

forcing students to stand

See 'Pledge' page 13.

WEDNESDAY
March 23, 2005

the Central High School REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISM

EIGHT TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

FOUR TIME NHSPA CLASS A1 SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

SPECIAL FREE SPEECH IN-DEPTH

INDUSTRY OF HATE

Certain record labels are targeting high school students by trying to get them to buy a new wave of racist and degrading music. Some say this music stretches the boundaries of the First Amendment too far, while others believe there are no limits to this freedom.



Special Free Speech In-Depth
INSIDE
Pgs. 6-7

BY CLAY LOMNETH

He said lies were spread about World War II, and there was no way six million Jews could have been killed in the time in which it took place. He said this music was used to spread the truth about these lies and to raise racial awareness of whites.

This music has been labeled by some as white-power or white-supremacist music. Others prefer "hate music."

Erich Gliebe is the president of Resistance Records. Gliebe said his music was like the protest music of the 1960s, except it was resisting the government trying to unify the races.

Gliebe's music is not sold in stores such as Wal-Mart, but is sold in some independent music stores and online because most stores don't accept his pro-white message.

"You can be proud to be black, proud to be gay, proud to be Native American, but if you wear a shirt that says 'white pride,' they look at you like a bigot," Gliebe said.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC

Because most stores don't carry his music, Gliebe sometimes goes to high school football games to hand out music samplers because of the relaxed atmosphere.

Principal Jerry Bexten said if a student was found with white-power music, or any other offensive music, he would confiscate it.

He said if a student had any other kind of music and was listening to it, he would only give a warning.

Bexten said he has objections to the offensive language, whether in music lyrics or written on notebooks and clothing.

"The question you need to ask yourself is, 'is this material appropriate to bring to school?'" he said.

Constitutional Law professor at Creighton

University Mike Fenner said students' rights were different from non-student rights in two main ways.

The first way was the schools control the curriculum and what students learn.

This also includes what books are in the library.

The second way was at school-sponsored events. Because they were sponsored by the school, any speech made by the school was assumed to be the views of the school. He said this way, the school could censor and restrict speech.

Fenner said what students have as rights now were based on what judicial decisions in court cases found free speech to be.

CENSORSHIP

Fenner said government censorship of the music depended on the context of the regulations.

He said the government could not censor specific viewpoints.

Fenner said to censor the music, one would have to regulate something else.

For example, to stop the white-power music from playing in schools, the school would have to censor all kinds of music.

Fenner said free speech in schools was different because public schools are a part of the government and the school board, but it would still be a violation of First Amendment rights.

Bexten said if the music was being distributed at a football game, he would not allow it because it was on school property. He said he does

Continued to **Hate** on Page 6

The illustration on the right uses lyrics from some bands on Resistance Records. The owner of the company says the lyrics are more white separatist than white supremacist. An official from the Anti-Defamation League says lyrics like this are still harmful and are also anti-American.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

Alumnus works with refugees to rebuild lives

BY ANDREW REINWALD

When he saw them being loaded onto the trains and sent off to refugee camps by the thousands on television, he knew he had to do something.

Alumnus Rand Engel was struck by the difficult images of all the homeless and starving people. These images were of the refugees of the war in Kosovo.

Now almost six years later, Engel, who graduated from Central in 1966, is doing something to help those whose lives were torn apart by the war and the ethnic hatred that characterized the war.

"I saw that I could do something," he said.

Engel is the head director of a relief work agency known as Balkan Sunflowers (BSF), which was created in response to the huge human rights crisis in Kosovo in 1999. It works throughout Serbia, Macedonia and Albania, working in refugee camps, building schools and strengthening the economy by helping those whose lives were destroyed by the war to get jobs so they could support their families.

From the many environmental campaigns to classes on human rights, BSF focuses on uniting the Balkan's different ethnic groups on peaceful terms.

Engel said there are now five new Boy Scout troops that go on multi-ethnic camp outs. According to BSF, it has also supported a multi-cultural music and dance festival in the city of Prizren.

Engel said BSF also does a lot of work for the youth, many of whom had their family members killed during the war.

According to BSF, there are now four multi-ethnic summer camps in Kosovo and at least eight summer-day camps in Albania. BSF also teaches science, art and computer classes to children.

Engel said it was hard to stay unbiased in an area so rife with ethnic hatred, but through his work he gets the opportunity to collaborate with Serbs, Albanians and Roma.

"It's difficult because you see one group suffer at the hands of the other," Engel said. "I was here in 1999; I've seen it from both sides. It's not just one group or the other."

Engel said he and his fellow volunteers enjoy working with the people of Kosovo, and despite the harsh reality of poverty and ethnic hatred, the volunteers still have a lot of positive experiences.

"It's good work," he said. "I feel good about working with these people."

He said some BSF volunteers have the opportunity to live with a family in Kosovo and by doing that they share many different aspects of their lives together. Engel said living with these people was a good way to teach volunteers about life.

But the work in the Balkans is not as traumatic as some may think.

"We live a lot more normal lives

Continued to **War** on Page 3

Act aims at getting teens to eat better

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior Lisa Napravnik said she disagreed with the idea of eliminating unhealthy snack food.

"I would be against it because I usually go to the vending machines," she said. "I have lunch seventh hour and I usually get really hungry before then."

She said she had many friends who relied on vending machines for their lunches. Napravnik said kids without a lunch period ate food from the vending machines because it was all they had.

"They have to eat during passing periods because they don't have a lunch period," she said.

Legislative Bill 285, also known as the Nutrition in Schools Act, aims to eliminate the selling of all junk food products during school hours. The bill is currently awaiting the vote of the Education Committee.

Sen. Arnie Stuthman of District 22 was one of five senators who introduced the bill.

"In my observation, there is more obesity in schools now and in the future we need to create awareness," he said.

The bill claims overweight students have an increased risk of type two diabetes and are more subject to high blood pressure.

It also states obesity could result in discrimination and a social stigma. Stuthman said the state has to deal with these problems later in students' lives.

"People who are overweight and don't exercise are more susceptible to diabetes and health problems at a younger age," he said.

He said people who are obese later become a burden to the state and insurance companies because of the conditions or problems that later develop due to obesity.

He said he is trying to help the rising obesity rate by providing healthy options in foods such as uncarbonated beverages or foods containing less sugar.

He said an example would be selling granola bars instead of candy.

"We don't want to eliminate vending machines, we are instead looking to offer healthier alternatives," Stuthman said.

Foods disapproved in the bill include items that are high in sugars and saturated fats.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he supported healthy alternatives for students.

"I'm in favor of anything that supports good nutrition," he said.

He said the school does try to provide a variety of foods for students in the vending machines and soda machines, such as products other than candy bars.

"We told the venders to make sure students have choices with purchases," Bexten said.

He said the school provided alternatives to carbonated beverages such as water and juice.

Including both soft drink and vending machines, the school makes several thousand dollars a year, he said.

In regards to solutions to obesity,

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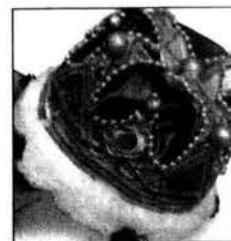
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DECA gets awards for work skills

BY ANDREW REINWALD

Almost half of the 42 students who competed in the State DECA competitions were awarded for their prowess in marketing.

Different competitions included written and oral exams and research projects presented to a panel of judges. Competition material was based on the actual marketing curriculum.

Marketing teacher Harry Gaylor, one of the DECA sponsors, said Central did well this year at the competitions.

"I'd say it was pretty close to our usual number of those who get awards," Gaylor said.

DECA students studied marketing topics from advertising to distribution.

They also run over the four Ps of business: price, placement, promotion and product.

He said they study from a business point of view, rather than from a consumer point of view.

Gaylor said every university and government agency uses marketing to educate people about their ideas, and Marketing is important because almost every occupation out there uses it.

"Marketing is a skill used throughout society," he said. "It's just economy in motion."

Gaylor said many of his students enjoy DECA because it helps to prepare them for their chosen career paths.

He said DECA was something that helped give students a variety of skills to they will eventually need to succeed. More than 75 percent of DECA students go into a business occupation after high school.

He said his students are actually preparing for the DECA competitions while they are taking the marketing class. Some students met outside of class on the weekends to prepare for the three-day-long competition.

Teacher wins 'Who's Who' merit honor

BY MICHAELA BRIARDY

Patricia Brizendine is this year's winner of the Who's Who of American Teachers Award.

The winner of the award is chosen annually from interviews of college honors students. The students are asked what high school teacher had the most influence on them.

College senior Felicia Ellis sent in a letter to nominate Brizendine for the award. Ellis attends Tennessee State University.

Brizendine was a big influence on her during her freshman year in high school.

Brizendine said she is honored to receive the award and did not expect it.

"The best part is knowing there are students out there where I've had a part in their success," she said.

Brizendine has been teaching at Central since 1992 and taught at Boys Town before that.

She said she liked the diversity at Central and was interested in teaching because a lot of people in her family are teachers.

Brizendine said her uncles were involved in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

She said she was inspired by their stories of what it was like to march with Martin Luther King Jr. Brizendine has a minor in black studies to go along with her degree in secondary teaching.

"After learning about the Civil Rights movement, I got hooked (on history)," she said.

Brizendine said the best thing about teaching was knowing she had a positive impact on people.

"She's a good teacher," principal Jerry Bexten said. "She works well with students."

Brizendine said she thinks her biggest strength is her ability to communicate and relate to students.

CALENDAR



PHOTO BY NATASHA FIELDS/REGISTER

Senior Stephanie Simmons cuts open a turtle for Advanced Placement Biology. Though some students said they were a bit hesitant about the thought of dissecting animals, they all eventually did for the grade. "It smelled bad," sophomore Aimee Koenig said.

AP Biology cuts into anatomy unit

BY NATASHA FIELDS

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology students took a glimpse inside the lives of several species, literally.

The students just finished studying the required dissection chapter to further understand the internal systems of organisms that make life possible.

"Seeing the coordination of all the systems is the best," AP Biology teacher Sandy McCreight said. "I like to see the way things work together."

The animals dissected included lamprey, sharks, skates, perch, turtle, neoturus, pigeons and cats.

The class was divided into nine groups and each of the groups received one or two of the animals.

The first task after receiving the animals was to open the bag and wash the animals to remove most of the formaldehyde smell.

Many of the students gasped and turned a light greenish color with the smell alone, and many were extremely squeamish.

"It smelled bad, but I thought it was tolerable,

compared to other people who wanted to throw up," sophomore Aimee Koenig said.

McCreight said because she had been working with dissecting animals for 12 years, the smell no longer bothered her.

The students picked up the animals, most of them gagging, and washed them with antibacterial hand soap. Another person in the group washed out the storage bag and set it aside.

The other group members prepared the dissection tray and laid down paper towels to prevent any possible internal fluid messes. The groups then dried the animals off and took out their cutting utensils.

Each group was given a dissection packet for the animal they received. They follow their packets with extreme precision in fear of making a mistake and pick up the tools needed for cutting.

Senior Steven Gardels said he felt comfortable with the dissection tools because he had past experiences with school dissections.

The groups with the simpler organisms like the

lamprey and the perch had a less difficult time trying to get inside, but the groups with turtles had a tough time getting them open. The students had to use tin snips, a heavy-duty metal cutting tool.

Most students worked with a pair of latex gloves, but McCreight said she didn't need them.

"I just prefer to work without them," McCreight said.

Working with the less complicated animals was the easy part, but when it came to the cat, several students had personal issues.

Sophomore Bailey Jensen said she just couldn't stand to dissect a cat, but she said she had to in order to get a good grade.

The students then had to wash their cats with soap and water.

"It feels like a turkley," junior Tim Battafarano said.

The students then had to cut open the cat to look at the muscles, skeleton and internal organs.

"I learned that we are dangerously close to being salamanders," Gardels said.

Upcoming Events

April

3 SAT Exam

Students are advised to arrive a half hour early to avoid problems with late registration. The exam begins at 8:30 a.m. Come prepared with pencils and a calculator if needed.

4-8 Spring Recess

No school for students or faculty.

6 Latino Leaders Street Clean Up

In an effort to beautify, Omaha Latino Leader club members will be taking time out of their busy schedules and spring breaks to clean up portions of South 24th street. Those interested in helping out should contact Susana Lara or a club member. Members of Latino leaders often do volunteer work in the Latino community, including helping with Cinco De Mayo parades and other such volunteer service.

9 ACT Exam

Students are advised to arrive half an hour early to avoid problems with late registration. The exam begins at 8:30 a.m. Come prepared with pencils and a calculator if needed.

14 Internet Math Competition

Starting at 4 p.m., students in teams of six will log onto computers around the building for an online math competition. There will be 25 questions, and teams can use any resource available in 90 minutes. There will be different questions for all levels of math students. As many teams of six as possible can compete. See Greg Sand for more details.

14 UNL Language Fair

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln will be holding an event for all modern languages. Students must compete in two events, ranging from poster making, folk dance, poetry, drama and music competitions. Students need \$6 for the registration fee and \$5 for the bus. The bus for Lincoln will depart at 7:30 a.m. See Fairouz Bishara, Jeff Sill, Kristin Lawton or Bev Fellman for more information.

23 Chemistry Fair

Students from all across Omaha will compete in six events dealing with chemistry at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Those interested, whether currently in a chemistry class or not, can contact Jesse Busse, Jeff Frederickson or Sandi McCreight. This will be Central's fifth year involved in this competition.

25 Junior Test Date

This is the last day to take the fourth round. Students who have not passed the first three rounds must take the fourth. Students will be taken out of class for the test.

History class visits Boston to learn past

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Social studies teachers Scott Wilson and Vickie Deniston-Reed and science teacher Jean Whitten took a group of 11 AP American History students to Boston, Mass.

He said it helped that Whitten lived in Boston. He planned out the flights, and where they would visit and their hotel and Whitten got them there.

Among some of the places they visited was the site of the Boston Massacre and Fenway Park.

"It was actually the oldest park use," he said.

The students seemed to enjoy the park the best, Wilson said.

He said they also took a walking tour of the city, which included 16 sites. They walked the first half the first day they arrived, and the second half the next day.

"It was literally a red line painted across the town," he said. "Sometime there were red bricks, but most of the time we just walked along this bright red line."

He said this was the first year he ever took a group of AP American History students to Boston and he would like to do it again.

"It depends on the type of students we get next year," he said. "The other two teachers were very enthusiastic."

He said he has also taken students to Washington D.C.

Teen leaders say thank-you to staff, faculty

BY ANDREW REINWALD

Awaiting faculty and staff was a standing ovation and a breakfast buffet. Judy Storm, chairman of the special education department and Student Council sponsor, said Student Council has been hosting a free breakfast for faculty and staff for over 13 years as a part of teacher appreciation week.

"All staff are invited as a show of appreciation," Storm said.

Twenty or so Student Council members stood outside the conference room, where the breakfast was held, applauding every teacher, secretary and staff member who walked in for a quick breakfast.

Among the early morning entrees were bagels, fruit, assorted juices and coffee.

She said the teachers and staff enjoyed the breakfast. They saw it as a thank-you from the students.

Storm said the Student Council members were very enthusiastic about giving something back to those who taught them every day.

Junior Alvin Samuels, who has been helping with the breakfast for the last two years, said he liked to help out and hoped he made it enjoyable for the teachers.

"We're giving them one day, we might as well make it the best," he said.

Samuels, while acting as cheer master for Student Council made sure faculty and staff, knew they were appreciated.

While shouting cheers and clapping his hands, he drove home his point to some embarrassed looking teachers.

The faculty turnout was big so many staff members said they were able to enjoy the day.

Everyone from art teachers to guidance counselors made their way down to the conference room for some free food.

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WILSON



STORM

KOSOVO acts as second home for '66 alumnus

WAR' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

people would think," Engel said. BSF is different from the other relief agencies in that after most of the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) leave to other parts of the world, BSF stays behind years afterward helping to rebuild what was destroyed by the war. Engel said BSF continually adapts to the changes that are needed in such an unstable place.

Engel said BSF changed gradually from a lot of work in the refugee camps to reconstruction and educating the population about the disadvantages of ethnic hatred.

BSF volunteer Judy Haney worked with Engel in Kosovo for over a month. They were both in the refugee camps in 2000.

She said many things about her work in the Balkans stuck with her. Among them were memories of children with no homes, gathered in the refugee camps with what remained of their shattered lives.

"It was sad, many of the children in the hospital had their entire families wiped out," she said.

Haney said a large problem is finding jobs for many of the unemployed civilians. She said some of them worked for the NGOs and when they left, the civilians had nowhere to work. The NGOs will leave a place to go to another hot spot where their help is needed.

BSF volunteer Gezdim Zisoka has been working with Engel for more than a year and has done a lot for BSF's Scouting for Change program.

He also does a lot of work with AIDS awareness and environmental issues in addition to helping with the Boy Scout newsletter.

Zisoka said Engel always finds a way to help when he's busy.

"I think he's a hard worker," Zisoka said. When he has a full agenda he still finds a way to contribute something."

Engel said he enjoys helping those who need him the most, those devastated by the war, emotionally and physically.

He said it hasn't been easy seeing these different people's lives being torn apart. But, he said it was all part of the job, no matter how difficult it was.

The work BSF does starts the groundwork for the lives of thousands of people. Engel said the quality of life of the people of Kosovo has improved dramatically since BSF started its relief work.

Engel said through this work it is able to help out to those who were scarred by the war and simply make their lives better.

BSF has even helped the locals get jobs from the agency, including Zisoka.



ENGEL (1966)



PHOTO BY ANDREW REINWALD/REGISTER

Sophomore Mai Zhang is one of the nominees for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar. Zhang said he is looking forward to entering the field of business, and is participating in the Future Business Leaders of America and Key Club.

Students selected for seminar

BY ANDREW REINWALD

They've proven themselves as responsible young leaders and now they're getting the chance to find out more about their leadership skills.

Sophomore Mai Zhang has been nominated to go to the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) leadership seminar and sophomore Aaron French has been selected to go to the Nebraska Youth Leadership seminar.

Guidance counselor Rick Richards said to be selected, students had to apply with him. Richards said students who go to these seminars are being taught valuable lessons about working with others and meeting goals.

"They're going to come back with better leadership skills," Richards said.

Brian Adams, seminar chairperson for HOBY, said the seminar will give students the opportunity to use their leadership experience and skills with other students.

"Students get the chance to meet other students who also want to make a positive impact in the community," Adams said.

The three-day seminar brings together almost 130 high school sophomores from all over the state. Adams said participants in the seminar gain a better concept of what volunteering is.

"I also think they gain the dedication to do well," he said.

Adams said he's seen students' lives change for the better after participating in the HOBY seminars. He said they are able to finally make their own decisions about what's going on in the world.

"I would say kids are invigorated with

the opportunity to take advantage of their life situation. There's kind of this energy that flows throughout it," Adams said.

Zhang, who has had an interest in business since the eighth grade, said he was surprised he was selected.

He said he thinks he will get a lot out of the seminar, and it will look good on college applications. He is a member of both the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and the Key Club.

In addition, he also helps out with his parents' restaurant.

"I get to help people," Zhang said. "I get to do my part."

Zhang said being a leader appeals to him because he likes to see the people he helps succeed.

"I like it when others depend on me," he said.

Zhang said he also likes the financial aspect of business, and hopes to do well with whatever business he ventures into. When working with FBLA, he does a lot of work with mathematics, law, general business and accounting.

"I like leading," Zhang said. "I like having followers."

Besides his volunteer work, Zhang also keeps a rigorous schedule at school, making sure he tries his best at everything he does.

French will be attending the Nebraska Youth Leadership seminar, which lasts for a week over the summer in rural Nebraska.

He said he didn't know what he would be doing exactly, but he was excited none the less.

French said he had never been to a leadership seminar before and hoped to learn

a lot from it. He said even if he didn't get a lot out of it, the seminar would still give him valuable experience.

"I hope to learn from the different people," French said.

He said being a leader in the community would better prepare him for a career in politics. French said he enjoyed doing leadership work because it gave him the opportunity to help people meet their goals.

"When you work with people with different beliefs and you meet a mutual goal it's really satisfying," French said.

He has done a lot of campaign work for local and even national democratic candidates, such as John Kerry, Nancy Thompson, John Green and Gwen Howard. His work for them includes handing out informational pamphlets, making promotional phone calls and helping out at the Douglas County Democratic Office. Recently he helped organize Omaha Global Day of action with Nebraskans for Peace. It was an event in protest to the second anniversary to the Iraq war.

"I was disappointed that more people didn't show up, but the speakers were great," he said. "I am definitely making a difference."

He said he enjoys helping the election process, and he would like to pursue a career in it.

French said he hopes to eventually work with several local organizations such as Nebraskans for Peace, and then go into local and even national politics.

"I would like to be a lobbyist, or even a congressman," he said.

Molly Muller contributed to this story

City Council election gets teens involved

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Members of Student Democrat Club have been calling around Omaha to help raise awareness for the upcoming City Council vote.

Sponsor Donna Noll said the number of calls a student makes depends on how many people are home. The more people who are at home, the less calls the student usually makes.

She said the students were calling people to ask if they wanted signs to support different candidates in their yards.

Noll said the students did not call for any one certain candidate and changed who they were calling for every time.

Freshman Elizabeth Rockwell called for candidate Tim Lonergan her first day. She said it was a good experience for her.

"It was good to campaign for what I wanted," Rockwell said.

Though she got paid \$7 per hour for calling, Rockwell said she would have done it for free. Her favorite part was hearing what other people have to say about the candidates.

"It's just fun to hear what other people think besides me," she said.

Rockwell said she thought it was good for students to get involved in politics because they needed to be ready for when they were old enough to vote.

"We can make a tremendous difference in the world," she said.

Freshman Anne Newman has had experience with campaigning and calling before, when she had called for Nancy Thompson in late October, and held signs for different candidates on Dodge Street.

Newman said there was a difference in the people she called for each campaign.

She said when calling for Thompson, people were less accepting. She said the people now were very nice and open.

Newman said she would continue calling people, though she would probably not help with any campaigning for the City Council race, other than calling.

She said it was important for students to get involved in politics because they need to be educated prior to turning 18.

"They should learn their politics before they vote," she said. Newman said she just got interested in politics this year.

Her motivation was the feeling she would get if her candidate wins. Rockwell said she got involved in politics in the middle of eighth grade. She said the war started her interest, and she realized how powerful leaders were and wanted to know more about what they could do.

"When I was little, I didn't think we'd get in a war in my lifetime," she said.



NEWMAN

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The president visited Omaha to acknowledge the effect Social Security will have on young people. He said if something is not done, the system will be broke by 2042. From protesters to politicians to students, everyone had an opinion.

Students take opportunity to see president

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Senior Michael Smith had the chance to shake hands with the most powerful man in the country.

President George W. Bush was not his choice for president, but he chose to support him when he was reelected.

"I'm a Democrat at heart, I would have never voted for President Bush," Smith said. "Once the majority of the people choose a leader, we have to stand behind him."

Smith said Social Security affects high school students because it's taken out of their paychecks, and some students' guardians rely on the Social Security check coming every month.

He said he did not agree with how Bush was trying to fix Social Security, but agreed it was a problem. He said it was a good thing Bush was at least recognizing the Social Security money could be gone by 2018.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad has never seen a president in person before, and when he received his tickets the day before Bush was to appear at the Qwest Center, he wondered whom to take.

Semrad chose senior Alison Hess to join him. He said he knew her for four years because she was an office aide, in softball and he knew her parents.

Hess said although she didn't agree with what Bush had to say, she thought it was a good experience and she did enjoy it.

Hess said nobody in her family had ever seen a president before.

Semrad said it was a great learning experience for Hess. He said he enjoyed seeing the president, and it seemed like a very relaxed atmosphere. He said he liked how the president did not speak at a podium, but instead walked around the stage.

Semrad said he doesn't remember any other president addressing Social Security.

He said he didn't necessarily agree with what Bush's plan for Social Security was, but thought it was a good idea the issue was brought up.

Semrad said he thought whether or not Bush's plan is used, Congress and the rest of America will not forget Social Security.

"To me it was enough to recognize Social Security will be in trouble if it stays the way it is," he said. "Taking a look at it probably isn't a bad thing."

Semrad said it was unfair that someone could keep putting money into their Social Security account, and then their family would not get any of that money if they died.

Hess said she liked Bush's speaking skills, but she didn't agree with Bush's ideas for Social Security.

She said it was important to high school students. "I think it (Social Security) is definitely a problem that needs to be fixed, but the way he's doing it is not going to (fix it)," she said.

Smith said he saw a lot of protesters from Central, and they did not do much.

Semrad said the protesters had little effect on Bush. "Wherever a president goes, there's bound to be protesters," Semrad said.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST AND CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

President George W. Bush (left) describes the problem with Social Security showing how the government will pay younger generations less after retirement if something is not done to change the system. Congressman Tom Osborne (top left), Congressman Lee Terry and Sen. Chuck Hagel attended the event.

Social Security may leave teens broke

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"By 2042, it will be flat bust," President George W. Bush said.

That means if something isn't done by 2018, young people will not get Social Security when they turn 60, even though many students have that money taken from their monthly paychecks.

Bush visited Omaha to speak about the effect Social Security will have on the young people in the country.

He said in 2042, the government would only be able to pay 70 percent of what it should pay and what people need.

"That's like saying if your income only pays 70 percent," he said, "people will say they're bankrupt," he said.

He said he could have put this off for four years and let another president worry about it, but it would cause problems for younger generations if something was not done soon.

Bush proposed privatizing Social Security so it would go into accounts for each individual. He said if they took money and invested it, the money would grow to be a lot more than what people are receiving now.

"If you invest in stocks and bonds, you get four percent," he said. "Your own money will grow faster and there will be more money when you retire."

He said one good thing about the stock market was it always paid off.

Advanced Placement American Government teacher Charles Hinkle said in a few years, the current system will be in trouble.

"Both political parties have said the system is in a crisis," he said. "The Democrats said it before Bush took office."

Hinkle said former president Clinton also had a commission to look at the issue.

"You can talk all day, but unless you take action it doesn't get fixed," he said. "I applaud Bush for taking this on."

He said much of the young population seemed to be for privatizing Social Security so they could have their own account. He said a politically safe move for Bush was to stress the fact that people 55 and older would continue to receive benefits from the system as it stands.

"It is the people 30 to 55 where the debate is happening," he said.

Hinkle said it was the only proposal that did not involve raising taxes or raising the age at which people could receive it.

Bush stressed if students privatized Social Security accounts, it wouldn't be in a government account like it has been for the past 50 years.

"It would be yours. It would be part of your legacy to your family," he said.

He said one reason why Social Security was in so much trouble was because when it was created there were around six workers for every elderly person using Social Security.

"People are living longer and baby boomers are starting to retire," Bush said.

He also said with addition benefits to Social Security there is more money that goes to each individual than there used to be.

"When it started the average life expectancy was 60," he said. "Now it is 77."

Bush said people in their 40s had nothing to worry about because Social Security would stay the same for them when they turned 60.

He said he was worried about the younger generations. He said his new plan still needed work and if there were other plans to secure Social Security, he would listen.

When interrupted by a protestor in the crowd, Bush said he liked living in a country in support of free speech.

"I am willing to work with anybody. Republican, Democrat or Independent," he said.

He said if nothing is done about Social Security, payroll taxes would go up 50 percent.

His plan would cost around \$3 trillion to

put into effect.

Professor of Social Sciences at Metro Community College Rose Davis said she supported privatization of Social Security.

She said she had to help her sister because of her mother's health problems.

"If my mother's Social Security was available to my sister, it would alleviate many of the problems we face," Davis said.

Bush said with his new plan when a person died the money from their privatized account could go to their family.

He said young people have to start getting involved and asking questions about Social Security because it is going to change.

"I don't remember asking questions at that age," Bush said. "We had no doubt in our mind Social Security would protect us."

Sophomore Sopal Bhattarai said although he thought Social Security needed help, he didn't think privatizing it was a good option. He said all the extra benefits included in Social Security would make it difficult for the government to pay off, especially after the baby boomer generation retired.

"Some of this generation already gets Social Security taken out of its paycheck," Bhattarai said. "It's like the government is saying 'you can pay for us now, but later you won't get anything.'"

Protesters voice concern about president's proposal, visit to Qwest Center

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Recently, President George W. Bush has been endorsing a plan to privatize Social Security, which would eliminate government control of the program and instead promote investment in private companies.

Reactions to the president's views are varied, but one student has particular interest in the outcome.

Junior Allison Hartnett's father fell off the roof of a three-story building in 1973. The 65-foot drop resulted in a traumatic brain injury and severe memory loss.

After the fall, Ron Hartnett said many doctors told him he would be paralyzed for the rest of his life. He couldn't remember how to read or write and was unable to recall the names of his own children.

Allison's father still has memory problems and trouble multitasking, and often has difficulty using the right side of his body.

Ron has been applying for Social Security since July 2004, after losing his last job as an electrician. He has not once received a check from the government for his disability.

Because of Bush's proposed change, they are concerned the money they are trying to get may not be available in the near future.

Kathy Ferrera, a representative from the Social Security Administration, said Hartnett's father may have been denied due to improper documentation or because of the possibility that his disability was not one covered by the program at all.

In regards to Bush's plan for Social Security, Ferrera was indecisive.

"As far as we see it, it's still a proposal," she said. Allison said as her family feels closer and closer to success in receiving disability benefits, the thought of Bush getting rid of the government program gets more frightening.

"I just want it to be over so bad," Allison said. Ron opposed the idea of privatizing Social Security, saying the other option, investment in the stock market, is not as secure.

He has two master's degrees: one in language, literature and communication, and the other in secondary administration. Ron also has a bachelor's degree in English



PHOTO BY MAGGIE SWEANY/REGISTER

Junior Allison Hartnett stands outside the Qwest Center as President George W. Bush speaks to supporters about Social Security. Hartnett's father was injured and is considered disabled, but has been denied Social Security.

and journalism. He earned all of these degrees after the incident.

Despite his educational success, Ron has been fired from numerous jobs, including one as a teacher for Omaha Public Schools.

Deemed unable to work in a field that put his degrees to use, Allison's father decided to try manual labor. An ironworker before the accident, he attempted jobs as an electrician and a carpenter, but was disappointed that he had to do that type of work after studying in college for so many years.

"It was the only thing I could do," Ron said. He lost both jobs.

Finally, he decided to apply for Social Security. The first application was declined, but Hartnett's father said he remained confident.

"They always deny everybody the first time," he said.

Allison said she was confused by her father's denial, but not surprised. She said it was depressing to not have a positive result after such a long process.

"I felt like 'if my dad can't get Social Security, than who can?'" she said.

Allison and her dad recently attended a protest against Bush, held on the day of the president's visit to Omaha.

She said she heard about the demonstration through her dad, who encouraged her to attend.

Allison's brothers, Dylan and Brendan, also participated in the protest.

"I want them to vote and be aware of what's going on in the world," Ron said.

At the rally, a number of demonstrators, with estimates ranging from 300-600, gathered at Tenth and Capital Streets near the Qwest Center where Bush was to make his speech.

The protesters arrived bearing signs, chanting anti-Bush

slogans and making speeches denouncing the president's policies. The crowd stood there for hours, eventually migrating to the front doors of the center.

Several verbal fights broke out when the protesters and Bush supporters met outside. In many cases Secret Service agents were needed to break up the disturbances.

"It was really crazy," Allison said.

She compared the scene of the protest to a movie, noting the presence of not only Omaha police, but also federal agents, helicopters and lookouts stationed atop certain buildings in downtown Omaha.

Despite the early time on a school day, the crowd was largely composed of teens. Many Central and Creighton Prep students gathered in the front to yell at passersby.

Peg Gallagher, a 1936 alumna, said she was delighted to see so many young people taking the interest and time to express their concerns.

She said when she was a teenager, she was expected to go with what the government did, whether it was right or wrong.

Gallagher had a change of heart during the Vietnam War, when her oldest son was fighting. Her youngest son was speaking out against the war and convinced Gallagher to do the same.

"I love my country the way I love my family, and if my family is doing something inappropriate, I object," she said. "We demonstrators are the real patriots."

Some people felt that the protesters' reaction to the president's visit came across as impolite.

Senior Ehrich Weis, a member of the Teenage Republicans, said he believed everyone was entitled to their own opinion, but wasn't a strong supporter of the protest.

"It was a little bit disrespectful," he said.

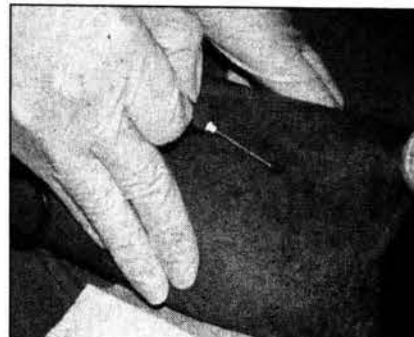
David Bywater, Republican field representative and the campaign manager for Omaha City Councilman Franklin Thompson, was one of the estimated 10,000 people who attended the president's visit.

Bywater said the protesters had the right to do what they did, but he did feel their actions were somewhat rude.

He added that he received a call from the demonstrators asking him to participate in the protest.

Health professions class holds annual blood drive

BY ZACH PLUHACEK



PHOTOS BY MOLLY MULLEN AND ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

Top: Junior Teresa Stubbs has blood drawn. Bottom (from left): Each student gave a pint of blood. This is an example of a typical bag where the blood was stored. Iodine was spread over the area before the needle was inserted in senior Sedale Banks's arm, and students squeezed a ball while their blood was being drawn.

The health professions classes recently held their sixth blood drive with the American Red Cross, after months of planning.

The blood drive ran for one day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In that time, a total of 52 students participated.

Seniors Sedale Banks and Will Denton both gave a pint of blood during the drive.

The two got in line at around noon and did not finish the donating process for a few hours.

"I gave blood because I felt bad for all the tsunami victims," Denton said.

The blood drawing took place on a Red Cross bus in the Joslyn parking lot, rather than taking up a classroom in the school.

"In the past we have tried using the gym," Health Profession's teacher Jeanee Weiss said. "But that displaces the gym classes and they have nowhere to go."

She and her students took several months organizing the drive. Many of the health professions students also volunteered during the event, earning community service hours while helping out their grades in the class.

After entering the bus, Denton and Banks were taken to a private room to answer questions and fill out papers.

They were tested for temperature, blood pressure, pulse and red blood cell count, all to ensure they could donate safely. All students who donated were also checked for iron deficiency, tattoos and drug use.

Prior to drawing blood, the Red Cross phlebotomists covered a small section of their arms with iodine (Left).

The two agreed donating was relatively painless, and they said they could barely tell it happened in the end. Denton even talked on his cell phone during the process.

"The first prick hurt, and then I could feel the artery in my arm," Banks said.

After the blood was drawn, the two were asked to stay on the bus for an additional 15 minutes, a required precaution for donors.

They were offered donuts, candy and drinks as they waited.

Amber Edwards, the representative from the Red Cross who arranged the drive with Weiss, said the blood drive was a successful one, ending up with 31 productive units of blood, enough to potentially save 93 lives.

"I feel pretty good that I helped contribute to that," Denton said.

Edwards also said Weiss did an excellent job scheduling the drive, having over 70 students signed up to donate and plenty of volunteers to help out.

Before the drive, Edwards gave a presentation for the health professions students. She said it went very well and the students asked good questions.

Junior Ben Bilyeu is a student in Weiss's class. He said he enjoyed Edwards' speech, which mainly included information on the donating process and the after-effects of giving blood.

Bilyeu also helped with the drive, working the canteen by handing out food and drinks.

"It was kind of fun watching people's faces when they got the needles put in them," he said.

Other volunteer opportunities included assisting with registration, writing passes for donors and escorting students to class if they had difficulty walking.

Bilyeu received three volunteer hours for working the drive. Health professions students are required to have 10 for their class.

Aside from working on the drive, Bilyeu also donated blood.

He said it hurt when they put the needle in, but otherwise it was virtually painless.

"When you give blood, you can save three lives," he said. "So I guess I felt pretty good about that."

Legislature proposes eliminating unhealthy snack foods

'FOOD' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Stuthman said he wasn't sure how it would be affected.

"I hope this will help, but only time will tell," he said.

Junior Natalie Goergen said she thought the bill would help students who were overweight.

"I think a lot of girls complain about their weight and then eat chips or something during class," she said. "It kind of defeats the purpose."

She said despite people's desire to be thinner, many still wouldn't agree with eliminating junk food.

Goergen said despite harmful effects on students, they should still be able to make their own choices because the money belonged to them anyway.

Sophomore Sasha Zdan also said students should be able to make their own decisions.

"Students should have a choice because what they want to eat is their decision and how it affects them is their choice," she said.

Zdan said the biggest problem the school would face by eliminating junk food would be issues with all the money they would lose fund-raising.

She said many clubs and activities get money from the

food they sell, especially the candy.

"If they couldn't sell as much candy, they might not be able to do as many activities and stuff for the club," Zdan said.

Senior Tiffany Powell said providing healthier food products was a good choice for the schools to make.

Powell said she doesn't think junk food should be sold, and instead the school should include options like cereal or fruit snacks. She said she thought banning junk food would be a good idea because it would make people healthier.

"Part of the reason the majority of the school is overweight is because of the food they eat," she said.

She said students who can control themselves should have the option of making their own choices, but there are other people who struggle with the decision of when to stop eating who need help losing weight.

"If you know when to stop then yes," she said. "But if you can't control yourself then no."

Director of Nutrition Services at Omaha Public Schools Tammy Yarmon said healthy foods are often more costly than less nutritious ones.

"Regularly 100 percent juices cost more than non-

healthy products," she said. "They charge more because the ingredients in these drinks have more sugar and water and very little juice."

She said there are alternatives to fund-raising candy.

"Other things have occurred across the United States and may occur here," she said.

Stuthman said students will still be able to fund raise, but will sell healthier products instead of candy.

"We're hoping fund-raisers will be continued, but that students will utilize healthy things instead like granola bars," he said.

He said physical education classes could also help to address the obesity issue.

"They're very effective," he said. "If students exercised more, we wouldn't have to do as much to change food."

If passed, he said he does not expect the law to have an immediate effect. He does expect it to help educate students.

"It's not going to have a great effect now, but it will create awareness in schools and students' parents," he said.

Yarmon said though the bill could have some positive results, it does not allow students to make their own decisions about their diets.

Computers in every classroom will allow for grade, attendance updates

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Next year there will hopefully be two computers in every classroom and Central will be more technologically advanced, principal Jerry Bexten said.

He said because of a grant from the CHS Foundation along with a donation from Susie Buffett, there will be new computers in labs and old ones will be put in classrooms.

He said a few things would change around the school due to the advance. There would be period-by-period attendance, which meant on report cards there would be individual tardy and absence in every class instead of just overall.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said this would help cut down on skipping.

"This should help greatly in truancy," Semrad said. "Now they (students) can be held more accountable."

Bexten said there would be daily circulars announcements online instead

of printed copies every morning. He said it would provide a library in the classroom and students could use the computers for class work.

Semrad said the programs teachers would use are Class XP and Integrate-Pro.

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) technician Mick Weiland said Class XP is a way for teachers to take attendance every period. The information would go directly to SASI and would show up on the students' report cards.

"It can be used for both taking attendance and for grades," Weiland said.

Math teacher Paul Nielson said Class XP was an alternative to Integrate-Pro, but Central will be using both.

He said he worked with the program in other OPS districts and is glad it is coming to Central.

"It is a much better way to keep track of a student," Nielson said.

He and other math teachers who are familiar with the program will help get it set

up and help the rest of the school.

"It is used almost everywhere else in the OPS district," Nielson said. "It is very convenient."

Another benefit to the computer programs, he said, would be a web site for parents to look at their child's weekly grades.

Junior Chaeli McDonald said she was glad computers were going to be installed.

"Then we can look stuff up online right in the classroom," McDonald said.

She liked typing themes on the computer and being able to use the Internet to research themes and projects.

She said using a computer to check and see who was skipping was a good idea because students skip all the time.

"I could never do that, why should they?" she said.

She said she hoped parents seeing the exact tardies on each report card would help show why the student was getting that grade in the class.

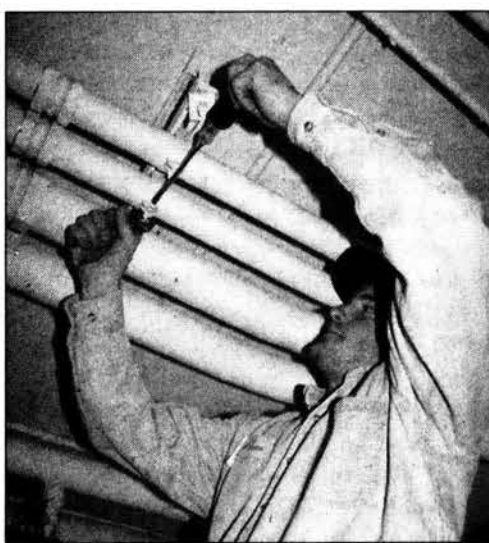


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER
Eric Burghardt unscrews a bolt for a basement pipe. Corey Anderson, who was working with him, said they are running a two-inch pipe up to the fourth floor, most likely for Internet services and communications.

