with a saxophone player and an up-right bassist, but members plan on returning to the studio sometime next month to finish the recording process.

Most of the group plans to pursue jazz or music the rest of their lives.

Elsberry said he would play music the rest of his life even if it were just in his living room at night rather than as a full-time musician.

Thornburg said he plans on moving to Chicago this May to pursue jazz.



PHOTO BY DEDE HEARITY

Central alumnus and drummer Chase Thornburg plans on moving to Chicago to further pursue jazz.

Icy Simpson

sophomore, Omaha

"When I received my financial award letter from Wesleyan, I learned to my great surprise and joy that I would be able to pursue my dream of furthering my education in music—a dream that I have had all of my life."



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Anton du Preez, sophomore, Aurora

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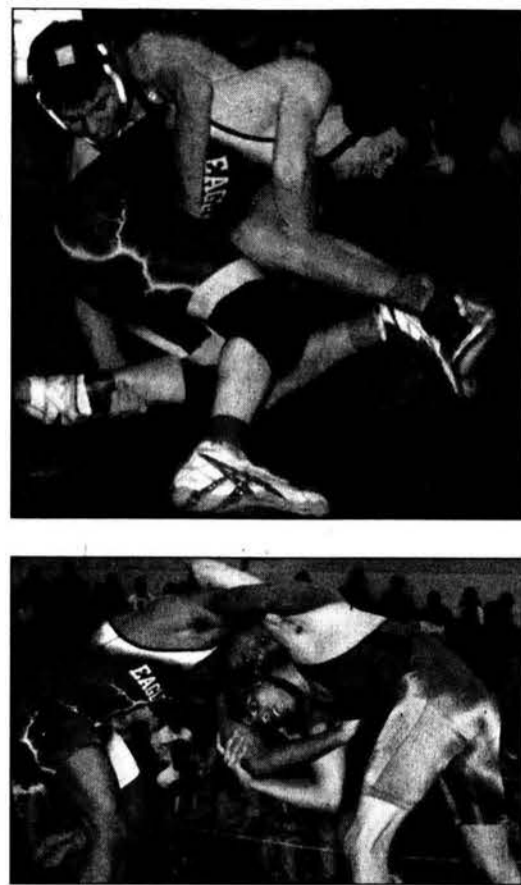
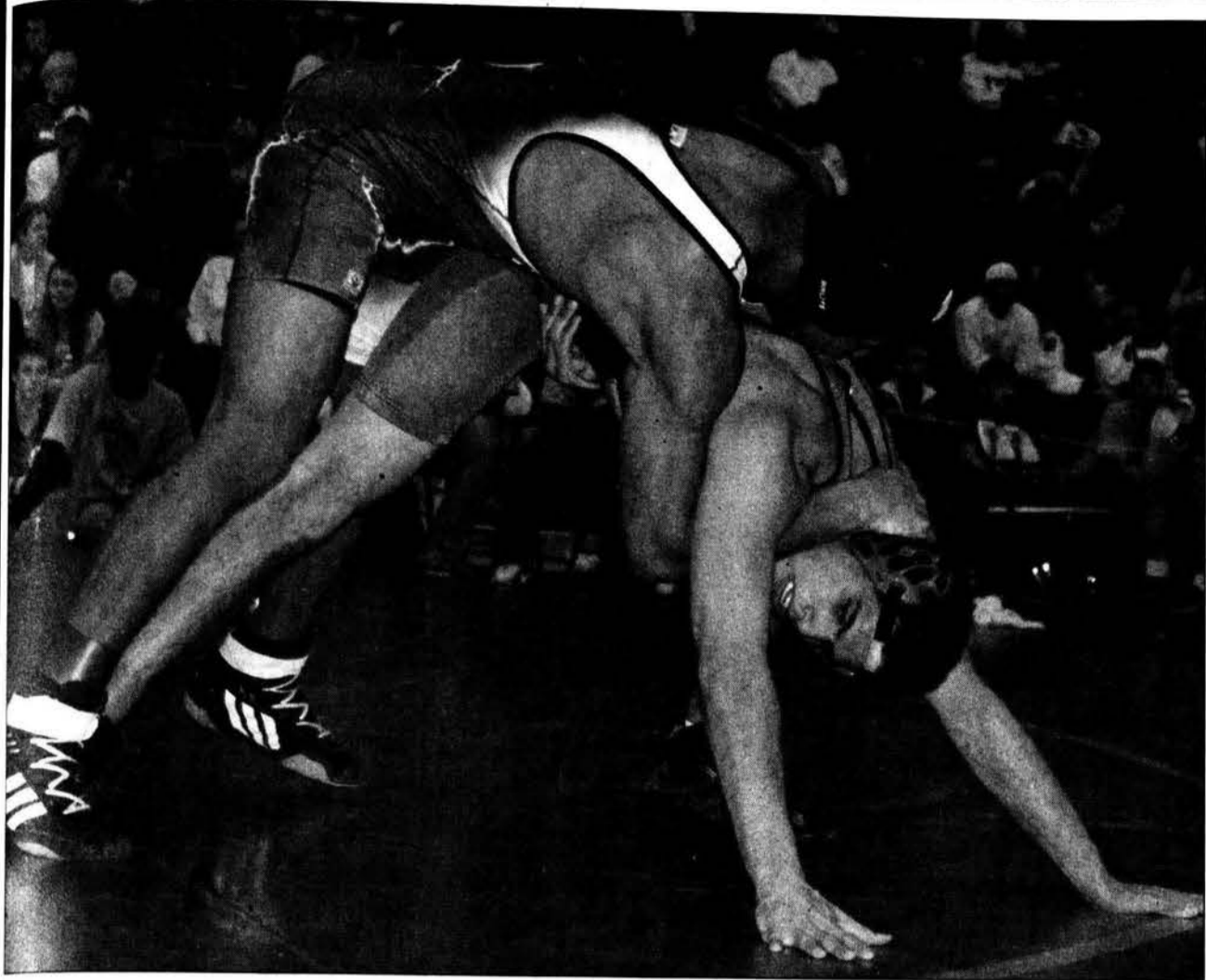
PRESENTATIONS