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Admission: 67% of applicants admitted
Type: Private four year business and technical college
Undergraduate Enrollment: 4,028
Popular Majors: Business
Application Deadlines: None

Evergreen State University

Where: Olympia, Washington
Admission: 85% of applicants admitted
Type: Public four year liberal arts college
Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,606
Popular Majors: N/A
Application Deadlines: December 1

Howard Payne University

Where: Brownwood, Texas
Admission: N/A
Type: Private four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,496
Popular Majors: Business/Biology
Application Deadlines: None

Transylvania University

Where: Lexington, Kentucky
Admission: 89% of applicants admitted
Type: Private four year liberal arts college
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,069
Popular Majors: Business/Marketing, Biology, Social Sciences and History
Application Deadlines: February 1

Drexel University

Where: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Admission: 69% of applicants admitted
Type: Private five year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 8,767
Popular Majors: Engineering/Engineering Tech.
Application Deadlines: May 1

University of Northern Iowa

Where: Cedar Falls, Iowa
Admission: 82% of applicants admitted
Type: Public four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 12,100
Popular Majors: Business/Marketing, Education, Social Sciences and History
Application Deadlines: August 15

St. Mary's University of Minnesota

Where: Winona, Minnesota
Admission: 93% of applicants admitted
Type: Private four year university affiliated with Roman Catholic Church
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,716
Popular Majors: Business/Marketing and Protective Services/Public Administration
Application Deadlines: Priority date April 1

San Francisco State University

Where: San Francisco, California
Admission: 65% of applicants admitted
Type: Public four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 21,135
Popular Majors: Business/Marketing, Visual/Performing Arts, Liberal Arts
Application Deadlines: August 1

WHERE DO YOU

Free speech is different in schools than in public. There have been many cases where the question of what is allowed is still raised. From bo

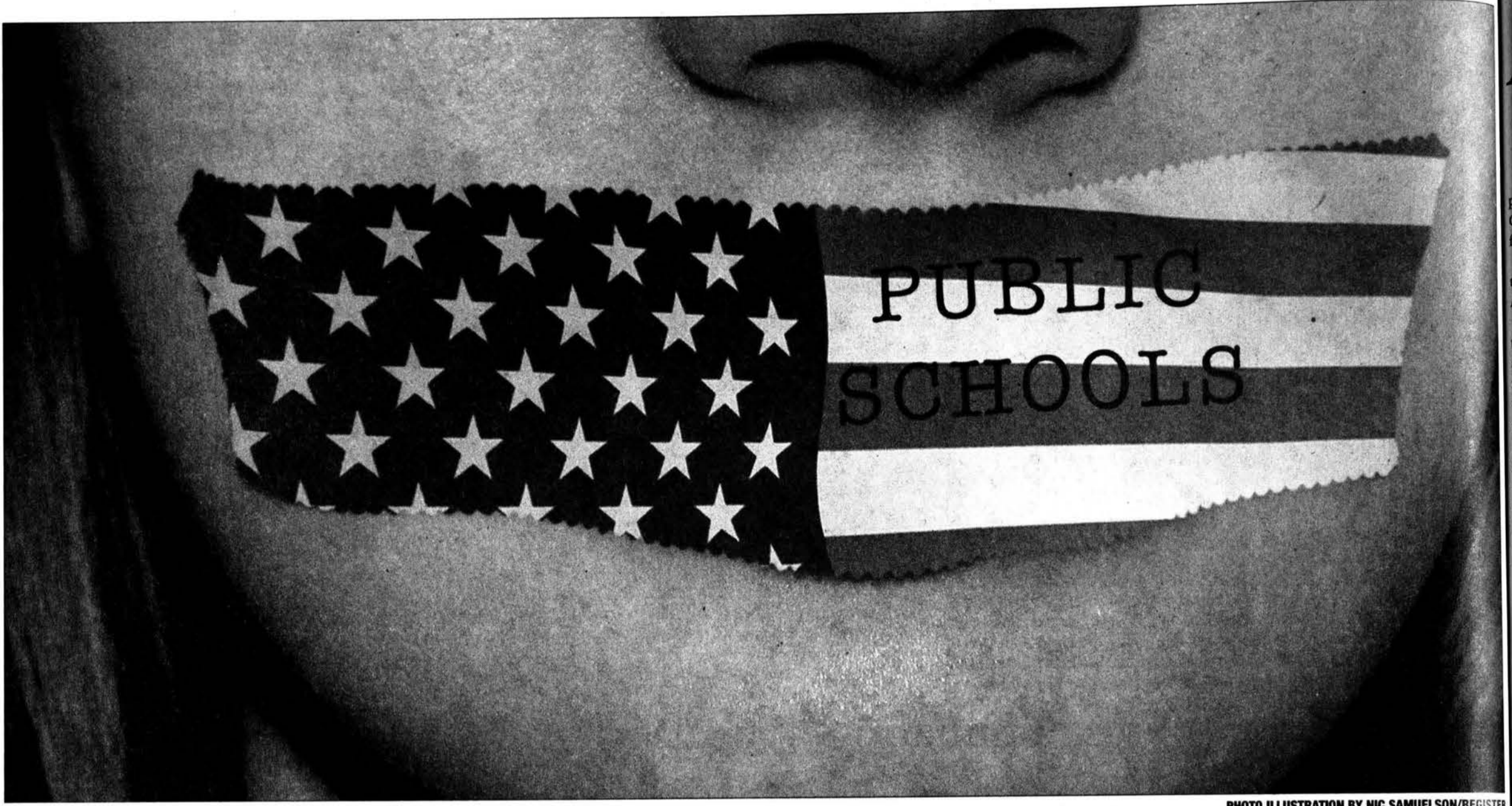


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

The illustration shows how in some cases, the government can restrict speech in public schools. According to an official from the American Civil Liberties Union, what is considered freedom of speech in schools is much different and more controlled than freedom of speech outside of schools.

Censorship in schools different from public life

'HATE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

not allow any material of any kind to be distributed on school grounds.

The Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in Nebraska Tim Butz said no kind of music could be censored from being released, regardless of its political content, because of the First Amendment.

"The government is powerless to prevent racist music," he said.

Butz said it was up to the people to stop any kind of music if they wanted to by using their free speech rights to protest and boycott it.

Butz said in schools, freedoms are somewhat restricted. He said the administration usually makes rules to restrict students from causing disruptions. He said the difference between freedom of speech in schools and in the public leaves students in a bind because they often do not know what they can do.

CROSSING THE LINE

Senior Carl Knabe said he heard white-power music when he was home in Sweden. He said he disliked it and has not heard any while in the United States.

"It was certainly nothing I would support," he said.

Knabe said he thinks the pro-white music was an abuse of First Amendment rights and it was only meant to provoke and upset people, and was not right.

"For me, the freedom of speech is used to express yourself, but there are still boundaries," he said. "You can't go and put down a race."

Butz said threats against racial groups were not specific enough threats, but a threat against one person in speech was not allowed.

"Songs that call for race warfare, as distasteful as they are, aren't specific threats," Butz said.

He said the music could only be censored if played on a radio station, and the content was deemed inappropriate by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Butz said in a case like that, the FCC could fine the station, but not the artist.

Butz said there was more censorship today than in the past, and he does not agree with how the FCC is censoring today.

"The First Amendment guarantees that every idea is debatable," Butz said.

He said by ideas being discussed and debated, society can improve. Butz said censoring the music was not the right thing to do because eventually more and more rights would be taken away. Also, he said, the people who listen to the music will find a way to buy it.

Freshman Stephanie Hines said she thought the music was not a violation of free speech because everybody has an opinion, but it should be censored if it talks about harming others.

"I don't like it at all, but I can't do anything about it," Hines said.

She said racism affected her life especially when she was younger, because people would pre-judge her parents, who are of different races. She said over the years, people have judged her family less.

Gliebe said the music was raising racial awareness with a message that whites are being mistreated. He said he thought laws like Affirmative Action were racist because they discriminate against whites.

"Today in 2005 whites are discriminated against more than non-whites," he said.

Gliebe said his company got around \$1 million in revenue yearly. He said there were thousands of supporters for his music, but there was a possibility of millions.

"There are a lot of angry white youth in America," Gliebe said. "We want to give them rationale for the anger."

Regional Director of the Plain States Region of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Bob Wolfson said all the music that Resistance Records was distributing was just trying to mainstream violence. He said it encourages violence through the lyrics in the songs.

Wolfson said along with music, the same people also use flyers and billboards to promote their ideas.

He said his concern was the white supremacists and separatists have realized they could use music to spread their ideas. He said the way to prevent the message, if one chose to, was to also use their freedom of speech, just as the supremacists and separatists were doing. He said they could not be censored, and neither could people who opposed the music.

Wolfson said the only way he could prevent the music was to educate people about the music and what they could do to help stop it.

"We aren't foolish enough to think that everything is going to be solved by (giving out) information," Wolfson said. "There are going to be people who will distribute these (racist albums)."

PARENTAL ADVISORY

Gliebe said parental advisory labels were not required on the music his label puts out because most stores don't sell them. He said he thought his music didn't talk about violence, but only talked about white pride. Gliebe said there were disclaimers on some of the CDs.

Manager of the Homer's Music on Saddle Creek Marq Manner said he does not carry white-power music and would never sell it.

"It's about the one thing we wouldn't carry," he said.

He said when selling CDs with parental advisory labels on them, he and his staff usually make judgement calls regarding the customer's age. He said they are usually flexible regarding the sale of parental advisory albums.

"It just hasn't been an issue in recent years," Manner said.

City Prosecutor Marty Conboy said federal law required the parental advisory labels, and at times vendors can be fined by the city for selling the music to minors.

He said the cases usually involved parents complaining.

WHITE-POWER BAND

Joe, who would not give his last name, is in what he called a "pro-white" band called Last Battalion. He said he liked being in the band, and it was a different way to show people how he felt.

"You get to express yourself in a way that you normally wouldn't in everyday conversation," he said.

Joe said he didn't always see the world in an issue of race. He said he just thought everybody could go about his or her own business, and it didn't matter what race one was, until one day when he read one of Resistance Records magazines.

Joe said there was a void in white people's lives when they didn't see the fact that everything was about race. He said after reading more magazines, the void in his life was filled.

"White people are brought up to think that way (race doesn't matter)," Joe said. "Blacks see themselves as black. Asians see themselves as Asian. Most white people see themselves as some creature roaming Earth."

Joe said he was not a white supremacist because he didn't think he was any better than any other race.

"I don't look like your stereotypical racist, I guess I treat everybody equally," Joe said. "I just acknowledge that I'm white."

Joe said although Last Battalion has not had any live shows, other bands of Resistance Records do, and are often shut down by the government.

THE BLACK PANTHERS

Dorion Hilliard is the co-founder of Black Panther Records and Productions. He said although he certainly did not agree with the white supremacy idea, he knew people had the right to express it.

"Everyone in America has the right to convey their messages," he said.

Hilliard said the freedom of speech is what makes democracy great; that anyone can oppose what is being said.

"There is an alternative to whatever is being put out," Hilliard said.

He said the message his label was trying to promote did not have a "vehicle" to get into the mainstream because corporate America preferred what was in the multi-million dollar mainstream now. If white-power music was in the mainstream, he would blame those who control it. He said the music on his label balances the degrading messages.

"If white supremacy is embraced through corporate America...there has to be balance brought," he said.

To get his message out, Hilliard said he was trying to appeal more to the high school and college students with concerts near campuses.

Hilliard said along with his record label and movie production company, he is starting a clothing line with a responsible message.

Speech and the Supreme Court

Free speech has been an issue in schools before. The following are some of the biggest and most controversial cases dealing with the First Amendment in the nation's highest court.



INFORMATION COURTESY OF PROF. MIKE FENNER, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL



1923

Meyer v. Nebraska
A statute against teaching foreign languages in schools was reversed after a teacher was caught teaching German to students.



1943

West Virginia Board of Education v. Burnette
A statute forcing students to stand for the 'Pledge' was questioned when students refused to for religious reasons. The statute was found unconstitutional.

1969

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District
Students went to school wearing black armbands to protest the Vietnam War. The principal suspended them, and they challenged it. The court found the students had the right to wear armbands because they were not disruptive.



DRAW THE LINE?

many court cases that define free speech in schools, and yet sometimes books to music, students have some First Amendment rights.

ACLU director works for students' rights

BY CLAY LOMNETH

After the government refused a permit to protestors disputing the Vietnam War, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorneys fought for their rights.

This was the first experience with the ACLU that Tim Butz, the current Executive Director of ACLU in Nebraska, had.

Although the government did not grant the permit, the protestors stayed. Butz said the attorneys stayed around the protestors constantly, ready to defend them in case of arrests, and this is what impressed him. Not long after, Butz became a member of the ACLU.

In Dec. 1999, the Executive Director position opened, and Butz applied. After a screening committee viewed his application, he was hired in Feb. 2000. Beforehand, Butz did not work for the ACLU, and was only a member.

This meant a lot to him, he said, because he thought it was what he was meant to do.

Butz said he thought part of the reason for him joining the ACLU was his family and his background. His father was a union organizer who placed high value on free speech and the right to protest.

His oldest daughter is a member of the ACLU, and his youngest daughter has been involved in ACLU activities. They both are Central alumnae.

It was important for students to learn their rights, Butz said, and learn to use them. Because rights in schools were so different from public, he said it often puts students in a bind, and they are not sure what they can do.

"Students don't have the same rights as adults, unfortunately," Butz said.

A right that needed to be put to use, he said, was the right to vote. He said there was no use in allowing 18 year olds to vote if they did not

exercise this right.

"Rights have no value unless you put them into operation," he said.

After getting his job, Butz had to deal with a free speech case involving students at a public school. He said the ACLU often deals with schools and free speech, sending letters to and contacting school officials about it.

"We're not afraid to jump into free speech controversy," he said.

Butz said about once a month he is contacting schools about free speech, and most cases are quietly settled outside of courts.

Though he could not identify the school or the school district, Butz said he is currently taking part in a case involving a student who was expelled for bringing musical lyrics that he recorded off campus to school. Though it was too late to stop the expulsion, the ACLU is trying to expunge the punishment from his permanent record.

Some examples of free speech issues in schools, he said, were issues when teachers made students stand for the "Pledge of Allegiance" or spoke about religion in classes.

"We get involved with controversies with not only student conduct but teacher conduct," he said.

Butz said students can get involved with the ACLU also. For a \$5 student fee, students receive a newsletter, and from there, he said, they can decide whether or not to join in activities in the area.

Sophomore Rebecka Herman said she liked the idea of what the ACLU did, and especially liked how it was an organization, as opposed to one person deciding everything.

Herman said she wished there was an organization of students like the ACLU at school, that would defend other students and their



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER
Executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Tim Butz said he is involved with free speech cases in schools about once every month. "We get involved with controversies with not only student conduct but teacher conduct," he said.

rights.

Junior Crystal Runions said without the ACLU, the government would take away rights from the people.

She said she thought the ACLU could help students when dealing with the "Pledge of Allegiance," and it could help protect students if they were forced to stand.

Junior Natalie Goergen said she thought the ACLU often got too involved with cases.

She said the government and ACLU both should not get involved with the public's issues, and they should be left up for the people and local courts to decide.

For example, Goergen said, the ACLU should not get involved with students and the "Pledge." She said it should be the people deciding what to do, not others.

"If you don't want to say the 'Pledge,' they shouldn't get involved in that," Goergen said. Butz said he did not think the ACLU interfered too much.

"We think sometimes the government goes too far," Butz said. "We are to respond to the degree necessary to regiment the Bill of Rights."

Soon, Butz said, he and the ACLU will be campaigning in Omaha, protesting the expansion of the United States Patriot Act.

Book selections in library filtered by committee

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

*Name changed to protect identity

Junior Mike Doe* got caught with pornography in elementary school. He said he knew it was wrong, but looked at it anyway.

Now, Doe said he believes censoring things from people his age is unnecessary. He said he thinks students can handle seeing objectionable images or words on paper because most of them have seen or used those same things in real life.

"In high school everybody's pretty mature," Doe said. According to the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Student Code of Conduct, students are prohibited from possessing pornographic or obscene books, magazines, pictures or material of any kind.

Nowhere in the Student Code of Conduct or in the entirety of the Central High Student Handbook does it state what exactly the school or the district considers pornographic or obscene reading material.

Doe said he thought as long as the materials being looked at are not drawing attention from others or being forced on those people in any way, it is the right of a teenager to have them. He said he feels it's unnecessary to bring those things to school.

"People could save that for when they're at home," he said.

Administrator Dionne Kirksey said the system for determining whether or not something is appropriate for school is largely based on evaluation by both teachers and disciplinary officials.

"I would look at it and ask the student what it was for," Kirksey said.

Junior Emily Boston said certain books may not belong in a classroom setting or a school library, but believes the decision should be left to the discretion of the students.

"I think kids in high school are mature enough to be censoring what they read themselves," she said.

Boston said most students are able to determine what should or should not be brought to school. She said the choice should be largely based on the worthwhile content of the reading material itself.

"There's a difference between an actual book and a book that you would find on the shelf of a drugstore," she said.

If an administrator thought a student's reading material was

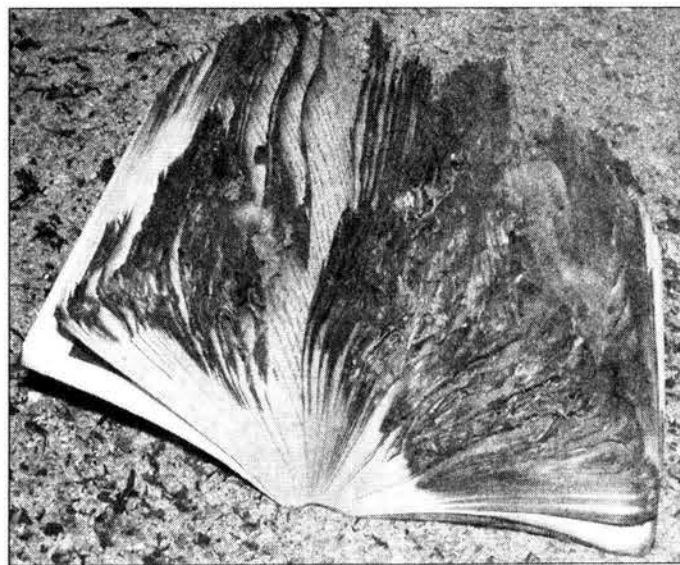


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER
This illustration represents the extremes some people go to when censoring books, they burn them.

inappropriate, the student could face different penalties.

The Code of Conduct states students can face short-term suspension (for a first offense), long-term suspension (for a second offense) or even expulsion (for a third offense).

"I hope that (a student getting caught) never happens because then you would have to describe it to the parents," Kirksey said.

Steven Nelson, the director of Student and Community Services with OPS, said students should use common sense.

He stressed the importance of context and intent in judging what materials should be accepted in school.

"There's probably a certain level of appropriateness in a given setting," he said.

In addition to school punishments, law enforcement officials can be contacted in special situations, regardless of the number of offenses the student has been cited for.

City Prosecutor Marty Conboy described the statute on obscenity as vague. He said the only criteria for appropriateness is the materials must "meet community standards."

"It carries up to a \$1,000 fine or one year in jail, depending on the nature of the offense," Conboy said.

He said in obscenity cases, minors risk the same penalties as adults. The provider of the materials, however, is generally the one to be more heavily punished.

Certain things, such as child pornography, are felony offenses and not considered under this set of regulations.

Aside from material being banned by the state or local governments, OPS also has guidelines for censoring reading materials in school libraries.

The district uses a system known as the "Non recommended" list, in which appropriate school library books are chosen by a group of volunteers, teachers, parents and librarians known as the Book Review Committee.

Gail Formanack, the supervisor of library services, has been chairing the committee for five years. She said book selection is a democratic process, and everyone has an equal say in whether or not reading material should be placed on the list.

Initially, each of the books is read by a single reviewer. Should a book be "not recommended" by the first person, a second committee member is assigned to check it over.

Then, the entire group votes on whether or not that book is inappropriate or contains serious enough errors to be placed on the list.

"It becomes a debate," Formanack said.

The system, up until now, lacked an outlet for student input on the decisions. Formanack said, however, many members of the committee are looking to change that.

She said the idea of asking students to participate on the committee had been struck down several years ago, but recently she decided to take an initiative.

"I've asked the library media specialists and teachers that are on the committee to go out and recruit," Formanack said.

English teacher Dianne Allen also serves on the committee. She said she has given review books to students to read before and thinks the student's ideas are a valuable perspective to have.

She suggested people who are interested in joining the group should first consider the amount of time, knowledge and desire they are willing to put in.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think offensive music should be allowed in schools?



"If they keep it to themselves, they should be allowed."

Janice Baker (10)



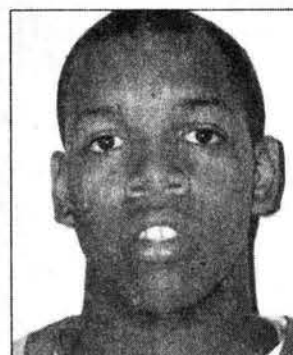
"No, because this is supposed to be a positive environment."

Sarah Thompson (9)



"Why not, it's what they choose to listen to. No one can choose for them."

Andrew Kroeger (9)



"No, because that affects the community. It shows that the schools aren't taking care of the students."

Trel Sanford (9)



"There are songs out there that people should be allowed to listen to in school."

Janelle Conyers (10)



"Probably not. Schools are about learning, not that stuff."

Nick Galdeano (9)



1977

Mt. Healthy City board of education v. Doyle
A non-tenured teacher was fired, and Doyle took his case the Supreme Court. He alleged that his firing was due to negative comments he made about the school on the radio. The case was sent to a lower court and decided there.

1982

Board of education v. Pico
Books were taken out of a school library, and the students took the school to court. The school had to prove the books they chose to remove were not based on the books' messages. The case was sent back to a lower court.



1986

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser
At a school sponsored event, Fraser made a speech using vulgar language and references. After Fraser was suspended, he waived his First Amendment rights. The court upheld Fraser's suspension, on grounds that the event was school sponsored and the school can control the content.

1988

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier
Stories from a school newspaper were censored by the principal. The principal's actions were upheld in court. Because the newspaper was school sponsored, the Supreme Court found the principal had the right to do this.



Teacher reenacts war in spare time

BY KRISTINA ALAS

Most people find ways to keep in touch with the past. There are many different ways people learn about their country's history. People do it through reading books, looking at old family albums, talking to grandparents or simply going to school and taking history classes.

Social studies teacher Scott Wilson found a different type of way to keep in touch with his past.

He joined the B Company, first Canadian Parachute Battalion, British Sixth Airborne. It was there he reenacted battles from World War II.

He has been doing so for about five years. The groups don't reenact often, only a couple times a year. He said he did this because it helped him learn and teach his students a lot about World War II.

"Anything that helps you learn, would help you with your teaching," Wilson said.

Wilson found out about the reenactments from another social studies teacher at Burke High School, Bill Deardoff. Wilson met Deardoff when he student taught for him at Burke.

Deardoff recommended Wilson to try the reenactments. They both ended up in the same battalion. No other teachers from Central participate in the reenactments.

Wilson did different reenactments twice in Oklahoma and once in St. Louis and Kansas.

He said his favorite battle was when they reenacted D-Day. This was his favorite because there were all kinds of army vehicles used which were exactly like what the army used during the war. This battle took place in Omaha at Camp Gruber.

Every time Wilson and his group do a reenactment they spend the weekend outside in the army barracks.

The first day they got to the barracks they recreated the specific battle they picked for themselves.

The next day they allowed the public to come and watch them. Each battle that they would show only lasted about three days. The group he participated in was a British group. He said he decided to be apart of a British

group rather than an U.S. group because it was something different.

"We would wear exactly what the British would have worn in World War II," Wilson said.

All the equipment used and uniforms worn were authentic. Even the guns they used were real.

The bullets were real, but they were blanks. He said the first couple of hours before reenacting safety regulations and other rules were read off. The groups were not allowed to wear any form of modern clothing.

He said everything they wore had to be from World War II. Not even a new pair of sneakers or socks could be worn.

"I had to pay for my own uniform and it was expensive," Wilson said.

Wilson and everybody else participating had to buy their own uniforms and equipment as well. He said the repairs on the uniforms if they were damaged were also expensive. Every time the groups got together they picked a new battle to recreate.

"It was a really unique way to learn history," Wilson said.

Wilson even met some people that spoke Polish and German. He said everybody was from the Midwest.

He said some of the men who participated took it too seriously. It wasn't too often that an injury would occur to any of the participants, but Wilson said every once in awhile an injury did happen.

"It gave me a better understanding of the war and the era," he said.

He said he would stop reenacting when it stopped being fun for him or if the repairs on his uniform got too expensive.

World War II reenactments aren't the only way he will learn more about American history.

Wilson was chosen by the East West Center in Hawaii to attend a workshop about Pearl Harbor.

He applied at the East West Center by writing an essay and getting recommendations from a few of the teachers at Central.

He will be in Hawaii from Aug. 7-12. There will be survivors from Pearl Harbor to tell about the war including survivors from Japan to tell their view of the war. He will also be visiting places where the battles happened.



Athletic director Paul Pennington (left) and assistant principal Paul Semrad will be retiring at the end of the year. "I'm not counting the days," Semrad said. "I just want to have a normal year."

Two administrators to retire

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Two assistant principals will be retiring at the end of the year after over 60 years of combined work at Central.

Assistant principal Paul Semrad and athletic director Paul Pennington will leave in early August.

Semrad said he didn't remember ever seeing two assistant principals leave in the same year.

"I still have a whole lot to do," he said. "I'm not counting the days, I just want to have a normal year."

He said the number of years he worked for Omaha Public School (OPS) plus his age had to be 85 in order for him to be qualified for retirement benefits.

"I turned 55 in Sept. and my years equal 87," he said.

He said he never worked anywhere else and he would miss Central. Semrad went to work at Central right after he graduated college.

He said he told his wife Omaha was too big for him and he didn't plan on staying more than a year.

"I really liked what Central stood for as far as an emphasis on solid education," Semrad said.

Semrad was born in a small town called Prague, Neb., and went to Midland Lutheran College.

"I really came to like what I do here," he said. "I was so impressed I never wanted to leave."

He said there were a lot of things he would miss. "There's no doubt I'll miss my friends and the kids, too," Semrad said. "I can never go to the mall without seeing someone I've taught or coached."

He said over the years he was glad so many people still remember him.

"I can't imagine how many lives I've impacted over the years, hopefully positively," Semrad said.

His job was never to punish students, he said, but to apply the code of conduct.

"If I could improve a student's behavior, that was important to me," he said.

He said he really liked the personal side to his job. He enjoyed helping and evaluating new teachers. He said he liked visiting with students and talking about their schedule.

"That's my job," Semrad said. "To make the schedule best for each kid."

Semrad said being here for 32 years, he could really see a difference in the school. He saw the population of Central grow from 1,500 to 2,500.

"We used to have plenty of classrooms," he said. Semrad said he didn't have many plans on what he wanted to do after retirement. He wanted to spend time with his new grandson and travel with his wife.

Pennington said he also never thought he would stay at Central more than a year, but he eventually

never wanted to leave.

"I remember looking out into Joslyn and thinking 'I won't be here in a few months,'" Pennington said.

He said when he started as a math teacher, he had a goal to either become athletic director or varsity boys basketball coach.

He said he knew he wasn't going to stay a teacher so when the opportunity for administrator came up in 1992 he took it.

He said earlier he missed coaching.

"But I haven't lost a game since," he said.

Pennington said he was going to miss Central but planned on coming and watching football games in the new stadium.

He said he might volunteer or only be partially retired, but he wasn't sure, yet.

"Both me and Semrad got to be here for the renovations," Pennington said. "We were here when they put the roof over the courtyard."

He said he didn't know who would take over his job, but he hoped that person would like the job as much as he did.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the decision on who would take over both positions would probably happen this summer.

"We'll talk with human resources and work with administrators to fill the positions," Bexten said.

Teachers work to receive CPR certification

BY LAUREN CRIST

Human Growth and Development and Health Professions teacher Jeanee Weiss organized the annual cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) class that 18 teachers in Central's population of about 2,400 students are required to take.

The American Red Cross Association sponsors the class, where each teacher is given a CPR booklet, watches a 55 minute video, takes a quiz and works with a mannequin, also known as an "Annie."

This year, 40 teachers, staff and coaches signed up for the class.

"It's important for everyone to know life-saving skills, especially in an educational setting," Weiss said.

This particular class taught adult CPR,

which includes how to react if someone lacks a pulse or is not breathing.

It also covers AED, which is a monitor that takes the reading of electrical currents in someone's heart and can "jump start" the heart to regulate rhythm.

Weiss herself is a certified athletic trainer and has been a CPR instructor since 1998. She said she has never encountered a scenario where she would need to use CPR.

"I've been lucky," she said.

She said her previous school district had required CPR classes for staff, and when she transferred into Omaha Public Schools (OPS) she began a similar program.

"CPR training is valuable to all staff and students," she said.

Security guard Frank Zavorka has been a security guard at Central for seven years. All security guards are required to be trained in

CPR, AED and First Aid.

He said it was important for security guards to know CPR because it could save someone's life.

Zavorka said there were a variety of students and situations that occurred at Central, and security guards had to be qualified and prepared to handle them. He said all students should be trained in CPR as well.

He said if someone has the opportunity to train, they should take it because it could save somebody's life or help until someone more qualified arrives.

He said people should take CPR classes because many don't know what to do in certain situations and may do the wrong procedure.

"People shouldn't have to be frightened or afraid to step in and be involved to save someone's life," Zavorka said.

He said he had to use his CPR training

twice in his life. One time, he was at a function and an elderly man walked in and had a severe heart attack.

"With the training I knew how to stabilize rather than hurt the person more," he said.

Zavorka said despite his efforts, the man died before the paramedics could arrive.

"When it's your time to go, there's nothing you can do about it," he said. "I have a good feeling of knowing I tried to help."

He said another time he was in a movie theater and a man had a mild heart attack. He said he knew what to do until someone more qualified could get there and performed CPR on the man.

The man was fine, and Zavorka said he was glad he helped and saved his life.

"But something was kind of strange," he said. "In the whole movie theater, I was the only one to step in and do anything."

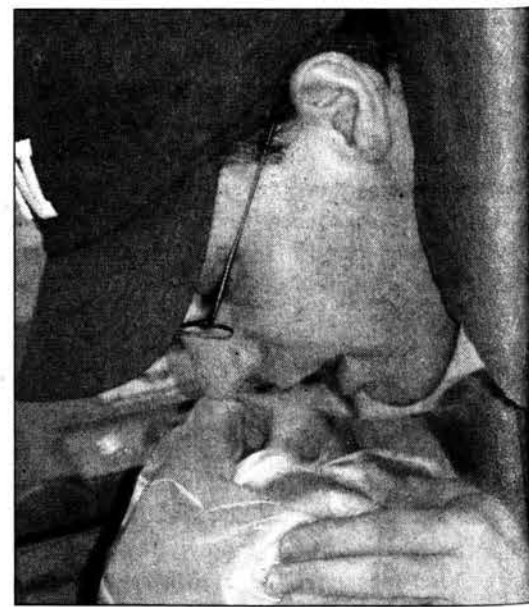


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER P.E. teacher Josh Montzingo practices mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a mannequin during the CPR and AED certification class.

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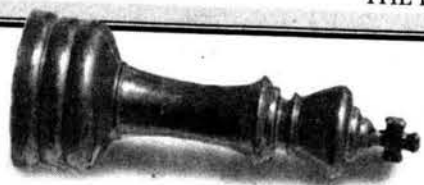
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CHECK MATE

Winning State five times in nine years, including the past three years in a row, shows the concentration and hard work put into the game by the chess team and sponsor. One senior remains undefeated after four years of chess.

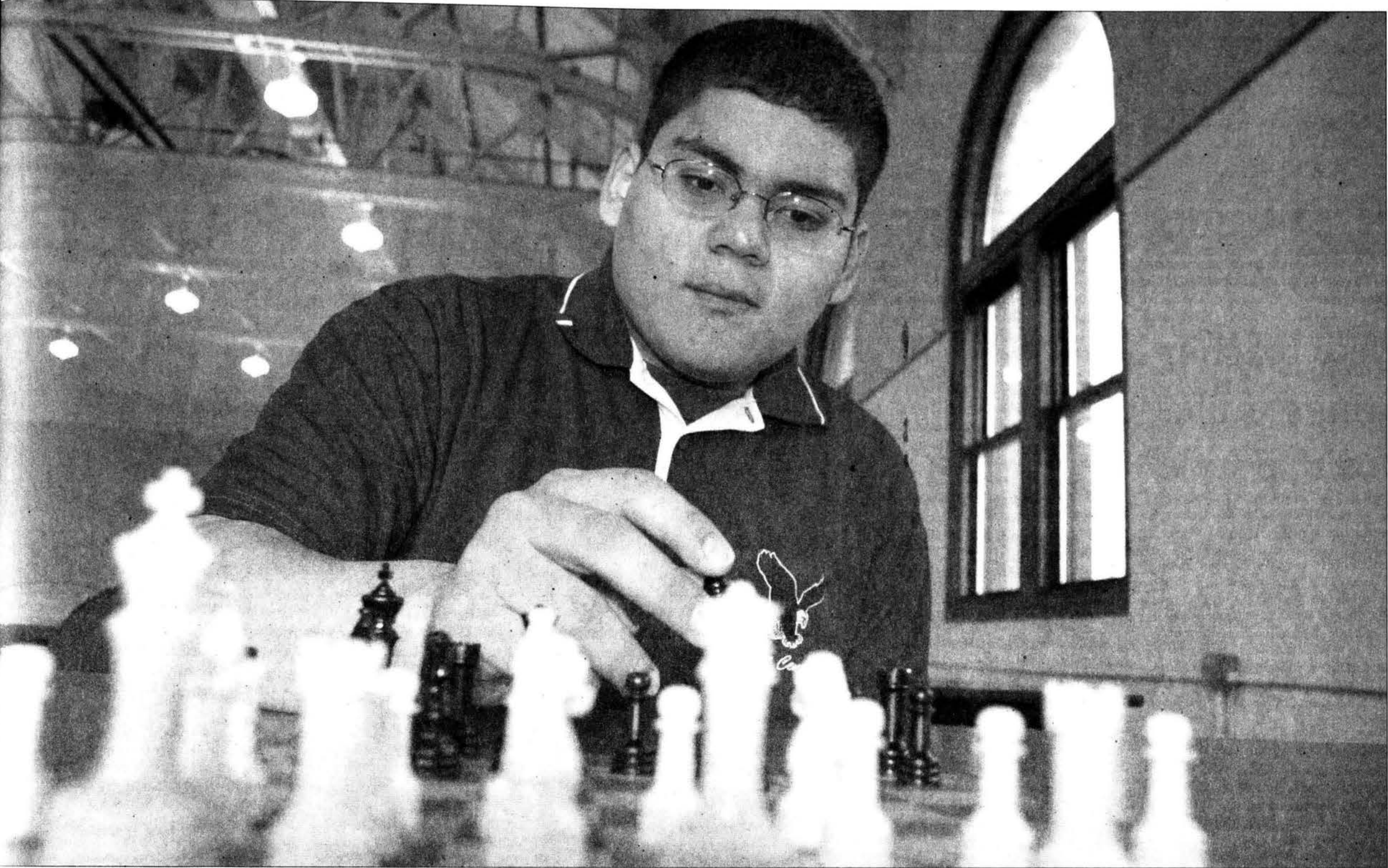


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Senior Erik Servellon has remained the champion of the chess board all season. He has won numerous matches, including Metro and State. He has studied the game not only by practicing with adults and other players, but also by reading books on different techniques.

Undefeated chess player places first in State competition

BY STEPHEN WILHELM

In the "Central Chess Dynasty" one player has won every match he has played during his high school career.

Senior Erik Servellon has done what most students would dare not think possible.

He has remained undefeated by never losing a single match during his four years on the chess team.

He individually took first place at the Metro Chess Tournament and went on to earn first place at the State Chess Tournament. However, due to lack of funding, he will not attend Nationals.

Servellon said he has always taken a lot of pride in his spotless chess record and other great accomplishments.

"This year, I beat the best and will be known as the best," Servellon said.

Every school had their top two players go to State, all of whom have a similar level in their chess skills.

"I expected to be in the top five, but I was totally surprised when I took first," Servellon said.

Together, the five select students on Central's chess team were able to take first at State.

"Creighton Prep and Westside were our only real competition, but we still had the necessary skills needed to

overcome this obstacle," club sponsor Drew Thyden said. Thyden deals primarily with the chess team and its competitions as their adviser.

"It's great to see their effort pay off because they truly deserve it," Thyden said.

The chess team has won the State Chess Tournament for five of the past nine years, including the last three years straight.

During the chess season, Servellon said he focuses tirelessly on improving his chess skills and being as prepared as possible.

"I usually spend at least 10 hours a week on chess," Servellon said.

The season usually lasts from about January through March.

However, Thyden said he believed many of his best players tend to underestimate how much time they are truly spending on chess.

Servellon does however spend almost two hours or more on every Tuesday and Wednesday during chess club meetings.

He and the rest of team have been known to spend a whole day at Thyden's house every so often to polish their

chess skills. Servellon said he and the other chess players rely on each other most of the time for advice and pure practice.

Servellon however does spend time playing chess on the computer. He also reads books on chess such as "The Art of Attack of Chess."

"I do spend time playing other team members and studying chess moves so I can improve," Servellon said.

He has had to learn to balance his activities as best he can during these past few years.

He is also involved heavily in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and will be second in charge of the blood drive at the end of April.

He said his goal when playing chess is first and foremost to have a great time, but he was still deeply driven to wipe the competition out and win.

However, he said he realized he did not become great overnight.

"There is a huge gap in my chess ability from freshman year to senior year," he said.

Servellon said he studies countless tactics, positions that commonly occur and how to deal with certain situations.

"Playing, practicing and studying chess for four years

has allowed me to become drastically better and makes the difference between a player and a winner," he said.

He said when he saw the annual chess tournament, he decided he would be interested in joining.

"I knew I wanted to dominate chess at Central and beyond," Servellon said.

He plans to play chess on the college level and hopefully win some college tournaments. He said he wants to create an official chess team at University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) this fall with former Central chess players who currently go there.

Servellon's interest in chess seems to be a family tradition with everyone in his family playing chess.

Even his little brother, freshman Elvis Servellon, has joined the chess club.

"Central's chess dynasty will continue to dominate at state for at least a few more years," Servellon said.

Servellon said he had faith junior George Blazek will become the new top player for high school chess in Nebraska next year.

While Blazek will be getting deeper into chess, Servellon will begin to focus more on the ultimate goal of becoming a neurosurgeon or researcher.

Coach pushes program to dynasty level through multiple championships in 10 years

BY NIC SAMUELSON

His team has been undefeated at State for the last three years. Last year's team finished twenty-sixth out of 384 teams at the National competition.

Drew Thyden has coached the chess team for the past nine years, winning the State for five of those years.

He said he tries to have the team enter into the national competition every other year so the team can ready itself.

"The team's biggest strength is its overall consistency," Thyden said.

The team has not lost one match in the past three years in the Metro or State competitions.

Part of the reason for this success, Thyden said, is the way the team is set up.

The younger players are given a chance to see how the more experienced players use their strategies and skills against each other, then Thyden reviews each of those games afterward.

Senior Erik Servellon, juniors George Blazek and Bill Chaney are some of the most established players at Central.

"The new players here get good competition from the more established players," Thyden said.

He said if any of the more experienced players had a particularly interesting game or different strategies, he would go over the game and critique it.

Junior Bill Chaney said Thyden is very easy to work with and easy to learn from.

"He does a good job of going through the basics and teaching them (the less experienced students) how to succeed," Chaney said.

Thyden teaches the students tactics and openings from books he has ordered through the library. Library media specialist Sue Devlin said he has a very extensive chess library.

Chaney said the books from the chess library help Thyden teach the players.

"He cares about his students and wants to see them do well," Chaney said.

Thyden's history with chess extends all the way back to when he won the grade-level tournaments in seventh, eighth and ninth grade

in Lakewood city competitions in California.

Thyden said he played through his high school career, then attended the University of Southern California, as well as other universities in California.

He began his teaching career at Washington High School in Las Angeles, Calif. as a math teacher.

He was the coach of the chess team there, which met every day during the students' lunch hour.

Thyden said his passion for the game comes from the challenges and the strategies which present themselves and the creativity that makes the player.

"It's the creativity, originality and the

intellectual challenges," he said. "There's always something new."

Devlin said since Thyden has been at this school, he has established himself as a good teacher.

"I hold him in the highest regard," she said. "He's very dedicated, smart and generous with his time."

Two of Thyden's students developed a computer program the library used to monitor students' activities on the computers.

Devlin said Thyden came to her and told her about the program and she said she was more than happy to host it.

"He really encourages creativity in his students," Devlin said.

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Nutritionists say vegans need vitamins

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Four years ago, after being raised a vegetarian by her family, senior Eve Mayberger decided to become a vegan.

Vegans, in addition to eating no meat, also do not eat any animal products, such as eggs or cheese. They also do not wear any animal products. Mayberger said her father was supposed to also become a vegan, but he decided against it.

"His self-discipline isn't as good as mine, I guess," she said. "He didn't last as long as I did."

She said she has noticed a little change in her health, but she did not give up much more food, with the exception of eggs and cheese. Mayberger said she is allergic to cheese, so it was an improvement for her.

"I just felt better," she said. "I've always been sensitive to cheese."

Mayberger has been swimming, in cross-country and in track. Because of the activity, she said, she makes sure to eat enough proteins and fibers. Mayberger said in addition to the vitamins she takes, she also eats lots of grains and green beans.

Nutritionist from Personalized Fitness and Nutrition Mark Sullivan said usually vegans eat too many carbohydrates and fiber carbohydrates from fruits and vegetables, but not enough B vitamins and protein.

Sullivan said the best way to get enough protein was from red meats, turkey and fish, so vegans and vegetarians need a good multivitamin.

He said vegetarians can still eat enough eggs to get proteins, so they are not at as much of a risk.

"The only way to really get what you need is to supplement through a good vitamin supplement," he said.

Sullivan said when vegans are involved with sports, there is an increased need to get vitamin supplements. Sullivan said an advantage of the vegan diet was they have very high levels of antioxidants.

He said the antioxidants helped prevent some affects of aging such as wrinkles.

Sullivan said the average human usually has 70,000 free radical hits, or losses of electrons, every day.

He said different pollutants, such as smoking, can cause these free radicals.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

This photo illustration shows how some people have misconceptions about vegans and think they are too picky or only eat vegetables. Nutritionist Mark Sullivan said vegan students need to be careful to supplement their diets with vitamins and minerals.

To supplement the losses of vitamins, Mayberger said she takes many vitamins every day, including vitamin E, fatty acid pills and calcium supplements.

She said proteins were also important and she tries to eat a lot of whole grain wheat at breakfast, as opposed to cold cereal.

Mayberger said it usually wasn't hard being a vegan in her house because they have no meat products anyway. However, outside her house, though it was still easy to avoid meat, it was

hard to avoid other animal products.

Sullivan said he would recommend a product called Life Pak. He said the Life Pak has enough vitamins and minerals to make up for what vegans are missing.

Mayberger said when eating out, she usually ate salad, but avoiding cheese was hard.

She said there were less vegetarian and vegan-friendly places in Omaha compared to where she used to live in New York.

"One of the disadvantages of Omaha is you

can't get a wide variety of fruits and vegetables," she said.

Senior Amelia Peterson has been a vegetarian since sixth grade. She said now she keeps it up for health reasons and stays away from antibiotics in meat.

"I've come so far, why start (eating meat) again," she said.

Peterson said she thought it was too hard to become a vegan because there were many supplements and vitamins to take.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER
Erik Albertine opens up a discussion to his biology class.

New teacher brings smile, positive style

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Freshman Sarah Velez said the students in her biology class had a connection with their teacher Erik Albertine because they both had to deal with a new place and with new people.

Albertine first student taught at a middle school in Utah, and he said there were differences between the middle school students and high school students.

He said at Central, there was more tradition.

"They both had their pluses and minuses," Albertine said.

He said he thought at Central the students wanted to work harder, and were more intrigued about what he had to teach.

Though some kids were struggling and others were very intrigued, he said the responses from students have mostly been positive.

"I can hit something they're interested in pretty accurately," he said.

Albertine said he chose to become a teacher the second year of college.

He said he wanted to teach science because it was not concrete and was always new and interesting.

"It's always changing," he said. "There's always something new and exciting to learn."

Velez is in Albertine's biology class. She said she liked Albertine as a teacher compared to her other science teachers she's had in the past because he is nicer and younger.

Her favorite part of the class, she said, was the discussion.

Science department head Jean Whitten said Albertine is a teacher who loves what he does.

She said she was first impressed by him when he brought in a portfolio of lesson plans he had created himself.

Whitten said Albertine was very organized, and this was another quality of his personality that was evident.

Whitten said Albertine is a good teacher right now and on his way to becoming a really great one.

She said she thought Albertine's students really loved his classes.

She also said Albertine was very independent and very personable.

"He's just a really good guy," she said. "The kind of person you'd like to have around."

Albertine said it was a bit intimidating when he was first hired, but he had many good mentors to work with.

"Right now, I'm just in a learning phase," he said.

Albertine said he would probably be in the learning phase his whole career and would always try to be learning new things and refining his teaching style.

Biology study turns class into wild jungle

BY MOLLY MULLEN



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Freshmen Jennifer Baratta (left) and Andrew Patterson observe a three-legged turtle in their biology classroom. They spent 12 weeks studying animals at the zoo.

Freshmen stared through the glass, writing down observations on different animals and trying to figure out why they did what they did.

Biology students were given the opportunity to observe animals at the zoo every Wednesday for 12 weeks.

Biology teachers Jean Whitten and Erik Albertine took people from their classes down to the Henry Doorly Zoo to observe animals of their choice.

Freshman Alyssa Rathbun said she was interested in a career with animals and thought the experience was fun, even though she didn't find out much about the parma wallabies, a smaller species of kangaroo. She said even though they didn't get any extra credit in class, it was still a fun activity to do after school.

Her observation partner freshman Andrew Patterson said they were supposed to document how the animals changed over the 12 weeks, but didn't find much.

"When they (zoo keepers) changed the light bulb in their cage they seemed to become more active," she said.

She said other people looked at animals like wolves or gorillas, but she thought the wallabies looked cute and wanted to study a small group of animals.

She said they ended the observations because the weather was getting warmer.

"More people will be coming to see the animals and that will change how they behave," she said. "In the winter, we basically had the entire place to ourselves. We didn't even know what they were for awhile. They just ate and hopped around a lot."

They began the studies before winter break and had opportunities to study the gorillas as well.

Albertine said students chose to study the interaction

with visitors or the animals or study their environment.

He said many of the students got innovative with their study.

"The beaver are nocturnal animals so they (the researchers) started bringing flashlights to see their reactions," Albertine said.

He said the group started with 19 but the number was whittled down after spring sports started.

The alligators were much more active than people normally see them, he said.

They were swimming around a large part of the observation time.

This was Albertine's first time participating in the activity since he was a first-year teacher, but Whitten has done it since 1997. Whitten said the amount of students participating doubled from last year.

"This year, we have a good group of really interested kids," she said. "After so many weeks, they really get to know these animals."

Freshman Tyler Jenkins said he liked animals and that was why he wanted to go to the zoo.

"I have a lot of pets so it was cool to see how other animals acted," Jenkins said. "I have a guinea pig, a turtle and two birds."

He studied the colobus monkey with freshman Mark Briggs. He said he chose it because they looked different than other monkeys and were very interactive.

"They would mess with the gorillas because they were in the same cage," he said. "It was cool that the small animals weren't afraid of the gorillas."

He said he did make good observations with the monkeys and liked how they got to interact with other animals like the gorillas.

He said he'd like to go back and see how they changed.

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Media specialist sees opportunity to help students



PHOTO BY ANNIE KLINE/REGISTER

Library media specialist Sue Devlin said she loves working at Central, although she has had many other occupations before. She is an artist who helped establish 13th Street Art Gallery and displayed some of her own creations.

BY ANNIE KLINE

Library media specialist Sue Devlin has two loves in life: books and art.

"When I was in art school, I read a quote that said something similar to, 'Scandinavians buy books and art before they buy furniture,'" she said. "That is totally me."

She was always exposed to literature as a child.

"There were always books lying around and my mother was always reading books," Devlin said.

She attended the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee to receive her bachelor's degree in fine arts, then went to University of Nebraska at Omaha to earn her master's degree in secondary education.

After college, Devlin took 10 years off. She was in a group who formed the 13th Street Art Gallery. Devlin displayed her artwork in the gallery as well as several others around town.

Devlin began teaching art classes several years before she was offered a job in library media. When offered the position as library media specialist at Central, she said she immediately accepted and has been enjoying it ever since.

Devlin said she enjoys her job because she likes providing an environment where the students know they can get their work done.

She said each student's main job was to be a student. That was why she believed the library was a great place for students to study and find information for their schoolwork.

Senior Jose Navarro said he thinks Devlin is always helpful.

He said each time he comes to the library, she always asked him how he was doing and helped him get the books he needed.

"The use of information technology is what helps the students and that is most beneficial to me and also the students," Devlin said.

She said she thoroughly enjoyed teaching art and is very supportive of the art department here.

Devlin also said because there was a need for a library media specialist, she thought she would enjoy the job and took it.

"I thought I was going to teach art, but this position came up and I applied for it," she said.

Not only does Devlin work with students, she has to work with teachers on a daily basis scheduling time so their classes can use the library for computer usage or checking out books for a project.

"A lot of our role in the library is to support the teachers and what is going on in their curriculum," she said.

She said she could actually be doing either job and she would be completely happy.

In mid-March, the library held four amnesty days when students with overdue books could return them and have the fees dropped from their accounts. She said having the materials returned is important, however she would much rather have the books returned than have the students pay a fee.

"If a book is truly lost, they (the students) will usually let me know and it usually shows up," she said. "They just need to give it time. At least that gives them an opportunity to look for it."

She also worked with the alumni association by helping them process books for the case in the courtyard.

"High school students have the ability to process the information we show them better than younger kids," she said. "That's what I like about students this age."

Motivation keeps senior fighting for black belt after earning green

BY CLAY LOMNETH

After three years of punches, roundhouses, axe kicks and the kicks in movies and on television was exciting.

The green belt is the fifth level of the 10 colored belts.

He got started sophomore year because he thought the fighting in movies and on television was exciting.

Pommells said his favorite kick is the side kick because it is the most powerful.

He said he gained a certain degree of confidence in himself after taking tae kwon do.

"When I got my white belt first day of class, I was feeling better about myself, knowing I was starting something great," Pommells said.

He said wishing to earn the black belt, the final color belt in tae kwon do. He said the teachers are very strict about teaching of moves and landings, so he practices at home often

"When I start something, I finish it," Pommells said. "If you're not motivated, it can be difficult."

Pommells said he has gained more concentration skills from tae kwon do. He said the teachers are very strict about teaching of moves and landings, so he practices at home often

to get all the moves right.

He said he sometimes had to perform more than one different move at the same time, which can be complicating.

Though he does not participate in any tae kwon do classes or lessons during the summer, Pommells said he enjoys the free exercise the tae kwon do club offers. Pommells said he thought he would continue tae kwon do after high school because he enjoyed the benefits so much.

He said sparring was rare in the class. Near a test date for the next level colored belt, students and the instructors would practice sparring more often.

A typical class day consisted of practicing forms of punches and kicks led by instructors. The instructors, who are from outside of Central, led the class by separating the students by the color of belt they had acquired.

Former Central Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) teacher Sharon Cooper is the club sponsor. She became the sponsor when one student who had taken tae kwon do wanted to start a club and heard she had some

experience with it.

Cooper said she took a tae kwon do class 20 years ago, and only started getting involved with it again seven years ago.

She said she liked the exercise she got from it and she can still do it even though she said she is not very athletic.

When she fails or succeeds, Cooper said the only person she disappoints or pleases is herself.

"I compete against myself," Cooper said. "It's an individual sport."

Cooper said the green belt is the intermediate belt of tae kwon do. The levels of belts before green are white, yellow, orange and lime.

"You've really shown that you are dedicated to continuing," she said. "At the point where Mark is now, he can actually do some self-defense."

Following the green belt are the colors blue, purple, red, brown then black.

Cooper said self-defense was important for a student to know because it boosts self-esteem.

She said the point of tae kwon do was not to go out

and pick fights with others, it was that one would be certain enough to know they could defend themselves in case a fight broke out.

"You're confident you would be able to take care of yourself," Cooper said.

She said tae kwon do helps students with their school work because it helps them sort things out. She said the students gain concentration skills and can apply this to school homework.

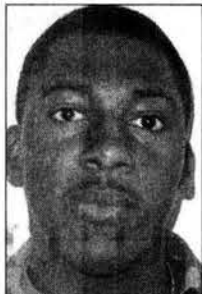
Cooper said she gains discipline from tae kwon do. She said Pommells also gains self-discipline from being in JROTC.

Pommells said he agreed both JROTC and tae kwon do taught and required much self-discipline.

He said he would recommend tae kwon do for any other student because it was good exercise and something exciting to do to keep kids out of trouble.

He also said it was good for gaining self-control for the student.

"It's one of those things where it doesn't matter your level of athleticism," he said. "If you have the time, it'd be a great thing to do."



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ROBO-TRIPPING

Huffing and whippets have become a popular way for teens to get high by inhaling or drinking household substances. From Robitussin (Robo-tripping) to whipped cream, students will do anything for a quick, cheap high. Although most seem harmless, the ingredients may be deadly.



This illustration shows how some people "huff" spray paint through a paper bag for the greatest effects.

AEROSOLS AND MEDICINES

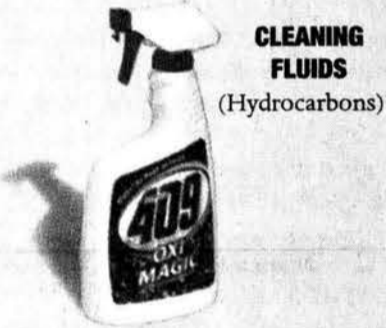
Below are listed some examples of aerosols and the agents they contain. People generally spray the product into a bag and inhale (above) so they can inhale the most chemicals in one breath or spray it directly into their mouth. Some people have suffocated, suffered fire-related injuries, frostbite of the lungs or throat, mucus membranes, coughing up blood and even death.



DEODORANTS
(Butane, dimethyl ether)



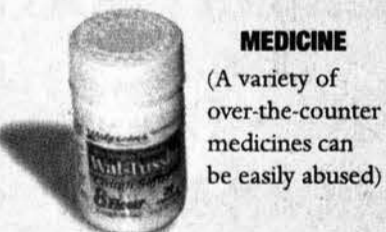
SPRAY PAINT
(Halons, Butane)



CLEANING FLUIDS
(Hydrocarbons)



HAIRSPRAY
(Butane, Fluorocarbons)



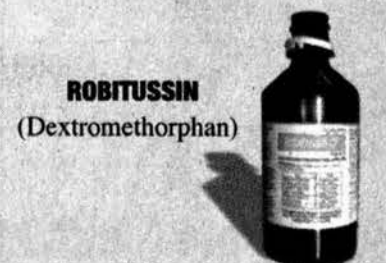
MEDICINE
(A variety of over-the-counter medicines can be easily abused)



WHIPPED CREAM
(Nitrous Oxide)

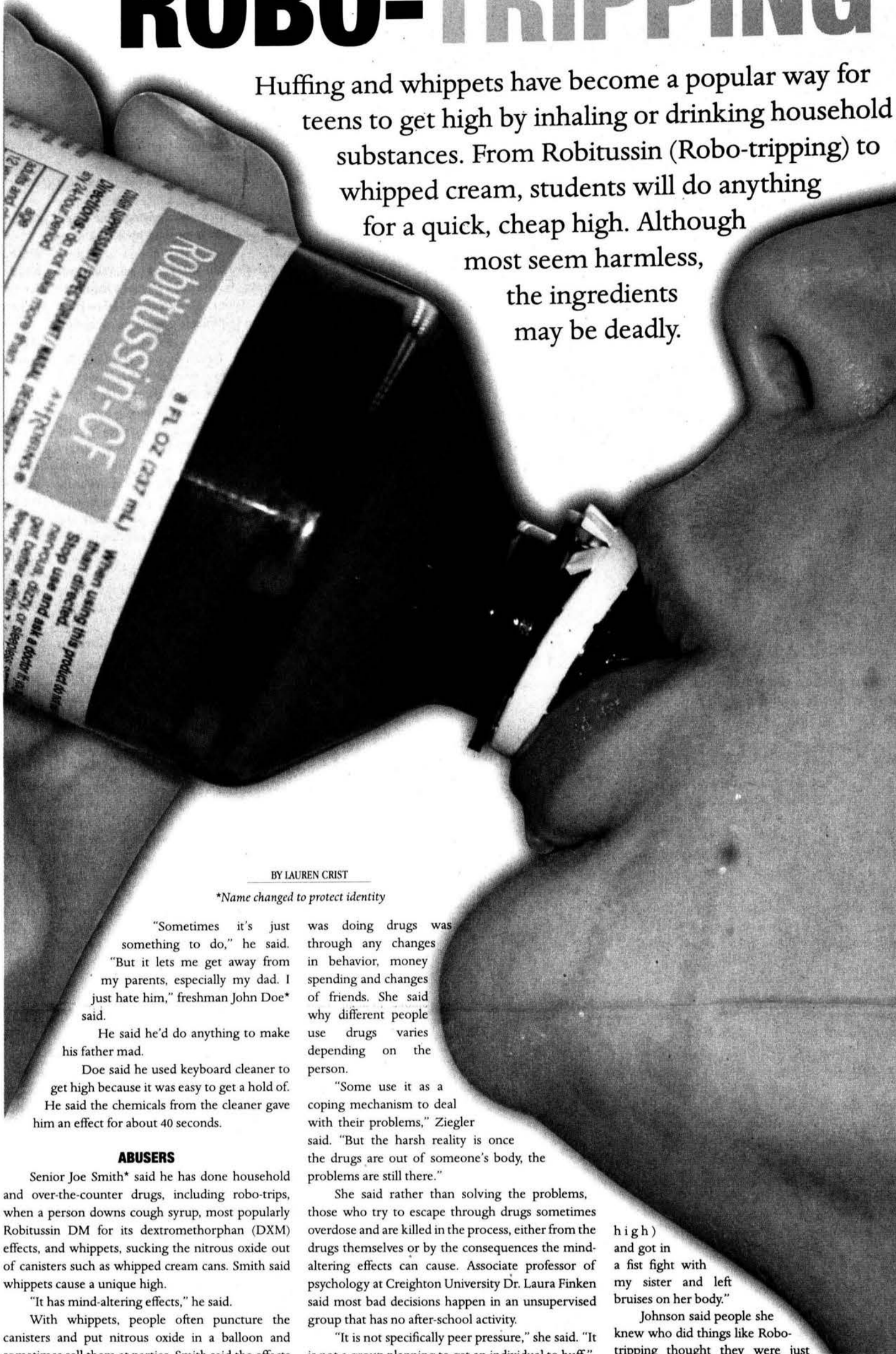


KEYBOARD CLEANER
(Nitrous Oxide)



ROBITUSSIN
(Dextromethorphan)

Information Courtesy of National Inhalant Prevention Coalition



BY LAUREN CRIST

*Name changed to protect identity

"Sometimes it's just something to do," he said. "But it lets me get away from my parents, especially my dad. I just hate him," freshman John Doe* said.

He said he'd do anything to make his father mad.

Doe said he used keyboard cleaner to get high because it was easy to get a hold of. He said the chemicals from the cleaner gave him an effect for about 40 seconds.

ABUSERS

Senior Joe Smith* said he has done household and over-the-counter drugs, including robo-trips, when a person downs cough syrup, most popularly Robitussin DM for its dextromethorphan (DXM) effects, and whippets, sucking the nitrous oxide out of canisters such as whipped cream cans. Smith said whippets cause a unique high.

"It has mind-altering effects," he said.

With whippets, people often puncture the canisters and put nitrous oxide in a balloon and sometimes sell them at parties. Smith said the effects of nitrous oxide last 40 seconds to a minute.

"Other stuff lasts longer, but otherwise nitrous is a really good buzz," Smith said.

He said some of his friends have occasionally had sinus problems or colds. According to the National Institute for Drug Abuse, nitrous oxide can result in frostbite of the throat and lungs.

Smith said before he was 18, he used keyboard cleaner for similar effects. Doe also said he used pressurized keyboard cleaner. He said he does household drugs because they are cheap and easy to get a hold of.

Doe said he did a variety of household drugs. Household drugs do not last as long as others. He said the problem with household drugs is they have other products that make people sick, so there are negative side effects.

Smith said many people use Robitussin because it does not make someone sick like other cough syrups and medicines.

"I've had friends who have tried Coricidin, but most people end up puking and retching and that's just not appealing to me," Smith said.

He said he thought making over-the-counter drugs illegal would not have an impact on the use of it.

"Like anything, I think making it illegal would only make more people want to do it more," Smith said.

CONSEQUENCES

Lisa Ziegler, a chemical dependency specialist at Journey's Teen Substance Abuse Program, said inhalants' popularity has gone up including products containing aerosol. She said effects are varied. Overdosing on pills, for example, could cause jitteriness and racing heartbeats.

"The most important thing to know is that every kind of drug will affect people differently," she said. "Common characteristics can be completely different based on the person."

Ziegler said the main way to tell if someone

was doing drugs was through any changes in behavior, money spending and changes of friends. She said why different people use drugs varies depending on the person.

"Some use it as a coping mechanism to deal with their problems," Ziegler said. "But the harsh reality is once the drugs are out of someone's body, the problems are still there."

She said rather than solving the problems, those who try to escape through drugs sometimes overdose and are killed in the process, either from the drugs themselves or by the consequences the mind-altering effects can cause. Associate professor of psychology at Creighton University Dr. Laura Finken said most bad decisions happen in an unsupervised group that has no after-school activity.

"It is not specifically peer pressure," she said. "It is not a group planning to get an individual to huff."

She said the important thing was to set boundaries and never cross them.

"Never make exceptions," she said. "Never say 'Oh it's just pot' or 'Oh it's just huffing' or 'Oh it's just prom night.'"

She said if someone was already in a situation, the people needed to find a way out.

"If your major contact was pot or crack or whatever, then you will be put in that situation over and over again," Finken said.

She said many students didn't plan to huff, but they had nothing better to do.

"Any drug, over-the-counter or illicit, has the potential for addiction," she said.

Harvey Wiess, the executive director of the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition said household drugs tend to lead to other things.

"Inhalants are often the first substances abused, and that's why they're called Gateway Drugs," he said.

He said there has been a rising issue in the misuse of household and office products, especially in younger adolescents and in the eighth grade. He said there was a 12 percent increase of abuse in 2003.

SIDE EFFECTS

Weiss said there are more severe effects to inhalants such as the "sudden sniffing death" and suffocation. Weiss said there have been several accounts of seizures, brain damage and damage to the liver, heart and lungs.

He said these drugs can be especially dangerous when mixed with other drugs or even medicine. Weiss said one product, when mixed with Ritalin, can result in an almost instant death.

Senior Sandy Johnson* said she thought people could go from things like Robo-tripping to using narcotics. Johnson said she used to use shrooms and cocaine, but never used substances from drug stores.

Johnson was exposed to drugs by her friends. She has not used either drug in two years.

"One day I woke up and asked myself what I was doing," she said. "I was coming down (from a meth

high) and got in a fist fight with my sister and left bruises on her body."

Johnson said people she knew who did things like Robo-tripping thought they were just experimenting and didn't know it could kill them.

Junior Jack Williams* said he used Coricidin, an over-the-counter medicine sold at grocery stores.

"I was really sick at first. I felt like if I moved, I was going to spew everywhere," he said. "In a few minutes, that wore off and I began to feel the effects from all of it."

He said one of his friend's father died and they took his pills, which included Ambien and Morphine. He and his friend did Coricidin, Ambien, Morphine, marijuana and cigarettes all in the same day.

He said at one point he imagined a pink bunny hopping up to his feet, and things seemed to move in slow motion. He and his friend then got into a car and tried to drive to his friend's house.

"We were driving to go to a party and my friend and I were totally wiggling out," he said. "We started feeling like we were on an airplane and then like we were on a boat instead of a car."

He said they almost got into an accident because at several points his friend, who was driving, started drifting off to the side of the street.

"We were lucky," Williams said.

He said he had a friend who shot up OxyContin and it changed his opinion of some drugs.

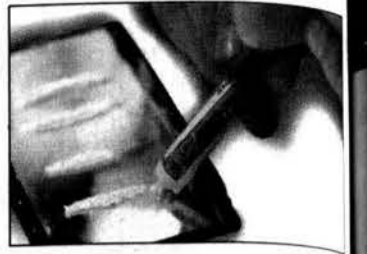
Williams said his friend got to the point where he had to turn himself in to a hospital. He said it changed his views about OxyContin, and he would probably never use it after his friend's experience.

Deb Shults, a licensed mental health and addictions counselor at Alegent Health Psychiatric Associates said some people often couple illicit drugs with over-the-counter drugs to heighten the effects. Shults said though this can sometimes make the drug more powerful, it also has many negative effects.

"It increases the likelihood of an overdose," she said. "The mixed effects can also be dangerous."

She said with the addictive contents in products, people can become dependent on the DXM in them or long for their effects.

Molly Mullen contributed to this story



This illustration shows how students can snort caffeine pills because they think it helps them lose weight. Teens snort with on-hand objects like dollar bills.

VOLATILE SOLVENTS AND GASES

Below are some examples of volatile solvents, gases abused and the agents they contain. These inhalants are either abused by "sniffing" through the nose or "huffing" and inhaling fumes through the open mouth. More common effects include violent behavior, nausea, giddiness and loss of appetite. More severe effects include seizures, lung, liver and brain damage, heart palpitations and death.

RUBBER CEMENT
(Hexane, Toulene)



CORRECTION FLUIDS
(Trichloroethane)



PAINT THINNER



(Esters, Hexane, Toluene, xylene)

AUTO FUEL
(Gasoline)

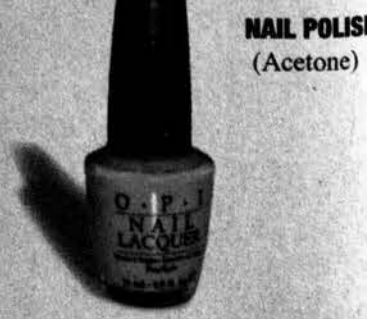


NAIL POLISH REMOVER



(Acetone, Esters)

NAIL POLISH
(Acetone)

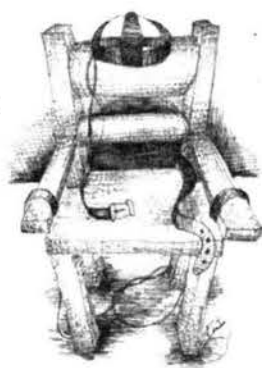


Information Courtesy of National Inhalant Prevention Coalition

OPINION

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM



Teen Execution, PAGE 19B

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

IMPRISONED IN PATRIOTISM

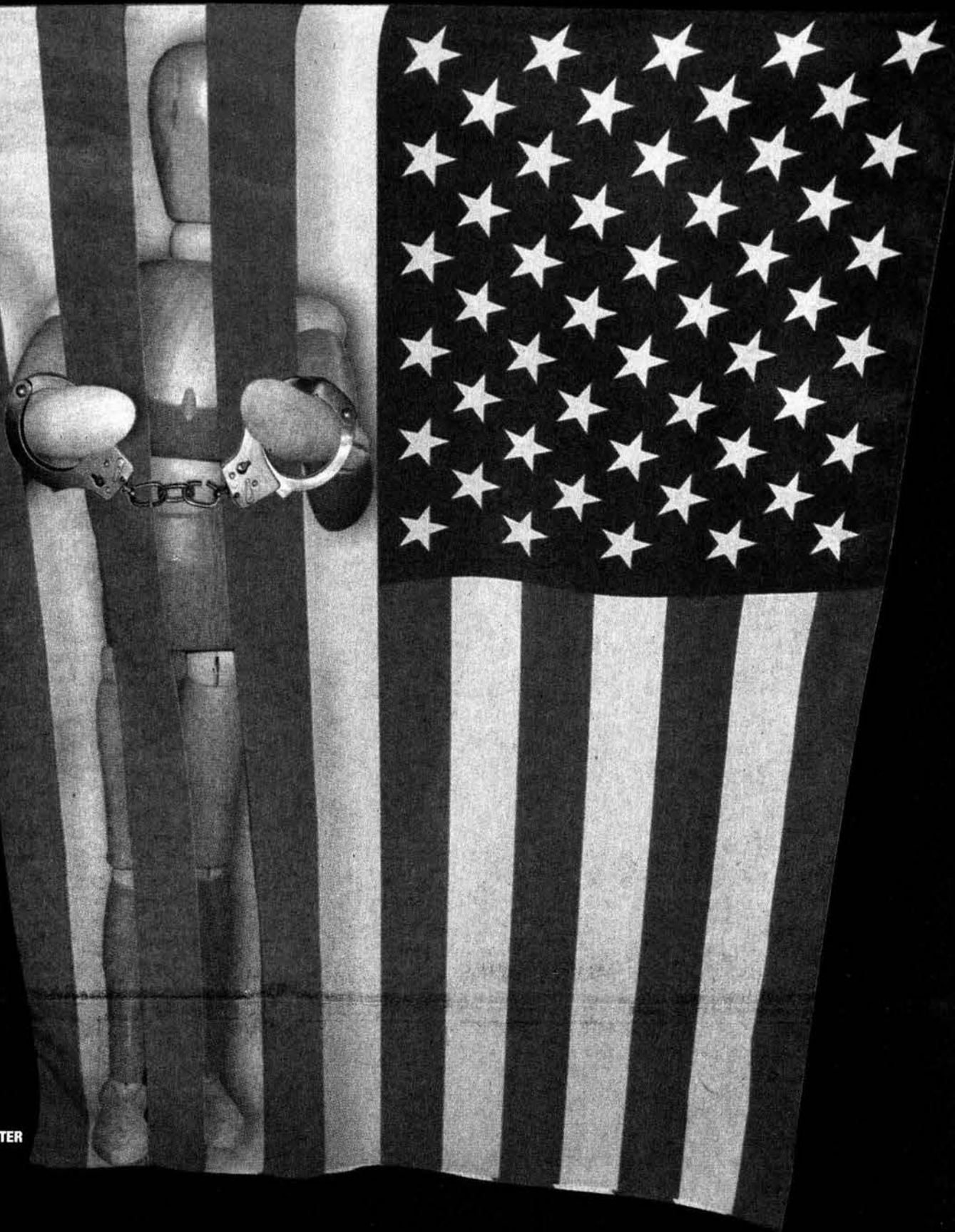


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

Although the principal has said not to force students to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance," some teachers continue to do exactly that

Some people just don't get it.

For some people standing, sitting or remaining silent is not about patriotism, it is about religion.

The Supreme Court ruled this summer the phrase "under God" would remain in the pledge.

After this it seems unfair to ask students to say it or stand up for the pledge.

Not everyone believes in the idea of God or would want to mention it. It is a pledge of devotion to the country, not to God. People need to remember that important fact.

This is not to say students aren't respectful of the flag and what it stands for just because they choose not to stand.

If a student chooses to remain seated and is quiet and respectful then there is absolutely no harm in letting the student sit.

People who don't understand this point need to get over it. Students can be equally patriotic and fine citizens if they do not say the pledge.

It causes more commotion during the "Pledge of Allegiance" for a teacher and student to bicker back and forth about standing than simply letting people express

patriotism the way they choose.

It is a fact that students have very few rights in public schools. They are a part of the government and what they do or say is looked at differently inside the building. It is not a law that students must stand.

The principal said they could decide for themselves what to do every morning and they therefore have the right to stand or sit, recite or stay silent.

It was also said by the administration in the months leading up to the presidential election that teachers in no way should influence students' political beliefs.

Forcing teens to stand and state a pledge to a country and government sounds much like pushing politics.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" is a way for people to voice their opinion of the country and speak about their personal ties to it if that is what they believe. Central is such a diverse school, there is no way everyone could have the same belief about the pledge.

Let those who want to stand do it, and for those who don't, teachers need to leave them alone.

This is in no way giving them the right to sleep or be

disruptive or do homework. But if they are truly being respectful, then they are harming or offending no one.

This summer a father took the case to the Supreme Court over the phrase "under God." He was an Atheist and did not want his elementary school daughter to say or hear the phrase.

Since the court voted on leaving the phrase in he specifically made the point to say his child would not stand to say it in her elementary school.

He came to a compromise and so should the public school system.

If the government has said the phrase will remain, regardless if some people are uncomfortable saying it, then those people should be given the choice whether or not they want to. The phrase "under God" wasn't even in the "Pledge of Allegiance" until the mid '50s.

The government decided to put it in to differentiate the Americans from "Godless communists."

The Cold War ended over 20 years ago. With the war over there is no reason to keep up the debate if the phrase was only propaganda in the first place.

If the students decide not to stand and recite outdated phrases, their wishes should be respected. Teachers also need to respect the demands of the principal.



AWAKE BY CHOICE

A Column by Emma Phillips

Dad's job frightens freshman

It is 12 a.m. Sunday and my dad is picking up his car keys. Sometimes when this happens I'll ask him where he's going even though I already know the answer.

"Something happened at the campus, I have to go check it out," he says.

A worse response from him would be, "There's a problem in detox and I need to go talk to the supervisor."

My dad is the director of the Omaha Campus for Hope.

The Campus, as we call it at home, is a rehabilitation center for drug addicts, many of which are homeless. It's a thankless job and sometimes it even seems he's being punished for helping people. Like last month when his truck was broken into and the stereo stolen. Nothing else was taken, which suggests this person needed fast money, probably for drugs.

The person who did this may have been one of the people my dad has tried to help, someone he's given up his evenings, weekends, vacations and peace of mind for.

I have a hard time trusting the clients who live at the Campus. It may be that I don't have the special mindset that one has to have to work in social services, but I feel like they are taking advantage of my dad.

Sometimes I don't think they want to get clean at all. They just want a place to sleep at night and some warm food.

Or maybe it's that I'm jealous that whenever any of them pitch a fit and my dad is paged, he has to go to work, no matter what he's doing.

Drug addicts are unpredictable, everyone knows that, but some of the people at the Campus have non-medicated mental disorders, which makes me very nervous.

My dad doesn't work one-on-one with the clients very much anymore, but whenever anything goes really wrong and the supervising therapist can't handle it, my dad gets called.

Sometimes I'll be sitting in my French class and hear sirens screaming by. I stop what I'm doing and listen intently, hoping it will turn and head west, away from the Campus.

When my dad gets a late-night page, sometimes I stay awake.

I wander around keeping myself conscious until eventually I'll go to bed and watch the clock until I think my dad has reached the Campus. I worry about him during the day, but the night is the worst.

The Campus is located downtown, near Central, and it is dangerous at night. I'll stare up through the darkness at my ceiling and come up with worst case scenarios.

I know my father is an adult and can take care of himself, but there are some things that are out of his control. What if the unruly client has a knife? What if my dad gets hurt?

I worry myself to sleep, but maybe I should give my dad more credit, after all he's always home when I wake up.

Teen still feels remorse 10 years after brother's death in car chase

It was around 7 a.m. when the police showed up at my house. My mom wasn't home the time because she had just left for work. I wasn't home either; I was next door at my cousin's house waiting for my ride to go to school. I watched out her window as the cops pulled into my driveway.

I was too nervous and scared to go over there and ask them why they were there. I was only 8 years old so I probably wasn't the most mature person in the world. So, I just sat and watched. They knocked on the door, but no one answered. They waited for about 15 minutes, probably hoping someone would answer or return home.

I remember thinking to myself why they were at my house? Did my mother or I do something wrong? As all these thoughts were

racing through my head, not once did I think about anything happening to my brother.

So after they left I continued with my day as I would any other day. I went to school and then came home, completely forgetting about the police. I opened the door to find my mother sitting on the couch crying. I asked her what was wrong and she told me "Your brother is now in the Lord's hands." Being so young, I had no idea what she was talking about. So, I asked her what she meant. That's when I realized why the police came to my house. My brother had died.

I am now 18 and am glad I lived this long, knowing my brother was only 16 when he died. He wasn't a perfect child because nobody ever



TOO SAD TO LAUGH

A Column by Kristina Alas

is. He had his problem and his bad habits. I guess his habits cost him his life. He died in a car accident.

He liked to steal cars and had been caught several times.

He stole a car not far away from home. Well, I shouldn't just say he stole the car because his friends were in on it also. They took off in another car the moment they heard the sirens, leaving him to take all the blame. I don't know why he did what he did, but

I guess that's just the choice he made. Instead of letting the police arrest him, he drove away in the car. I'm not quite sure how long the cops chased him, but as he was being chased he saw a light turn red. He went right through the light and a semi truck hit him. It smashed right into the driver side. He didn't die right away, but was stuck in the car for a couple of hours. They had to call in firemen to help get him out.

After hours of trying to get him out of the car, they took him to the hospital. He lived for an hour there and then passed away.

My mom still to this day is very angry with the police for not calling her when my brother was still alive in the hospital. Instead they decided to wait until after he died to call her. I never told my mom that I saw the police at my house.

Maybe if I had gone home and asked the police what they wanted. Maybe then my mom would have been able to see him one last time. I guess I never told her the cops came because I was afraid she would get mad at me and put the blame on me for her not being able to see him before he died.

During the next two weeks or so, I had never in my life seen my mom so sad. Of course she had every right to be upset, but I wasn't. I did cry when I first found out. It wasn't until I was about 16 or 17 that I realized how much him dying really impacted my life. I think it was because I was so young I didn't realize what was going on. Now when I think about it, it hurts to think of all he could have been. I think about how different I might have turned out if he didn't die.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Students getting fatter regardless of required gym class

Negative

Teens gaining weight due to poor Phys. Ed.

Many periods every day are wasted on Physical Education (P.E.) classes because some of these classes do not do what they are meant to do, which is to have students actually exercise.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

It is a fact, students are getting fatter nationally and the overabundance of fast food is making it harder for students to be able to lose weight.

Yes, students are lazy. Most would rather take a test than run the mile. It takes motivation and push to make students exercise, but they need it.

The P.E. curriculum needs to be changed or eliminated. It is just that simple.

Bowling does not burn calories or even make a student break out in a sweat. Most P.E. classes are worthless. They do not do what they are supposed to do.

When the P.E. classes were in the portables, students played checkers. Many days the class took 42 minute walks, which almost sounds like what a gym class should be.

Except for the fact the classes got to walk to the pastry shop and buy doughnuts!

That is ridiculous. There is very little strenuous or difficult physical activity in some of these classes. How are kids supposed to get healthy if they don't sweat, at least a little?

The students who run the mile could usually run it in the first place and the others go halfway and finish with a "C" in the class. Nothing is being achieved.

Even the classes where there is work supposedly being done, like weight training, there are some students taking it easy instead of building muscle and burning fat.

The fact that Aerobics students try to find ways to hide their everyday outfits under their gym clothes shows exactly how much work they plan on putting into the class.

Students should be taking more classes such as mathematics and English and not wasting valuable time on classes that yield very little results because of how they are set up. What possible job possibilities does P.E. offer?

Students who are in sports are required to take gym classes also, which seems like overkill. They work hard at games and practices, and then during the school day must also lift weights or shoot baskets.

The others, such as shuffleboard, don't even require effort, and students lazily complete what they have to do to get a grade. Without losing any weight or gaining any valuable knowledge, students spend 42 minutes that could be put to better use.

They have no other motivation, and have a much better chance at exercising outside of school, when they are awake and not concerned about what their peers think.

P.E. classes are basically a social hour. Students have no motivation to lose weight or be healthy. These classes must be cut to make room for more useful classes. Encourage students to eat healthier, join sports or clubs to get exercise because P.E. classes just aren't enough.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Positive

Gym classes offer fun exercise in school day

After half the students stretch for 15 minutes, the class settles down to a relaxing game of ping-pong, where their heartbeats do not speed up the slightest bit and they do not break into even the mildest sweat.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

Some P.E. classes don't really do a lot as far as burning fat, building muscle, but some do. A lot of what happens in these classes is up to the students themselves. The teacher can't make these things do things.

Even the classes that don't do a lot as far as exercising are fun. They help the mind. For example, people have fun playing ping pong and it relieves the stress of the day. A person doesn't have to worry about homework or tests for that class period at least.

The only worry for those 42 minutes is if your going to lose a match or not.

Yes, according to some statistics, the entire country is gaining weight. Why is it the responsibility of the schools to make students stay healthy? These teachers are not forcing Twinkies down the kids' throats.

Where are the parents? Where is the personal decision making that let health slip?

There is heavy physical activity in some classes, for those who appreciate it. No one will take weight training who doesn't want to build muscle. Nobody who wants a built body by the end of the semester will take Lifetime Sports.

The people who want to take a serious P.E. class will. Why should they have to bother with those only there for the credit? It always cause a problem for the teachers?

Teens need to take responsibility for their own lives. There is a reason for gym classes and there is a reason the teacher makes them required.

Everyone knows some of these classes aren't promoting health and weight loss as much as they should. However, some are.

Whether it is weight training or shuffle board and hoola hoop, there is something to get out of P.E. People need to get over the idea that gym class isn't always going to be an improvement on their everyday lives.

Those who complain should know they had other choices. They could take marching band or ROTC if they don't want to do gym. They wouldn't have to change into shorts and T-shirts.

There are always other options. There are a variety of P.E. classes as well. They range from those that are based around those who want a strong and structured workout and there are those there just for fun.

Shooting hoops and walking around the gym with friends everyday isn't that bad. Students are just looking for something to complain about. Gym is an easy target because it is required class that involves more sitting and pretending to listen.

If there is a problem in the P.E. classes, blame the students. They are the ones who don't put forth any effort. The teachers are the ones trying to motivate 2,500 kids to do the mile.

Young ladies need to avoid media influence on how to act in public

My parents always told me to act like a lady. They do not want to be ashamed of who I look up to or what other people see me doing. I have no problem with trying to please my parents, but I am a little worried about the teenage girls around me.

There seems to be a lot of commotion over the attitudes of today's young ladies.

Some of them are acting like the girls featured in music videos and others are acting like they do not even care how they act.

From ages 16 to 28, there is a generation of teenage women who have lost the meaning of what a real lady is.

A lot of girls in my generation look up to the music video dancers or playboy models.

Because of this, they don't see what a real lady should act like. I believe they act like those women because they want to have the same attention these women get from the media.

But even if some girls do not necessarily act like those women, they may be dressing like them. And I believe they

do not have to wear revealing clothing to get attention.

The problem is these figures on television do not show young girls how to give themselves self-respect.

This is very important. It really matters.

I appreciate myself and I would do whatever I could do to let other teenage girls know the meaning of self-worth.

My generation of teenage girls can get respect without looking up to any model on television.

I believe when girls look up to this video-type girl, they lose the real meaning of self-worth.

They are distracted from figuring out who they want to be and what the media wants to make out of them.

To me, the media cannot tell me what I look good in and they cannot tell me how to act. I choose how I want to look on my own. It sounds simple, but a lot of girls my age don't get it.

The media says a young lady, growing to become a woman, should not worry about taking care of her image. Instead it wants her to do everything her favorite celebrity is doing.

It wants her to get plastic surgery to fix any defects. It wants her to wear short skirts for every season of the year and wear so much makeup she looks like a walking Barbie wherever she goes.

I believe teen magazines do the most promotion of how teens should look by the many pages they dedicate to makeover tips and secret ingredients to living a more perfect life. The magazines also use pictures of models who look like they weigh 110 pounds with heads too big to hold their piles of hair.

The media also wants girls to believe the older they look, the more attention and respect they will get from their boyfriends and peers.

I hope some of the teenage girls my age would stop and take a look at how they act and look.

The media wants my generation of young girls to believe this lie and I do not agree with it.

Clothing is not the only way a lady can show she has matured. The choice of words teenagers use shows the level of maturity she has. A true lady does not curse or disrespect authority.

A true lady does not call anybody names. Some do this because that's what they see on numerous

television shows.

Aside from what teenage girls choose to do in public, a lady can be seen acting like a lady at all times.

She does not act like a lady just so she can get hired for a new job and expect to get respect when her attitude is rude.

Life doesn't work that way. A teenage girl who is really a lady acts like it every day she goes.

A lady should be raised to not believe the degraded stereotypes of an accepted teenage girl.

She does not have to get plastic surgery and she does not have to look like a model and I truly believe this.

I know I have been raised to respect authority, take care of my responsibilities and show self-respect.

My ultimate goal is to achieve this by not looking up to the media for my choice of character traits.

Thanks to my parents, I have no problem with what I am so there is no need to look up to celebrities, dancers, singers for fashion or self-respect. I do not need the media or a teen magazine to tell me who I am, take it or leave it.

04-05 REGISTER

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

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

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

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

The staff hopes to repeat this at the spring 2005 JEA/NSPA convention in Seattle.

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

The Register has won multiple Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.

It has won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA.

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

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

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. They can be sent to the Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via e-mail to Central.Journalism@ops.org.

Letters must include the author's full name and grade.

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

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

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ERUPTING PRICES

Teens are spending enormous amounts of money on gas going from home to school or work because they do not realize all the alternatives that exist... like hydrogen gas?

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Gas prices are currently more than 30 cents higher this year than last year, and complaints have already been heard all over Nebraska.

Teenagers are usually eager to start driving, and feel the need to drive wherever they go, whatever the cost or distance. Most do not realize what this driving does to both their parents' wallets and the environment.

Instead of filling up their sport utility vehicles with gas, these teens and their parents have other choices. One of these choices is hydrogen gas.

A spokesperson for the National Hydrogen Association said hydrogen prices were not that much higher than gas prices right now. A switch to hydrogen energy would be better for the environment and general public health.

Obviously there is an initial cost of getting a car that runs on hydrogen power, but benefits down the road are great.

Eventually, once mainstream America begins the switch to hydrogen powered cars as opposed to their gas guzzlers, hydrogen stations will start appearing.

Buying cars that already run on hydrogen may be expensive, but one could modify any regular car. The cost of the modification would depend on the type of car.

One can come across hydrogen by calling a local industrial gas supplier.

According to the same official, there are three main reasons for switching to hydrogen power.

The first one is economic independence. If the United States switched to hydrogen power, the country would no longer need to depend on outside resources for crude oil. The United States could produce its own power, and thus have more control over it.

The second reason is public and environmental health. Hydrogen power has clean emissions, so there is no after-effects of pollution that gasoline emissions cause.

The final reason is the creation of new jobs. With new hydrogen stations across the United States, it would solve the problem of pollution and unemployment.

Because hydrogen is not that much more expensive than gasoline right now, the choice is obvious. Why pay money for something that pollutes the Earth?

With these rising gas prices, hopefully more people will start to look at hydrogen power and its advantages.

If hydrogen power is not possible, there are many more alternatives to avoid spending money on gas. For short distances, walking and bicycling are healthy and logical ways of getting around.

It saves money and is healthy for the community.

One reason for the rising gas prices at this time is the warming weather. People will start driving more in the spring, so that the roads are clear.

Prices for gas are not even that ridiculous compared to other parts of the world, such as Europe, which charges around \$6 a gallon.

The United States does not charge tax for gasoline as is done in other countries.

Americans have been spoiled in this way, and panic if gas



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

Once the gas prices hit \$2 a gallon, teens will be pumping all their money into their cars. Fuel efficient cars and alternative forms of transportation will need to be taken into consideration.

reaches a price over a \$1.50 a gallon. Demand for gasoline drives the prices up. Without the unnecessary enormous sport utility vehicles needing a refill seemingly every mile, demand would not be as high.

Hummers get eight miles to the gallon. When it costs \$2 to fill the tank, hopefully the Hummer drivers will rethink spending over \$50,000 on a car that costs \$60 to fill up every week.

The Honda Hybrid may not look as tough as the Hummer, but it gets nearly 60 miles to the gallon. It is a cheaper car all around and better for the environment. Other situations are not as easily remedied, such as the situation in the Middle

East, which an official from the American Petroleum Institute attributed to part of the cause of the rising gas prices. Oil has been untapped in areas such as in the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of Florida. Though there is some active drilling in those areas, the government has prohibited any more.

Though drilling in the areas would lower our dependency on foreign oil and thus lower gas prices, it is a good thing the government is trying to slow the country's addiction to oil. There's environmental issues there, too. The government is taking the high road by avoiding drilling in those places. Americans should get over themselves and realize that gas prices could be much higher.

Homeless offer moral guidance



SURPRISING EVERYONE

A Column by Andrew Reinwald

I walked down the dimly lit tunnel. The yellow light cast a glare over the graffiti-covered walls. I hear the crunch of my feet on the leaves and old cigarette packs littered throughout the passageway. I quietly hummed the Aqua Teen Hunger Force theme song until I realized how boring my weekends had gotten.

I was hanging out in the tunnel underneath Northwest Radial hoping to find a homeless person to talk to. A homeless guy will talk to you forever if you'll let him, and nothing beats the nonsensical babbling of a transient when you have nothing better to do. This is what my weekend consists of now waiting for some random guy to tell me how his life fell apart. The words case worker in training come to mind, but I don't care. I'm happy to have someone to talk to.

This is quite a change from what I used to do on the weekends. I would hang out with my friends from the last school bell on Friday up to Sunday night, but then something changed. I wanted to gain perspective on my life and just how I thought about things.

Scratch that. I needed to gain perspective. It turns out that those I hung out with the most were influencing me in ways I didn't like. And it's not even like they were trying to get me to do drugs, it was just the things they said and how much I listened to them. They were nothing more than a bunch of pretentious jerks who thought they were the most original guys around.

Fast forward to a couple of months later, and the only thing I'm doing on the weekends is wishing I knew more people. By then I had a car, and you would think that would be the end of my nefariously boring weekends. But you'd be wrong. Even with a car I still had nowhere to go. The words tragically ironic come to mind.

So on another of my boring, uneventful Saturday nights I drove into a gas station expecting nothing out of the ordinary. But what happened next can only be described as a bizarre journey through one man's obvious mental problems and my own stupidity.