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AN UNBREAKABLE HOLD



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER
Left and above: Senior Terrance Smith wrestles Creighton Prep at Metros. Top right: Senior Blake Gayer took down his opponent at Metros.

Wrestling team improves at Metros

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Placing 5th at Metro Tournament was the best the wrestling team did in 25 years, coach Jimmie Foster said. Friday and Saturday Jan. 14 and 15, Central's wrestling team improved five places from last year's 10th place, finishing with 122 overall points and 24 won matches. "At Metro Tournament every match is difficult," Foster said. Out of the eight wrestlers who attended Metros, all eight of them placed. Junior Cavin Cooper and senior Terrance Smith both placed first in their weight classes. Junior Jae Torpy placed third, junior Guy Smith and senior Blake Gayer placed fourth, junior Joel Torpy placed fifth and sophomore Anthony Wilwerding and junior Chuck Mulligan placed seventh. "I thought they wrestled well," Foster said, "a nice, hard

wrestle." He said Smith surprised the boys who he wrestled. "He beat a state champion and a state placer," he said. Smith beat Burke's Kellin McKim after a disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct. Smith said he would have won the match regardless of the disqualification. "He got mad because I was winning," Smith said. "I was just beating him and he didn't know what to do." He said because they were in the same district they would probably wrestle in the future, and he planned on winning again. Another surprise was when he scored 14 points in one match. He said he was doing much better than last season and is thinking about a higher weight class for next season. "It all depends on football," he said. "I'll just have to see what my weight is at the end of the season."

Jae Torpy said he did well even though he was pinned by a Millard South opponent. "I got a really sweet ankle pick, but he pinned me early," Torpy said. An upset in the tournament was senior Blake Gayer getting pinned by Mitch Jennings, putting him in fourth place for the tournament. He said it was hard to say whether he was happy with the outcome of the Metro Tournament, where he broke the Central pin record, raising it from 45 to 47 in one day. "I should have beat Jennings," he said. "I have beat him two times before." Gayer said he knew he could have done better, and he allowed himself to be caught in a position he couldn't get out of. "I know I'm better than him, I'm just sad I didn't get third place," he said.

Senior breaks school record with 47 pins

BY MOLLY MULLEN



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER
Senior Blake Gayer talks to an assistant coach after his last match at Metros on Jan. 14 and 15.