Waiting for me at the gas station was a scraggly, middle-aged guy named Bobcat. He came up and asked for any change I could spare. I didn't have any money, but I did have a car and a full tank of gas.

Do not, I repeat, do not ever pick up a random homeless person, even if you want to gain perspective. I admit I am not the smartest guy around, but this is stupid even for me. We then traveled around the city so he could hustle up enough money for whatever he needed. This was an experience to say the least. At one point he broke down into tears and told me he loved me like his little brother.

But I reached my goal of gaining perspective, and let me tell you, perspective isn't pretty. Instead of learning life lessons I realized this man was nothing more than a broken old man, and there wasn't much I could learn from him. Except how to hustle, that was about it.

Random drunk tests not meant for schools

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

School districts across the country have begun to widen the use of Breathalyzers to test students at school functions and now even during the regular school day.

This unacceptably encroaches on student privacy. Where should adults draw the line?

Several school districts in New York and Wisconsin have already approved the use of Breathalyzers to test students during the regular school day. Any student who refuses to be tested is considered guilty.

Not only is this unfair it is illogical. Many students would feel uncomfortable with the threat of being tested for no good reason.

Although school administrators across the nation feel that they must do everything in their power to limit drug and alcohol use, there is only so far they can go without invading a student's privacy.

For years Breathalyzers have been used at proms and sporting events to catch those who had already been drinking, but if the students are going to drink, catching them after the fact doesn't do any good.

Some worry that students would be forced to take the test against their will if a teacher thinks they are acting strange.

The increased use of the Breathalyzer test is only an indication of school official's rising concern over binge drinking. The number of students who drink compared to those who don't varies from where you go; it's very subjective.

Instead of school authorities invading a student's privacy, they should work harder to keep the alcohol out of students' hands in the first place.

The more binge drinking horror stories school officials hear the more likely they are to implement Breathalyzer tests during the school day.

When students get drunk and go to class or bring liquor to sporting events, they are jeopardizing the privacy of the other students who choose not to drink.

Other students' selfish and immature behaviors with illegal substances are causing others to pay for their bad decisions.

But despite the selfishness of others, school authorities still should not have the right to subject you to a test with which you are not comfortable with.

Cell phones bring down level of social behavior

I walk into the gas station and the attendant at the counter recognizes me. He reaches for the phone behind the counter.

"Hey," I say. "Can I use your..."

"Yes."

He hands me the phone and I make a few calls, say thanks, and walk out the door.

Cell phones are the single most illogical invention in the last few decades.

There is no way you can ever get me to own one. I cannot fathom the idea of carrying around a small electronic device that sticks an arm and a leg to talk long distance to relatives, and is found everywhere anyway mounted to walls and glass containers.

I realize why some would see a cellular telephone as useful, even clever, and I even admit to borrowing cell phones. But I refuse to own one.

Why should someone who either isn't there I am or doesn't even care enough to know where I am be contacting me? Maybe I am not at home because I don't want to be found.

In emergency situations a phone would

be handy, but then how often do those come up? I am betting that when an emergency situation does come up, I will either be within walking distance of a convenience store or with somebody who has a cell phone. And if not, then I have to figure it out from there.



MOLDING THIS CLAY

A Column by Clay Lomneth

Everybody knows of the dangers of cell phones and driving, cell phones and heavy machinery, cell phones and brain tumors. Most do not realize the mental dangers of cell phones.

After a while, those cellular users expect to be text-messaged everything. They find out brothers are getting married and grandmothers have died with simple words and a cute little beep pattern.

"UR GRNDMA = DED"

"BRO MARYD"

They expect other people to call or text them, as opposed to the other way around, or even (heaven forbid) meeting them in person.

Talking to people in person opens up a whole new world of a relationship. You can see facial expressions that give away even the

most secret of emotions. Anyone can fake interest on the phone or on the Internet.

With pay phones still everywhere, I'm sure most everyone can spare 50 cents. And if not, any stranger on the street would.

With technology the way it is, I could live out on the streets after high school and no one would know I was homeless. I would wake up from my bed, either a dumpster or a church pew if it's cold, walk down to the local thrift store, buy a tie and dress shirt, and head off to work.

At the end of the day, I would sell the clothes back to a different thrift store, and have some money in my pocket to either call some of my friends or grab a bite to eat.

If the food needs to be microwaved, I could just head on over to a gas station and the one there.

It would be a simple life, without any of my own "necessities." How many times have you gotten home and really had the urge to sit in your living room on your off-white and maroon-striped couch and stare at your fake plants as you sip your lemon iced tea that you set down on a coaster you got from the Grand Canyon gift shop?

Television can be watched from electronics stores. Bathrooms of almost any restaurant or gas station can be used, and

so can the phones. With a few close trusted friends, you could send all your mail to their house, and maybe stay in their basement if the weather got really bad.

And a decent career can easily be kept up without a car, as long as there are some good people in the world who are not opposed to hitchhiking.

With the freedom to wander the streets at will, one does not only learn about the city, they learn about themselves. Everyone has wondered what it is like to be stranded on an island, but what is it like to be stranded in the city?

Can you survive with the clothes on your back and the money in your pocket right now?

I'm sure I could.

But, some people just like their houses and other unnecessary objects. Without their own cell phone and microwave, they would be lost in a world of confusion, just waiting for someone to text-message them. Remember this next time you get your cell phone bill.

Top ten alternative uses for cell phones

1. Practice mountain-climbing skills on the new giant cell phone (right).
2. Use as a paperweight for cell phone bills.
3. Use the backlight as a night light.
4. Put it in the sink to give the ambiance of water running over rocks.
5. Duct tape it to the remote and then call the phone when the football game comes on and you can't find it.
6. Ringers can be used for spontaneous dancing sessions.
7. Use it as a weapon to throw at people who talk on phones in public.
8. Use it as a boomerang when you're empty-handed at the park.
9. Fix that short leg on the dining room table.
10. Antenna makes a great nose picker for the one you love on that special day

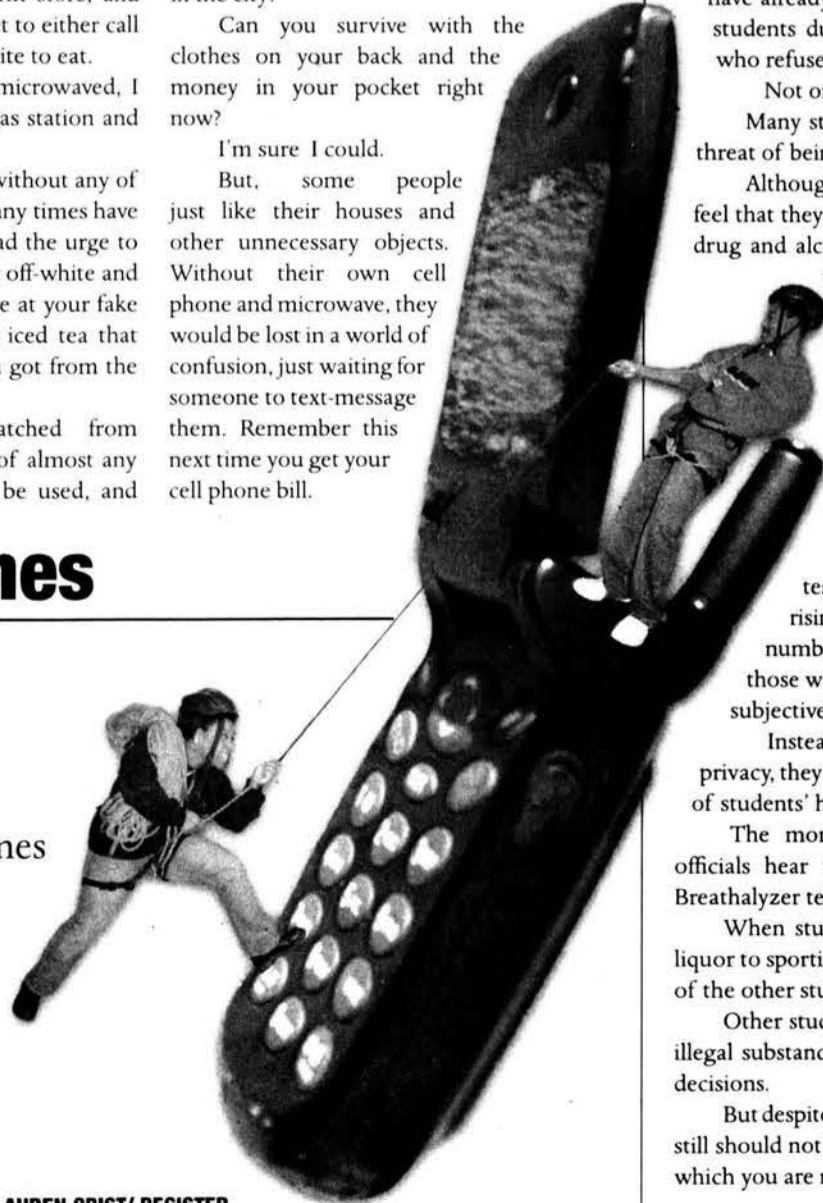


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

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

EDITORIALS



HATE MUSIC: Where do you draw the LINE?

Racist music legally protected

"Racial Killing Sprees" blasts over the speakers. Music is a way to express oneself, and although any kind of racist music may be the wrong message to send, it is still protected by the First Amendment.

The subject of white supremacy and white power, or any other racist message is questionable and offensive, but it is safe under the cover of freedom of speech.

Having freedom of speech in this country means freedom for all types of music, from the positive to the extremely negative. An advantage in this country is the laws devoted to keeping every person equal yet an individual.

Every single person in this country has the same rights as the next person. They have the right to not only think individually, but to also express those thoughts.

Even expressions of hate and anger are allowed. It is when the people act on these thoughts, and take their anger and hate out on somebody, that is when the government can intervene. Harming others is not protected under free speech.

The music is offensive to some, but it is preaching to the choir to others. Ironically, this diversity in music tastes is what keeps white power music around, while their

message frowns on diversity.

One cannot stop the white power music labels or organizations from putting out this negative message. The same freedoms that people use to protest white power music is being used by the white power supporters themselves.

If one so chooses, he can boycott and protest white power music. Nobody is forcing him to listen to it, or believe the message.

By using their freedoms of the First Amendment, people can either stop or support others using the same freedoms. It is their choice, and it is what makes this country great.

If free speech is taken away from one group of people, it must be taken away from all. If pro-white music is shut down, they will have something real to complain about.

Right now, their message is based on incorrect stereotypes and fueled by hate. Restricting what they feel the need to say will only add to their message that the government is against them. To prevent this kind of music, or any other kind of music, or even any other message by any group, one must use their own First Amendment rights.

Speak out against a message. The government should not interfere.

The people should decide what they want to hear or see. Images on Music Television (MTV) have often been controversial because of sexist music videos.

If the people want to stop these videos, the process starts by people using their voices the country gave them the right to use. The constitution was set up so the people could decide what goes on in the country.

If there is still white power music being played in dark corners of venues and the stereotypes of angry white youth, the people have no one to blame but themselves. They need to speak out if they want change, not run to the government for help.

There may be a million debates about how moral or appropriate different kinds of music are. One thing that needs to be remembered is nobody is forcing musicians to do or believe anything. They feel the government cannot stop them, so they can say what they want.

No matter what kind of message the music is sending, it is all fair and legal, even if it preaches hate. Those who preach peace must balance out the messages if they are opposed to them.

The line gets crossed when people act on the message or point out specific people for threats.

Saying something about hateful feelings is one thing, but actually using this hate to harm others is another thing entirely.

Teen proud to be known as 'art girl'

Instead of playing hopscotch or four square at recess as a kid, I would sit in my corduroy overalls in the grass contentedly scribbling in a pint-sized sketchbook.

I never found much entertainment in tag or Simon Says. However, if you gave me a piece of paper, I would be occupied for hours.

My pictures were always on the wall behind the teachers desk. I was always the one called out for doodling all over school assignments.

Students and teachers alike thought of me as the art girl.

Of course that never bothered

me. Whenever I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up there was no hesitation. I would quickly squeak out "artist." It seemed then an undeniable fact; there was no questioning it.

Art has always been the subject I know about more than anything else. It has always been the thing that helped me stand out against the crowd. Being an artist was my identity.

When I was young, I had dreams of living off ramen noodles in a New York studio, working day and night to produce a visionary masterpiece, meeting other starving artists and conversing about our most recent works.

Just as some girls had fantasies of becoming ballerinas or princesses, I went to bed at night dreaming of being an artist.

By middle school, I had begun devouring art history books.

I would beg my father to take me to art exhibits and museums on the weekends.

I would twist his arm to teach me how to use oils or make block prints.

I wanted to know everything. Recently I have realized that I have other areas of interest. I have started to acquire other pastimes.

Now, I wonder if I will ever be an artist, even if that is still what I want.

I have always been the art girl, but what if all of it, all the times I've been told, "I bet you'll be famous someday," all the dreams, never amounts to anything.

What if I end up a housewife with three children, who drives a minivan to pick up her kids from soccer practice.

What about being a doctor, a lawyer or a teacher? What if I pick up everything and go into the Peace Corps.

It's not as if art is my only option.

I have other strengths; I get good grades and enjoy other subjects. Why does it have to be art? Why have I been fixated on this one aspiration for so long?

Art for me is not just an interest or a passion, it's a comfort zone, something I know I can succeed at.

I have always been around art. My father is an artist, and because that, art has been ever present in my household.

Instead of playing catch or board games my father and I would paint and make picture books.

Art was always our preferred form of entertainment.

Thinking back, most memories I have are related to art.

When my mother was pregnant after being told that there was a



YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW

A Column by Emily Harrison

person in the house. I remember sitting in a restaurant, the kind that gives menus to children, while my father taught me the proper way to hold a sphere: shadow, reflected light, highlight.

I remember one year instead of making a snowman, we made a unicorn and my father attempted to teach me the fundamentals of sculpting.

I remember it like it was yesterday. That has to mean art is a major part of my life.

I simply can't get enough of everything art.

When I was sick as a kid and couldn't go to school, I would sit in my dad's office at the playground and he would let me help him design sets.

He would even give me set models to use for doll houses occasionally, some of which I have, preserved in the corner of my room.

Now my father is still training me to be an artist.

Just last summer I worked for him painting murals. He even gave me my own murals to design and paint.

Not only my father, but most of my friends are artists. At the moment I have good friends studying at three different art schools: Kansas City Art Institute, the Chicago Art Institute, and a prominent art school in Rhode Island.

Artistic things and people seem to have a magnetic pull that always fall into.

Books, movies, and magazines about art have always been favorites of mine. Art is something I have always wanted to be drawn to.

It is an integral part of my life and my character. I am an art girl. I always will be.

Giving up on art would be a mistake, something that would neither productive nor gratifying.

So hand me that pen and paper and let me get back to art.

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HEROES & ZEROS

Security system turned back on

With renovations coming to a close, the firewatchers were finally able to have their last day. They were originally employed to walk around the building looking for signs of fires and acting as extra security.

Now that they are gone that means the real security system will be turned on every night and the doors locked. Central is back to its protected state from before renovations.

Renovations nearly complete, stadium to follow

Other than a few math rooms to be built on the fourth floor this summer, renovations will soon be complete. After only one year, the school has added air conditioning, a gymnasium and computer rooms on the fourth floor.

The stadium is nearly complete and by August the Eagles should be able to have home football and soccer games, not to mention the fact that marching band will be able to practice on a real field.

Hopefully this will heighten attendance to athletic events and hopefully give the team a home-field advantage. Gym classes will finally get some fresh air during the school day.

New style for spring play

The spring play will be three one acts directed by students. Three students with aspirations in acting will have the chance to put their own play together. This gives everyone who wants to act or direct a new experience as well as the students who watch.

A computer in every classroom

As of next year every classroom should have a computer so teachers can do grades on the Internet as well as period-by-period attendance.

Updating the school's technology is a huge step for the state's oldest high school. Students will also have access to their files and user names and hopefully be able to connect to the Internet. This will make doing projects easier for the students and make it harder for people to misplace assignments.

Passing periods shortened after portables removed

The passing periods were cut from six minutes to five minutes after winter break. The classes were moved back inside the building. Students can no longer use the excuse that they were late because they had to walk from the fourth floor to the portables.

Students will have to go back to the old excuse of "There was a fight at the 'C' and I couldn't get by."

Even though most students don't need an extra minute, it is nice to have a cushion in between classes.

Administrators cracking down on buying food after warning bell

Students who stand in line for the pop or vending machines after the warning bell will probably be late to class regardless. They only have two minutes to get where they're going and still plan on standing in line to get some Pop Tarts.

Administrators will be pulling kids out of line and telling them to get to class, but they will be late anyway.

Fire alarms still problem every year

Students still feel the need to pull the fire alarm to get a break from their ninth hour classes. They know it is illegal and it cost the school lots of money every time, but they are selfish enough to do it anyway.

It causes an inconvenience for the entire 2,500 people at the school and confuses the lesson plans for teachers.

Even if someone feels the need to get out of a test during the day, do they really need to make the entire student body stand out in the cold for 20 minutes when they will just have to take it tomorrow?

Behavior at basketball games makes CHS look bad

Vulgar cheers and chants at basketball games don't build team moral or ever make the referee change his mind when he calls a foul. It makes this school look immature and rude.

Even if the CHS loses, people can still say "Well, at least Central's students are well-behaved."

OPINION

"I believe they should keep pop machines in Nebraska's high schools because it's part of the schools' source of income. The law that is trying to be passed is flat-out wrong."

Andrew Shirley (10)

THE BIG ISSUE: JUNK FOOD SOLD AT SCHOOL

State Sen. Arnie Stuthman introduced Legislative Bill 285 which would eliminate the sale of junk food during school hours. Many students fear the Bill will interfere with what they eat for lunch and fund-raising.

Bad food improves health

Dear Editor,
Imagine yourself being a junior in high school. You are very involved in school with a full class schedule.

You have no lunch and you have no study hall. To be in school for one and a half hours with no food supplements is very unhealthy. It's already bad enough that teens don't get much sleep. And now there you are looking like a zombie, searching for a morsel of food. Wait! You can go to the courtyard and get food there! But when you get there, you look around and see that it is totally empty. It's just tables and chairs and empty space from where your favorite "passing period snacks" used to be!

Vending machines should not be taken out of high school!
It's bad enough that teens have to deal with the stresses of high school pressure such as drugs, smoking and sex! But now someone is trying to add another problem to the list. Not being able to grab something to help wake your body up or tide you over until you get to your homework is wrong.

If you are feeling bad or sick and your stomach hurts then you go to the nurse and she says, "Here's a little pack of crackers and the drinking fountain is down the hall and to your right!" With a vending machine, all you gotta do is go get some chips and Sprite and you'll be fine! Feeling light headed? Vending machine! No lunch? Vending machine!

A little hungry? Vending machine! Forgot a Valentine's Day present to give to your girlfriend? Try the vending machine!

Without vending machines, our schools would be bare and ugly. We would feel like we can't have anything! The freedom of choice would be gone! Don't they even have vending machines in prison? We need them! For health, for fun and for fund-raising! Vending machines should not be taken out of our high school.

Kerri-Lynn Forrester (10)

Give students diverse options

Dear Editor,
Vending machines should stay in the school. Even though I don't like them, that doesn't mean other students shouldn't be able to buy vending machine products. Some of the food may be unhealthy, but it's the students' choice on what they want. Students should watch what they eat, but the government shouldn't make laws that chose what the students eat. The students should make their own choices.

Bobby Stoffel (11)

Pop not offered outside school

Dear Editor,
I am a student who buys things from the vending machine almost every day. My parents don't have pop around the house so I just buy it here. I'm sure if you took away the vending machines a lot of students would be upset and so would I. Please don't take them away.

Brenda Crolden (9)

Choice of lunches needed

Dear Editor,
We shouldn't have vending machines with unhealthy food because kids are getting fatter, and obesity is a problem. They should have vending machines with healthy foods.

Sarah Kyler (10)

Student income wasted on food

Dear Editor,
I don't really care about the vending machines. I've never used them once. It's probably pretty unhealthy, and last year my sister spent \$175 on soda at Central.

Max Larson (9)



Fat problems from bad food

Dear Editor,
I believe they should keep pop machines in Nebraska high schools because it's part of the schools' source of income. The law that is trying to be passed is flat-out wrong. They have been except for now with a few people made, so they're trying to do something in high school just cause a few kids or adults are mad.

Andrew Shirley (10)

Teens need right to eat junk

Dear Editor,
We shouldn't have vending machines with unhealthy food because kids are getting fatter, and obesity is a problem. They should have vending machines with healthy foods.

Sarah Kyler (10)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Student section needed

Dear Editor,
We need to do something about our student section at our basketball games. I know at every game people complain about students standing up and blocking their view. We need our own section where we can provide the much needed support and school spirit to make our basketball team function to its greatest ability.

James Watson (11)

Teachers need to offer more

Dear Editor,
I am writing to discuss the lack of true teacher-student cooperativeness. Most, but not all, teachers at this school won't talk to students about certain things like politics. If they do talk to you, they talk down to you, like we are not young adults.

Lara Zott (10)

Disciplining too strict

Dear Editor,
I don't have too many complaints, dislikes, likes or opinions about Central High School, but I do have a few such about our staff, students and their rules and problems.

I have gotten Saturday school, after schools and detention for minor things like not taking off my backpack and chewing gum in study hall.

Other than the couple things I just named, I think that Central is okay, but I don't really have too many complaints about it.

Nyela Vaughn (9)

Cameras unnecessary in school

Dear Editor,
Cameras need to be taken out of this school. People don't feel comfortable having people watching them go to classes. Most people at this school aren't doing anything wrong.

Deborah Hildebrandt (10)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Tardiness could be solved by changing bell

Dear Editor,
It is to my understanding that being tardy to class is a major issue among students at Central High School. But all could possibly be changed if only the bell schedule was lengthened by at least a minute or minute and a half.

Christina Kepler (10)

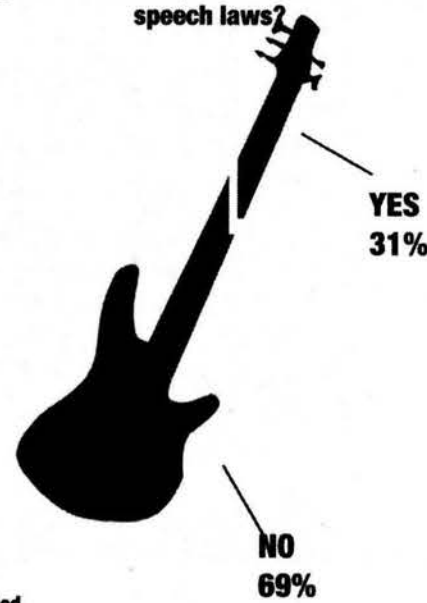
Fast food better than cafeteria food

Dear Editor,
Central's food stinks! The food is pretty gross and sometimes it can give you a stomach ache. So maybe once we can have some Burger King or Taco Bell, Please!

Dustin Wright (9)

STUDENT POLL

Do you think white power music abuses free speech laws?



Variety in school lunch needed

Dear Editor,
School lunches have a ridiculously small variety everyday. It's always the same thing. Students have to wait in line for half the lunch period to get a chicken sandwich and a tater wedge. Then they walk to the ketchup and mustard cart to find the containers empty.

James Whelan (11)

Age should determine privileges

Dear Editor,
I think if you are over 16 you should be able to leave school any time during the school day, even at lunch.

Sara Reynolds (10)

STUDENT POLL

Do you think junk food should be sold in during the school hours?



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think Physical Education (P.E.) classes are worthwhile?



"Sure, it's worth the credit."

Simone Gould (10)



"No. It teaches only winners are the best. It's degrading."

Zachary Culter (9)



"P.E. is pointless. I think if you're playing a sport you shouldn't have to take P.E."

Will Robbins (9)



"No, because we're going to get fat anyway."

Jacqueline Prosocki (10)



"Yes I do. I wouldn't say they teach as much as they provide physical activity during the day, which we need."

Jon Kalantjakos (11)



"Most definitely. It gives you the chance to interact, learn about different sports, sweat and feel good."

Robert Wesley (12)

CHAINED KNOWLEDGE

District officials and parents, sometimes even with good intentions, restrict learning to shield teens from what they deem to be harmful information

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

The Harry Potter Series was the second most banned book by schools in 2003, according to the American Library Association. The schools that censored the book claimed that its content, composed of references to wizardry and magic, was inappropriate.

Clearly the banning of this book is unreasonable. It was influenced by overly conservative views and illogical decision-making on the part of the schools. Harry Potter is a harmless children's book and should not be considered anything else.

Despite the generally conservative stance taken on constitutional rights in Nebraska, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has approached the book censorship situation from a much more progressive angle.

OPS has set a standard in freedom of speech. The district uses a highly logical system known as the "Non-recommended" list, in which as numerous volunteers as the book review committee check hundreds of books for content. Generally, in the case that one of the reviewers deems a book not fit for school, the system has another reviewer examine it for a second opinion. This system of double-checking ensures against possible bias held by certain individuals.

OPS' decision to use a group of educated people, rather than an individual, puts to rest concerns over dishonesty in the system and helps to ensure the equal representation of the committee, composed of teachers, librarians and parents, chooses to site books for numerous reasons, generally because they contain errors in fact or glaring grammatical problems.

In the rare case that reviewers actually determine the books to be inappropriate, it is generally due to distasteful portrayal of the subject matter and not the subject matter itself. An example would be a book on gangs containing photos or passages that somehow glamorize the lifestyle. Even if a book is listed on the "Non-recommended" list, that doesn't mean the book is banned from schools. It's simply the choice of the district that they don't want to endorse or spend money on that particular piece of reading material.

"Students have privacy here to read what they want to read," said Central librarian Sue Devlin, one member of the book review committee.

She said that the only reason why a student may be reprimanded for having a book is if that book is distracting or inappropriate. Inappropriate reading materials can be anything deemed sexually explicit, such as pornography, or containing gratuitous violence.

Students are rarely, if ever called on for having inapplicable literature in classes at Central. Devlin said that this was largely due to her good judgment in not bringing inappropriate materials to school.

While censorship of any kind is disappointing, at least the school officials are using good judgment in determining what material is truly offensive.

The system could definitely use some more student input as well, possibly through alumni or class officers who would be able to give mature advice from the teen point of view. No matter who is chosen to review these books, the question of representation still comes to the forefront: is it fair to allow one group of people, no matter how educated, just to dictate the appropriateness for another? Central is doing a good job of allowing students to have freedom of choice in what they read, as well as promoting constitutional freedom of speech. The policies put in place by both OPS and the school are innovative and other districts should follow their examples.



Over counter drug use shows teen stupidity

It's come down to buying nitrous oxide canisters and chugging the air out of the popped nitrous oxide canisters or chugging cough syrup.

Teens are finding in over-the-counter medicines or even household items.

Imagine showing up at a huge party and bringing out armfuls of the gas out of their canisters. How pathetic can you get?

Or how about going to a drug store and buying tubs of cough syrup and gulping down bottles of putrid tasting sticky red syrup?

This desperation has become excessive. Parents now have to watch that their kids are not overdosing on cold medicines and child proof their homes for their teenagers.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Overdosing on cough syrups is one particularly popular method

for its mild hallucinogenic effect because of the amount of dextromethorphan (DXM) when taken in large doses. It has similar effects to Phencyclidine (PCP).

According to the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, Sudafed is also used, as it contains an ingredient found in Methamphetamine.

As a matter of fact, most over-the-counter cold and cough medicines contain DXM, though these are not harmful when used in the instructed dosage.

DXM is a central nervous system depressant that is chemically similar to Morphine.

When used in small amounts as instructed by medicines, DXM is practically harmless.

There has been an increase in the number of people abusing over-the-counter and prescription drugs. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 6 percent of 12 to 17 year olds have used prescription pain relievers non-medically while only 2 percent have used stimulants and tranquilizers non-medically.

Unfortunately, these medicines can have deadly side effects.

Many people mistakenly think just because something is over-the-counter that it can't be as dangerous as other drugs. However, these medicines can have many of the same effects.

"Whippets" or drugs involving the inhalation of whipped cream nitrous oxide canisters relieves anxiety and indirectly blocks pain.

Gas from a pressurized tank can cause frostbite of the nose, lips and possibly even the vocal chords.

Someone experiencing the effects of the nitrous oxide may not realize this while it is occurring.

Overdosing on DXM can have damaging effects as well. According to the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Use, such effects gradually worsen with use, and can eventually lead to cerebral hemorrhages, strokes, seizures, hypothermia and even death through breathing difficulties.

Not only that, stores have to change their policies as well. One Central Hyvee employee said now Robitussin and other cough syrups have to be locked up in a glass cabinet and an employee must unlock it before someone may purchase it.

There is also a limit on the number of bottles of cough and cold medicines containing DMX that someone can buy. Overall, between "Robotripping," "Whippets," and other pathetic ways to get the effects of drugs, the idiocy of teens is again revealed.

Depression disorder changes views of grandmother

There are some people who have made an impact in my life, but there is only one who has made me the person I am.

Every day after school, I would walk the whole two blocks, which seemed like miles to a 6 year old, to my grandma's house. When it was warm outside, she would wait outside, sitting on the retaining wall, waiting to see if I made it home all right. If it was cold, she would sit at the bench inside the entrance and leave a teddy bear outside with a piece of candy or a little gift.

My grandma was off to work. My parents were busy working until late evening, so they needed someone cheap and trustworthy. Asking my grandmother to do it was the best decision they could have made.

It looked like a house from a movie set in suburbia.

It was a large, bright red house with perfectly trimmed grass and colorful rows of flowers. I felt like a princess. I had the same routine every day. I would set my backpack down, open a Diet Coke, get a bowl of Fruit Loops and sit at the kitchen table with her and watch Oprah.

Those days were the best days of my life. I was carefree, innocent and was able to spend time with the most unique person I knew. My grandmother was a smoker. I didn't care. She was stubborn. I didn't care. She was picky. I didn't care. As long as I could be spending time with her, I didn't care. She was my best friend.

One of the earliest memories I have is running around my grandma's backyard chasing after the ground squirrels listening to my grandma singing songs from the kitchen, making them up as she went.

We would play card games and I would make up the

rules, but she didn't care, as long as it made me happy.

I have some of the best memories of playing hide-and-seek and my brother freezing my underwear. We would walk to the park or the pool, but I always had the comfort that my grandma's house, more importantly, my grandma, was only a few blocks away.

I knew she was old and someday she wouldn't be here anymore. But I didn't know it was going to happen so soon.

One day, after a half day I took the bus to her house. I walked into the kitchen and right away I knew something was different. Her eyes looked blank and there was no warmth in her deep brown eyes.

She kept saying mumbled stuff under her breath, saying she was talking to the ghosts. She wasn't herself. I had lost her.

I had no idea what she was talking about. I called my mom. She said that it was happening again. I didn't know what she was talking about. She said to be ready to take her to the hospital.

I was scared. I had never been this scared before. I didn't let it show. I tried to look responsible and clear-minded. My mom came over immediately, followed by two of my aunts and an uncle. It felt like an intervention.

At this point, my grandma was shaking and crying. I felt useless. All I could do was talk to her and make her feel comfortable.

On the way to the hospital, my mom explained to me that my grandma was bipolar and she went on and off being depressed.

It was if her mind wasn't her own. It wasn't the grandma who would wait for me every day and leave me little gifts at the door.



YOU'RE NOT REAL

A Column by Annie Kline



NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY

A Column by Lauren Crist

Student learns life lessons through pairing up with child at Special Olympics

She had a first place ribbon. To her, it didn't matter that everyone else had won as well. She clung onto the emerald blue ribbon, which to her was the equivalent of the Olympics.

"I'm the best!" she cried.

My friend and I congratulated her and cheered her on as she went back to race once more, flinging her hands up to the bleachers as though posing for a photo op.

"Do you want my autograph?" she asked after three more ribbons. I quickly gave her a pen and piece of paper, and she scribbled on it quickly.

In a couple of hours, I had completely changed my idea of Special Olympics. I signed up expecting not to do much except perhaps sit on the sidelines and cheer on my buddy.

But this girl had completely changed my perception. She suffered from Down syndrome.

When she had first stepped off the bus, she ran over to my friend and me. She had more energy than both of us put together and was running around excitedly trying to race before they even started it.

She even wanted to race us, and she easily won. I was surprised because I hadn't thought that I would make friends at the Special Olympics.

I just expected to stand off to the side and not do much.

But my idea of an easy afternoon soon changed. I spent my time racing after her and trying to keep all the ribbons she had won from flying away in the breezy afternoon.

As a matter of fact, the only problem I had all day was when I went to get some water from the drinking fountain and it flung into my nose and all over my face.

Of course, she thought this was hilarious and was so entertained by it that she was laughing for hours.

I enjoyed my time volunteering so much that I went up for another event with Special Olympics and swimming.

My "buddy" was again a lively girl who had more energy than I did. After doing what seemed like one thousand laps, I was exhausted, but she kept wanting to swim. We took a slippery blue kick board and we

worked on kicking, and then her stroke overall.

She ran up the slide steps and slid back down into the frigid water about 18 times, begging me to follow her right afterwards. Once we got to the bottom of the slide, we had huge splash parties that soon incorporated the entire group and took up the majority of the pool area.

At that point, I didn't care that half the people in the pool were glaring at us as coaches and kids alike acted about half our age. It was great.

I learned as much for them as they did from

me. I learned how to have fun and not care what everyone else was thinking.

I also learned a lot about differences. Unlike so many people who claim to be so mature, the Special Olympics students were never excluding anyone.

If someone was scared to go down the slide they would patiently wait or try to help rather than mocking or bullying them.

Whenever a girl or boy was sitting alone or feeling lonely, someone was always quick to welcome them or invite them in on the splash parties.

I was impressed. While I had joined to help out with Special Olympics, the students had taught me even more.

I had learned not to be exclusive and to judge everyone fairly even though they were completely different than me.

Tragedy turns family to reunion weekend

At the age of 1, my cousin Thomas Malley, who is now 17 years old, had his first open-heart surgery after being born with Down syndrome and a hole in his heart.

When Thomas came into this world, he could not make it without the help of oxygen and feeding tubes.

The hole was right in the middle of his heart. After a year he was taken to Bergen Mercy Hospital for a patch to be placed over it so he could stay alive.

Being born with a hole in the heart is actually not very uncommon for children born with Down syndrome.

The following month, he went through a period of sedation where he was given more tubes and tanks to stay alive.

Completely in tears, scared and appalled, was how Thomas' parents look in all of the information.

He eventually made it through all of the medical assistance needed for survival and began to eat food on his own.

It was after all of that when Thomas started to gradually gain weight and develop into a healthy human being.

Sandy, Thomas' mother, fought very hard to have Thomas mainstreamed into the public schools, as opposed to special education classes.

She won the battle and was able to send Thomas to a public school with one of his other brothers and take classes that were offered to other kids as well.

He has never learned to speak, but has been speaking sign language and works for a local Grand Island grocery store stocking food.

He is able to communicate well enough for everyone to understand what he means.

When Thomas' surgery was being performed, Bill, his father, and my father went to have a drink and discuss the matter.

It was then Bill decided to do something special in honor of his son's improving condition, and to help him work past future situations.

He wanted to give the family a break; a break from all the tension.

He decided he would take a camping trip in the Colorado Rocky Mountains with his five other brothers, sister and mother.

A blazing campfire, wonderful meals, games, singing and guitars were some of the many things they could all do to have fun.

The Fish Bash was the name given to the summer camping trip, though not very much fishing went on.

The idea of the trip was intended for a relaxing time with the family.

After the wonderful time in the Rockies, the brothers decided to have someone host another one the

following year.

The Fish Bash has been going on 17 years now and every year it is held in a different city, hosted by another person.

The trip included just the brothers, their mother, and sister for eight years.

Then the trend started to pick up when one of the brothers decided to bring his wife with him.

Now the Fish Bash consists of all of the brothers, their wives and children.

However, the annual trips have started to somewhat revert back to its original format with just the brothers, due to the trips being held in states far from Nebraska.

Besides a few days for Thanksgiving, this is the only time that all of my dad's side of the family can get to spend a good amount of time with each other.

In a way, the Fish Bash has been a chance for my family to remember something important in life.

A bad situation a long time ago has turned into a yearly reunion of sorts that they look forward to every year.

It's important to find things like this in life to keep you going when things are not going the best.

Thomas' condition has never been anything the family couldn't handle, and no one in the family has had anything less than loving feelings towards him.

Many people think just because a person with this disease can't function the same as other people, they might be weaker, slower and not as smart.

This is not true at all. They are some of the strongest and most positive people I've met.

This is unlike many teenagers who take everything for granted. They don't appreciate what they have and can do. They don't get it.

People with Down syndrome have an inner strength that is often needed to overcome some of the obstacles involved in dealing with a disease.

Unfortunately, in the world that surrounds us today, kids think it is really funny to mock and make fun of people with this disease.

Not only is that vulgar and obnoxious, but it makes them look like they are the ones with a problem.

Thomas' condition has made his family and friends grow into stronger people when they see an innocent kid being made fun of for something he was born with.

They have learned tolerance and how to appreciate other people's differences.

What started out being a very depressing situation many years ago has grown into a positive, annual function filled with fun, love and hope.

It is a yearly reminder that people should never lose hope.



WAFFLE-CONE WEDNESDAY

A Column by Pat O'Malley



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Mark Smith
NEW ADMINISTRATOR

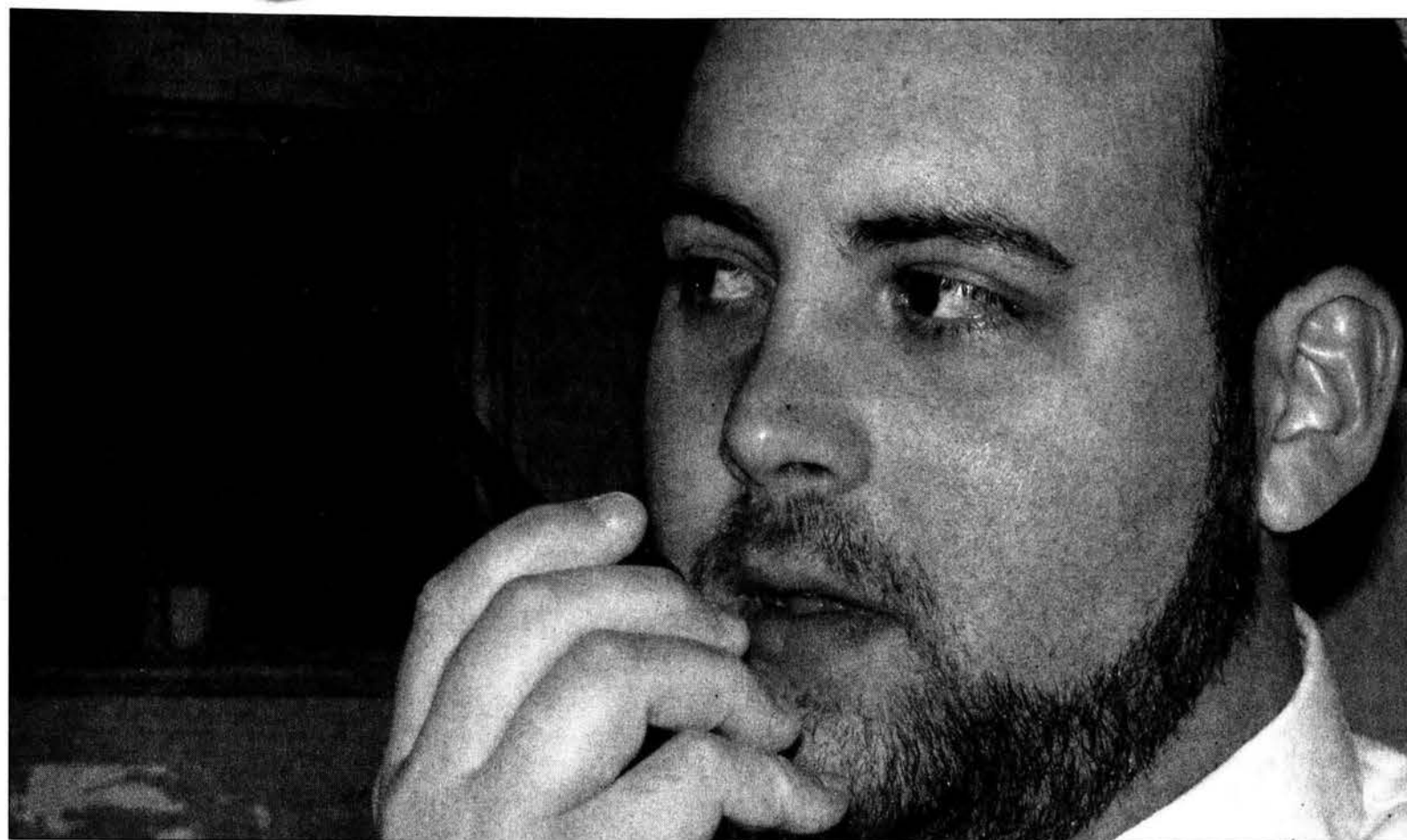


PHOTO BY ANNIE KLJNE/REGISTER

Administrator Mark Smith talks to a security guard over his walkie-talkie on the first floor, two side. He has only been an administrator since the start of second semester. He taught physics at Central before that.

Administrator discusses his new position as a dean of students and the changes since his switch from being a science teacher

- Q:** Why did you decide to become an administrator?
- A:** It took some convincing over time. I did want to teach physics or science for the rest of my life. I wanted a master's degree and the only one that was available was an administration degree. While I was taking classes for it, I decided to become an administrator. It appealed to me more and more each day.
- Q:** Do you miss anything about teaching?
- A:** I do miss getting to do physics stuff. I probably see as many students as I did before and I like that. When you're a teacher, you get to know each of your students because you work with them every day. In this job, you see a kid once and don't get to know them or their personality.
- Q:** Do you plan on staying an administrator? Is there anything else you would like to do?
- A:** I plan on staying an administrator for a while. I might want to get a job as a vice principal or even a principal in a high school.
- Q:** Is this job what you expected?
- A:** It's pretty much what I expected. There are always problems to solve. There is always room for improvement no matter who you are or what you do. With a school this size, you can't always save everything. There's not enough time and not enough people to do that. If I solved every problem in this school, they wouldn't need me anymore.
- Q:** How to the students' problems affect you personally?
- A:** A lot of times, you try to not let their problems become personal to you. I am there to help them make the best choices for their situations. However, some kids here have tough situations and I wish there were more ways I could help them. There are some kids who think I'm not helping them out right now, but I hope in five to 10 years down the road, they will realize I made them a more responsible adult.

Student views being associated with big brother a compliment

I am not my brother. If you have an older sibling or even a close cousin, chances are you may have been compared to them at one time or another. Welcome to my life.

As I grew up, my cousin Emily was one of my closest friends. I had more in common with her than I did with either of my brothers, and we were only a year apart in school.

That's where things went wrong for me.

We both went to the same elementary school, Holy Cross, which is pre-school straight through eighth grade. Her being a year ahead of me, and the presence of a strong family resemblance, resulted in me being

called by her name more times than I was able to count. Only people who this has happened to on a regular basis can truly appreciate the frustration of having to correct the same people for the same error almost daily.

Calling someone by the wrong name is a mistake that is understandable from teachers, tolerable from aunts and uncles, but even my own mother has slipped up every now and then.

The two of us are almost

completely different from one another now, and she goes to a different school. I thought that maybe once I got to

high school, the comparisons and slip-ups would stop and I was right. The comparisons to Emily did stop.

Enter John. Now if you're sure you don't know me, but the name Kendall sounds familiar to you, you probably know my brother. Before I got to high school, the only thing John and I had in common was

again, that strong family resemblance. I wasn't in any way, shape or form anything like him. John changed and really came into his own while he was in high school, and it was someone completely different from the person I was. I was in the seventh grade when John transferred to Central, and to be honest the way he changed scared me a little. Okay, it scared me a lot.

John had become this dark, crazy, long-haired, punk rock type. I was still the preppy little girl who listened to Backstreet Boys and read Tiger Beat. Because of these differences, we really had nothing to do with one another, and we were hardly ever compared on any level. I loved it.

Fast forward two years, I was about to start my freshman year at Central, John was about to be a senior. I still wasn't sure what had happened to John or why, and we were still completely different, so there were almost no comparisons. Life was good.

The first day of my freshman year I was sitting at lunch with my friends. Finally, I was Kristen. I wasn't Emily, I wasn't either of my brothers, I was just me. I figured Central was a big enough school that I couldn't ever come into contact with anyone who could link me to my brother. Wrong. A reporter for the Register sat down with us, asked for our names, and that was the moment reality hit. I told the student my name

and what did I hear? "Are you John's sister?" All I could do was nod my head. "You two look a lot alike." Great, I was once again in somebody's shadow, and not just anyone's shadow, but it was my scary older brother.

Though I definitely didn't realize it at the time, it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

During my freshman year, I came across many people who knew John. I remember after I told one person who I was, they responded that John and I were practically the same person.

I still didn't see it, but it at least got me to talk to my brother.



NOT LIVING IN THE SHADOWS

A Column by Kristen Kendall

Execution of minors finally banned in United States

Putting minors to death for any reason is wrong, and is in no way justified by the constitution.

The Supreme Court deserves a round of applause. On March 2, it determined that placing a person put on death row for a crime he committed as a minor is unconstitutional.

Up until that decision, it was legal in numerous states to execute minors aged 16 and older. While Nebraska was not one of these, the Supreme Court's verdict is a step in the right direction concerning all cases of execution.

Five members of the court, composing the narrow majority of jurors who supported the ban, considered juvenile execution to be cruel and unusual punishment, which American

citizens are protected against in the Eighth Amendment.

United States law was not the only factor putting pressure on the Court to decide against executing minors.

"They did cite the international opinion on putting juveniles to death," Jody Neathery said.

Neathery, an associate professor of political science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said since 1990, only seven other nations in the world have permitted the execution of minors. These countries were Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Niger, China, the Republic of Congo and Saudi Arabia.

Neathery said she is strongly opposed to any form of the death penalty, and described the actions of the Supreme Court as "a step in

the right direction."

The rights of minors must be defended. If people under 18 are not going to be allowed to vote, then it is unreasonable to apply the same punishments to them as to adults who have more legal responsibilities.

The five members of the Supreme Court were completely correct in their decisions to denounce the juvenile death penalty. The other four should seriously consider the ramifications of execution.

Execution, especially of minors, ruins other lives, too. Parents, friends, brothers and sisters can all become severely depressed.

Despite the outcome of the debate in regards to juveniles, the issue of the death penalty is far from resolved, Neathery said. She explained that many activists will now fight against the execution of mentally unstable individuals.

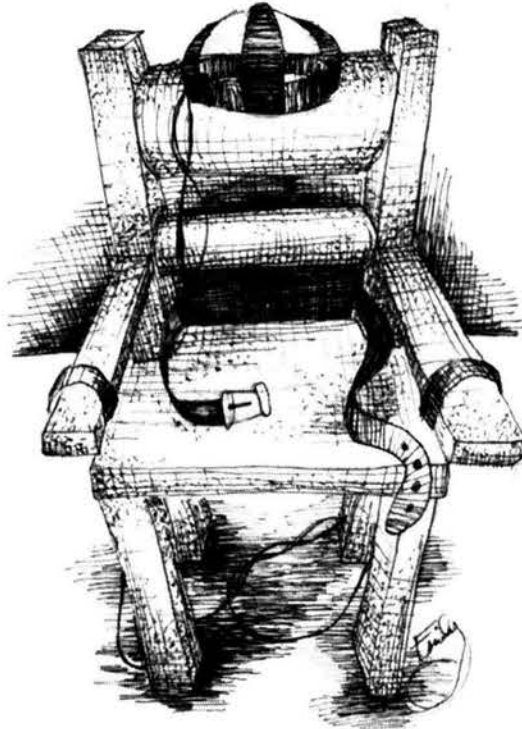
No matter what the mental or physical handicaps of convicted killers are, the use of the death penalty is illogical, promoting revenge and the "eye-for-an-eye" concept.

The U.S. court system is denying its own fallibility by using the death penalty as a permanent end to an uncertain decision. Aside from whether or not execution is morally wrong, it is simply too risky. Often people are proven innocent after serving years in prison, but execution is irreversible.

The fact that a government is condoning murder of any kind provides not only a bad example, but appears to be borderline hypocritical.

The United States is killing its own citizens. Fortunately, it's now down to 18 and older who have the privilege.

It's good to know the government finally accepted that it is wrong.



EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of the Register staff

OPINION

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THINK SERIOUSLY

A Column by Natasha Fields

Friend fails to learn life-lesson about Internet

One day my friend, let's call her Kit, was feeling lonely so she got online like she did every other day. She was feeling extra lonely, so she went to a website where a person could make her own profile and put a picture of herself online.

So, she did. She put a picture of herself online thinking it was no big deal. She received a few emails and this made her feel special. The next couple days, she found other very similar sites that offered her the same results.

She put more pictures and information about herself online.

Kit received numerous e-mails from people she had never seen before and began talking to all of them, believing it to be a harmless way of expressing her feelings about her every day life.

One day while online, Kit met a guy, let's call him Don. Don was different from all the other guys. Kit believed him to be a smart, very attractive guy with a great sense of humor.

What Kit didn't know was Don wasn't really Don. It was all an act so he could get her to meet him in person and eventually, who knows.

Kit kept talking to Don, telling him about her everyday troubles. He would listen intently, telling her that she was beautiful according to her picture. He told her everything she wanted to hear.

Kit, never having heard someone so "perfect" say such nice things about her, fell for Don's tricks and believed stronger everyday that he was the guy for her.

One day, not too long after meeting Kit online, Don asked for Kit's phone number and she gave it to him, not knowing who he really was.

Don called Kit on almost a nightly basis to talk to her and further gain her trust. Soon, it grew to several times a day and eventually she began calling him. His plan was working.

Kit had begun to trust Don, rather than him calling her. He no longer needed to call her because she had become obsessed with him. She became attached to a guy she had never seen before in her life, a guy who she thought to be okay because he would sing her favorite song to her on the days she felt bad.

One day Kit asked Don for a picture of him. He was not too excited about the idea, but he sent a picture to her. A picture not of himself, but of his athletic, good looking "friend," but Kit didn't know the truth. She now believed everything Don said.

I had already been suspicious just because she had met this guy online, but now he just seemed too good to be true. I voiced what I thought to Kit, but she refused to believe that her "perfect man" wasn't who he said he was. Kit continued talking to Don. He eventually asked her to meet him in person. She agreed to it.

Kit went to the mall without the knowledge of any of her friends, including her family or me. She was going to meet Don on the first floor of the mall in front of a clothing store.

Kit, actually using some common sense, waited on the second floor watching the spot where they were to meet, just to make sure. Minutes went by and no one showed up.

She waited for another ten minutes and was about to leave when an older, overweight, creepy man appeared at the spot where they were to meet. Kit was positive it was just someone else standing and waiting for a friend, but then he reached down into his pocket and took out a cell phone. He dialed a number and held it up to his ear. Kit's phone rang.

A HEATED ISSUE

Some believe certain aspects of various religions should be taught in public schools to enhance students' knowledge and help promote tolerance. Others feel any religion in public education is wrong.

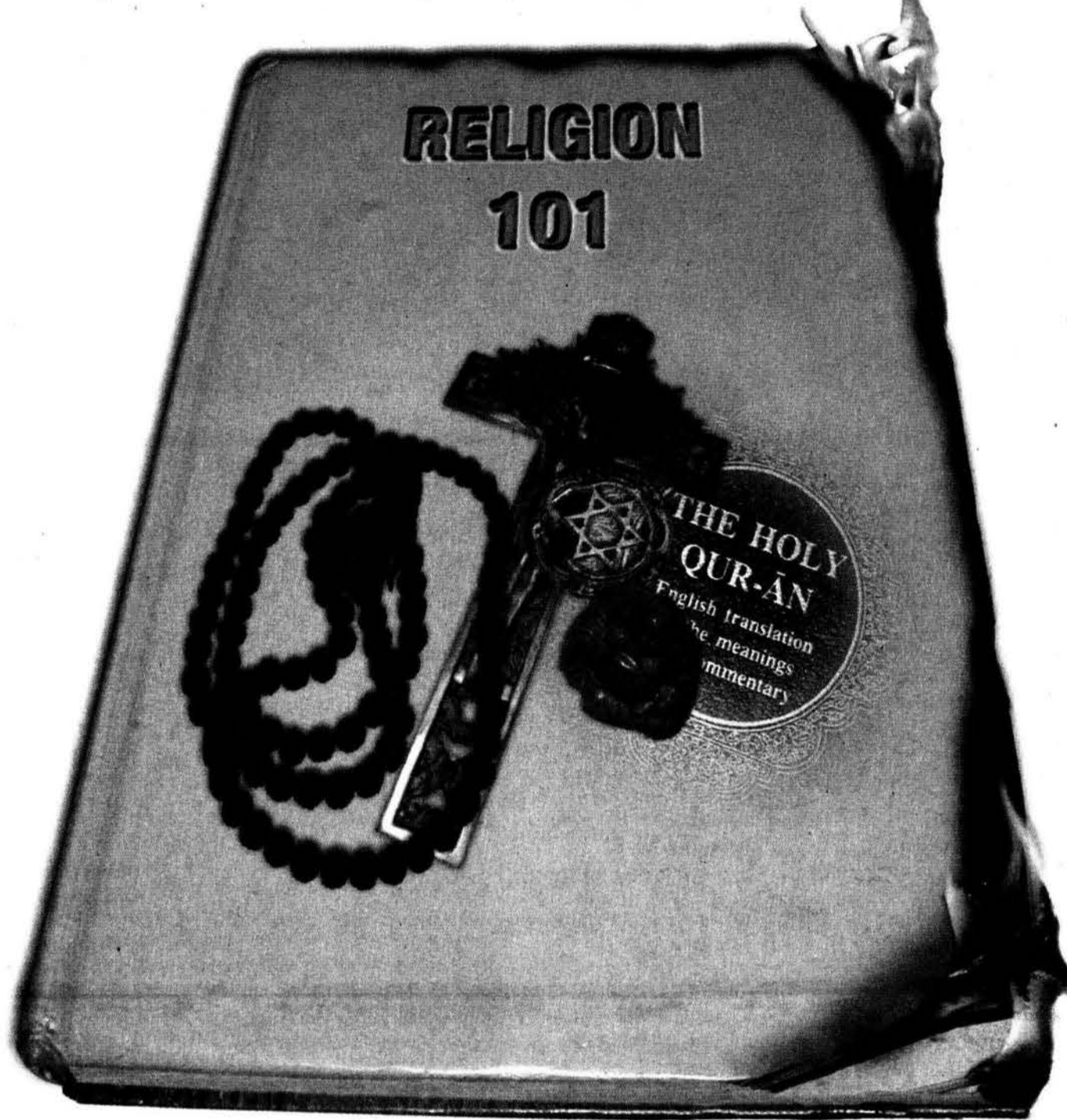


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

Certain scholars feel teaching some fundamentals would go a long way in bridging gaps that exist between perceptions and reality when discussing religion. It is also almost impossible to teach history without mentioning the impact religion has had on society.

One of the biggest aspects of studying social studies is looking at the different religions of the world. Religion is the spark of controversy that has caused disputes and even wars throughout history.

What would be so wrong with having a class that teaches the history of the world's religions? Instead of eliminating religion from all schools and taking it away from the students, why not promote discussion by allowing students in public schools to take an elective that jumps into the histories of the various religions in the world.

The fact that people are so naive about different religions may be a reason why people are bigoted or not willing to hear about them. Having discussions about different faiths and the basis for those faiths belongs in a classroom. It is a controlled environment with an intelligent teacher who could answer

questions or bring important questions to the table. Discussion would help open people up to diversity at Central.

The classroom is a place to promote open discussion and learning. People shouldn't be sheltered from something so prominent in society.

The only thing students hear about religion may be one chapter in World History about the few major religions.

This isn't asking for public schools to bring faith and prayer back into schools. If students are going to be taught something as controversial as religion, it should be done right.

It should be a class that revolves around topics dealing with religion and faith. How can society expect people to be open-minded if it closes its doors to topics such as religion?

Both public and private high schools in the Omaha area teach world religion classes. Why does the biggest school in

the state that is the most diverse not have a class about religious diversity?

It's not like teachers would tell students what deity to believe in. That would cross the line.

Why doesn't Central have a class like this? Students and parents have nothing to be afraid of. If parents don't want their children to hear about histories and fundamentals of other religions, how do they ever expect for their children to understand world affairs?

Religion is a huge part of everything that goes on in the United States. This class would not be used to push religion on everyone. It would be an elective. It would be used to teach history, culture, beliefs and religion's relevance to society.

The right curriculum with the right teacher could really motivate students to learn and open up to ideas from around the world. Students would want to learn because the conversations and class discussions would be based on their knowledge and questions about different sections.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff



NOT GONNA LIE TO YOU

A Column by Molly Mullen

Free movies offer bonding with mother

My mom is the only person I went to double features with. It was always our little secret. She made it seem like we were on a secret mission. The credits would roll, we'd put on our coats and try to hide our extra popcorn and cotton candy for the next movie, then we'd exit the theater doors.

Before we sat down at the first movie, we would case the joint. We knew where our next stop was. We would walk out with the big bulk of the people from the theater and fall back into the bathroom.

We'd walk into the hallway then look both ways to make sure the person who had not cleaned our theater was preparing the next one.

Then we would sit down, take off our coats and pretend we'd been there for a while.

It was a rush. We were breaking the law and it was fun! We had to use our aliases so no one would find us. Lola and Mitzie were at it again.

The entire situation has always been crazy, but it is so great.

Going to the movies is my favorite thing to do and going for free was great. Going for free with my mom and going on a secret mission was always the highlight of my week.

We always did things like this. She would come and pick me up after school with our swimming suits in the back of the car and we'd drive to the Marriott Hotel. We would put our suits on and knock on the door go swimming in the afternoon.

We would sit on those lounge beach chairs, steal swimming towels and order room service in the pool. We would lay out with our hair up in towels, sunglasses gleaming and drinking Coke with no ice.

Lola and Mitzie always had to look and die famously.

She always made me feel special on these missions. It was like she had something she needed to accomplish she hadn't do it without me. We would always congratulate each other for good work.

Eventually, Lola and Mitzie would do more than sneak into movies and swimming pools.

My sister got in on the act and became known as Margot in our crime circle. We all skipped town on more than one occasion, leaving our dad behind in Omaha.

My mom woke us up at 4 in the morning and asked if we wanted to go to Colorado.

My sister, my mom and I threw an extra set of clothes in a bag, grabbed some food and left.

This wasn't uncommon in my family. Around a.m. we called my dad and told him where we were. I was so happy to get out of school. I hated my grade school and when my mom ever told me I didn't have to go, I was always elated.

These excursions have always been important to me. One of us gets to sit up front with my mom and read to her while she's driving or decide which CD to listen to. That was a big deal. Even though we all liked the same music, it was always fun to be the one to choose it.

I can't remember what we all talked about for six to eight hours on the way to our destination, but I remember never being at a lack for words.

Most of the time we didn't need to talk. We had passed the same farms and fields 10 times over the past few years and didn't need to say they were beautiful anymore. We all knew.

Seeing father's problems provokes student to find himself

I like being the one everyone sees as nice, but I wouldn't mind sticking out once in a while. I think I started isolating myself and emulating other people when I was younger.

I felt I had to protect my dad who was an alcoholic. That contributed to the way I acted then and the way I still act today around my friends.

Every group of friends is exactly the same, or at least has the same basic members.

There's always the quiet person, the one who leads and is the one people look to.

There's the quiet, awkward, obscure one, the loud, opinionated one and the one no one really likes but pretends to, just to be nice.

Everyone has friends like that last one, no matter who it is. If they don't think they do, they're probably that person everyone just pretends to be nice to. But as far as they know, I'm just kidding.

Nevertheless, I still find myself involved in other peoples' drama that almost never has anything to do with me.

Every time I make an attempt at something new as far

as my character is concerned, I usually end up emulating someone else because I am so used to not being myself. I try to make other people happy.

I think I started doing that when I was 6 or 7 years old, when I felt that I needed to take care of my dad, who at the time was a "practicing" alcoholic.

I ended up doing everything I thought he would want to in order to keep him happy, thus protecting him and further burying who I truly was.

Now, all of my efforts are put into finding out who I really am and letting the little boy that I've kept buried grow up and mature like it should.

Even today I find myself feeling like I should just do what my dad wants so I don't hurt his feelings and he is happy, but he keeps reminding me that I don't have to do that. I am now realizing that it's okay to be myself.

That's a good statement to live by, except I don't know

who the real me is.

It doesn't seem that hard to figure out. What's so difficult? All I have to do is whatever I feel like doing inside and act the way I want.

The problem is, I don't know what it is I want because I've spent so long equalizing every situation I'm in and being a lemming.

My dad has been sober for almost three years, and all of the lessons he's learned during that time can almost all be applied to me and my life.

I have a disease of perception. I'm not nearly as honest as I could be and I could certainly benefit from a little love and tolerance of other people.

All of these things he learned in his treatment and throughout his sobriety.

Even his advice and guidance have contributed to my self-burial in that I am still not following my heart. I am taking all my life advice from someone else.



VISUALS WITHOUT SIGHT

A Column by Nic Samuelson

ARTS

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

Hip-hop, PAGE 28C

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OMAHA'S INDEPENDENT MUSIC SCENE



CRITERIA
Steven Pedersen



ONE MUMMY CASE
Joey Bonacci



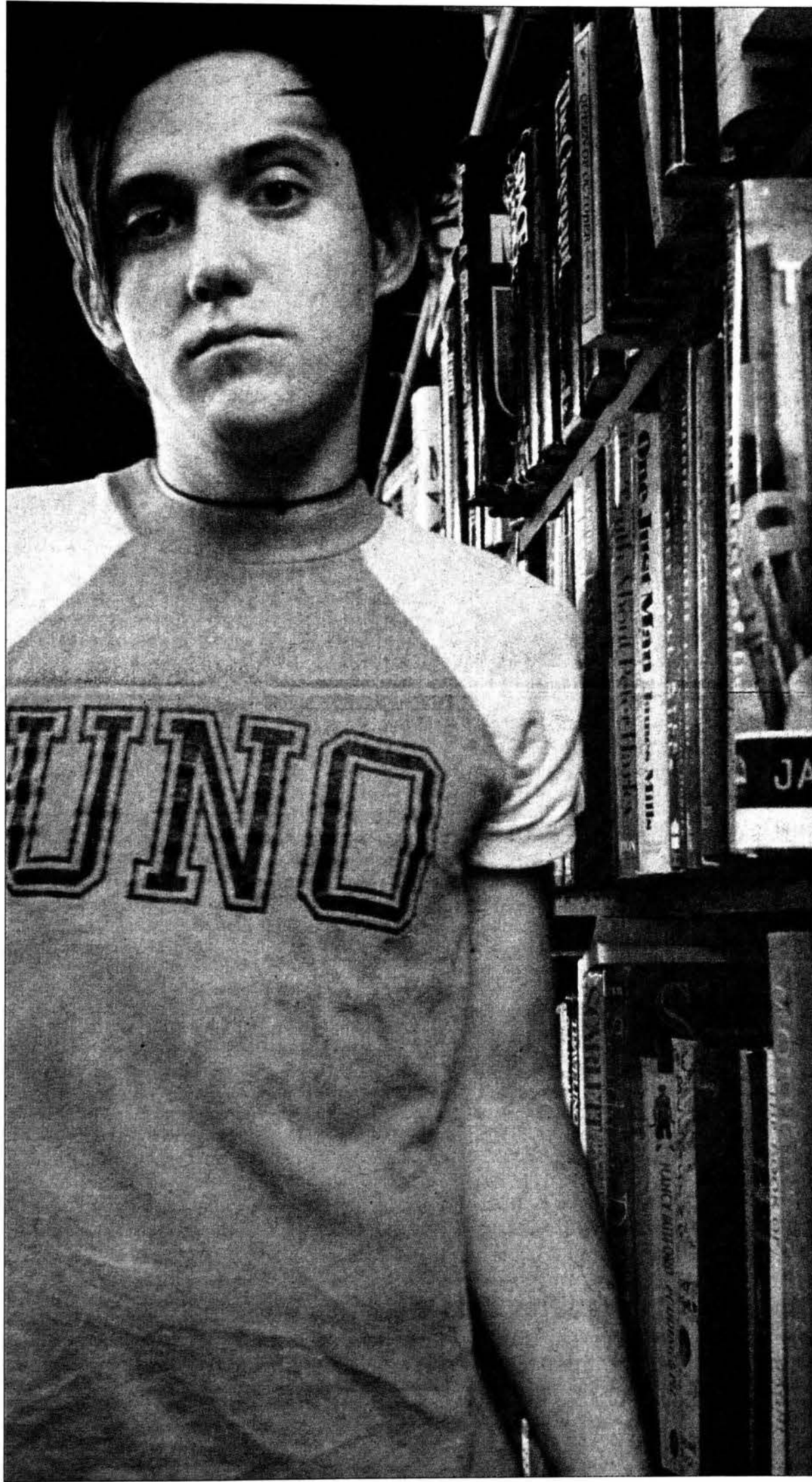
SON, AMBULANCE
Joe Knapp



SCARLET SKIES
Trevor Moore

MORE THAN A LABEL

BRIGHT EYES
Conor Oberst



BRIGHT EYES PHOTO COURTESY OF SADDLE CREEK RECORDS PHOTOS BY MOLLY MULLEN, NIC SAMUELSON/ REGISTER

Junior Joey Bonacci and sophomore Trevor Moore (top) are Central students beginning to make independent names for themselves just like Conor Oberst (Above) did in 1993 with the founding of Lumberjack Records, later to be known as Saddle Creek Records. Other examples of local bands (top) trying to make it big are Criteria and Son, Ambulance. See more on pages 26-27.

Local bands show how midwest is becoming indie capital of world despite music being defined by some as being too emotional

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Sophomore Lucy Schroeder said it was hard to describe emo music. She said it mainly sounded weird and sad.

Emo, meaning emotional, refers to how some people label the independent music scene in Omaha or just a type of music in general.

Some people do not like the label, at all.

"I'm not really interested in the vocals or the musical talent, really," Schroeder said. "It's more about the lyrics."

She said all of the emo music she heard had great lyrics. "A Bowl of Oranges" by Bright Eyes is one of her favorite songs because it sounds

hopeful instead of just sad.

Conor Oberst's (Bright Eyes) earlier albums, she said, sounded a lot darker and his music has changed over the years. She said a similar mind-set of all the Saddle Creek bands makes people want to be a part of the music and listen to more.

Saddle Creek Records is an Omaha record label that is known for having emo/indie bands on its label.

Schroeder said she believes the artist were trying to find answers to everyday questions and put them into their music. She said Oberst was a lot like Bob Dylan with his style of music.

"They both tell a story," she said. "They have such good lyrics people want to listen the whole way through to find out the end."

Oberst had been through so many personal problems as well as Dylan, she said.

When Schroeder first started listening to emo music she said it was because, like many people she knew, she could find comfort in sad music with the knowledge that other people had problems like her.

Even though she does not think that anymore, she said she still likes that style of music.

She said to her emo music and the effect of Saddle Creek records on the music industry is relatively new.

"It seems like the hidden side of music," Schroeder said. "Emo is the breakout of something from a new era."

She said the style takes getting

used to. When she first heard the music she wasn't that interested in it until she heard it again and really listened to the lyrics.

Emo style clothing, she said, was becoming a bigger fashion trend at Central. She said thick black framed glasses, thrift clothes and the just-got-out-of-bed look were what classified emo style.

"If I saw someone dressed like that I would guess that they listen to that (emo) music," she said.

People don't necessarily dress because of what music they listen

to, though. She said it comes from seeing people on television or at a concert and wanting to emulate the people they respect.

She said the music is a reflection of a person's personality, not her fashion sense.

THE LABEL

Saddle Creek Records manager Robb Nansal said Bright Eyes started building a fan base in 1997 and constantly grew from there.

He said it started as Lumberjack Records in 1993 and it tried to release Oberst's first album with his brother.

He said around 1996 more people started making music with Lumberjack Records. He decided to take over the label and get the records distributed nationally.

Nansal said the best way to describe bands such as Bright Eyes' international success was persistence, dedication and a constantly evolving song writing style.

He said he didn't know what people's connotation of the word "emo" were.

He said it started in the '80s as a post-hardcore movement.

He said he wouldn't describe any of the labels on Saddle Creek as emo because all music is emotional.

Sophomore Trevor Moore is the drummer for Scarlet Skies, one of five bands currently signed with Liquid Paris Records, another Omaha-based company.

The group played a concert at Ranch Bowl on Jan. 25 and also performed in Band Aid this year.

Moore said the music played by

Continued to **Emo** on Page 26

Art displays stars in very unique way

BY EMILY HARRISON

Little lines of varying width, underlined by numbers, create barcodes upon barcodes arranged by value to create faces of well-known media, religious and political figures.

Oprah, George Bush, Ozzy Osborne and Jesus are among the various faces represented in Scott Blake's art work.

Blake's art show was held at the newly-opened Bemis Underground.

Senior Dan Crane attended the show twice, the second time he went to bring Blake more barcodes.

In the advertisements for the show, Blake asked people who were planning on attending to bring barcodes from products they had around the house.

To those that brought them he gave small versions of one of his works. The second time Crane came to see the show he got a chance to talk with Blake.

"He talked to me about his computer programs and the messages in his works," he said.

On Saturdays, Blake was available in the gallery and gave walk-throughs to visitors.

Amy Heney, a student teacher in the art department, said seeing a show with the artist there to explain his work is much better than going to an exhibit and not understanding it.

Heney said she would recommend students to see any show, especially if it was an opening.

"If you are making art, you need to know about it," Heney said.

Heney made sure she saw the exhibit herself.

Sophomore Bailey Jensen also attended the exhibit.

She said she thought Blake's idea to use barcodes was very original and favorite part of the exhibit was a small room that would read barcodes that were scanned in

Numerous barcodes showing the 10 commandments and other religious sayings lined the walls.

Blake said he liked making little rooms like this one because they were like the sorts he used to make as a kid.

Much of Blake's work centers around religion.

That was one of the things Heney noticed about his work.

"He took something plain and obvious and made it beautiful as well as contemplative and religious," she said.

Crane said he felt there were two prominent themes in Blake's work: commercialism and religion.

He said many of the people in Blake's

Students participate in city-wide Bemis art project

BY ANDREW REINWALD

The art department is gathering in an effort with other local high schools and community groups to create a public art community collaboration for Omaha known as Project 2.

The Bemis Arts Center that is spearheading the project has asked 25 different high school and community groups to create 40-by-75 foot banners that reflect diversity in the community.

The best will be selected by the Bemis to be displayed on the side of the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha.

Art teacher Jane Taureti said she offered the opportunity to create a banner design to all of her Applied Design classes and then had her students vote on which designs they liked the most.

"A lot of them are just good artists," Taureti said. "I am always inspired by what a lot of them can do."

She said she and over 10 others have put in hours of work already, after school and in class, and they plan on coming in at least once on the weekend.

"I think they're excited to see where it goes," she said. "They're certainly hopeful theirs is a part of the 40-by-75 quilt."

Junior Lindsey Goding said after working that much on a single project things can become tedious, and it gets hard to keep a high standard of work.

However, she said she enjoyed it.

"It's fun to see something you've designed come to life on a larger scale," Goding said.

Sophomore Lindsay Schulz's design was voted one of the best by her classmates and she said she enjoys the recognition that their artwork will be getting.

"I sat and thought about how everyone else's design was going to look like and I made mine stand out more," she said.

The Bemis Center's Community Arts Coordinator, Natalie Linstrom, said the banner will be displayed 25 feet above the ground, just outside of the main box.

"A banner of this scale has not been done in this city and has not been done very much in the country either," Linstrom said.



PHOTO BY ANDREW REINWALD/REGISTER

Senior Dan Crane works with the art department on a project that will hopefully be displayed in the Bemis Arts Center after the contest this spring.

Continued to **Code** on Page 31

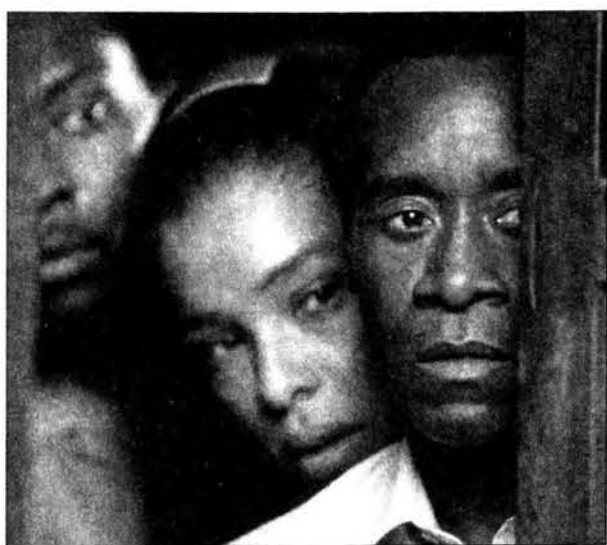


PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM PICTURES

Don Cheadle (front) watches the brutality and kidnapping of his next door neighbor during the Hutu uprising in Rwanda.

'Rwanda' acts as deadly reminder

BY MOLLY MULLEN

The Hutu uprising in Rwanda in 1994 was a very tragic and important part of history. "Hotel Rwanda" helped explain the event to the many Americans who may have been uninformed.

It showed the massacres of thousands of innocent people from a personal point of view.

It started showing the rising anger from the Hutu people in Rwanda and the assassination of the president. This movie did a good job showing the fear and panic of all the people in the country right before the outbreak took place.

Don Cheadle seemed to break away from movies he was famous for in the past such as "Ocean's 11." This was a good movie for him to take seriously.

Cheadle played Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel owner who had a wife and children who would have been killed in the massacre if it weren't for his efforts throughout the film to annex Tutsi refugees. He worked throughout the movie to protect as many people as he could in his hotel though he was being watched by the United Nations.

Making the movie so personal to Cheadle made it very moving.

Rusesabagina gave up all his money, his hotel and his pride to protect people he didn't know. Thousands weren't so lucky and were murdered right outside his hotel.

Rusesabagina's wife Tatiana, played by Sophie Okonedo, really takes over the movie. Her motherly and protective feel in "Rwanda" was very dramatic.

This was a hard part to play, and she played it well. The cinematography was well done in this movie because it showed all angles within the situation. It showed everything, including a powerful scene where Cheadle was speaking and whom he was speaking to.

The Americans' role in the massacre was hard to watch.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM PICTURES

Dakota Fanning (left) and Robert DeNiro perfectly play the tortured father and vulnerable child in the newest psychological thriller.

'Hide and Seek' best scare all year

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"Hide and Seek" had trouble at the box office. That was no reflection on the quality of the movie. It was an amazing thriller that hadn't been seen coming out of Hollywood since Steven King's "The Secret Window." Child actress

Dakota Fanning played an incredible role opposite Robert DeNiro. She was able to completely pull the audience in playing a little girl who had to become very mature for her age. Fanning could play the innocent little girl as well as the devil child. She pulled it off better than most adults could, with exception of DeNiro.

Even without the best stars, the writing and plot was great on its own. If this movie was simply written as a novel, it would be a great mystery to read. It had the surprise ending of "Secret Window" and the scary antagonistic father from "The Shining."

He was able to change so quickly from worried, loving father to schizophrenic childlike monster. The ability to make the audience believe in his goodwill until the last five minutes of the movie made the ending nearly unbelievable.

In one of the last scenes he sat in the hallway wearing a yellow rain slicker and held a bloody knife. He had blood all over his hands and was talking to Fanning like he was a 9-year-old boy. He held his bloodstained hands over his eyes and started counting, starting the game of hide and seek.

If anyone in the theater was left without shivers they weren't watching hard enough. Even if someone in the audience could guess or already knew who DeNiro turned out to be there are so many other surprises in the end that make "Hide and Seek" worth seeking out.

CALENDAR



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES, INC.

Barry Watson plays Tim Jenson in this immature and not frightening horror story about a man once again being haunted by the childhood bedside monster the Boogeyman.

Film fails to frighten horror fans

BY DEDE HEARITY

The horror film "Boogeyman" has its own problems lurking in the closet.

Barry Watson from the television show "Seventh Heaven" just helped to prove this movie was for kids. It filled audience members with boredom and urged them to run out of the theater.

Various monsters jumped out and startled the audience at first, but by the end, the antics and scare tactics seemed overplayed and unimpressive. Every time the unnerving music was heard, another scary part was about to come.

This was not shocking to the viewers who just hoped for a little bit more. The bathtub scene where Emily Deschanel (Kate) supposedly drowns then pops out of the tub at Tim Jenson (Barry Watson) was a good touch. However, this tactic is overrated.

At certain moments, the film proved to have a good plot, but then the next scene quickly shattered those visions. The film gave the aura of an enjoyable and bone-chilling horror, but the audience was let down abruptly when it realized the most unsettling parts were in the trailer.

People were not shocked or scared, but disappointed knowing they could have just watched the trailer.

Maybe violence, blood and some killings would have made this film better, but that's doubtful. The movie is a tyke-sized thriller that could not even that of a toddler.

The plot was decent, but the set-up was lacking and unstructured in many ways.

The scenes, ominous tones and creepy music attempted to put an eerie mist over the movie, but could not hide the major flaws of this film.

The idea of the Boogeyman is for children under the age of 6 who still wet the bed. Even most of them do not even believe the stories anymore.

How is it possible for a man to live in fear of some supernatural creature that stays under his bed for 15 years?

Filmmakers tried to give this an emotional spin when the viewers found that the main character's father was taken and killed by the Boogeyman.

The idea flopped horribly. The emotion was not fully felt until the end when people were just excited to be able to leave the horrible film behind.

In all reality this film's whimsical side over-powers and swallows the life-like aspects. This film was a waste of time and money.

"Boogeyman" did have a few good parts, but they were sadly overwhelmed by the horribly predictable "scary" parts and attempts to make a good horror flick.

This film left the audience sadly unfulfilled, with the hopes of getting a good horror film. The suspense was predictable and the horror was childish. Maybe next time the producers will make a horror film that can stand up by itself and not depend on silly effects.

MOVIE REVIEW



'HOTEL RWANDA'
Starring: Don Cheadle

MOVIE REVIEW



'BOOGEYMAN'
Starring: Barry Watson

Upcoming Albums

March

29 Beck, "Guero"

Back after his very personal and insightful last album, Beck is outdoing himself with his nonsensical, but inspired lyrics. Fans of his eccentric lyrical brilliance will not be disappointed. To some mundane to others genius, Beck brings his perspective on life and living to the masses in a most authentically creative way.

29 Stereophonics, "Language. Sex. Violence. Other"

After its success with the song "Walkie Talkie Man" Stereophonics' new album is out. Keeping in the spirit of its creative and insightful earlier music, its latest album delivers what the fans of this upbeat, alternative rock style want. With songs that'll make the listener get up and dance, "Language. Sex. Violence. Other" will push to bring new enthusiasm to this often over-worked genre.

April

5 Lisa Marie Presley, "Now What"

The popular queen of angry, defiant rock, not to be confused with her legendary father, is back with an album that truly shows her style is her own. After proving to the world she's broken out of her father's shadow with her first album, "Now What" lays the groundwork for her own personal, but powerful style.

6 Bruce Springsteen, "Devils and Dust"

The Boss is back with a brand new two disc powerhouse album that truly reflects Springsteen's mastery of rock and roll. With his heartfelt and meaningful lyrics and legendary musicianship, consider "Devils and Dust" the next classic Springsteen album. Who says good music is dead? Anyone listening to his latest will disagree.

12 Mariah Carey, "The Emancipation of Mimi"

With heart-stopping vocals and melodic lyrics, Carey outdoes herself in her well-done latest album. Her voice soars beautifully and fiercely and then softly showing how much passion and talent can be pumped into a single album.

12 Mudvayne, "Lost and Found"

The popular heavy metal group's latest album delves deeper into a more emotional side of the band not seen by many. For once Mudvayne isn't just angrily blasting screaming contests. The band has finally started to develop into its own persona. For those who love Mudvayne's precise lyrics and powerful guitar riffs, "Lost and Found" will be a welcome addition to your music collection.

26 Fat Joe, "All or Nothing"

The popular rapper still riding on the success of his hit "Lean Back" has brought his catchy and creative lyrical talent back to the music shelves. Fat Joe has made his signature style of articulate beats and rhythms very popular and his latest doesn't disappoint. Rap aficionados will agree Fat Joe's "All or Nothing" has success written all over it.

Movie Releases

March

24 "Miss Congeniality 2"

25 "D.E.B.S."

"Guess Who"

30 "Beauty Shop"

April

1 "Sin City"

8 "Sahara"

"Fever Pitch"

"The Cave"

15 "The Amityville Horror"

"Valiant"

22 "Interpreter"

"King's Ransom"

"A Lot Like Love"

29 "The Hitchhiker's

Guide to the Galaxy

"XXX2: State of the

Union"

Concerts/Events

March

25 Nena Dinova, Sokol

Disney on Ice,

Motorhead, Sokol

26 Five Story Fall/The

Doxies, Sokol

29 Tsunami Bomb,

Sokol

31 The Mountain

Goats, Sokol

April

1 John Mellencamp,

Qwest Center

2 Gerald Levert, Civi

Aud.

3 The Juliana

Theory,

Sokol

Fall Out Boy,

Ranch Bowl

8 Bane, Sokol

12 Motley Crüe,

Qwest Center

14 Mastodon, Sokol

Kreator,

Ranch Bowl

15 Beep Beep, Sokol

16 Prom, CHS

courtyard

23 Kenny Chesney,

Qwest Center

24 Kenny Chesney,

Qwest Center

24 Q and not U

Sokol

25 The Nadas/

Lovetap,

Ranch Bowl

26 And You Will Know

Us By the Trail of

Dead, Sokol

29 DOPE, Ranch Bow

29 Buck Bowen, Sokol



PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

Roadshow, though shorter than previous years, still displays a variety of talents through dancers, singers, actors and musicians. Senior Mike Smith was dubbed "Mr. Roadshow" for his role in the production the past three years.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/ REGISTER

Junior Leonardo Anez plays a flamenco style guitar piece at the annual Roadshow. He was one of the solo guitarists to perform at the talent show.

Smaller show offers diversity

BY EMILY HARRISON

The cafeteria was filled with boas, dancers and guitars. Students, parents and alumni waited at the ticket booth, everyone anxious for the opening night of the ninety-first annual Roadshow.

Senior and three-time assistant director Mike Smith was named "Mr. Roadshow" following the last performance. He was given a plaque and a card that granted him free admission to any Roadshow for life.

Director John Gibson said the award would only be given once and was an award of appreciation for the four years Smith has given to the Roadshow.

Smith said this year's Roadshow was much smaller than last year, but the acts were more diverse.

One of the dance acts was the pom squad. Smith said the squad had not participated in Roadshow for years.

Junior Courtney Davis is a member of the squad who enjoyed being up on stage.

"It (performing) makes me feel special," she said. "It's just like a football game."

Senior Olajide Cooper-Atkins performed a belly dance called "Persian Fantasy." She said it was her first time in the Roadshow. She practiced her act for two months and said she felt prepared.

The last act in the show is a prestigious position, and Smith said "Thriller" deserved it.

"They were the best act," Smith said. "Even with group difficulties."

He said members practiced a tremendous amount and worked out the problems.

Besides the dance acts, there was a good amount of musical acts.

One of which was Leonardo Anez, who played flamenco style guitar. This was his third Roadshow.

He said as a performer, even if you know what you are doing your heart beats hard in your chest while you are performing.

"So many people are looking at you," he said.

The opening act was "Puttin' on the Ritz" sung by the Bel Canto choir. They also incorporated dance steps into their

performance.

Gibson came up with the idea for this year's theme, "Puttin' on the Ritz." He said the theme was originally going to be "Under the Bigtop," but he thought it would have been too similar to last year's theme of "Mardi Gras."

Along with lamp posts, five large art deco-style paintings served as the set.

Gibson said the paintings were old prom backgrounds he purchased.

All the preparations for the Roadshow had to be pushed back a week because of snow days. This cut down the amount of rehearsals that the show had.

The finishing touches to the show had been made only the night before.

"This will be the first time everything has come together on the stage," Smith said, "every thing had to be pushed back and entire week because of snow days."

Gibson said there were a couple of slow spots in the performance because there were no masters of ceremony to fill in the dead time in between acts.

Senior Jason Witty, stage manager, said transitions between acts were easier when there were masters of ceremony because they filled up the dead time between acts.

Gibson said the acts were staggered in front of and behind the curtain to help with timing problems caused by this absence.

There were no masters of ceremony because the people who auditioned were not of high enough quality, Gibson said.

Smith introduced the acts instead. Gibson said Smith was "the voice of Roadshow."

All acts had to go through an audition process before they were allowed into the Roadshow.

They had to sign up and audition in front of student, faculty and alumnus judges.

Smith said he refined the audition process during his three years as assistant director and made it more up-to-date.

The acts were to be evaluated as a finished product. Each of the judges was given a sheet of instructions.

They were asked to judge on four points: uniqueness, showmanship, precision and adaptability.

Dianne Allen, a teacher and judge, said being unresponsive to the acts was one of the most difficult parts of the judging.

"It was hard not to say anything," Allen said.

Smith said he thought it was difficult to judge when there was more than one good act in a row, so he waited to the end to make his final judgements.

Smith was one of the 15 student judges for Roadshow.

He said he thought having student judges was important because it allows students to contribute their ideas.

"It is good for us to have a say in what our Roadshow is going to be," he said.

To be a judge, students had to be a senior and able to be present at all three audition days.

Gibson said he looked for sincerity, variety, punctuality and involvement in school activities for people who wanted to judge.

He said he also tries to pick students from different elements of the show, such as dancing, music and acting.

Most of all Gibson said they had to "show a sincere interest in the tradition of the show and be involved in school activities."

Smith said the Roadshow was Central's greatest tradition, and even if there were problems, people would understand.

Jason Nehrig, who graduated in '03, came back to help with various stage productions.

He said tradition was one of the reasons he came back.

"It always goes on," Nehrig said.

He said he also likes to meet the new students working on the productions and old friends who still attend the school.

Nehrig said he dedicated his four years of high school to productions like this one.

"When it's all over, you have finally accomplished it and everyone enjoys it; it's the greatest feeling," he said.

Gibson said the students and others who worked on the show were like family and everyone always pulls through.

"Even if we have problems, people understand," Smith said.

The audience always shows up.

"It's the greatest tradition," he said.

'Thriller' finale displays student's talent in choreography

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior Audrey Madison was the choreographer and lead dancer of the last performance of the show.

"At the beginning of the year, I started thinking about it," she said. "I don't know really how I came up with the idea of 'Thriller,' I just thought it would be really cool."

She said she asked some people whom she knew could dance to be a part of the act.

"I looked for friends that I thought would be interested and willing to put in the effort," she said.

The group learned the entire dance in one day, the second week of winter.

"We learned it all in six hours," she said. "It was a really long day."

She said when they tried out, drama instructor John Gibson was surprised.

"He was impressed that a group of students had put it together by themselves," she said.

Madison said she choreographed and organized the dance. She said her experience in dance helped her.

"I did pretty much everything," she said. "I did jazz, ballet, tap, gymnastics and hip-hop."

Jaimie Lewis was the only freshman in the act. She had the opportunity to perform after another girl in the group was injured.

"A girl hurt herself and I danced in it, then she came back and we all did the dance together," she said. She said overall the performance of the group went well.

"Our formations were good all together," she said.