"Hey, he just broke the pin record!" wrestling coach Jimmie Foster said after senior Blake Gayer pinned an opponent in only 59 seconds. Gayer beat the Central record for pins raising it from 45 to 47 in one day. He said Foster always told him not to look for pins, but if the opportunity was there he would take it. "I wrestle smart," he said. "I use my signature move, the nearside cradle." Junior Jae Torpy said Gayer perfected the cradle. "He works on it so hard and does it so well," he said. "It's the Gayer special." He said Gayer does it well because he is so confident with it and eventually the cradle became the most practical move. The previous title holder was alumnus Lonnie Long.

"He was a senior my freshman year," Gayer said, "I don't think he knows I broke it, yet." He said he has his goals set high for more pins this season because he said he can accomplish more than what he has already done. "It didn't seem like it; it was so easy," he said. He said this season he plans on raising his season record from 13 to 22. He wants to get 11 more pins with roughly 15 more matches in the season. "I should be able to break it," he said. If I set up a goal that is high enough then I will accomplish it." He plans on beating the top two in the state seeing as he is number three. After the season he said he didn't know where he would be going to college, but he did not think he would wrestle after high school. He said he wanted to focus on academics and earn a degree. He eventually wants to open a wrestling store.

Student goes from clowning in pool to being second best in state

BY TESS MANDELL



PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER
Senior Drew De Lashmutt practices diving at Burke. De Lashmutt took second at state last year and hopes for better this season.

Everybody has seen that kid at the pool who will do absolutely anything when he jumps off the diving board. They do crazy, silly belly flops that everybody laughs at. But little do those people know that this crazy kid might grow up to become a successful diver. For senior Drew De Lashmutt, his childhood play-days have made him one of Nebraska's best high school divers. "I was one of those kids that do stupid stuff at the pool," De Lashmutt said. "I would be the kid who would say 'Yeah, I'll do that off the board.'" De Lashmutt kicked off his diving career at the age of 11 when a coach at his swimming pool approached him. De Lashmutt said his first reaction to the coach's offer was to say no, but the coach ended up calling him and practically ordering him to join the team. He ended up being De Lashmutt's first coach and his coach for the next three years when he joined the diving team at the Champions Club. Now his coaches are head coach Steve Guinn, a math teacher at North, and asst. coach Aja Wurth, a Physical Education teacher at Jefferson Elementary. Now, instead of little country club swim meets, he has high school swim meets and state finals. He has placed at the state competition every year of his high school career. He finished second last year, fourth sophomore year and sixth freshman year. "Last year, he got second place, and the only guy that had a chance at beating him graduated," senior diver Elisa Berzins said. "But I think Drew should have gotten first." Wurth said De Lashmutt's only competition at state this year (Feb. 24-26) will probably be Ryan Dinning, a Millard South student. "Those two will probably be fighting out for first and second. It depends on who's putting in the time," Wurth said. "Ryan's got the ability to finish well. It depends on who gets his head in the game. If Drew keeps his head in the game, he'll take it."

However, Wurth and Guinn both agree that no matter how talented a diver has performed all season, the diver can do poorly at the state competition. "Any diver can screw up any day," Guinn said. However, one of De Lashmutt's strong points is the fact that he's consistent. "With diving, there are good and bad days," Wurth said. "But Drew's pretty consistent. So I think he'll do a great job." De Lashmutt went to Mount Michael his freshman and sophomore years and dove with the team there. Since both Central and Mount Michael practice at Burke, De Lashmutt knew the other Central diver, Berzins, before he even came to Central. "He's pretty much just ridiculously good. He's not only strong, but he's level-headed, and he doesn't get too nervous," Berzins said. "He's been doing it for so long that he's experienced in competition, stamina, and the atmosphere. He still gets nervous, but not as much as would be expected." Berzins isn't the only one who thinks this way. De Lashmutt and his two coaches also said he doesn't get shaky during his dives. "Some people get so serious and stressful," Wurth said. "Drew does a good job of having fun. I think he really enjoys it." De Lashmutt said there is another distinct reason why he does better than his competitors. "The difference between me and other divers is power," De Lashmutt said. "I have a higher jump. There's just more strength in it. And I'm clean on the entry." Wurth said she considers De Lashmutt to be such a successful diver because of his consistency, form and height off the board. Hopefully all these advantages will help De Lashmutt exceed when he dives in college. De Lashmutt said he is planning on attending college at either Virginia Tech or Minnesota, and diving is in his plans. He said that he has received some recruiting and scholarship offers from Virginia Tech, and he has talked to the coach once or twice at Minnesota.