Sophomore Maggie Baumann said she thought the audience enjoyed the act as well, especially the students.

The group had done well especially considering some difficulties in the group earlier, Baumann said. She said members did their own make-up and hair and went to Goodwill and the Salvation Army to cut up old dresses, shirts and pants.

"We also put white face paint on with red eyes and black outline around them to make us look dead," Baumann said.

She said Madison helped to pull together the act as well as get it started.

"Audrey did a great job," she said. "She used some of her experience from dances in the past and from the music video 'Thriller.'"

Gibson said Madison's abilities

contributed to the act.

"When you go and take lessons like Audrey and have the ability to do gymnastic stunts, those kind of things always add to the dance," he said. "It raises the caliber."

He said he thought "Thriller" was a good act to end Roadshow with.

"It was a well-known piece for both adults and high school kids," he said. "It made it even more saleable to the audience."

He said the audience appreciated the difficulty and the mood of the dance.

"We did the lighting to match and complement the work of the dance," Gibson said.

He said he was impressed at the try-out, but the act really displayed talent by the performance.

"It was a very strong piece," he said.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

Sophomore Maggie Baumann dances in the finale "Thriller." She was one of the performers who had experience in gymnastics as well as dance. Junior Audrey Madison, head dancer and choreographer, picked students to perform.

Stage crew offers behind-the-scenes look at long-running show

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

The stage crew was busy keeping everything running smoothly during the nights of the long-running talent show. Members had to take care of things like the lighting, sound and setting the next scenes ready.

Sophomore Cameron Bruckner has been on stage crew for a year. He said he loved it and he wouldn't give it up for anything.

"It gives me something to do," he said. "It makes me feel special."

He said it can sometimes be hectic, but it's worth it because he gets to have fun doing what he loves.

Bruckner wasn't the only one hard at work for the three evenings of the ninety-first annual Roadshow.

This was junior Joe Iwen's first year in stage crew. For Roadshow, he helped setting up in between acts and getting prepared before every show.

He had to make back drops, streamers and most of the decorations.

He also said it was fairly hard to do some of the scenery.

"Some of the stuff is heavy, and you're always afraid of dropping it," Iwen said. Although he's never dropped anything, he said it's still a scary thought.

As hard as the stage crew worked at making everything perfect, there were some setbacks.

"On the Friday night (show) one of the backdrops ripped for the third act," Iwen said. "We had to fix it really fast, but that was

the only thing that really went wrong."

Some students are in stage crew as well as the actual show, such as junior Sara Beck.

"I was in six acts, as well as working stage left," she said.

Beck's position is one under senior Jason Witty who is the stage manager. This is her first year being on stage crew, and she said she loved it. As a senior next year, she will move up to stage manager.

"It's so much fun," she said. "I did trip once. I saved my trumpet, but my arm got all scraped up and bloody. It wasn't fun at the time, but now I laugh about it," she said. "There was also one other girl who tripped. I'm not sure if anyone else knew, but it messed the whole line up."



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/ REGISTER

Crew member sophomore Crystal Ramirez looks over the show's order.

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Ending should send movie straight to video



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Five cheerleaders witness a murder. This is the entire premise of "Man of the House." It had no plot, no comedic parts and no redeeming qualities, outside Tommy Lee Jones being the star of the movie.

BY COURTNEY DEWITT

Suspense and great action scenes are to be expected in every Tommy Lee Jones movie. Take "Men in Black" for example.

There was plenty of action to keep the audience on the edge of its seat.

But now mix in a predictable, happy, good-guy-wins-as-usual ending and you get "Man of the House."

Tommy Lee Jones plays a Texas cop who is all work and no play. What a stretch.

He is divorced and has one daughter, who he rarely gets to talk to because of his work getting in the way constantly.

He is working on a case where, unfortunately, his only witness doesn't want to testify for fear he will be killed.

The witness tries to make an escape and ends up in a deserted alley, huffing and puffing from all the effort.

At the same time, five cheerleaders entered a bathroom with a window right above where the man was sitting, his breathing still ragged.

One girl decides she needs some fresh air, opens the window and, looking around, spots the man sitting on the ground.

She calls all the other girls over and, thinking he just got mugged. They debate whether or not to go to the police to report the possible crime.

But the decision was made for them as a man

walked quickly up the alley, stood right in front of the man and (in plain view of the cheerleaders) shot the man on the ground.

Tommy Lee Jones was assigned to do everything else and watch the girls, as they became key witnesses to the crime.

Undoubtedly someone would try to find the man and kill them so they couldn't testify to the murder and the criminal wouldn't be found.

Little did he know, living in a house with five cheerleaders was not as easy as it may seem.

The girls were not allowed to be in public places where the killer could be lurking.

The girls, with other priorities (namely boys) were definitely not thrilled about being cooped up in a house all day long, with the exception of going to college classes with a bodyguard.

And after only a few days of diet talk, buying tampons and loud music, Jones didn't believe he would make it through the assignment alive.

Of course, their troubles are only beginning.

This is when the fun really begins. The acting was pathetic and writing was poor. The soundtrack was not memorable and that's a shame. It would have covered up a lousy script.

One can assume Jones received a hefty paycheck for doing this flop.

He certainly didn't do it to stretch and improve his acting skills. What's next for Jones, a guest spot on "Fear Factor?"

MOVIE REVIEW

'MAN OF THE HOUSE'
Starring: Tom Lee Jones

Surprise stars only redeeming factor in 'Shorty' sequel

BY MOLLY MULLEN

On the screen there are the sounds of dry jokes and gunfire. In the back of the theater comes noises of snoring.

In a movie like "Be Cool" with tons of flashing lights and loud sounds, it needs to be a pretty sad movie for someone to fall asleep.

After seeing this movie it sounds completely plausible.

The movie went on and without an end filled with cheap humor.

People said the prequel "Get Shorty" was full of Saturday Night Live-esque humor. Even the later, less funny episodes of SNL beat out both films.

"Be Cool" was even more boring than "Get Shorty," which is hard to do. The first movie actually strove for a plot.

There were a few saving graces that made the movie interesting. Not interesting enough to possess anyone to see it, but if someone was forced into it, the experience wouldn't be all bad.

There were tons of movie stars with bit parts and no purpose. Cedric The Entertainer, Andre 3000, Steven Tyler, The Rock, Vince Vaughn, Uma Thurman and John Travolta were there only for the name sake; they certainly didn't want to do the movie for the great script.

Although the movie was supposed to be full of laughs, the comic relief was The Rock. He played a gay bodyguard

who wanted to make it big in the movie business with his signature eyebrow move.

He did a monologue from "Bring It On" in one of the last scenes and tried to do all of the body language of a teenage girl.

People almost didn't want to laugh at this point in the movie because the rest had been such a let down, but, let's face it, The Rock plays a good effeminate.

He was the only good part in the whole movie.

There were actors who won Academy Awards and worked with directors like Quentin Tarantino and now they are doing this? The Tarantino was a joke, but in the way the writers wanted.

The movie opened with the murder of one of the head guys from the prequel.

It wasn't that big of a surprise since that sort of beginning has happened a thousand times.

John Travolta acted calm and cool like usual, wowing everyone around him with his spunk and his dance moves, that stopped being amusing in the '70s.

Nothing in this movie was new or interesting.

The lead character was hardly in the movie. The entire plot was based around Travolta trying to get the contract of an up and coming Trava who was supposed to be in an all girl group singing at sleazy night clubs.

She was in maybe three scenes in the whole movie.

She didn't really have a point or a reason to be in the movie, but it would have been nice to have seen the person the movie is for every once in awhile.

A good surprise was the kiss Travolta and Thurman shared.

There was something built up between them in "Pulp Fiction," but it wasn't until "Be Cool" that the audience got to see it.

There were a few lines pulled out of the sea of overused comedy.

Andre 3000 made a few good jokes about guns that were pretty much the only parts that could make a person laugh. But just because he's made a few hit music videos does not mean he can act whatsoever. Where the writers got the idea that all famous people could act is unclear.

The only other funny parts were when they actually made jokes about the industry.

Travolta started the movie with the line "Sequels. I hate sequels." It lightened the mood for anyone who was questioning why anybody would make another movie like "Get Shorty."

It is a good question to ask.

Whether or not there were a few catchy lines in the movie is irrelevant.

All together "Be Cool" was much worse than "Get Shorty" and that is saying something.

Making this movie was a mistake. The only bigger mistake would be making a third movie.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Linda Moon (Christina Milian) (left) takes Chili Palmer (John Travolta) as her producer. This is one few scenes Moon is in, even though she is the star of "Be Cool."

Movie held together with dramatic character development

BY CLAY LOMNETH

"A Diary of a Mad Black Woman" is a movie that doesn't fit into one genre. However, it does fit into the category of pretty good movie.

The movie stars Kimberly Elise as Helen McCarther, wife of a rich lawyer named Charles McCarther, played by Steve Harris.

Their marriage is very layered. In public they are the perfect wealthy couple, but alone it is money and other women who he cares about.

Charles eventually kicks her out of the house and lives with his mistress. This begins a

dark time in the movie, when Helen rejects any man who comes near her. Charles is the only one she trusted, and when she found out she could not have faith in him, she was crushed.

For a while, she wanders the movie, aimlessly.

Throughout this period though, Tyler Perry, playing grandmother Madea, added a great amount of humor.

Perry was also the writer and producer of the movie and the original play.

The only fault with this humor, it seems, is that the drama is overshadowed.

It seems the actors spent so much time refining their wit they forgot how to be serious.

Maybe this wasn't that much of a factor because without the humor, the movie would have lacked so much.

The humor keeps the plot running, and separates it so much from any romantic comedy, "Diary" does not fit that genre either. The movie is so bizarre and different, the movie cannot be considered a drama.

Eventually, Helen gets over herself, and starts seeing Orlando (Shemar Moore), a friend of her cousin.

Orlando treats her like no man ever has before, and though it is obvious she is falling in love with him, she is hesitant.

The cousin and childhood friend-turned-junkie subplot adds to the movie, and is a good distraction once Helen is happy with Orlando.

Helen, throughout the movie, keeps looking

over her shoulder at her past with Charles.

Moore does a good job playing the hurt boyfriend who knows he is better for Helen, and does all he can to convince her.

The movie could have expanded more on Orlando and Helen's time together, instead of short clips of them falling in love.

Helen gets her chance to finally get sweet revenge on Charles, when he is injured in a courtroom shooting.

Family and friends try to convince her to forget the man and move on with her life.

Elise shows the anger of a woman scorned, of a heartbroken, angry and almost insane woman, bent on revenge yet caring for two men at the same time.

The audience is left guessing what man she will be left with, and practically screams out to

Helen who she should stay with.

Though the outcome of the movie is somewhat predictable, any other way would have left the audience disappointed.

Despite the ending, "Diary" keeps the audience with a bit of doubt in the back of their minds that maybe, just maybe, Helen will turn out happy.

Overall, in the midst of the heartbreak, sadness, revenge and friendship, the humor the movie keeps it all together.

The audience reacts to it. It feels like a collective part of the movie.

If only the drama could be felt as much as the comedy, the movie would have flowed a bit better.

The audience didn't know whether to cry or laugh when the credits started to roll.

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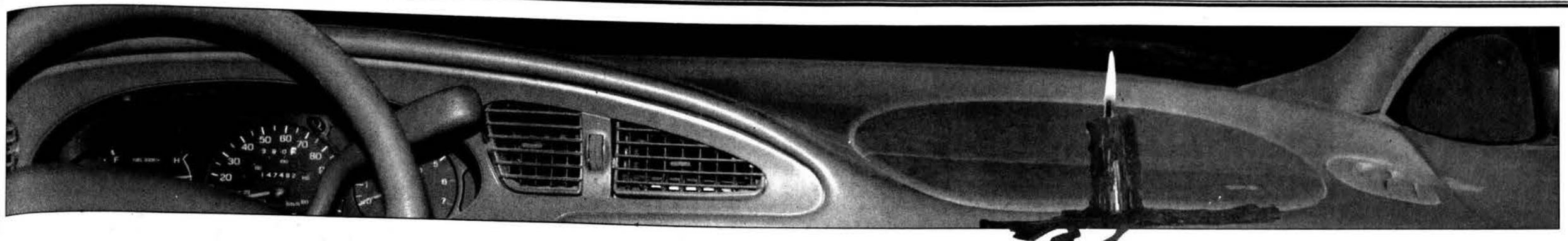


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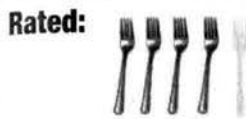


PROM ON THE GO

Getting dressed, taking photos and getting to the prom are hard enough without waiting an hour or more to eat at an over-priced, fancy restaurant. Takeout provides a quick alternative at a cheaper price.



Location: 7425 Pacific St.
(only location)
Best buy: Barbecued ribs



BY MOLLY MULLEN

If you think eating a big slab of baby back ribs in your car on the way to the big prom is not your idea of romance, think again.

McKenna's has a fun outside barbecue feel to it with cheap prices for great ribs.

Biting into the baby back ribs will transport you to a place where everything is just right. The ribs are burnt just enough for flavor, but still moist on the inside.

The dark, reddish-brown sauce is poured all over the serving so each and every taste is drenched in barbecue or Hawaiian sauce. Both sauces are great, but it is the barbecue that gives it that great old fashioned rib taste.

Nothing tastes better or is more filling before a big prom dance and after party than ribs, and McKenna's is the place to get them.

Located on 84th and Pacific, people coming from out west can grab a half slab of both Barbecue baby back ribs and Hawaiian ribs to share with a date for less than \$13.

The best deal is the half slab or full slab meals for about \$16 per meal. It includes sides just in case a full plate of ribs isn't filling enough.

Whether parking and eating alone or renting out a big party room for all the friends, ribs are a good choice for something different on Apr. 16.

If the waitress is in a great mood, she'll give you a Coke while waiting for the takeout, which only takes around 10 minutes.

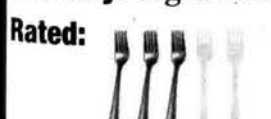
Great ribs and wings make it the perfect takeout if you just remember the napkins. Getting rib sauce on the tux can really put a damper on the evening.

If this doesn't sound quite romantic enough for the most formal night of the year, just choose a great desert.

Eating in or stacking a few to-go boxes on the dashboard, McKenna's is a great way to spend an alternative prom night.



Location: 3821 Center St.
(only location)
Best buy: Vegetarian gyro



BY LAUREN CRIST

The Greek Islands restaurant offers quick service, great, authentic food and an enjoyable atmosphere.

When ordering to-go, the small restaurant has an open kitchen where you can watch while waiting for your order. They usually get your food to you within a few minutes.

The popular gyros are composed of warm, fluffy pita bread with a home-baked flavor. The meat is rich and well-cooked, just enough so it has superb flavor without being undercooked. It is cut into strips and combined with thinly sliced tomatoes and raw strips of onion. A cucumber-like creamy sauce is served on the side of gyros.

They also have a vegetarian option available. It is similar to the gyro except it contains a variety of vegetables including cooked cucumbers, which makes for an interesting mix with the sauce.

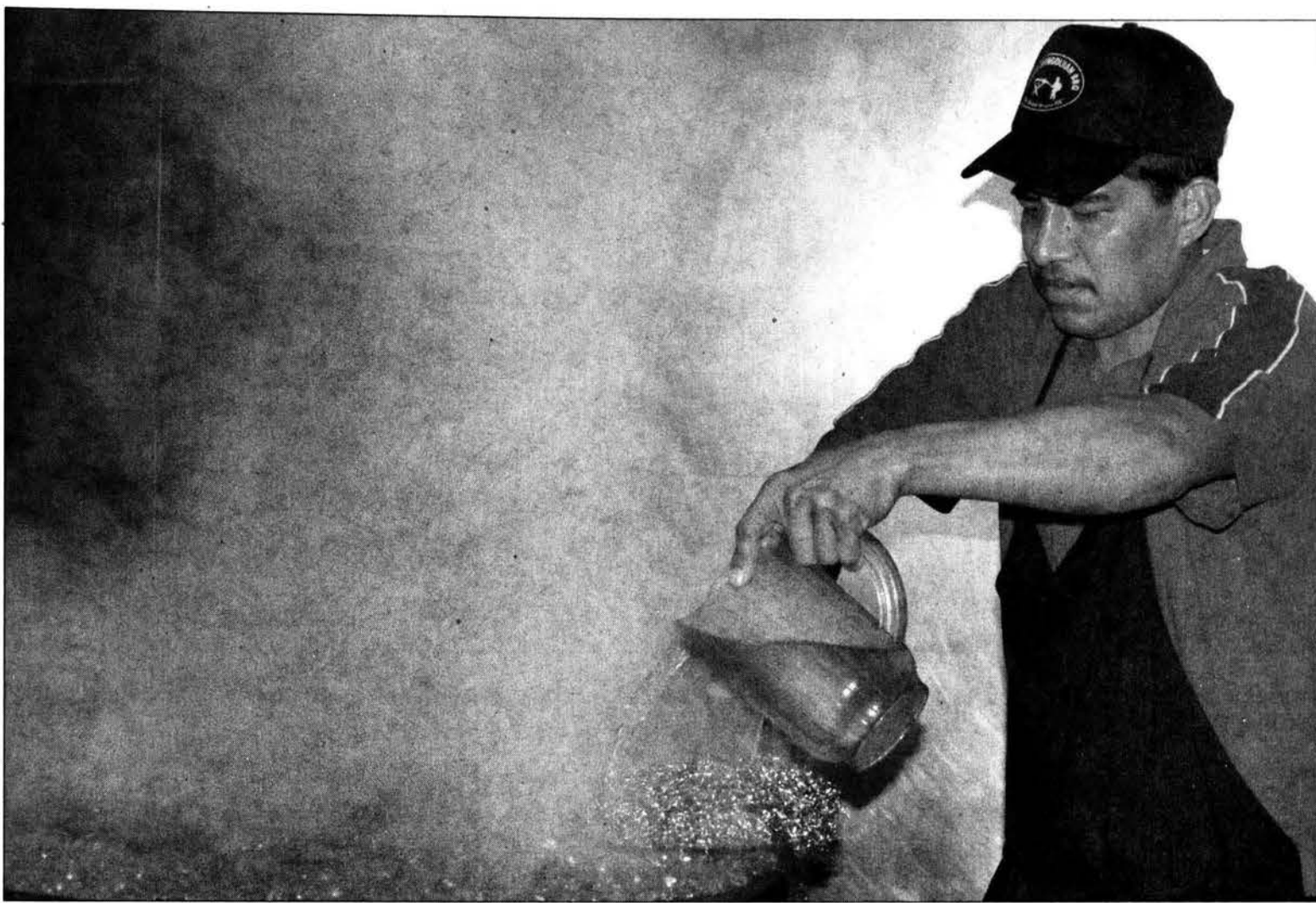


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

Carlos Peze from the Mongolian Grill cleans the grill after cooking two orders of stir fry. It is a large circular hot stove for more than one chef to cook on. People can watch their food being prepared after choosing from several raw meats and veggies.

There are also some more unique options available. Different dishes display the tart and pungent flavor of most Greek food such as the olives, yet when mixed up with pita or other types of food, it leaves an overall balanced flavor for the customer to enjoy.

For those who prefer a less adventurous palate, the restaurant also offers hamburgers, fries and steak. However, their most distinguished and signature foods are their Greek options.

Watch out for the sauce. Gyros can be messy, especially with extra sauce.

However, the atmosphere is typically pretty quiet and reserved. The waiters and waitresses are courteous and quick in providing service and always make sure the customer's water glass is full. Included in the meal are floury bread rolls with flour. Scenic pictures are painted on the wall of sheep on green hills and seaside towns and cities blending into the background.

The quiet is occasionally interrupted by the cries of "Opa!" whenever the server brought out the saganaki dish. Saganaki is a kasserli cheese made of sheep or goat's milk. It is lightly breaded then fried in butter or olive oil.

It is smothered in brandy and then lit on fire right before they place it on the table. It is then sprinkled with lemon.

It has a unique, pickled flavor. Greek Islands is good for takeout or dining in.



Location: 505 N. Saddle Creek Rd.
(only location)
Best buy: Peanut butter chicken



BY ANDREW REINWALD

The smells emanating from the Rice Bowl, on Saddle Creek Road will entice any one to come and sample the traditional Chinese cuisine. With entrees starting at around \$5, this is good food you can afford to eat.

The Rice Bowl has an extensive menu, ranging from the delicious kung pao chicken to the tangy sweet and sour pork. Entrees come with either white or fried rice and two crab rangoons.

The especially tasty peanut butter chicken will make anybody's mouth water. The cooks take chicken, fry it, and then smother it in a delectable peanut butter sauce. The end result is culinary magic.

The Rice Bowl is different from a lot of the other Chinese restaurants in that its menu has much more variety and has more specialty items, like the uniquely flavorful lemon chicken. It also

has several vegetarian dishes, which are perfect for those who do not eat beef.

If you decide to eat in the Rice Bowl's dining room, be prepared to enjoy a quiet, simple atmosphere with polite and speedy service. If you are on the go, their takeout service is extremely fast and convenient, and the quality of the food is not diminished at all.

With great food and a hard-working staff, it's no wonder the Rice Bowl is constantly packed with eager customers.

Even on the busiest of days, there isn't a very long wait, which reflects how hard Rice Bowl employees work to make sure the customer is satisfied.

If you are looking for a restaurant with glamorous décor and a ritzy atmosphere, the Rice Bowl is not for you. But if you do want excellent Chinese cuisine at a decent price, this is the place you should go to.



Location: 1905 Farnam St.
(only location)
Best buy: Tofu meal



BY MAGGIE SWEANY

Although décor may not be the main element of Bangkok Cuisine, quality most definitely is. With polite service and a friendly, low-key atmosphere, almost anyone can feel at home. Walking into the restaurant, one is greeted with a friendly yellow-green door and paper lanterns shaped like oriental umbrellas hanging from the ceiling.

Takeout is also an option that shouldn't be passed up.

Upon self-seating, an authentic Buddhist altar is positioned behind the counter where a friendly-looking man takes orders over the telephone. Another charming touch in regards to the restaurant's aesthetics is the window seats covered in brightly covered pillows and random magazines. All in all, the restaurant holds a very pleasant and comfortable atmosphere.

First, it would be recommended to start with the wonderful appetizers which range from simple fried egg rolls to kao tung nahn tung, a shrimp dip with rice crackers. Son-in-law eggs, with a tasty brown sauce, taste good, as well as the fried tofu squares with a spicy peanut sauce for topping. The appetizers range from \$0.99 to \$4.99. After appetizers, six types of soup are listed all ranging from \$2.99 - \$3.99.

The main dishes, by far, are the best and most filling of any local Thai restaurants, and more to the point, none of the dishes exceed the cost of \$7.49. There are 11 dishes under the "Yum" category meaning they are traditional Thai dishes. For those who enjoy noodles more than rice and meat, there are 11 noodle dishes. As far as the restaurant's favorites, there are 18 individual favorites meals and five special dishes.

These dishes, in all categories, can range from something as simple as tofu, to something as exotic as squid. There is the option of takeout or calling in advance if dining in is desired.



Location: 2666 N. 90th St.
(only location)
Best buy: Squid and noodles



BY CLAY LOMNETH

One walks in the restaurant and is immediately greeted and offered a table.

Takeout at the Mongolian Grill is incredibly easy. In buffet style, the customer chooses from a variety of meats, seafood, vegetables and noodles.

On Saturdays, take-out is \$7.50 all day.

Perhaps the best and most creative part of the Mongolian Grill is at the end of choosing what part of the meal you want. By following a recipe, one may make his own sauces, from hot to sweet and sour. One can watch as cooks prepare the meal on a gigantic circular grill. This is interesting in itself, even though it takes two minutes.

The food would be a bit awkward for eating in a moving car with chopsticks. It is recommended to take it somewhere and sit down. Learning how to use chopsticks would make for an interesting date. Otherwise, find a fork.

Throughout this whole meal, the sauce is the key. The sauce makes the whole dinner. It drips off the crab meat and the bamboo.

The calamari and beef soak up the sauce, and every bite is just as great as the first.

Even for sitting down and eating, the Mongolian Grill is an excellent place to go. The restaurant is incredibly spacious. The only noises heard are the sizzling of the meals and quiet conversations.



Location: 8035 W. Dodge Rd.
(only location)
Best buy: Imitation crab sushi



BY ANNIE KLINE

Sushi Ichiban is a great pick for prom-on-the-go.

With quiet, relaxing music and dim, soothing lighting, Sushi Ichiban is a not-so-typical treat.

The atmosphere in the restaurant gives a fine-dining vibe, but the lower prices for the quality of food is a great deal.

Walking in the door, the customer is greeted by several staff members and seated without a wait.

The restaurant is decorated in feng-shui style, with clean lines and a sushi bar.

There is also a party room in the back for larger groups, just in case someone plans ahead.

As one sits down, the waiter will come and hand the customer a warm, damp towel to cleanse one's hands and a napkin folded into a pocket containing silverware.

If the customer is a newcomer at sushi eating, the waiter will thoroughly explain the menu and give suggestions depending on the style of sushi the customer wants.

They will explain everything down to how to use the finger towels, if the customer isn't accustomed to such famous treatment.

There is a separate menu for lunch and dinner, which has more options with a little higher prices.

Whether you are an advanced sushi eater or not, the California Roll with avocado and imitation crab was a good pick for anyone.

At \$3.95 a serving of four, they tasted as if they were worth way more.

For anyone who isn't into raw seafood, the umekyo, which is plum paste and cucumber rolled in steamed rice wrapped up in a seaweed leaf (below), is a tasty treat especially when eaten with the spicy wasabi paste. It only costs \$4.25.

The customer can get soup or a side salad with an order of sushi ala carte. One of the dressing options is a sweet carrot dressing.

If sushi is a no-go, there are other dishes on the menu that will be pleasing to anyone's taste buds.

For instance, for \$11.95, the chicken teriyaki dish is a meal complete with unbreaded chicken submerged in the best teriyaki sauce in town, steamed vegetables and steamed rice.



Plum paste and cucumber sushi roll at Sushi Ichiban tempts the taste buds with delight.

ERA OF EMOTIONS

From Saddle Creek's international star Conor Oberst to sophomore Trevor Moore who plays in Scarlet Skies, emo music is really starting to cause a buzz in the music industry. Although most music deals with feelings, only one genre gets the label for trying to pinpoint a spectrum of emotion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SADDLE CREEK RECORDS

Son, Ambulance is one of the many bands getting fame from Saddle Creek Records. Its music, with emotional lyrics, has been defined as emo. Joe Knapp, lead vocals and guitar, said he wouldn't call the music that, although others do. "I think at one time I was labeled the 'King of Emo,'" he said.

Musicians define their music as something unique

'EMO' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Scarlet Skies would most likely fit into the emcore category of music. The band is largely guitar driven, with three members playing the instrument.

The lyrics also tie in with the emcore genre, generally based on girls and other emotional topics.

"We just recently wrote a song about the tsunami victims and their families," Moore said.

Moore discovered the band through an advertisement on SLAM (Support Local Art and Music) Omaha's website. He hooked up with the other two members, Cay Combs and Jack Gould, later recruiting another guitarist and a bass player to finish off the entourage.

Members of the band are currently in turmoil, and Moore said he is unsure of any possibilities they may have in the near future. He still feels his experience in Scarlet Skies has been positive so far.

Alumnus Josh Koterba went to a jam session with Moore and discussed possibly forming a new band.

Moore's basement was filled with instruments and amps that seemed to climb up the walls.

After playing random notes and beats, they would stop and change it up a little bit.

"How many times do you want me to repeat it (the beat)?" Moore said.

Koterba started playing notes on his electric guitar to match Moore's drums.

Koterba said he couldn't classify bands or his own music style.

"We need little names and labels for nothing at all," he said. "We (musicians) are what people decide to make us."

He said he was with an Omaha label called Liquid Paris.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said. "I've learned a lot." Despite his membership in the band, Moore said he is still able to explore his own personal musical abilities.

"I don't so much follow the guitar parts," he said. "Sometimes I'll put something extra in there."

Moore, who has been playing for six years, described his hard, drumming style as being loud, his fraying and technical.

Scarlet Skies has been signed with that label for

almost two months. The band's affiliation with the label has helped Scarlet Skies' publicity as well as assisted them in finding additional venues to play at.

The band even played a concert at the home of the owner of Liquid Paris, along with several other bands related to or signed with the label.

THE PUBLICITY
Sophia John of 89.7 The River said it is the only radio station that plays Saddle Creek music.

"We play it because we believe in it," John said.

She said the music from people like Bright Eyes and The Faint would have probably been played on the station even if the music wasn't directly related to Omaha. She said everything on Saddle Creek is different from music that was mainstream a few years ago.

"They (society) are starting to really wake up (to Omaha music)," she said.

It was interesting that only after local musicians started getting bigger nationally did the radio and Omaha start to take interest in them.

"They must be thinking 'hey, where were you when we first started?'" she said.

Nearly any local band could be heard on the station, she said. Only if it was hard country or sounded too much like other bands would she not play it.

Local music starts on a program called Planet O and based on results from the music, the station chooses whether or not to play more of it.

She said when a local band named Criteria had its first song on the radio, it didn't get a good response. It is now discussing playing another one from the band's unreleased albums because of the popularity.

THE MUSIC

Steve Pedersen, lead singer of Criteria, described his music as anthemic riff/rock because his music was over-the-top, loud and he used repeated

striking notes instead of chord progressions.

He didn't name his music to fit into any particular category. He said any label big enough to encompass many bands was inaccurate because so many bands sound so different.

He said the labels recently given to Omaha like indie and emo capitals of the world were wrong because there are so many other bands. He also said everyone on Saddle Creek records would have a hard time defining what genre they fit in.

"It (Omaha's national label) maybe clouds the eyes of the audience, but not mine," he said.

Pedersen said music was a personal and selfish experience.

He said if anyone came to one of his concerts expecting to hear Bright Eyes then they would get blown away in the first seconds and realize the different kinds of good music coming from Omaha.

That's not to say he never played with people like Conor Oberst.

Pedersen was once in Cursive, a Saddle Creek band, but had to leave to go to law school. Although he is now with another band, the feeling in the music is still the same.

He said he plays for himself and even his girlfriend doesn't like his music. He said he doesn't care what his label is as long as it is labeled as good.

He is now in the process of finishing his second album with Criteria which will probably be out this summer, although he does not know with what record label, yet.

He had influences, but that didn't mean he had the same style. He said he could get something from a Simon and Garfunkel album just as easily as a Cursive album.

He said even if he did try to emulate a band, it always sounded like him by the end of it.

"Your failed attempt at copying became your own thing," he said.

He said he only plays music that feels good to him and he had left bands because of it before.

"It transformed from what it first was," he said. He said it had to do with different and changing personalities.

He

said he played in nine bands.

Former Central student Joe Knapp started a band called Ambulance in 1997. Two years later, the band was signed by Saddle Creek Records and changed their name to Son, Ambulance. In April, Knapp will be in Europe on an international tour.

Largely due to his success with Saddle Creek, a label often considered 'emo' by music listeners. Knapp has been identified with the stereotype as well.

"I think one time I was labeled the 'King of Emo,'" he said.

Knapp refers to his music as more retro or "reflection on psychedelic." He said he dislikes the use of the term in describing Saddle Creek bands, and thinks it limits the potential for him to vary his sounds.

"I try to leave myself free to compose any type of music," Knapp said.

He said he preferred to describe his current sound as contemplative, eager, forgetful and inspiring all at the same time.

The band has a fairly traditional mix of instruments: a bass, two guitars, drums and a piano. Knapp said this arrangement was ideal due to the easily identifiable nature of the instruments as well as their accessibility.

"It just kind of fell into place that way," he said. Thursday's Flare, Bright Eyes inspiration, and the heart of Bob Dylan is only way to attempt to describe One Mummy Case. Junior Joey Bonacci and Northwest freshman Austin Hathaway are the members of the group.

Their inspiration for the band name was a film that Bonacci's brother made. It is about a mummy and was filmed during the time of Joslyn's Mummy exhibits.

During one part of the movie, an older lady stuttering over the phrase "One Mummy Case." The name of the band was formed. The group has been together about a year.

The group has an interesting sound that is hard to describe, but Bonacci knows exactly what the sound is.

"Some is acoustic and other is electronic," he said.

Bonacci is also describing it as a singer/songwriter mix. Hathaway considers it blues, folk with almost a southern rock feel.

"Some may consider it emo, even though I dislike those words," Bonacci said.

Hathaway agrees with Bonacci about the title emo, he thinks it is just a category to put hard to define bands in. Both of the

members play guitar, piano and write songs. Bonacci said he plays whatever is needed for a song.

"(We) switch on and off, playing whatever we can get out hands on," Hathaway said.

Personally Bonacci has written 10 songs for the group. It has played one gig and have more scheduled. The band has a gig in the Aquatic Festival. Derek Higgins, a digital-effects artist, will join the two boys. He is big in the local music scene. Higgins will be helping with the recordings of the music as well as playing backup.

"It'll be a cool stage presence with him joining us," Bonacci said.

Once the band has the money, it plans promoting a new album.

THE STYLE

Sophomore Angie Mertz has been getting called an emo kid since she was a freshman. She said the way she dresses, wearing thrift store clothes and dark glasses, often results in her being looked at in a certain way.

"I'm just really cheap, so I don't like buying clothes that are expensive," Mertz said.

Students have different attitudes about being called emo. Many are upset with the use of the label, but some are indifferent or actually enjoy it.

"It kinda offended me last year, but this year it's kinda flattering cause emo's in," Mertz said.

She said she doesn't think the label applies to her since the bands she likes, Dashboard Confessional, Phish, aren't emo bands at all. Mertz does enjoy some emo music. However, she dislikes the attitude that many people automatically take towards bands given the label.

"A lot of people say that the music just sucks, but it's pretty much poetry," she said.

Junior Sam Zacccone said he likes emo bands that are traditionally called emo. He rejects the use of labels in describing people's music.

"People who are considered emo are just regular people," he said.

Zacccone's clothing also consists largely of thrift store items. He said he doesn't dress to any particular style, he just wears clothes that he thinks look cool.

"If I wanted to look emo then I would look emo," Zacccone said.

Dr. Brigitte Ryalls, a psychologist at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said labels actually make things cognitively easier for people and it is not unusual for stereotypes to be placed on people who look a certain way or have certain interests.

"We all identify ourselves and each other in terms of categories," she said.

She also described ways in which people could go about shedding these stereotypes. "We as the people who are being labeled take it too seriously, that can be damaging," Ryalls said. "To make those labels less important, you have to forge your own identity."

Ryalls said she believes while the emo label may be a new concept, the behavior associated with that label have been around for a long time.

"This is not something that is unique to kids today," she said.

Zach Pluhacek contributed to this story

Teen starts own independent music label



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

Brock Stephens said his own record label, Liquid Paris, signed the band Scarlet Skies. Sophomore Trevor Moore is the drummer.

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Sixteen-year-old Brock Stephens has been the chief of his own record company for nearly a year.

The label, Liquid Paris Records, has already released three albums and signed over a dozen bands.

When Stephens was starting Liquid Paris, he didn't look for professionals or experienced label owners.

The group of four people who help with running it are the same people he hangs out with in his free time.

"If you're gonna start anything...do it with your friends," he said.

This same laid back attitude that is evident in the label's operation also shows in Stephens' music.

Stephens has been playing guitar for the five years. He has belonged to the same band,

White Collar Mercy, since he started the instrument.

Sophomore Trevor Moore said White Collar is very relaxed at its show.

It doesn't care if it messes up, as long as it's having fun.

He said it can get away with it largely because of Stephens' incredible playing ability.

"He's a cool guy," Moore said. "He's a good guitar player and singer."

Moore's band, Scarlet Skies, has been signed to the Liquid Paris label for around two months, a time which Moore said was advantageous to the group's future.

"We have some different...hookups," he said.

White Collar Mercy has made two albums. One self-titled album by its previous name, Deadbeats, and another with Liquid Paris under its current name, entitled "Plastic Faces, Recorded Voices."

Liquid Paris has also released two other albums from the bands The Encourageables and Parachutes. Stephens said very little work is involved on his part in releasing an album.

The label basically just puts a stamp on it, allowing both the musicians and Liquid Paris to benefit from each other.

The majority of the work, he said, involves searching for musicians and booking concerts. With his help, Liquid Paris bands have played at numerous local venues including the Ranch Bowl.

Stephens said the workload the label provides is somewhat lessened by the fact that he doesn't attend a regular school.

After going to Millard South his freshman year, Stephens is now home schooled.

This change of pace gives him more time to concentrate on playing with his own band as well as assisting the four others who are currently signed to his label.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you listen to emo music?



"No, because it's not very good. They're just feeling sorry for themselves."

Todd Smithberg (11)



"I like all kinds of music. They are more screaming and whiny and I like that."

Keara Doocy (10)



"Yeah I do, but isn't all music emotional?"

Hanna Weeks (10)



"No. Why would you want to listen to something that gets you down?"

Rakeem Morrison (9)



"No, because it never changes, it never evolves. The constant whining makes me you feel like you're in high school forever."

Marcella Brown (10)



"I like some of it, but a lot of the mainstream stuff is annoying."

Ben Walden (11)

At a Glance: Music defined as indie or emo by fans

This genre has become a popular trend in Omaha over the past few years. Some say it is hard to determine what is emo (emotional) because each band sounds so different. Below are a few examples.

The Faint

Album Name: "Wet From Birth"

By: The Faint

Rated:

Best song: "How do I Forget"



BY PATRICK O'MALLEY

The Faint's "Wet From Birth" is a strong follow-up to its dance hall hit, "Danse Macabre." "Wet From Birth" is an album you can't listen to without feeling the urge to get up and dance like a possessed maniac.

The bass is catchy and the synthesizer is reminiscent of the '80s, but not in a bad way.

The lyrics as always tend to stray towards the sexual side, as the title clearly suggests, but on this album The Faint ventures into new territory.

Songs like "Paranoia Attack" are obvious references to current situations, but do so without being too pretentious or overbearing.

And for the home crowd lines like, "Staring

Down the Eppley Gate" from "Southern Belles in London Sing" are sure to at least result in knowing smiles. Unfortunately songs like "Wet from Birth" detract from the legitimacy of the other songs. Lyrics like, "Wet like a cherry, in the bloodbath of birth" are clearly spoken for their shock value alone and the album would be stronger without them.

Todd Baechle's voice seems to take on an instrumental quality of itself at times, decomposing into noise.

Joel Peterson's bass never fails to entice and excite.

In songs such as "Desperate Guys" and "I Disappear," it is the driving force propelling the rest of the song forward. Peterson is perhaps one of the reasons The Faint is so popular.

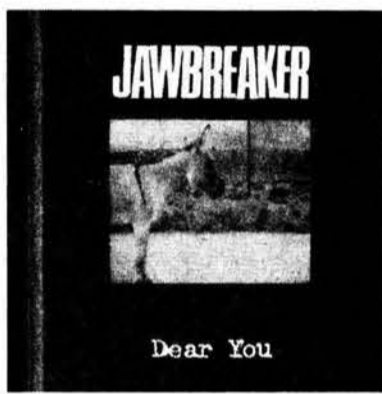
Jawbreaker

Album Name: "Dear You"

By: Jawbreaker

Rated:

Worst song: "Chemistry"



BY EMILY HARRISON

Remove "Dear You" from its CD case and a young boy greets you with a raised middle finger. The blatantly immature image sets the tone for the entire album.

"Dear You," Jawbreaker's fourth, and final album, shows the talent and maturity of an elementary school boy who spits in the teacher's face.

The chords and drumbeats are painfully simple and repetitive. Chords are repeated for entire measures and drumbeats stay the same for entire tracks. Jawbreaker's vocalist lacks any variation between songs. The half-speaking, half-shouting vocals show no real knowledge of pitch

or melody.

The lyrics and melody sound as if they were invented as they were being sung. The random rhythm of the lyrics may have been a beneficial addition to the tracks if it had been accompanied by interesting changes in pitch and corresponding rhythms in the instrumentals.

The content of the lyrics shows no real emotional depth. The subjects range from high school bullies to ex-girlfriends, ideas that are underdeveloped and overused.

Many of the songs lack any logical direction, they babble on with no real form. The lyrics seem to make no sense at first, and although they may have deeper meaning, the bad vocals and instrumentals do not inspire you to dig deeper.

Neva Dinova

Album Name: "Neva Dinova"

By: Neva Dinova

Rated:

Worst song: "Brooklyn"



BY CLAY LOMNETH

It seems as though the members of Neva Dinova, a somewhat "emo" band, are trying much too hard to ride the wave popularity the music is getting.

On its self-titled debut album, it goes out of its way to sound sad and depressed, and the music suffers, coming off as allegories and similes that really mean nothing to anyone.

The main vocalist, Jake Bellows, sounds like he'd rather be somewhere else to complain, anywhere but in the studio. He sounds like Goldplay's Chris Martin without the vocal lessons.

The songs are slow and tiring. The listener can tell they mean nothing, though are passed off to be deep.

The fourth song, "Brooklyn," is somewhat creepy. Bellows' voice whispers in the listeners' ears and tells them about what seems to be him stalking a girl he met on the subway. It seems Bellows meant it to be about a guy pursuing a girl, but it turns out horribly wrong, and he comes off as a stalker.

The lyrics about relationships are very vague, with typical lyrics saying how someone left him, but not much more than that. There is no deeper meaning.

The strongest track, but only because it has more energy than the others, is "At Least the Pain is Real." Here the song title really proves Neva Dinova is trying to hard to fit into a genre which it doesn't belong.

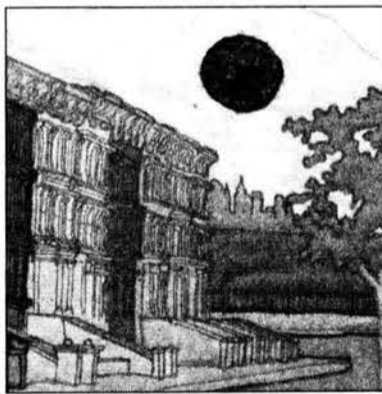
Bright Eyes

Album Name: "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning"

By: Bright Eyes

Rated:

Best song: "At the Bottom of Everything"



BY MOLLY MULLEN

"I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning," the new album by Bright Eyes was creative from the cover to the lyrics.

His folk songs were definitely the best part of the 10 track record.

At "The Bottom of Everything," Conor Oberst's first song was the best. It was a disappointment for the next 45 minutes because it did not go back up to that level.

The folkier songs were creative in that they were not the sad, slow tunes the King of Emo is famous for.

With songs about love, peace and life on the road, he has themes of '60s folk rock.

His vocals were a constant. They had the same forced volume that he has always been known for.

From The lyrics to the acoustic guitar to the embroidered looking cover of the CD jacket, there was definitely a theme throughout the album.

It did seem to progress, however. "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning" seemed to be a more evolved sound from Oberst.

His songs were diverse not only in lyrical content but in sound.

The several guest singers on the album helped mix things up.

It sounded like the same old Oberst with the new twist.

Death Cab for Cutie

Album Name: "Transatlanticism"

By: Death Cab for Cutie

Rated:

Best song: "The Sound of Settling"



BY NATASHA FIELDS

Many of the songs on the latest Death Cab for Cutie album definitely weren't the best this band has done.

The album "Transatlanticism" starts off well, with good lyrics and vocals, but then get very repetitive. The majority of the songs sounded exactly the same with the same beat and tired sounding vocals. The vocals aren't terrible.

The repetitive beat, the drab vocals and the boring instrumentals are enough to make a person go to sleep while listening. The lyrics weren't exactly gold either. They are all negative and depressing, speaking of sadness. In the song,

"Tiny Vessels," the singer sings about how he took advantage of a girl he'd met. The lyrics read "And she was beautiful, but she didn't mean a thing to me," and then continued to sing about how he lied to her and how he used her.

The song "The Sound of Settling" was a little more upbeat in instrumentals, but the lyrics were still extremely negative with words such as "I am waiting for something to go wrong."

In a few of the songs, a piano in the background adds a nice touch, keeping it simple and smooth.

Although the album was negative overall, and very slow, there are a few great songs that are worth listening to.

CocoRosie

Album Name: "La Maison de Mon Rêve"

By: CocoRosie

Rated:

Worst song: "Not For Sale"



BY KRISTINA ALAS

CocoRosie newest album was not a very appealing one to any listener. It's definitely not something to listen to over and over.

It's probably not even worth listening to for a few seconds.

The band consists of two girls, Coco and Rosie. The band probably has some talent, but people definitely aren't hearing it from them.

The lyrics are really depressing, and go on to send that same message throughout the album. In one song members used a few racial slurs that probably were a turn off for most people. They also tend to put religion into some of their lyrics.

The way they use their voices they sound really sad.

If they worked on how they sounded and made listeners feel a little less like they wanted to kill themselves, they could probably become a success.

They use a lot of sound effects in all of their songs. Some of the sound effects were cool to listen to, but got old after a couple songs.

The effects are a big distraction that really kept the listener from enjoying the lyrics.

If they got rid of some of the sound effects, people might start understand the message they were trying to send.

An acoustic guitar and piano were also included in a few songs.

HIP-HOP MANIA

With hip-hop on the rise, there is a growing trend of people who listen to and live it. From music to clothing to speech, it affects the lives of all those who enjoy and take part in what some would say is a culture.



PHOTO BY ANDREW REINWALD/REGISTER

Senior Jamel McNair has been rapping since seventh grade. Although he probably doesn't want to pursue music as his first career choice, he said he wants to keep it a part of his life.

Senior envisions future in hip-hop

BY ANDREW REINWALD

He's been mixing rap, gospel, rock and jazz rhythms into his own unique style of music since seventh grade and now his talent has caught the eye of many people.

Senior Jamel McNair said it didn't take him long to create his own distinctive music style, a one-of-a-kind blend of some of his favorite music and his own powerfully creative musicianship.

"When you hear a lyric style you can branch out," McNair said. "You make a beat based on what you're feeling."

He said his music isn't just about rap and he is influenced by a lot of other genres of music. His influences include more popular groups like The Neptunes and even Dr. Dre.

"I don't see myself just doing rap," he said. "I like rock and gospel, too. I don't want to limit myself; I want to branch out."

From topics like God to just hanging out with friends, there is no limit to what McNair speaks about. He said he gets his inspiration from everyday life and just living in general.

"I bring a lot of styles together," he said. "My style is so unique, no one can match it."

In fact his talent has reached the ears of several area record labels including 2 Big Entertainment who has been trying to sign McNair for the past five months. He said the feedback he gets about his music is good and many people react well to what he talks about.

"They like it (the record labels), they see it as a good way to put Omaha on the map," McNair said.

His style is a lot different from what a lot of other people listen to, but he said people should listen to what he has to say before labeling him as something he isn't.

"You should listen to the full message and to the delivery," McNair said.

As for what he plans on doing in the future McNair said he would like to go into a career in law, but keep his music as a back-up plan. He said music will always be a part of his life, but he doesn't want to give up everything else just for a career in music.

"All it takes is that one thumbs down from that record producer and you have nothing," McNair said.

He warns others interested in the music business to not lose sight of the importance of school. McNair said his music keeps him busy, but not distracted.

"Work hard at music, but don't get sidetracked. School should be a regular part of your life," he said.

He created his stand-out style by combining what he liked and then using his innate sense of creativity to come up with something totally new. McNair said a lot of people's styles were watered down and their delivery isn't what people in Omaha want to hear.

"A lot of artists don't take the time to listen to other things," he said. "They emulate one style so much that it gets worn out. I'm one of many styles."

McNair said he and his friend, Jamar Conway, are planning their own production company. Conway said he thinks they will be successful because they know what people their age like and they know how to adapt to their audience's ever changing tastes.

He said he's confident in both of their skills and in McNair's musical ability.

"What he does is different," Conway said. "He puts his heart and soul in it. It's what he loves."

He said McNair likes a lot of variety and his music is something you can move to.

"He changes it up so much," Conway said. "From rock to hip-hop to pop and R&B."

Their production company has been in the planning stage for over a year and they're looking for more people with musical talent.

McNair said he's not so much a rapper as he is a producer; he talks about issues everyone can understand.

"We want to make good music that people can relate to," he said.

McNair comes from a musical family and it shows. Jamel's father, Augustus McNair, is the music director at a local church and also does his own singing and songwriting.

Augustus said Jamel was constantly around him when he was working in the recording studio, as early as 3 or 4. He said he understands his son's passion for creating music.

"As a songwriter I understand the personal nature of something you create. It gives you a good feeling," Augustus said.

He also appreciates the amount of dedication and hard work Jamel puts into his music. He said from an early age Jamel saw the example he set when he was at work and now he just naturally embraces that.

Popular music trend seen as influence on students

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior Jeremy Felton said he dressed and talked like the music he listened to. He said the latest trends on Black Entertainment Television (BET) and Music Television (MTV) have become what are fashionable to the hip-hop culture.

"One day it's on the radio and the next day it's everyday slang," Felton said.

He said some of his speech came from the music he listened to.

"I listen to that music so much that I picked up on it," he said.

Many of his friends have the same style of speaking. Many of the mainstream artist he listens to like 50 Cent contributed words like trap, dope and shawdy.

"It (hip-hop) is like a language in and of itself," he said.

He said there isn't one style that is hip-hop. He was wearing a long white T-shirt, Air Jordan sneakers and baggy jeans. He said it was his basic hip-hop style, but there could be gangster hip-hop or preppy hip-hop.

Even though some people might not recognize the way he dressed as hip-hop style, he said it was an individual style and whoever said they dressed that way could.

Felton said he's been into hip-hop since around sixth grade. One day he heard his brother and some friends rapping and joined in, not knowing what he was doing or saying. Now, he said, he raps all the time and writes poetry and music when he is not busy. He said he even recorded some music to his brother's label in Oklahoma, Country Gold Records.

He said he plans on becoming a rapper after college because pursuing it while he was in college would take up too much time.

"There are too many sacrifices," Felton said. "So much so you can't do it halfway."

LIFESTYLE

Sophomore Darryl Hinson said hip-hop has become a lifestyle, though many people have wrong perceptions about it.

"Hip-hop music is just a part of the lifestyle," he said. "There's no name for the way people live so it has just become hip-hop because the music is the most known part."

He said some people rely too much on what they see in videos or popular musicians and do not have their own style.

"A lot of people listen to the music and relate, but fake people try to act like what they see in the videos," he said.

He said hip-hop branches out further than music and clothing. He wears long Tees (T-shirts) which people can buy at some athletic shoe stores. He said long Tees of varying colors are popular within the hip-hop style. Some musicians have their own brand of clothing as well, and he said these are popular, though expensive.

He said though it's good when people listen to musicians, it can become a negative when they model their lives after what a particular musician does, just trying to fit in.

"They don't got no taste," he said. "They do whatever other people want them to do and try to get influenced too much for acceptance."

He said he instead wears whatever he likes and has his own sense of style, and occasionally wears what a musician does because he likes their style. He said he liked hip-hop because he could relate to what musicians say in their songs.

"You can appreciate music more if you can relate to it," he said. "They express the things you want to express and say it for you in a creative way."

He said students could listen to the music and hear about someone going through similar problems instead of trying to figure everything on their own.

"It's (the music) the same thing you're thinking, but they say it in a better way with real tight metaphors," Hinson said.

He said hip-hop's popularity has greatly increased at Central.

"It's the fastest growing music genre, everybody's influenced by it," he said. "The media influences how many fans hip-hop's got and are hiring rappers for cell phone, Sprite and deodorant commercials."

He said he thought the different branches of hip-hop and commercials are good because it allows people to know that hip-hop is more than just a type of music. He said it also eliminates some of the stereotypes associated with.

"It lets people know that hip-hop is more diverse and that it's more than just cussing, shooting and rapping," he said. "It's got a positive side instead of all that negative stuff."

He said the school rules often conflict

with hip-hop fashion because hats and do-rags weren't allowed in school. He said sagging pants are also popular, but students are often not allowed to wear their pants very low.

He said he thought the rules were slightly biased against boys in particular.

"Girls can wear bandannas in their hair, but if a guy wears it, they have to take it off," he said.

He said hip-hop can change more than just clothing, however.

"It can influence any part of someone's life," he said.

One thing hip-hop has changed was language and slang words.

"There could be a whole dictionary of slang words," he said. "With the slang, sometimes you hear that word more than the real word cause it's easier to say and faster."

IMPACT

Psychology Professor at Creighton University Rayne Cooney said peer and media influence of adolescents grows over time.

"After pubescent years, all of these students are acting outside of parental supervision," Cooney said.

She said one might see a 3 year old mimicking an adult or older sibling, but it isn't actually an influence on them until prepubescent years. She said as early as second grade students are influencing each other's dress and speech among over things.

African American History teacher and club sponsor Rod Mullen said sometimes hip-hop can have a negative effect on the way people speak and can be derogatory.

"It definitely can become a negative thing in the way women are portrayed and the use of profanity, especially the n-word," he said.

He said the hip-hop musicians can sometimes be misleading in how they portray things in their lyrics and music videos.

"A lot of that so-called-lifestyle is image, it's not reality, but that's what sells," he said.

He said the artists greatly influence the hip-hop lifestyle, especially in students.

"They have the youth's ear," he said. "There's a ready audience there to be talked to and they're eager."

He said the effects of hip-hop can be seen at Central in how students act.

"You see the effects of it everywhere in the hallways and classrooms," he said. "You can see it in how people dress themselves and the slang they hear in the music."

He said students' slang is sometimes similar to that of the negative language used by popular

musicians.

"Some of it's very disrespectful," he said. "And either they don't know it or they don't care."

DEGRADATION

Junior Dominique said the music can sometimes be particularly degrading to women.

"Most music doesn't show us in a respectful manner," she said.

She said many people try to act exactly like the musicians in the music videos.

"It changes the way you act, the way you dress, your life," she said. "It does influence you, you see an image and that's what you want because that's what everyone else does." She said oftentimes this can have a negative impact.

"People forget who they are because they try to portray who they're not," she said. "They see someone being a gang member in a video and they want to be a gang member."

She said it can also change how people speak, act and dress.

"The language is different," she said. "And people start talking like they hear on the videos and you want to wear whatever the top artists are wearing."

She said though she likes hip-hop. She said she thinks there are bad things as well as good things about it.

"I like hip-hop, but some of it isn't right and some of it is," she said.

Peggy Harriott, the executive director of the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) said the YWCA has looked into how women are portrayed in popular music and how they are referred to.

"The problem's not with the music, but rather the

culture," she said. "Each person needs to look at how they view women or the terms used either derogatory or sexualized."

She said this can also influence how women view themselves.

"A woman may start to think that her body is the only thing that matters," she said. "My concern is that people may come to view women only for their body rather than the person they are."

She said one out of three women in America are beaten in intimate relationships and one out of four are sexually assaulted in their lives.

Rob Ruiz, director for an Omaha hip-hop website, said some people give hip-hop bad impression when they try to model their lives after a certain artist just to fit in.

"It definitely has a negative impact when people are not more educated," he said. "They think they're doing hip-hop just because but they're just trying to fit in with a certain style and are not promoting the lifestyle."

He said for many, however, hip-hop is a way of expressing themselves as individuals. He said this was a part of the website's goal. He said the website is designed for people who are both all ready involved in hip-hop who are interested in becoming involved.

"It's the center for the local hip-hop scene," he said.

He said there are many misconceptions about hip-hop, and some people think hip-hop is just a style of music.

"It's more than just a type of music, but it all depends on how you look at it," he said. "Hip-hop is like any other culture. It's culture of art, dancing, poetry. It's a way to express yourselves by thinking up original ideas."

He said he tries to include more than just the musical aspect of hip-hop on the website.

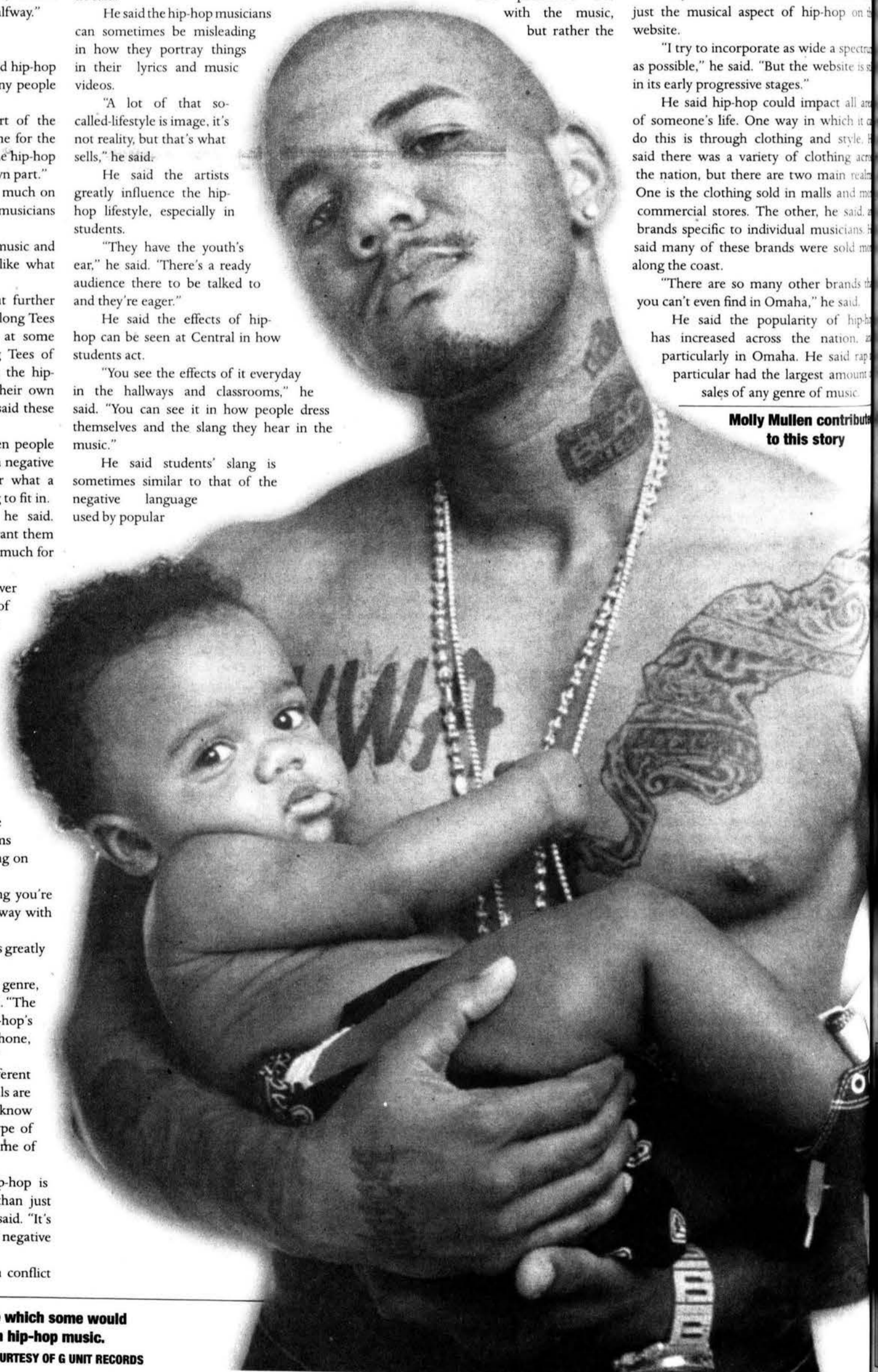
"I try to incorporate as wide a spectrum as possible," he said. "But the website is in its early progressive stages."

He said hip-hop could impact all areas of someone's life. One way in which it can do this is through clothing and style. He said there was a variety of clothing available in the nation, but there are two main areas. One is the clothing sold in malls and major commercial stores. The other, he said, are brands specific to individual musicians. He said many of these brands were sold mainly along the coast.

"There are so many other brands that you can't even find in Omaha," he said.

He said the popularity of hip-hop has increased across the nation, particularly in Omaha. He said rap music particularly had the largest amount of sales of any genre of music.

Molly Mullen contributed to this story



The Game shows his tender side which some would say doesn't happen that much in hip-hop music.

PHOTO COURTESY OF G UNIT RECORDS

Local label will hold auditions for hip-hop artists

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Hip-hop talent is now given a chance to be heard with an upcoming audition for a locally produced album. Auditions will be held Mar. 27 from noon to 5 p.m. to showcase hip-hop talent throughout the Omaha community. Sponsored by J. Stephens Music, this will be the mark of the beginning of what is known as the Battle at Fort Omaha. Battle at Fort Omaha is the first annual event promoted by J. Stephens Music President Johnny Stephens. It

began in the pursuit of finding talent in Omaha and Stephens said this experience would be the highlight of his career. Stephens said he has been a hip-hop artist for 13 years and hopes to get local rappers to show the judges what they can do. The final winner of the finishing act will win \$500 and be able to prove his talent to other music producers. The basis of the auditions will be to narrow down the participants to 32 candidates. Of these candidates, chosen by

select judges, a compilation album of 16 tracks will debut the talent of two people per track, battling it out with their lyrics and rhymes. When the album is released, the public will vote a winner for each track. From those winners a final competition of 16 participants will be held to find out who is the best talent of them all. "There was nothing like this around when I was younger," Stephens said. "This is a good promotion for some who have never had the opportunity to be on a CD." Stephens said he wants the Omaha

community to know that being in the Midwest is a challenge because some artists would rather travel to bigger cities for record deals. Battle at Fort Omaha will give local talent a chance to show other parts of the country that Omaha is full of plenty of talent, Stephens said. "Omaha is untapped," he said. "A lot of artists are influenced by West and East Coast music. But being centrally located creates our own Omaha style." With a history of being a part of three different hip-hop groups and

three different albums, Stephens said the hardest thing about being a hip-hop artist is being in Omaha and getting people to look his way. Stephens is promoting the battle with Todd Martin and DJ Suicide from Studio 402, who both said hip-hop was a lifestyle they lived. Studio 402 is an urban advertising company that focuses on representing hip-hop in the community. He said he believes hip-hop initially began to prevent violence and supports the Battle at Fort Omaha for promoting hip-hop in the same way.

Students around school describe what they think hip-hop style is.



Rapper T-shirts



Jerseys



Throwback Jerseys



Oversized hooded sweat-shirts by Ecko Wear



Tall T-shirts by G Unit

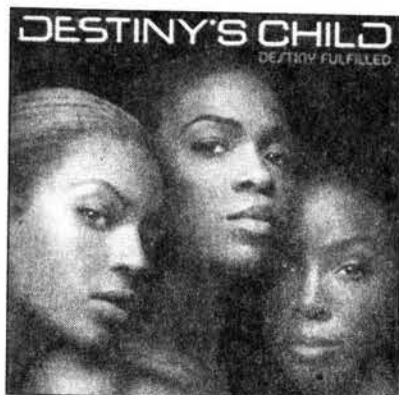


Vintage looking Air Force Ones

hot hip-hop hits

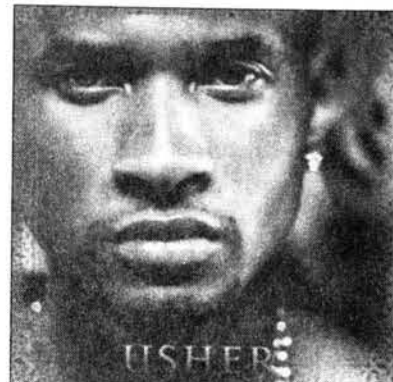
Below are a few of Billboard magazine's current top ten selling albums in this genre. Some sell so quickly, stores cannot keep up with the demand.

Destiny's Child



Album Name: "Destiny Fulfilled"
By: Destiny's Child
Rated:
Best song: "Soldier"

The second track "Soldier," featuring rapper Lil Wayne, counters the trio and they echo him well in completely different feels. When they break off in a variety of rich, high ranges, the unique talents of their individual voices shine through. "Soldier" could have had a better ending. It trails off in what seems like a lengthy instrumental solo that doesn't fit the upbeat beginning of the song. As the first ballad is introduced, the listener is impressed with the blend of voices, instrumentation and synchronization.

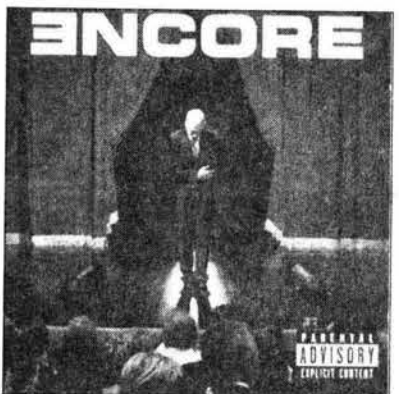


Usher
Album Name: "Confessions"
By: Usher
Rated:
Best song: "Let it Burn"

Usher's third album "Confessions" has a total of 21 tracks and seven extra-featured artists. Many of the songs have a place for the young adult crowd, but still reign in the lives of all hip-hop lovers. After its release, "Confessions" became the highlight of hip-hop and R&B with the single "Yeah!" featuring the King of Krunk Lil' Jon and Ludacris. This single was released in 2004 and became

the song that every one looked forward to at his concerts while he was on tour. He saved the best for last putting "Confessions" remix at the end of the album. Not only was "Confessions" at the top of the charts for 50 weeks, but it remained the number one pick for its catchy phrases like "She's got me feeling like she's ready to blow!" and the simple "Yeah!" that is repeated in the chorus 12 times in a row. "Let it Burn" was also a hit single idolizing the relationship Usher had with a girl that he could not let her go.

Eminem



Album Name: "Encore"
By: Eminem
Rated:
Best song: "Evil Deeds"

Anyone who's not into rap will be certainly surprised by Eminem's new album "Encore." Even though Shady gets a bad rap for being too controversial, some if not most of his songs had a message. The cover of the album showed him bowing on stage. Turn the cover over and it shows him holding a gun. This visual is portrayed throughout the pages with bullets and blood and even audience members shot in the chest.

If there is any question as to why this is so, the first song on the album opens with people screaming and running and others planning what seemed to be a shooting. The cover and the opening could be enough to turn anyone off. It could have been to weed out people who were trying to judge the music because once the lyrics start up he says things that are basically nice. He carried out the theme of "Don't judge me" throughout the album much like his past albums. There were also the songs Shady does get a lot of negative press for.

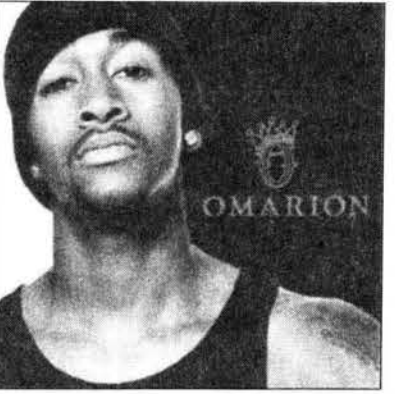


Brian McKnight
Album Name: "Gemini"
By: Brian McKnight
Rated:
Best song: "Every Time You Go Away"

In a talented mix of R&B, soul and jazz, singer, composer and producer Brian McKnight's latest edition "Gemini" includes the number one hit singles "What We Do Here" and "Every Time You Go Away." The beginning A Cappella song pulls the listener in for his first track "Stay with Him." McKnight's abilities are displayed in his harmonized intro as he flaunts distinguished falsetto and ends with a jazzy, soul-like feel.

His second song, "What We Do Here" begins in a smooth blues/jazz feel with simplistic drum beats. Rich piano and bass chords often drop out, displaying the synchronized slurs as McKnight stands out from the other voices, countering them smoothly. The piano and keyboard are prominent throughout the album. Often simple, they blend well with the overall feel of the tracks and never dominate McKnight's voice. His third song introduces a piano and violin serenade, as he begs someone not to go away, even though he knows she will soon return.

Omarion



Album Name: "O"
By: Omarion
Rated:
Best song: "Touch"

Many artists have mixed rap and R&B music countless times before, but many of them can't do it very well. They can't find the right balance. Omarion's new album "O" fits into that category. However, one thing that is better about this album is although most of the songs have to do with sex or lust like any other rap music, the R&B music makes the lyrics seem less harsh than they usually would be with a strong beat in the background. It makes one think more about the music and feels soothing to listen to.

The beats in the R&B-like songs are calming and can relax anyone in a matter of minutes. But with the poorly positioned rap songs, the person wakes right up out of their peaceful rest time. One thing this album definitely lacks is variety. The majority of the songs sound the same, soft music with soothing lyrics. There is really no change. Most listeners enjoy at least some change in their music. When you get past the music in this album and start paying attention to the lyrics, it seems the music and the words don't or shouldn't go together at all.

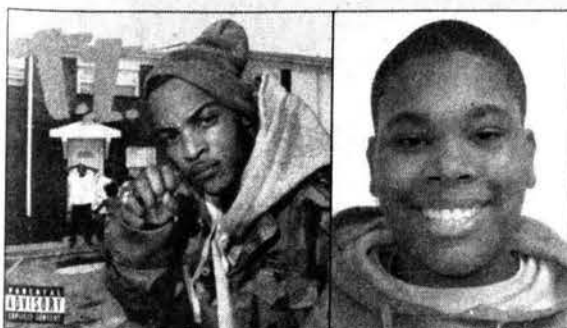


The Game
Album Name: "The Documentary"
By: The Game
Rated:
Best song: "Dreams"

Despite almost a stereotypical rapper background, The Game's debut album, "The Documentary" actually stands out from the crowd. The Game raps to the listener about his life, being the almost cliché selling drugs, getting shot and then turning his life around in the name of music. This may sound like the story of also fairly new artist 50 Cent, who appears on a few of The Game's tracks. Throughout these stereotypes, The Game's

raps are different from anything else there. He has deeper and more meaningful lyrics. The second track sounds like 50 Cent, probably because 50 is featured on that song. Whenever a track has a featured artist, The Game's songs seem to lean towards that artist's style, as opposed to staying with his own. For example, on his track "Dreams," he pays tribute to all of his idols and fellow artists. The song that seems to be his style is in the middle of the album, "Put You on the Game." It is a song about what he goes through every day, about what his life is like. It seems to be an anthem of his life.

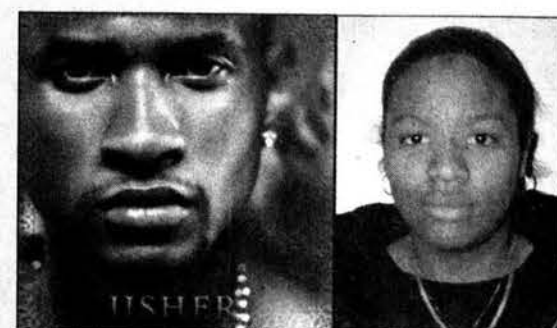
Who is your favorite hip-hop artist?



"T.I. because he sings a song called 'You Don't Know.' It's about people criticizing others without knowing them."
Jerome Matthews (9)



"Lil' John because all he does is yell. He gets you krunkified in minutes."
Moises Carrillo (9)



"Usher because he's easy to dance to."
Bianca Cromartie (11)

Alternative film opportunity draws students

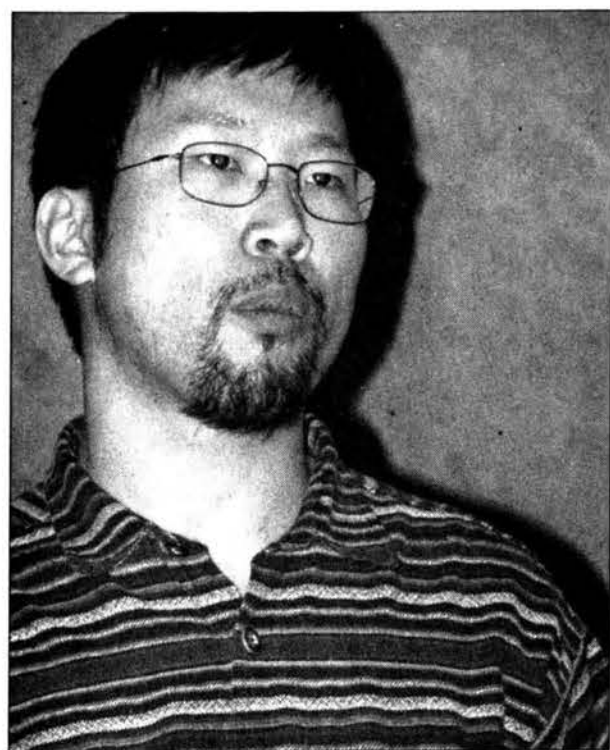


PHOTO BY EMILY HARRISON/ REGISTER

Roy Ghim is a leader of the People's Film Festival, a free weekly event held at McFoster's Natural Kind Café.

BY EMILY HARRISON

Every Wednesday evening around 20 middle-aged liberals, along with the occasional student, congregate on the second floor of McFoster's Natural Kind Café for the People's Film Festival, a free weekly event.

Many lively discussions usually follow the movie or documentary.

Senior Abi Williams said she attended the movies once or twice a month, and enjoyed the politically conscious documentaries and artsy movies McFoster's features.

"You can't see the movies anywhere else, and there's always interesting discussions afterward," she said.

Recently, the movie was "Lumumba." The film followed the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first elected leader of the Congo.

Political movies such as "Lumumba" are common at The People's Film Festival, Roy Ghim, a leader of the weekly event, said.

Ghim teaches at South High School.

The first movie shown at the festival was "Iraq Uncovered," a documentary on the war with Iraq and the events leading up to it.

Ghim said the goal was to show movies

that weren't readily available to the public.

Junior Melissa Forster said she enjoyed the unique variety of movies at the festival.

"They show a lot of movies that aren't mainstream, movies that you can learn something from," she said.

The movies have ranged from well-known films such as "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" to virtually unheard of documentaries such as "The Emperor of Hemp."

Nils Erickson, one of the original founders of the group, said his goal with the movies was to enlighten others.

Some of the movies, such as "Fahrenheit 9/11" have been criticized for being biased.

"We've even shown propaganda films, such as 'Reefer Madness,'" Erickson said.

Ghim admitted some of the films may be bent to one side of the issues, but his goal was to spur critical thought and not to propagandize.

"The fact that the movies are controversial makes them more entertaining," junior Roger Fleming, an occasional attendee of the festival, said.

Fleming said he attends because he enjoys the environment at McFoster's and

the discussions held afterward.

Forrester said there are interesting and mature perspectives in the discussions.

She also said the food is something to look forward to.

Her favorite dish is the sour cream and cheddar fries.

The festival began as a branch of the anti-war political organization "Act Now to Stop War" and still maintains a strong political feel.

Nils has anti-Bush T-shirts for sale and attendees are kept informed on various political happenings.

Although the majority of attendees are liberal, Ghim said he wants more conservatives to come so there can be different perspectives.

Ghim said he is trying to show more art and independent films as well as the politically-based documentaries and movies.

Ghim came to Omaha from Colorado where he said there were many venues for independent films.

He said he hopes to spur more interest for these movies in Omaha.

Erickson said the React Building inspired him. The React Building used to be located

downtown and showed alternative films.

"I didn't see any reason why we couldn't do that here," Erickson said.

Ghim said they weren't sure how long the film festival would last at first.

Since then attendance has been consistent and Erickson said he was even considering buying a theater.

A committee of four people chooses the movies.

Each member of the committee brings his or her own ideas to a monthly meeting and other ideas are sent via e-mail.

The upcoming movies this month are "The Triplets of Belleville," a French animated film and "City of God," a story about Busca Pe, a youth from the dangerous projects in Rio de Janeiro, using photography as his ticket out.

The owners of McFoster's allow the festival to use the space free of charge because it brings them business.

Because Erickson and Ghim are not charged anything for the space, they do not charge admission, although free will donations are accepted.

The festival celebrated its 100th showing on Feb. 2, and plan to keep showing films.

Senior shows historical pride in African-based play at Rose

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Acting is an attitude for senior Patrice Gilreath who participates in the Young Gifted & Black Productions at the Rose Theater every year.

This year she was playing the stepmother in the play "Fala Cinderella."

"Acting is fun for me because you can be somebody else," Gilreath said. "I get tired of being so nice."

Gilreath said she liked her role the most because it taught a good lesson to the audience. She said she played a mean character she's not used to playing, but she knew playing an evil character did not mean she's a mean person. The founder of Young Gifted & Black Productions Sheila Rocha said she has been working with Gilreath for four years.

"She has a great deal of hidden potential," Rocha said. "Sometimes she is very shy, but doing the plays each year is a challenge for her. But she's a typical teen."

Rocha said she used to be shy about getting on the stage and memorizing her lines, but when she got into the character, she really made it hers.

"She comes alive when she gets on stage," Rocha said. "She learns her lines quickly and she's always pushing."

In the past, she played an extra during her freshman and sophomore years and a supporting role her junior year.

Each year was a different play. For her last year she said she was happy she was able to get the lead role for the play.

The African-based play was filled with animation from talking animals to talking boats and tree branches.

Gilreath said she liked the play because she was allowed to be improvisational as she said her lines.

"I had a very funny role," Gilreath said. "Sheila always let us have fun."

Gilreath said she looked up to famous actors like Halle Berry and Whitney Houston,

but her closest influence was her former teacher and friend Tanya Berry.

"Tanya always had stuff for me to do," Gilreath said. "She asks me to do things for the church all the time."

She said she thanked Berry the most for asking for her help with so many plays she has been apart of in the past.

Gilreath said she has always been apart of plays at Zion Baptist Church where she still attends today.

She said Berry was also the first person to introduce her to the Rose Theater when she was younger. She said she was taken to the Rose Theater where Rocha taught on a field trip.

She never thought, she said, that one day she would meet up with her again.

"Sheila is always teaching," Gilreath said. "She surprises us with how much she knows about our people."

Gilreath said even though Rocha is Hispanic, she knows a lot about African-American people and she adds a lot of humor to the plays because

of it.

Rocha said she was introduced to the play "A Raisin in the Sun" by Loraine Hansburg when she was 17. It inspired her goals for the program in which she named it after today.

Rocha said she wanted to promote multicultural studies at her school, but it took a long time to get her goals accomplished.

A few of the other cast members added humor to the play as well, she said.

Seniors Robert Wesley and James Cory also participated in the play.

Wesley plays the supporting role of the prince and Cory acted as one of the stepsisters.

Referring to her as Patty, Wesley said he liked to act with Gilreath for this play.

"Patty is kind of like the mother of the cast," Wesley said.

He said his friend tricked him into doing the play, but he was glad he chose to participate because it was a good time to fellowship with other teens through acting.

Rocha is the beginning founder of Young,

Gifted & Black and said this year is the only year with so many students who have been with her a full four years.

Gilreath said she liked to participate in the Young Gifted & Black program because it gave her a chance to have lots of fun and learn more about herself.

"There were a lot of underclassmen in the play," Gilreath said. "Sometimes the rehearsal get really loud. But we still have a good time."

Gilreath said she hoped the most to get some lasting friendships from the production before she pursues her goals in college.

She said she plans to attend Wayne State next fall majoring in psychology with a minor in theater.

When Gilreath was not at rehearsal she said she enjoyed singing, photography and writing her own plays.

Right now she has four plays completed and six she is still working on.

She said she hoped to complete all of her plays by the end of this summer.

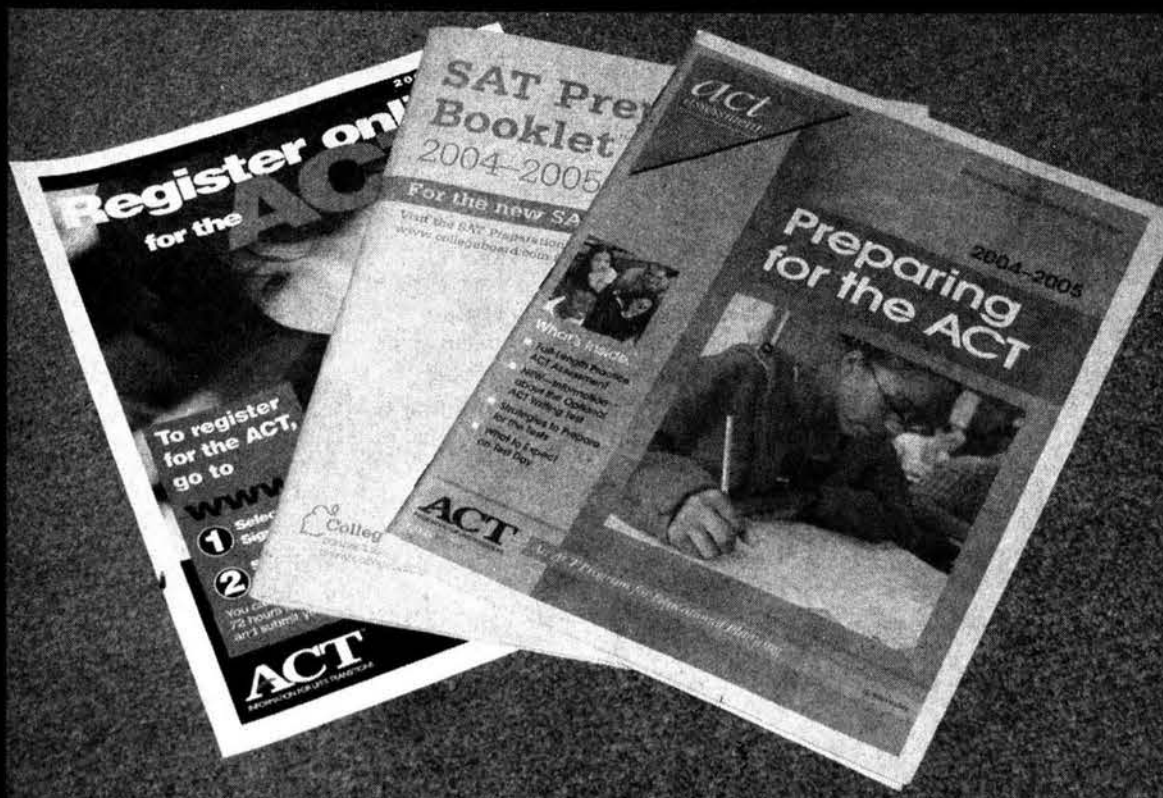
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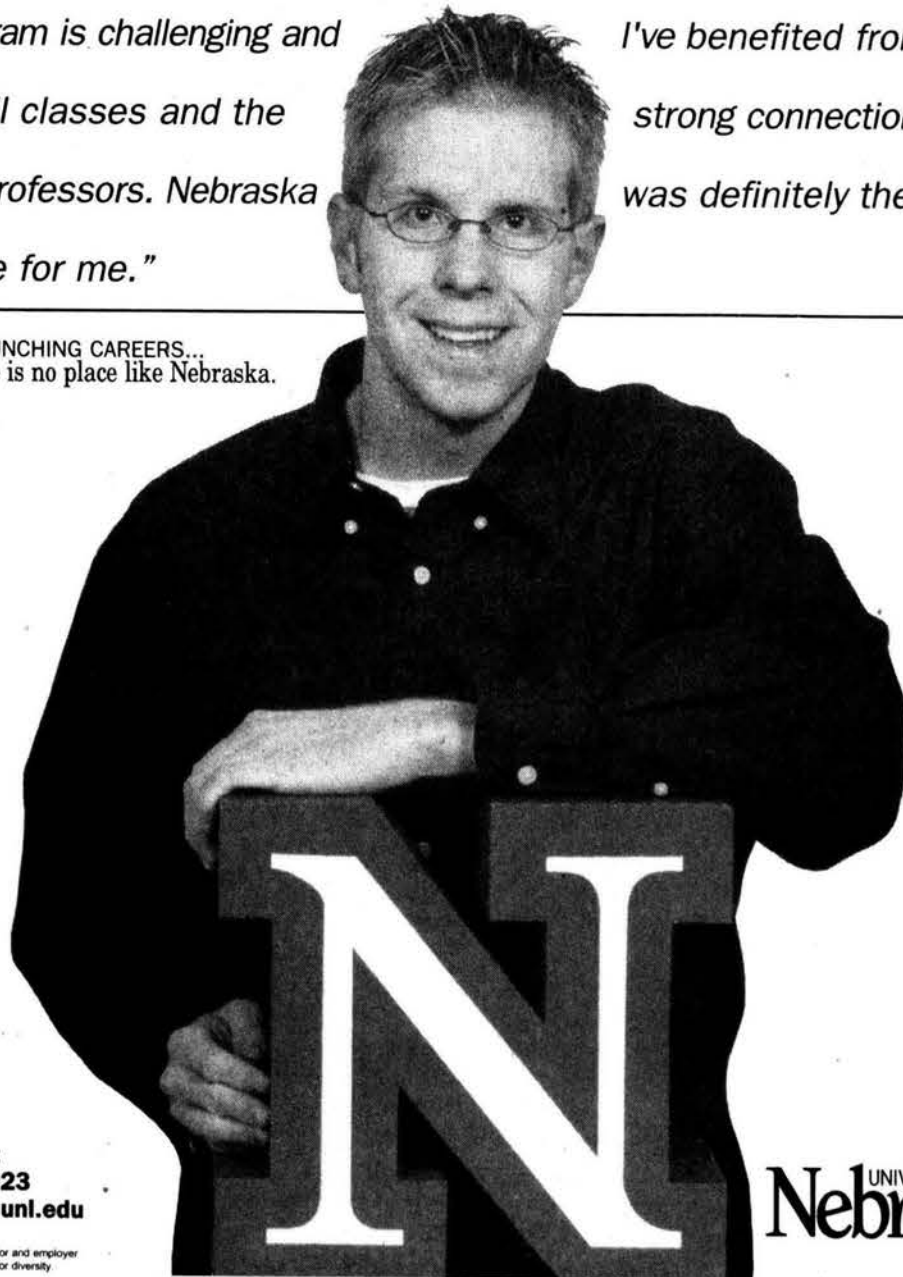
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This Millard South grad reaches for the stars at Nebraska.

TROY ANDERSON, an honors student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was chosen for an internship at the NASA Glenn Research Center. Anderson, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, said Nebraska is helping him launch a career in the aerospace industry. "I'm glad I chose Nebraska because it offers so many opportunities to help me reach my goals. The Honors Program is challenging and small classes and the strong connection with my professors. Nebraska was definitely the right place for me."

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PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

(From left) Jason Hoefft (class of '98) plays guitar with senior Andrew Seevers in the background. Senior Bryce Dantzler plays his saxophone at the dance. Dantzler also played in the sixty-first annual Roadshow.

Alumni back for more music, dancing

BY CLAY LOMNETH

For the third annual swing dance fund-raiser in early March, band director Pete Wilger said there were three main positives.

He said the jazz band students got experience playing live and playing with professionals.

The third positive aspect of the fund-raiser was some of the alumni were professional musicians.

The professionalism that was shown added even more quality to the dance.

"It just seems we keep getting more and more alumni," he said.

Wilger said they used a newer sound system which helped out.

Senior Bryce Dantzler played saxophone at the fund-raiser and before at the Roadshow.

He said he had planned on joining the Roadshow before, in his sophomore and junior years, but things fell through.

This year was different. "I like contributing to school events" he said.

Because it was his last year, Dantzler said he wanted people to

remember him for something. Playing at the swing dance, he said, was another way for the students to remember him.

Dantzler said he was not nervous in the beginning, until he started to play.

"I'm always calm until I get up (in front of the audience)," he said. "But I always enjoy entertaining people."

Dantzler said performing was part of his life, and he has always enjoyed doing it.

Dantzler said he was happy to help raise money for instruments because kids coming to high school need to find their talent. Without anyone helping them find this talent the kids would never know they had it.

Dantzler started playing saxophone in the fourth grade, when he chose an instrument for band. He said his mother picked the saxophone for him, and he enjoyed it because it was the first instrument he had success with and could express himself with.