"I think he has the skills to do college diving. The challenge is maturing mentally and being focused, and I think he has the ability to do that," Wurth said. "He has definitely got the degree of difficulty. He's got the dives and the will to do it. You never know what can happen." Wurth said that the main difference between high school and college diving is the boards they use. In high school, only 1-meter boards are used, and in college they use 1-meter boards, 3-meter boards and platforms. However, Wurth said that De Lashmutt has done those kinds of diving. "Drew has seen the competition," Guinn said. "He knows what's out there." Overall, both coaches said they believe De Lashmutt will succeed. "He's going to be awesome in college, wherever he goes. He's very competitive, he's got power, and he's not afraid to go out and do it," Wurth said. "I've coached a lot more experienced divers, and he has what it takes if he wants to be there." De Lashmutt said although diving is big in California, Florida and Texas, it's not as popular in the Midwest. He said there are probably only 10 decent male divers in Nebraska. He said he is teased and stereotyped sometimes for being a male diver. National diver Greg Louganis is stereotyped all the time, but he's one of the best male divers in the United States. De Lashmutt said that he stuck with diving instead of other sports he's tried because he was really encouraged by coaches and spectators. "I was really excited about it to the point where I was decent enough to continue," he said. De Lashmutt said another reason he has stuck with diving and not other sports is because it's an individual sport. "It's all based on me. I can't depend on anyone else. It really makes me work harder," he said. "You can't say 'I don't want to work.' You have to work hard, so I do whatever I've got to do."

Teen diver qualifies for competition

BY LAUREN CRIST

Senior Elisa Berzins is one of only two divers on Central's team. She has already qualified after an invitational at Millard North. She qualified last year for state as well and placed. "Last year I made 12th in state, and this year I'll probably make the top six or so," she said. Assistant coach Aja Wurth said she looks forward to seeing how Berzins will do the rest of the season. "Her best competitions are still coming up," she said. Berzins said she first took an interest in diving about 12 years ago when she went to a swim practice with her friends and watched the divers. "Most sports are really physical while diving is more of a mental sport," she said. "It all has to do with being calm and collected." She said she thought that fact made diving more challenging than other sports she had played in the past on a team with less individual pressure. "The dives themselves aren't really that hard," Berzins said. "It's getting on the board, staying focused and psyching up to do the dive that's difficult." Head Coach Steve Guinn said the mental aspect is what makes diving such a distinctive sport. "Diving requires determination and concentration," he said. "You do what you believe you can do." Guinn said Berzins' motivation was an important factor in diving and made Berzins such a talented diver. "She knows what she wants, works hard for it and gets it," he said. "She's very determined." Wurth said that ability has helped Berzins to improve throughout the year. "She's not afraid to do anything," she said. Both Wurth and Guinn agreed that Berzins has improved most in consistency through her dives this year. She began working on challenging dives last year and is developing them this season. Guinn said her strongest dive is probably her front double, though she is also talented at twists. Wurth said Berzins has great diving form as well as the ability to get enough height for a powerful dive. Wurth said Berzins is continuing to work on improving her new dives and making them more consistent. "It's a hard process because she knows when she first learns a dive, she's going to fall or smack the water, everyone does," she said. "But she definitely has a lot of determination and is still going after it." Guinn said many of Berzins' teammates look up to her. "She's kind of the senior leader," Guinn said. As of now, only two Central students are on the diving team: Berzins and senior Drew De Lashmutt. "It's both good and bad having such a small team," he said. "It's good for practice because you get more individual time with the coaches to improve your dive, but sometimes it makes it more difficult at competitions." Berzins said she's not sure what will happen to the diving team next year, as both she and De Lashmutt will be graduating this spring. "We're hoping for more divers soon," she said. Wurth said Berzins' placement within the top six at state could be determined in the practice she's doing now. "It depends how hard she works in the next few weeks," Wurth said. "She's had a rough year." She said despite some of the struggles Berzins had with injuries this year, she thinks she will still place well at state.

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SPORTS

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NOTHIN' BUT NET

CHS basketball kicks off the year with wins against Benson, Marian, Creighton Prep, South and Millard West. With State at the beginning of March, the Eagles prepare for the big push.

Packers put up 'good' showing in Eagle victory

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Between sophomore Jasmine Johnson's 13 points and senior Brittany Arvin fouling out, the South game was another win for the Eagles. However, the win didn't come as easily as expected.

With a final score of 54-40, sophomore Rachael Dryver said South was not an easy team to beat.

Before the game even started Packer's girls varsity coach Ricky Ruffin said the only advantage South had over Central was home court.

"We've been flat the last couple of games so we just want to play well," Ruffin said.

"Last year we would just come in and dominate," Dryver said. "There was definitely effort (this year)."

She said coach Chad Townsend warned the girls and made them aware that South's team was rebuilding throughout the season.

Dryver said although she thought the team did a great job, it could use some more practice to play South again.

"We didn't have too many turnovers," she said. "And I need to work on those inside shots."

Townsend said he was ready to play South.

"South is a much improved team," he said. "Their point guard doesn't make a lot of mistakes."

He said he had seen South play earlier in the season and knew it had beat good teams.

"They did a good job breaking up press," he said, "but they didn't do anything we couldn't handle."

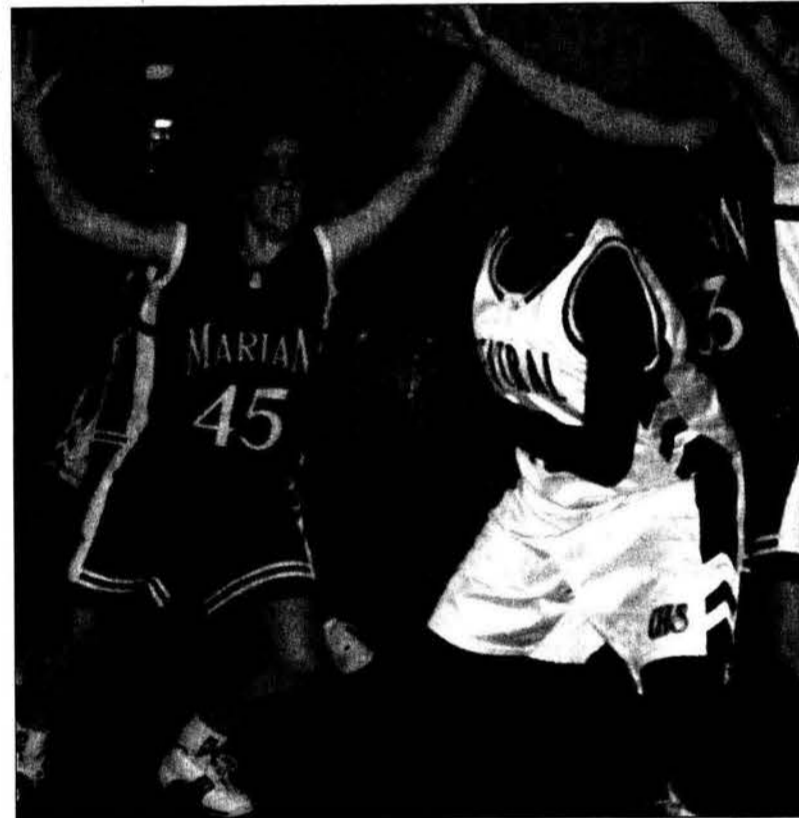
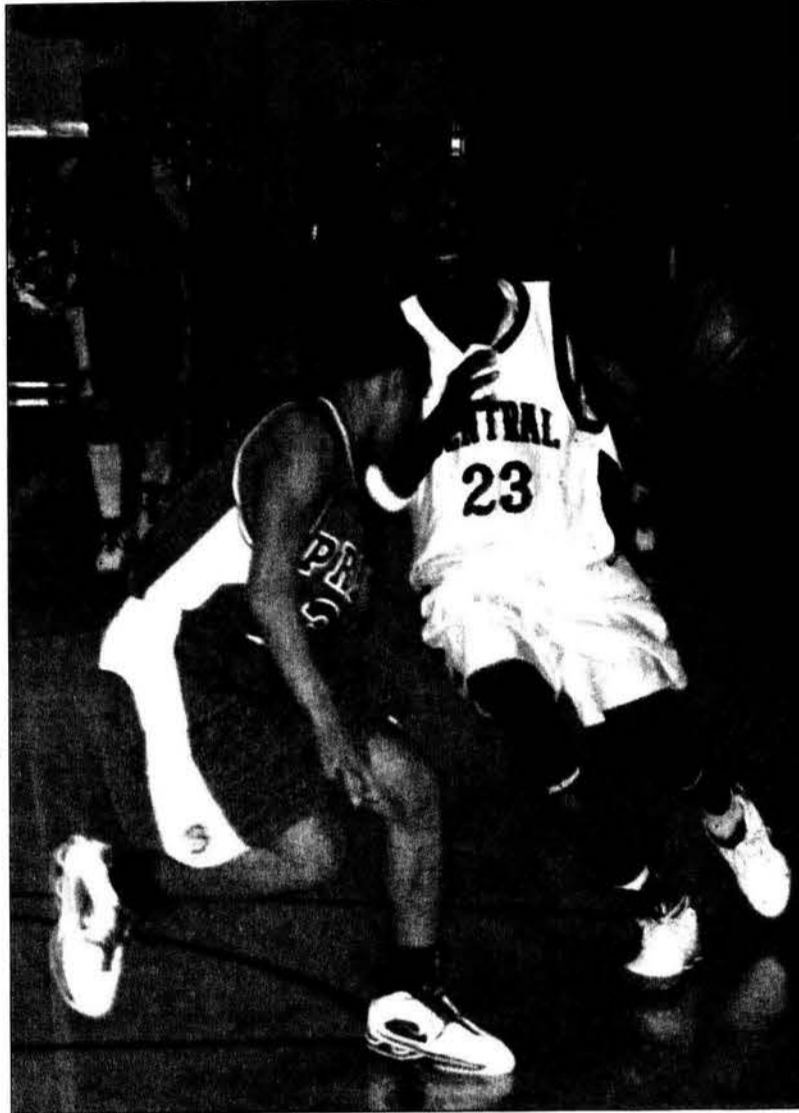
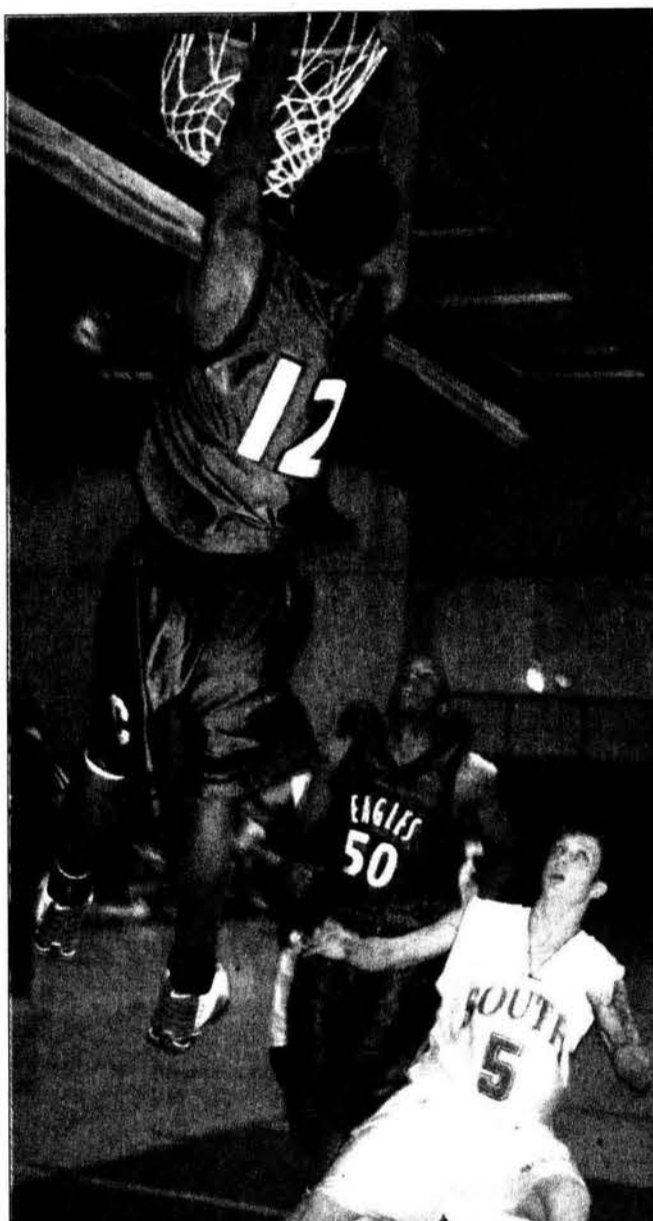
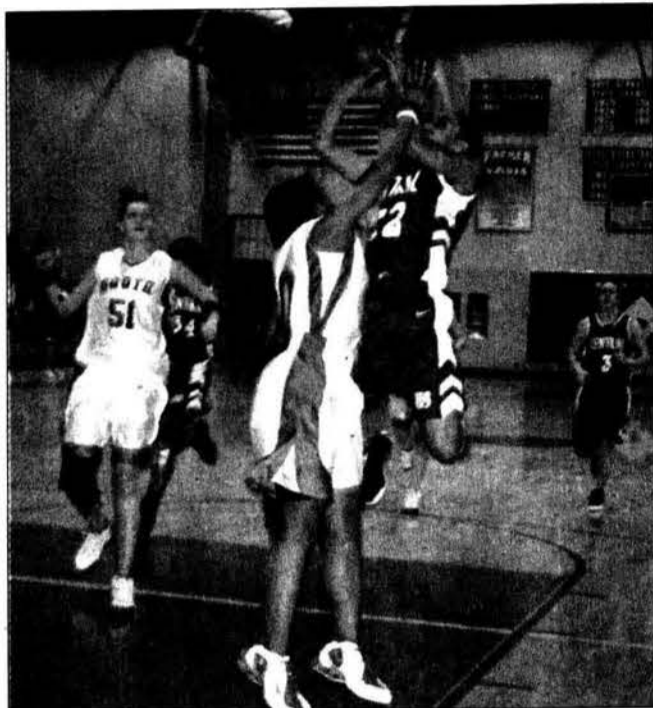
Senior Allison Rutherford said she came prepared for South's team and thought the Eagles played well.

"We played really good offense," she said. "They don't really have an athletic team and we were ready for them."

Ruffin said the Packers needed to work more on rebounding. It made six out of 21 attempts in comparison to the Eagles' 23 out of 37. He said he thought the girls played better than he expected.

"We knew it was going to be pretty intense," he said.

He said he wants to have his team practice more and hopefully have a closer game in the future.



Clockwise from top left: Sophomore Jasmine Johnson makes one of her 13 shots against South, freshman Josh Jones tries to dribble past Creighton Prep, junior Avery Tyler slam dunks to get another two points against South and senior Anadrian Booker looks for a pass against Marian.

Second half shots, dunk ensure win

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Head coach Eric Behrens said he expected defeat South, even if it wasn't Eagle territory.

"I guess we always expect if we play we're going to win," he said.

Even though Central won 84-48 this year, Behrens said South was tough competition in the past. Behrens said he was pleased with the win but said it wasn't anything like the day before against Prep.

"(It was) not quite like the trauma (in the past), but it's still a good win," he said.

The scoring for Central started out well with a free throw by sophomore Derrick Russell. Then on, Russell was fouled many times, and in addition to his regular points, eventually ended with 20 points for the night.

Central did not have an early lead, however, South still held on until the Eagles began to take a definite lead, which took to around the third period.

The score was 61-37 by the end of the third period.

Along with Russell, freshman Ronnell Grixby and junior Avery Tyler were also top scorers.

Many of Russell's points were a result of free throws.

Almost every time he had the ball in the key, the Packers fouled and Russell was set up for an easy shot.

The majority of Grixby's shots were three-point shots, which helped the team gain momentum at the beginning, keep their lead in the middle and then pull ahead in the end.

Russell said he thought he did an especially good job with his dunks in the game.

Overall, for the team, Russell said they did a good job of sharing the basketball, but they needed to improve on guarding on defense and preventing opportunities for baskets.

"We need to close down on shooters a little more," Russell said.

Behrens also said that the team needed to match up with the shooters to prevent scores by opponents. He said he was pleased by the defense in the first quarter and how much the team shared the ball.

South High's basketball coach Andy Webb said he was disappointed by the loss.

He said there weren't many good plays. The Packers carried out in the second half. Webb said they needed to improve on stopping turnovers and having a transition defense.

"We let a bunch of athletes make athletic plays," Webb said.

Creighton Prep gives Eagles scare with overtime

BY TESS MANDELL

"We thought it was going to be really tough," was how boys basketball coach Eric Behrens described going into the Prep game on Jan. 14.

The matchup with Central, No. 2 in Class A and No. 2 overall, and Creighton Prep, No. 8 in Class A, went into overtime with the help of sophomore Ben Kline's free throws at the fourth period buzzer. Creighton Prep coach Josh Luedtke was shocked about the game's outcome as well.

"Everybody thinks that there's just Bellevue West and Central," Luedtke said. "But it just shows that on any given night, anyone can beat anyone."

The Eagles managed to pull off the close 79-70 win, even without starters senior B.J. Valentine and junior Rodney Grace.

"With two starters not playing, some guys really stepped up," Behrens said. "We didn't have our leading scorer, and other guys had to get used to that."

At the Benson game the Friday before, Valentine led the team with 19 points.

"We're always prepared for B.J., but they're the same team with or without him," Luedtke said. "They're missing a key part of the team, but if you think they're good with him then come down and watch them play without him."

Central was trailing the majority of the second period as well. With the exclusion of freshman Ronnell Grixby's basket with 20 seconds left in the period, Central only held a lead with .4 seconds left after junior Derrick Russell's shot.

"We really had to adjust," Behrens said. "We were a little sluggish on offense."

In the third period, Central was losing as badly as 37-30

with 2:19 left in the period. The Eagles went on a pointless streak for more than four minutes. But with the help of junior Avery Tyler, senior Aaron Dorsey and Grixby, the Eagles pulled themselves back into the game and ended the period tied at 40.

Central held onto a sturdy advantage throughout the fourth period by taking an early 48-40 lead. After an entire period of playing catch-up, Prep senior Zach Potter finally sunk the basket that stole the lead with 42 seconds left, and Prep senior Joe Temme gave the Jays a 61-59 cushion with a successful free throw.

"(Potter) plays hard," Luedtke said. "He makes all patterns and any plays we ask of him."

In the final minute, six timeouts were called. A foul on Prep with 13 seconds remaining left Central with the ball. And with multiple three-point attempts and enough pushing and

showing, Temme was fouled, and Kline had the opportunity for two free throws at the buzzer.

He made the two points which led Central into overtime. He said during the free throws, he was thinking about the team and B.J. Oh yeah, and making the shot. "The four-minute overtime seemed like a completely different game. Kline nailed two three-pointers, Tyler stole six points and Grixby was four for four on his free throws to secure a 79-70 win."

"It just shows that a short four minutes can make a difference," Behrens said. "We could have lost it easily, but guys did a good job, especially in overtime. (Kline) got some three-pointers, and we made some shots."

Luedtke said that he was disappointed about the outcome of the game.

"We had a chance to win and we should have won," Luedtke said.

Female athlete finds evidence that girls sports are forgotten

Game A has a raving crowd, flying banners, loyal fans, raffle-ticket sellers and front-page articles.

Game B has barren stands, a couple rows of parents and an awkward silence.

What's the difference between Game A and Game B? Game A is the boys team.

To clarify: Game A has fans yelling all the time. You can't hear yourself talking—let alone thinking.

Everybody's there because it's the place to be on Friday night. And if you weren't there on Friday night, you missed out.

Game B has an awkward silence. If #12 makes a good play, you hear #12's mom yelling

congratulatory words.

But then it just goes back to the silent echo. The echo of the players' movements and communication. It's so quiet, you can hear the coach thinking. "We need to step up our defense." "Nice play, #12." "Man, this silence is awkward."

For those who still need clarification, let me say it: boys sports get the attention.

And nobody can contradict that.

If someone asked you to name off as many

famous male athletes as you could, it would turn out to be quite a list. However, if you were asked to list famous female athletes, you would probably stop at Mia Hamm.



ILLEGAL SLAPSHOT

A Column by Tess Mandell

Heck, women are still being stereotyped in their professions.

And women still have to go the extra mile in order to be accepted.

Most of you are probably going to simply roll their eyes and say, "Of course: an article on the unpopularity of girls sports, and the writer is a female. Typical."

But realize what you're doing.

You're basically reinforcing everything I've just said: the girl athletes are being ignored here at Central.

Next time you attend a boys varsity basketball game, make some time to arrive at 5:30 to watch the girls play.

Notice that there's room to spare and seats to fill. Observe the silence between plays and

the echoes of the players' shoes on the court. Can you hear the thoughts going through Coach Chad Townsend's head? "Oh gosh, Tess is in the crowd. I hope nobody reads this embarrassing column on the non-existence of my team."

And when you're done surveying the atmosphere at 5:30, compare it to the game at 7 p.m.

Did you notice the difference in attendance? Have you noticed that people only happen to watch just the final few minutes of the game? You know why?

Because people arrive at Norris in time with the boys.