Before that, he said, he had tried to play piano, but could not get into it.

"The saxophone suits my personality," he said. "I think any instrument that anyone plays, it's an

extension of you."

Terry Anderson, copresident of Central High Band Parents (CHBP), said the fund-raiser took in over \$1,700. In past years, she said, the swing dance has raised anywhere from \$500 to \$1,200.

"Every year we're hoping to make it bigger," she said.

The goals of the CHBP, she said, were to support activism of instrumental music, to raise funds and to involve as many band parents as possible.

With the CHBP, Anderson said, the band students did not have to sell candy to make money for the things they needed.

This fund-raiser, she said, was for many things, not only buying and repairing instruments.

Alumnus Jason Hoefft, from the class of 1998, was playing guitar at the fund-raiser for the second year.

He said his wife and her family enjoy it, and that's one reason why he comes back.

"I wanted to help raise money for instruments," he said.

Hoefft was in the jazz band in high school and said although he doesn't

play in front of people often, he said he liked how he performed that night.

Hoefft said he usually just practices at home, and the fast music of the swing dancing was different, but a good way for him to apply his skills in public.

He said although he does not play music as a career, he would like to.

Senior Andrew Seevers played guitar with Hoefft during one song at swing dance.

He said he enjoyed playing with Hoefft, and knew some of the other alumni from jazz band last year.

He said it was a good experience for the jazz band to get the chance to play with people who play instruments for a living.

"It's a lot of fun playing with professionals," he said.

Seevers said he played at the swing dance to show his talent and to see what he was able to do with his guitar.

In addition, it was required to play at the dance for jazz band.

Seevers said he had fun playing and it felt good playing for a good cause.

He said he hoped to come back next year.

Barcodes create interesting outlet

■ 'CODE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

portraits were corporate criminals.

Blake said he felt it was interesting how he knew the people in his portraits without ever meeting them. Even though he has never met Oprah, he said he knows what she looks like and how her voice sounds.

Blake said people live their lives through machines like televisions and computers.

"We know what's on TV," he said. "We are living life through machines that are lifeless."

Blake said one problem with society was people idolizing other people more than themselves. Blake's favorite painting was an illuminated portrait of Elvis. The barcodes, taken from his albums, were printed on acetate and lit from behind to create a glowing rendition of the "King."

He said the piece reminds him of the backlit advertisements at bus stops he used to stand by. He said he liked standing close enough so all he could see was the dot patterns.

"They're just barcodes," he said.

A mirror and hubcap were hung on posts. Blake said it was easier to see the faces in the reflection. Blake said his artwork itself was like his own mirror, although a biased mirror, in which he reflects the world.

Around the corner from Elvis was a portrait of Madonna, one of the few color portraits in the show. Instead of barcodes, the work is comprised of the covers of her movies.

The portrait, which Madonna had actually seen herself, was based off of an Herb Ritz photograph. Much of Blake's work is compilations of other images.

"My work is a lot like hip-hop sampling," Blake said.

Another work shows a portrait of Jesus with a progression of pixels. Blake said he wanted to know how many pixels it took to make Jesus.

When he talked about the piece, he pulled out a small wallet sized hologram of Jesus. Blake said he bought the card at a gas station to make change. It was the first thing he ever scanned into a computer.

Jeremy Stern, the gallery

coordinator, said those barcodes gave Blake a strong visual identity.

Stern said if the gallery was going to have only one solo exhibition this year, Blake's would be the one.

Blake's show at the Bemis Underground was the first at the gallery.

The works for the gallery are chosen from proposals. These proposals can be from anyone, for any kind of exhibit.

"We are selecting curators," Stern said.

These curators are then given a \$750 allowance and must organize and advertise for their own shows.

Stern said organizing shows this way was a risk.

"There is always the possibility that it could fall on its face," he said.

Stern said the gallery was a sort of incubator for artists, almost like an extension of school.

He also said he hopes the artists and others who are involved in the Underground can use the experience they gain to further the art scene in Omaha.

"I hope people who are involved go and do things in the community," Stern said.

Blake uses a program that he wrote for Photoshop that arranges barcodes according to their value and places them to imitate the gradients of a surface, such as a face. Blake said he liked the organization of it.

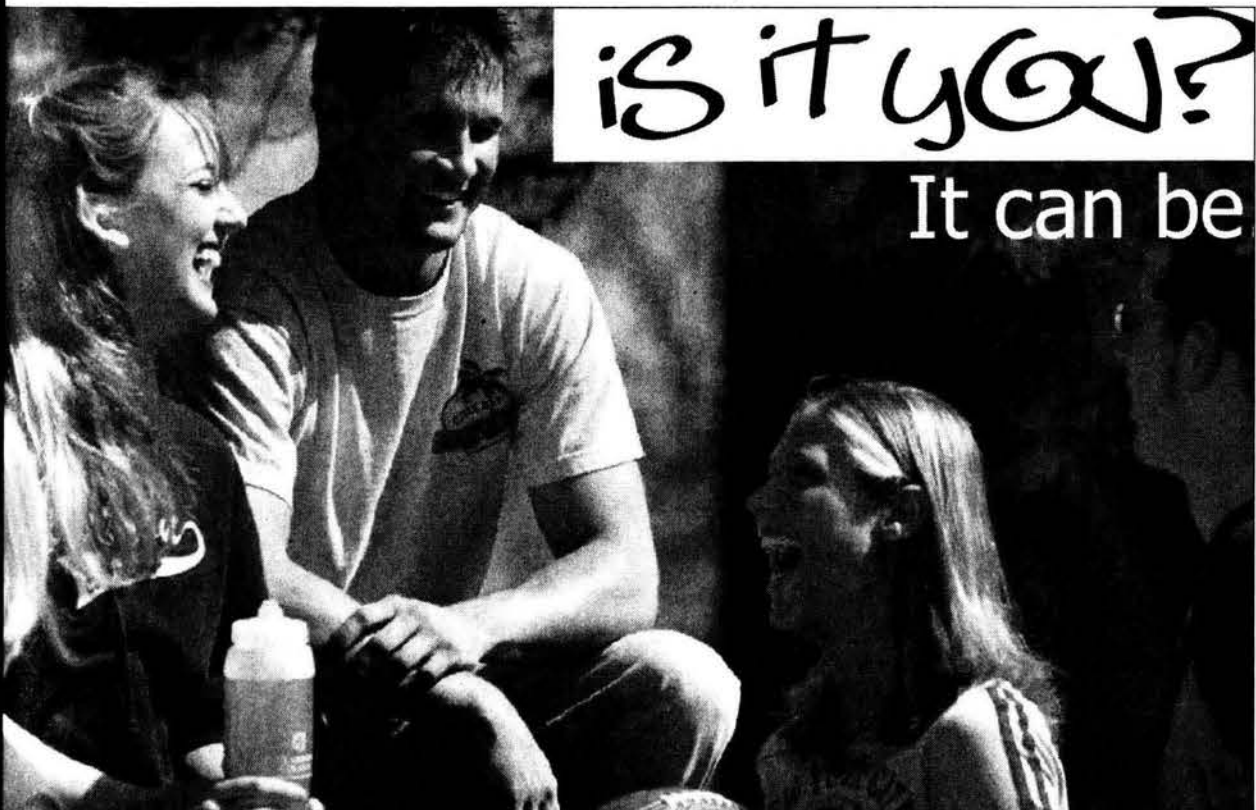
"Every barcode is in its place," he said.

Blake's work shows similarities to Lichtenstien's dot paintings and Andy Warhol's portraits. He said Warhol was actually the first to paint barcodes, in his painting of Campbell's soup cans.

Blake said he saw Campbell's soup cans in the gallery in Warhol's painting before he saw it in the store. When he saw it in the store, he begged his mother to buy him the Campbell's chicken soup, even though he was a vegetarian.

Blake said art today is too decorative. He said he feels his artwork is different.

"It irritates instead of appeals to the masses," Blake said.




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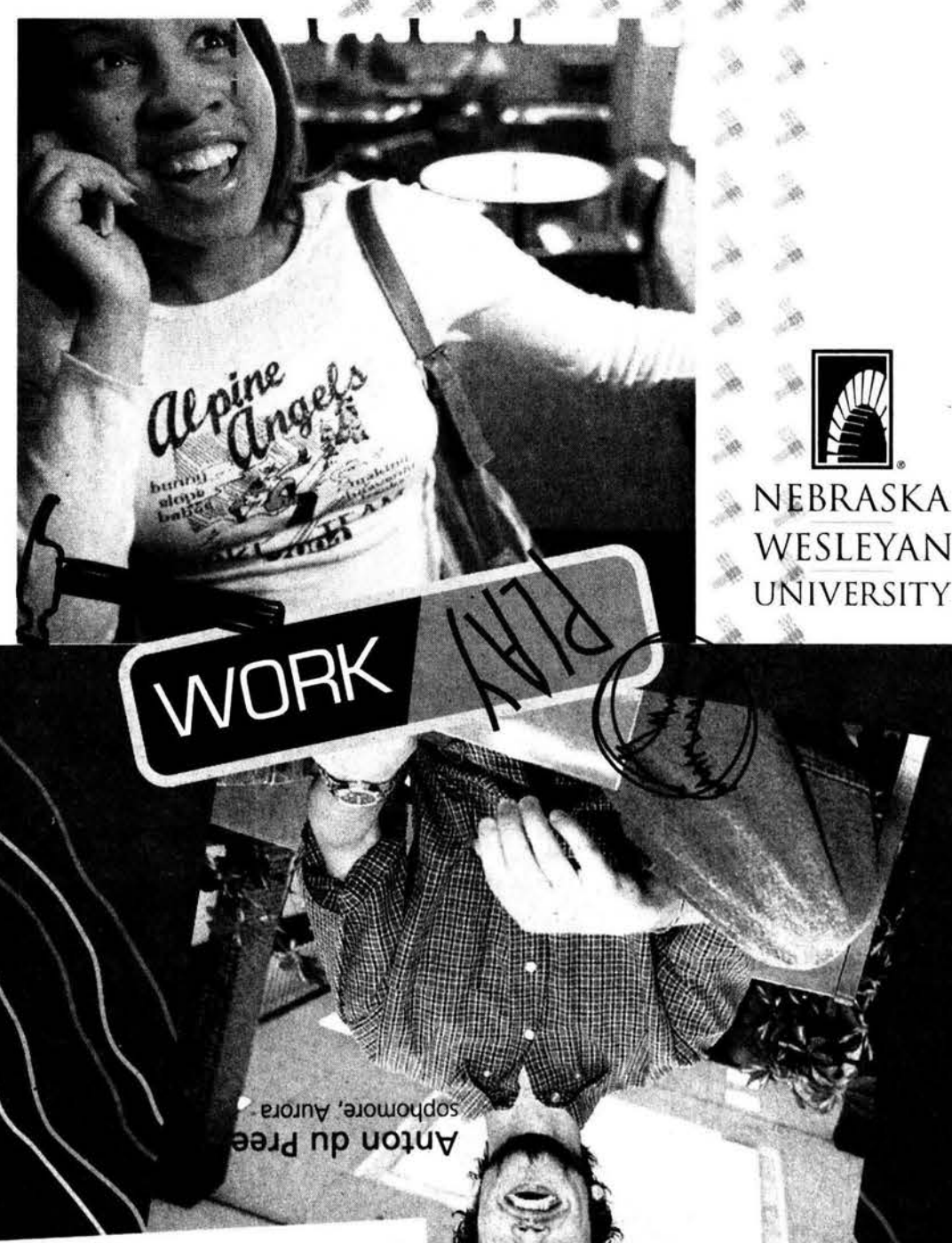
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I'LL BE QUIET

A Column by Zach Pluhacek

Old cartoons still entertain childish teen

I turn on the television to see a blank blue screen, a sight that fills me with anticipation. I insert the VHS tape and wait. After fast-forwarding through numerous previews, I stop the movie to enhance its effect.

I switch off the lights, turn the volume up as high as it goes and then sit down in the middle of the couch across from the television.

I press play.

As the screen explodes with animated sunlight and African music erupts from its speakers, I jump from my seat and sing along, often dancing around the room in joy.

"The Lion King" is quite possibly the most incredible film ever made. I still love to watch it today.

Its catchy tunes and extreme characters make it worthwhile on any occasion. Other Disney movies are good, too, especially "Aladdin" and "Pinocchio," but none of them can match "The Lion King" in pure energy and emotion.

My obsession with the movie is enhanced by my job. I work with mentally disabled children at a program called Camp Munroe. Dealing with 6 year olds all day generally results in a demand for a Disney movie. Often, the film ends up being "The Lion King."

When I'm watching it, I force myself not to dance and act like one of the kids, but have serious problems with humming the songs. Sometimes, I will just be sitting there and I'll realize everyone is staring at me because I've been mumbling. "I just can't wait to be king" for the past five minutes.

The songs of "The Lion King" are my favorite. I have almost all of them saved on my iPod, and I listen to them at random times throughout the day. They provide an excellent alternative to the depressing music I usually listen to, and allow me to escape the world of grey area I live in.

"The Lion King" didn't always bring me extreme happiness. I remember the first time I saw the film, I cried like a baby. It was a very emotional movie for a kid my age, especially the scene where Mufasa died.

I remember looking into Scar's eyes, taken aback by fear, and then thinking in my young and idealistic mind that Mufasa would live. After that Scar, a character of incomprehensible evil to someone as young as I, chased away Simba, the poor little cub who actually sat and watched as his father died.

"The Lion King" not only gave me my first glimpse at death, it also showed me love and hope. When I first saw Nala and Simba fall in love, I made a joke out of it. This was the typical reaction for a little kid, and I was just following suit. As I matured I grew to appreciate the more romantic tendencies of the film.

The end of the movie is also very emotional. I remember when I watched the fight between Scar and Simba. I had never seen a film with so much action and violence. Even though these things were only cartoons, I had fallen in love with the characters I couldn't help but think of them as real.

Despite the drama of "The Lion King," I know it was a good thing I saw it at such a young age. The realistic nature of the cartoon allows it to show young children there are problems in the world, without actually showing real people.

The black-and-white world of Disney provides rare glimpse of raw emotion. In "The Lion King," a person always knows who is good, who is bad and who is not to be trusted.

Scar is an evil maniac; Mufasa is the wise, mature, courageous leader; Simba is the immature, prepubescent, yet kind-hearted young lion who is just looking for his place in the world.

There is no confusion about these roles in the world of "The Lion King," a place where childlike amazement, hope and joy reign.

2005

Every year seniors pile into the gym for their last big high school party. Fashion trends and plans for the evening are very important to some attending. Styles from all seasons are popular for the event to show the diversity of the class of '05.



This Chevy Suburban stretch limousine will set you back \$150 per hour. A minimum of four hours must be booked.

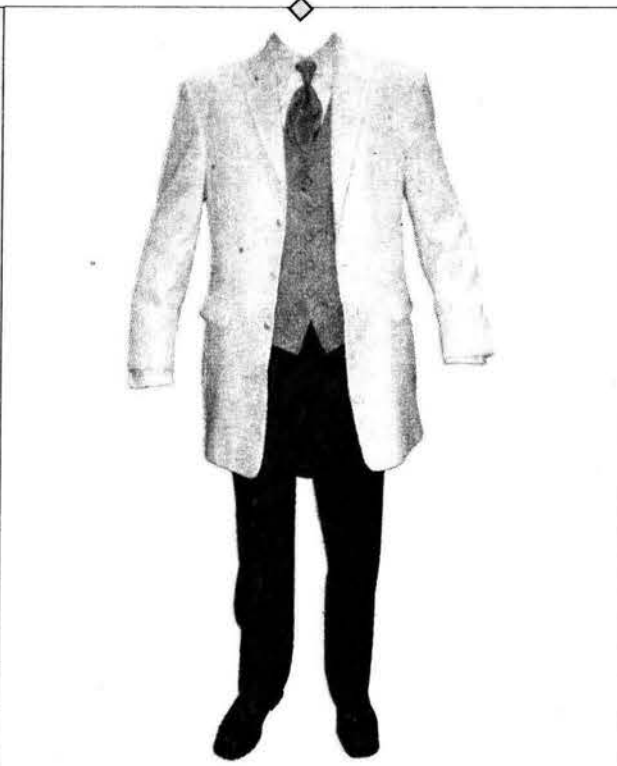
WINTER



Tommy Hilfiger
\$145 (for rent only)

The sleek powder-blue vest compliments the pants and jacket very well. The rich color contrast set this look apart.

AUTUMN



After Hours
\$95 (for rent only)

A white tuxedo jacket offsets the pants, yet still adds to the outfit. All three colors will turn heads at the party.

SPRING



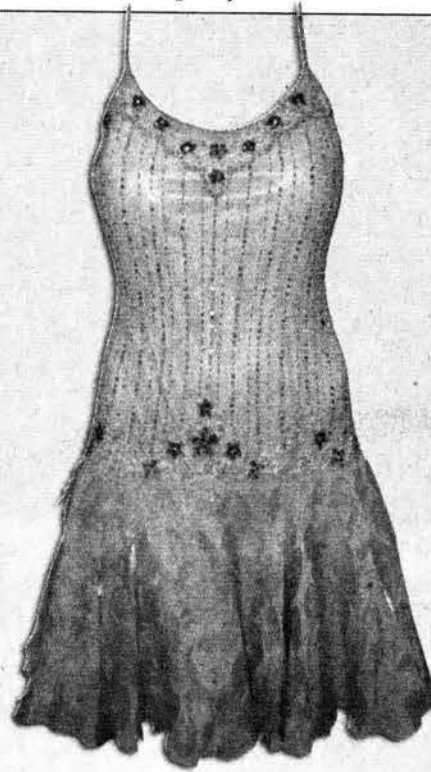
Geoffrey Devan
\$159 (retail)

Bright orange is a nice, bright color for a spring formal. The notch lapel, four-button jacket makes the bright color look elegant.



Jessica McIntlock
\$330

A full-length winter formal dress makes for a great prom gown to add elegance to a dance on a cold or warm evening.



Sue Wong
\$298

Fall colors, golds and browns, give a very muted elegance to the outfit. This style of dress resembles the dresses of the '20s.



Niteline
\$270

Bright pink is always a good color for spring wear. It is a creative color that can be worn in a formal setting.

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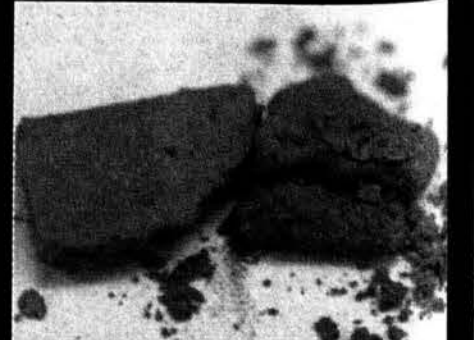
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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005



Hockey. PAGE 39D

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Senior Michael Smith cheers for the Eagles during the Northwest game. Central beat the Huskies 72-58 to continue to the second round against Creighton Prep.



(From Left) Juniors Rodney Grace and Derrick Russell leap for the rebound against the Creighton Prep Junior Jays. The Eagles lost 68-59, ousting them from the tournament.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

CLOSE, BUT NO CROWN

The Eagles made it one step closer to being named State champion, but fell a little short. Expectations were deflated by the Junior Jays.

BY TESS MANDELL

It's over.

It's been the most successful season since 1975, but it's over.

Last time the Eagles got past the first round of State was in 1975 when they won the whole thing. Who did they beat for the State title that year? Creighton Prep. Who did they lose to in the second round this year? Creighton Prep.

"They just beat us," head coach Eric Behrens said. "There's no excuse."

Just because the team lost State doesn't mean it didn't have a successful season. The team broke five major records, including most points in a season. Its final record was 23-3, which is clearly a success.

FIRST ROUND, NORTHWEST

A slow first quarter didn't stop the Eagles from taking their first tournament win since 1978. Central's

72-58 win over Northwest at the Devaney Center was the Eagles' second win over the Huskies this season.

The team knew this was just the first step.

Despite the significance of the game, Behrens said it didn't feel any different.

"It feels good, but it felt like a regular game. There's just more pressure," he said.

Anybody rooting for Central was definitely feeling the pressure in the first quarter.

With the rare occasion of senior B.J. Valentine missing a free throw and the

Eagles not making any three-pointers, Central didn't secure the lead until a shot from Valentine with two minutes left.

However, Central never let the lead slip for the rest of the game. Valentine finished the first quarter with seven of the 12 points.

He went on to lead the game with 31 points.

The first quarter was also big for junior Derrick Russell. Due to a suspension, Russell had

not played in a game since Central's win over Lincoln East on Feb. 12.

However, during his first quarter back on the court, Russell earned four of his eight points for the game.

In order to secure a solid lead, Central prevented Northwest from making any field goals from halfway through the first quarter until 1:11 left in the second.

However, Behrens said he didn't change up the game plan when trying to take the lead.

"We just kept our composure," Behrens said. "We made some shots and stops on defense."

Senior Aaron Dorsey said the team "had great ball

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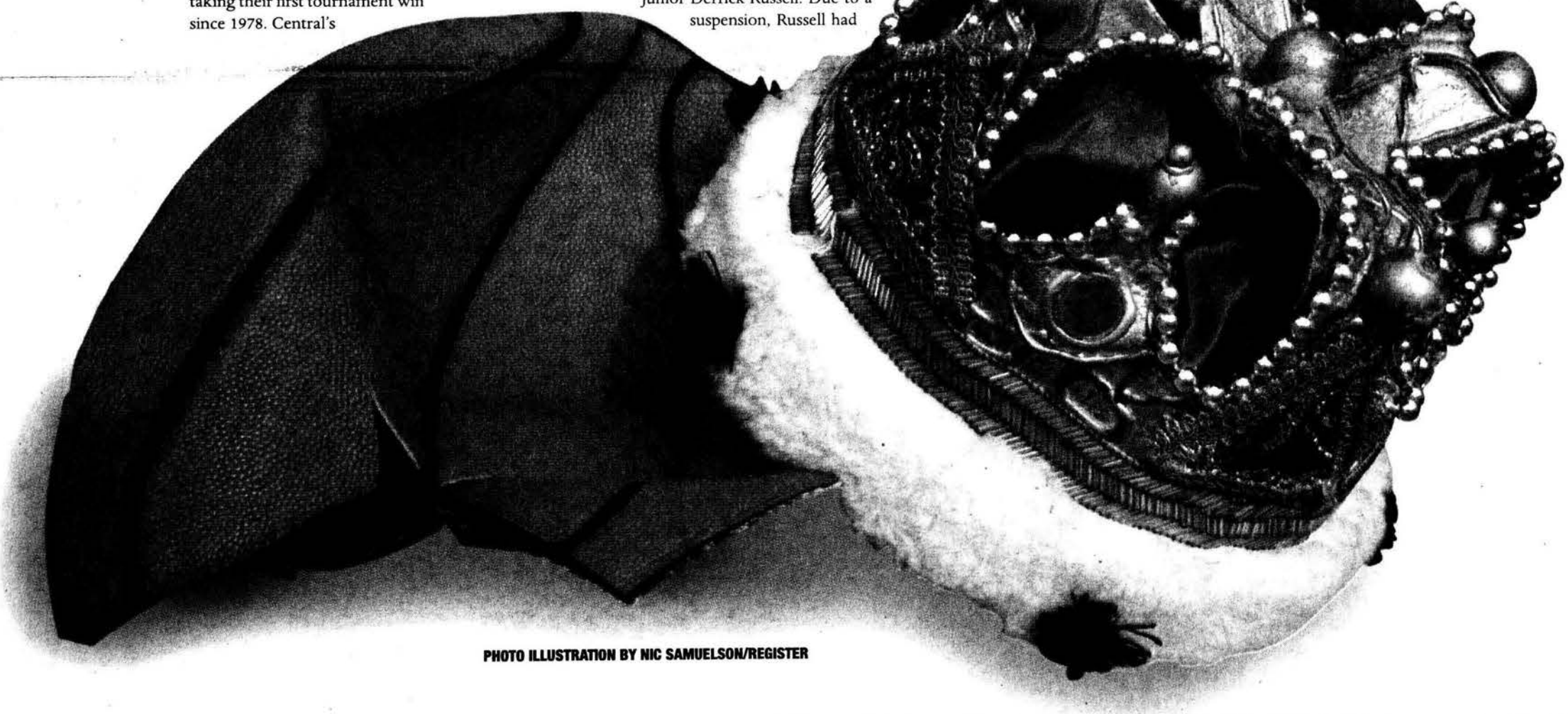


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

Stadium, gym will be finished just in time for home victories

BY TESS MANDELL

Home games will never be the same again.

Athletic director Paul Pennington said he believes the stadium and gym will be completed in time for the fall and winter seasons.

He said the stadium is supposed to be completed by Aug. 1, and the gym is supposed to be finished by Nov. 7.

This is a significant step for the school. Home games will actually be played at home.

Students will be able to see home football games in the new Seemann Stadium and basketball games in the new gym.

THE GYMNASIUM

Although there is a lot of construction left to complete, Pennington said the lobby and bleachers are the major remaining roadblocks with finishing the gymnasium.

In the lobby, concession stands and restrooms still have to be added. Pennington said the restrooms that are already outside the gym will stay, but more need to be added for capacity purposes.

The work on the lobby was supposed to start this past October, but there was a delay due to problems with costs, and then the winter weather

hit and construction had to stop. The construction companies had planned this into their schedule, however.

Pennington said he thought the job of finishing the lobby would go faster once the shell was up. He said the shell had to wait to be put up until the snow melted, and because the sun is blocked on the south side, it took longer than it should have.

Once the shell is up, the interior can be worked on: trophy cases, concession stands, training room, restroom, storage room, drywall, flooring, ceiling, electrical work, mechanical work and air conditioning are the main jobs.

Pennington said the trophy cases will be put up outside the north side of the gym on the south wall of the lobby, hopefully built into the wall—similar to the trophy cases outside the main office.

He also said the school will get a better training room underneath the main lobby.

The old training room will be turned into a storage area.

In addition to the lobby, three sets of portable bleachers still need to be ordered. He said decisions for the purchase of the bleachers will be made

Continued to **Field** on Page 39

Senior earns three prestigious awards

BY TESS MANDELL

Some people earn Student of the Month honors. Some people are selected Athlete of the Month.

Even rarer is someone winning State diving. However, senior Drew DeLashmutt grabbed all three.

Within a span of only seven days, DeLashmutt received these honors and awards, and to say the least, he was shocked.

"This is the first time that so many awards have been piled up on me," he said.

This isn't DeLashmutt's first time receiving Athlete of the Month honors.

He said he was awarded the same recognition in the March 2004 for diving as well.

The last person from Central to win State diving was Flip Crummer in 1980 and 1981.

"I'm good at diving, and everyone expected me to win, so there was a lot of pressure," DeLashmutt said.

However, he said earning Student of the Month award was the most rewarding of the three honors.

"That's what I want to do with my life," he said. "I don't want to be a diver, I want to be a student."

He said when it was first announced



PHOTO BY TESS MANDELL/REGISTER

Senior Drew DeLashmutt placed first at State diving, earned Student of the Month and was awarded Athlete of the Month all within seven days.

he was student of the month, he was more surprised than anything.

"I didn't think it would be likely that it was something I would win," he said.

DeLashmutt said he is more excited about the Student of the Month award than the other two awards because he considers earning Student of the Month to be a more prestigious award.

"It's more important to me to get Student

of the Month than Athlete of the Month," DeLashmutt said. "I enjoyed winning State a lot, but it was really fulfilling to get Student of the Month."

DeLashmutt said he probably was nominated as Student of the Month because he demonstrated a positive attitude. He said his academic work and leadership skills were

Continued to **Dive** on Page 39

Junior ends year with hard work

BY PATRICK O'MALLEY

Though junior Derrick Russell was forced to miss four games this season, his performance in the State basketball tournament was nothing less than the usual hard work has always put forth.

Early in the season, Russell was suspended from the team for 15 days and school for eight days for undisclosed reasons.

Head coach Eric Behrens said his absence hurt the team. "The thing about team sports is having continuity," Behrens said. "To be there all year and then not be there screws up the chemistry."

He said it would have been different if Russell had been gone all year, but getting rid of one player towards the end of the season put a lot of pressure on the other players.

Russell said the team was a little upset he got in trouble.

He said his coach decided to put Russell's past behind him and told him to concentrate on making better choices.

"I was disappointed," teammate senior Aaron Dorsey said. "He seemed like he let himself down along with the team."

Russell's suspension forced players who didn't get much playing time to step up and work hard against teams like the fourth place Bryan Bears.

After being suspended from the team for 15 days, missing two season games and two district games, he came back with intensity and readiness for the State tournament.

Behrens said he didn't see much change in his game and attitude coming back to the team.

Athlete raises standards for long jumping

BY TESS MANDELL

Senior Brittany Arvin has participated in a sport every season since she first came to Central.

Now, track is the last sport she will play at Central.

Head coach Trent Lodge said he thought she'll be Arvin's best.

"Hopefully, she'll get qualified in the long and triple jump this year," Lodge said. "That's our goal."

Lodge said last year, Arvin qualified for State in the triple jump and placed eleventh.

"She leads by example, she's always at practice on time and she competes hard," Lodge said.

Arvin said she was going to try and jump 36 feet in the triple jump. Her previous record was 34.8 ft.

"I want to win in my event more and place higher," Arvin said.

Even though her coach describes her as the team's best triple jumper, Arvin said she never started jumping until she hit high school.

She said before high school, she was always a runner and although she's still learning, she likes jumping more.

However, jumping is not her only specialty. In the winter, she plays basketball and plays volleyball in the fall.

"Doing other sports is good for any athlete," Lodge said. "And she is a great all-around athlete."

Arvin, who has been jumping on varsity since her freshman year, said playing other sports helped her in track.

However, she said track is much different than basketball and volleyball.

"It's different because boys are on our team also and it's longer," she said. "I have always liked track more. It's more fun and it's a different experience."

However, Arvin does not only concentrate on athletics.

Although Lodge has never had her as a student, he said he knows her grades are good.

"She has a great personality and a great sense of humor," Lodge said. "She's a great person to be around."



RUSSELL

CALENDAR

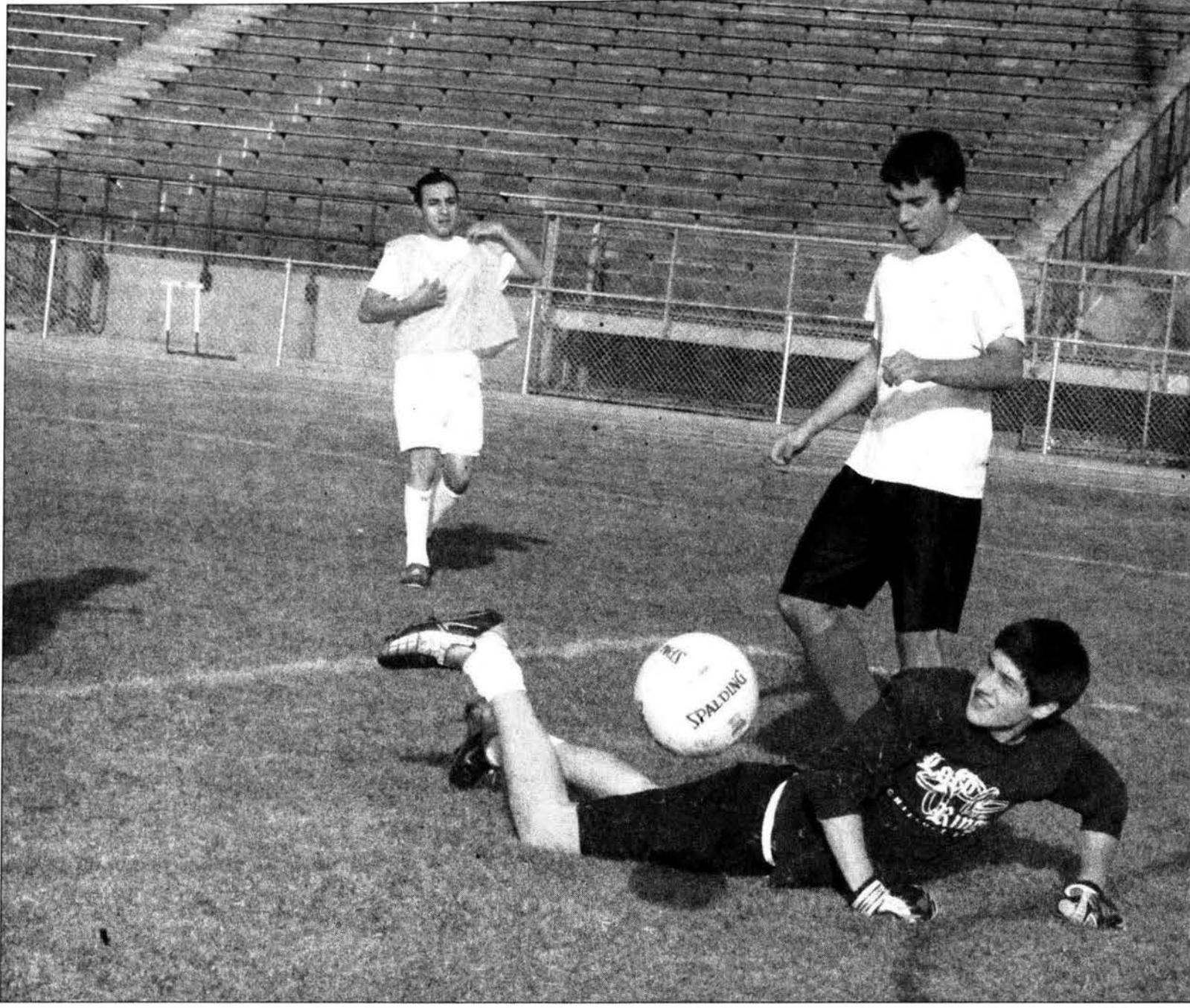


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Junior Dan Susman (on ground) has been goalie for the varsity soccer team since his sophomore year. Behind Susman, junior Zach Breazeale tries to gain control of the ball. The boys practice at Norris' Bergquist Field after school with the junior varsity team.

Goalie key player for tough season

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior Dan Susman has become the co-captain and goalie of the boys varsity soccer team.

"Assistant coach Tyler Klusaw said Susman's leadership and experience has helped many younger players."

"As a goalie, he's an important leader on the team," he said. "In his positioning and stance, he looks and plays like a keeper."

He said his leadership is especially important because he is the goalie.

"He can see the whole field from where he stands, so he leads them," he said.

He said another reason Susman was a good captain was because of his experience from last year, and that he does a good job of leading both when he's goal keeping or when he's off the field.

He said players listen to what he tells them and follows his example of leadership.

He said he has all ready seen Susman improve since last year and looks forward to how he will do his senior year.

"This year he's had great improvement all around," he said. "He's really become a great athlete and next year, we're going to step it up a notch."

Susman said he stepped up into a leadership position because of his experience.

"There's not many seniors so I'm kind of in a leadership position," he said.

He said he worked with helping people with technique and communication.

"I help them get into the positions they need to be in because I can see the whole field," he said.

"The players really listen because if you don't, the defense falls apart."

He said his competitiveness helped him on the field.

"I always try to play my hardest and do my best," he said.

He said he has played soccer since he was about 6 years old, and made it onto Central's varsity team as a sophomore.

"Being a goalie facilitates being able to direct the team and tell them what to do on the field."

He said his strength lies more in his goal keeping rather than his abilities on the field.

Other players have strengths as well.

"My foot skills aren't as good as the rest of the team," he said.

He said as of now the team is anticipating the upcoming games, and many of the games won't be easy because of the level of competition.

"Right now, we're working on switching off and playing together more," he said.

Junior Andrew Monbouquet said the team is all ready getting better at this.

"We're definitely making some improvements," he said. "We're practicing hard and we have some strong players."

Upcoming Sports

March

26 Girls Junior Varsity Soccer Game

Central plays rival Millard North at Bergquist Field. The game begins at 11 a.m. Admission for adults is \$3 and \$1 for students. Remember there is no admission cost with an OPS or Bellevue High School activity card except when attending track invites and tournaments.

28 Boys Varsity Baseball Game

Central plays Creighton Prep. The game is at Seymour Smith Field and begins at 4:30 p.m.

29 Boys Junior Varsity Baseball Game

Central plays Gretna at Seymour Smith Field. The game begins at 4:30 p.m. The admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students.

31 Girls Varsity Soccer Game

Central plays Burke at Bergquist Field. The game begins at 5:30 p.m. Admission for adults is \$4 and admission for students is \$2.

April

4 Boys Golf Invitational

The Central Varsity Golf Invitational begins at 8 a.m. at the Shoreline Golf Course. Golf teams from schools across the country and state will be competing at the annual invitational. There is no admission charge. Crowds are not expected, but spectators are welcome.

4 Boys Varsity Baseball Game

Central plays Millard South at Seymour Smith Field. The game begins at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

7 Girls Varsity Soccer Game

Central plays rival Bryan at 7 p.m. The game will be held at Bryan.

12 Girls Varsity Tennis Match

Central plays Burke at 4 p.m. The match will be held at Dewey which is on 31st street and Turner Boulevard. There is no charge.

Senior leads tennis team into season

BY ANNIE KLINE

Senior Shay Hampton has been on varsity tennis since she was a sophomore.

She is the one of the few seniors on the team. She said she has the most experience on the team and is proud of that.

"She is definitely a leader," sophomore Aimee Koenig said. "She knows exactly what to do when we are having problems."

Junior Bailey Smejkal said Hampton and the whole team is united, which makes for a better season.

Hampton said she is excited to begin her last year playing for Central.

"I just hope to do better than I have before," she said. "I really want to do well and make my team happy."

Head coach Larry Andrews said he was happy to have Hampton on the team. He said she is one of the most talented tennis players he has coached in a long time.

Hampton tries to practice at least three times a week for two hours during the off-season.

She said not only does she practice to improve her tennis skills, she also does it to stay in shape during the off-season. In the winter, she goes to the practices inside.

"I don't want to lose my ability to play by not keeping my body in shape during the off-season," she said.

She began playing tennis when she was in elementary school, but did not make start playing competitively until she came to Central.

"I think tennis is a sport where one can have fun, but still acquire the talents while making the best of it," she said.

Hampton's biggest goal is to keep playing out of high school and not lose her talent for the sport.

Pitcher not slowed down by diabetes

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Senior Dave Cleveland is one of the captains of the varsity baseball team with an average pitching speed of 90 miles per hour.

He is preparing to go head to head with the top high schools this season such as Creighton Prep, Millard North and Westside before playing for Creighton University next year.

He also has been battling diabetes since third grade.

"Basically, I've been playing baseball and with diabetes my whole life," he said. "I just don't let it take control of me."

He was diagnosed in the third grade, and sophomore year he was able to stop taking insulin shots everyday.

Now he has an insulin pump. It is a black box clipped to his belt and looks like a pager which refills every other day with medicine.

"It's been great," he said. "I used to have shots everyday and had to keep a strict diet."

He said he still has to have a diet but can eat nearly any time of the day. He also has to keep his pump and extra juice boxes with him at games in case his blood sugar started to fluctuate.

"I usually test it before games," he said. "Luckily, I can tell if I am high or low (blood sugar)."

Varsity baseball coach Scott Hodges said his diabetes hasn't affected his pitching or playing much or at all since he got the insulin pump.

He said it was more of a cause for concern before he got the pump, when he played junior varsity with coach Jerry Kreber.

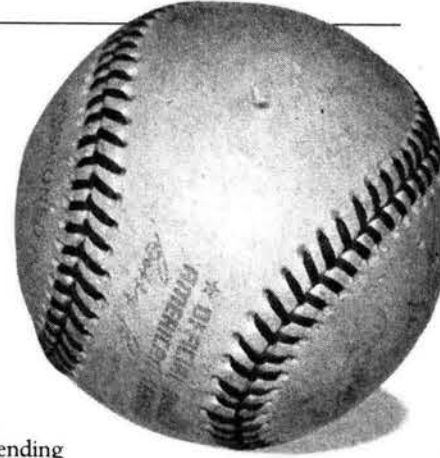
"There were a few situations where his diabetes made him not perform as well," Hodges said.

He said there is a lot of respect for Cleveland and co-captain senior Corey Tomasek.

"They have a dual role of being a mentor for younger players and a go-between for the players and coaches," he said.



HAMPTON



CLEVELAND



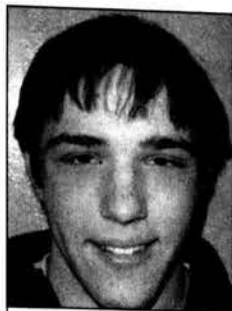
ARVIN

SPRING
SPORTS
CARDS

At the beginning of the spring sports season, the Register asked each coach to select a player who was expected to play the most vital role on the team.

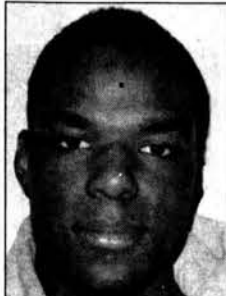
The coaches chose the following athletes based on their expected role of leading their teams to successful years.

As the season continues, the coaches expect to see these players stepping up to the front and helping each respective team on to victory.



SPRING 2005
Dave Cleveland
"Dave is a great team leader, as well as an example of what an athlete can achieve by working hard," coach Scott Hodges.
BASEBALL
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior
POSITION: first base, pitcher
AWARDS/RECOGNITION: Honorable Mention All-State, 1st Team All-District
HEAD COACH: Scott Hodges
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Jabby Bakhit (12), Corey Tomasek (12), Nick Hoy (12), Sedale Banks (12), Bryant Cotton (11)
KEY GAMES: Millard West (3/24), Creighton Prep (3/28), Westside (5/3), Millard North (4/2)



SPRING 2005
Virgil Mitchell
"With hard work, Virgil could have an outstanding season," coach Jeff McCune.
BOYS TRACK
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: junior
POSITION: 100, 200, 400, high jump
AWARDS/RECOGNITION: 2004 State meet: 5th (100), 4th (400), 2nd (200)
HEAD COACH: Jeff McCune
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Robert Wesley (12), Nate Prater (12), Jason Wright (10)
KEY MEETS: Millard South Invite (4/8), Dick Jones Central Invite (4/15), Metro (5/3,4), District (5/12), State (5/20,21)



SPRING 2005
Brittany Arvin
"She leads by example, she's always at practice on time and she competes hard," coach Trent Lodge.
GIRLS TRACK
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior
POSITION: triple jump
AWARDS/RECOGNITION: 11th place at State
HEAD COACH: Trent Lodge
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Allison Hartnett (11), Ally Gorga (11), Rachel Glissmann (11), Jasmine Johnson (10), Candyce Hill (11)
KEY MEETS: Metro (5/3,4), District (5/12), State (5/20,21)



SPRING 2005
Shay Hampton
"Shay consistently exhibits good sportsmanship, strong effort to improve, and leadership," coach Larry Andrews.
GIRLS TENNIS
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior
POSITION: singles and doubles
AWARDS/RECOGNITION: member of the Metro and State CHS tennis teams
HEAD COACH: Larry Andrews
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Brittany Krijan (10), Aimee Koenig (10), Bailey Smejkal (11)
KEY MATCHES: Burke (4/12), Westside (4/26), Marian (5/10)



SPRING 2005
Drew Meier
"Drew's hard work makes him one of the top players in the Metro Conference," coach Jim Galus.
BOYS GOLF
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: junior
AWARDS/RECOGNITION: Leher winner Top 15 finisher at A.L./T.J. Tourney
HEAD COACH: Jim Galus
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Guy Smith (11), Nick Pierce-Cramer (11)
KEY MATCHES: Creighton Prep (3/30)



SPRING 2005
Kari Greguska
"Kari's key in defense. She's not only skilled in soccer, but she's a wonderful student and person," coach Michelle Pleiss.
GIRLS SOCCER
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior
POSITION: defense
HEAD COACH: Michelle Pleiss
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Casey Bigsby (12), Elisa Berzins (12), Lindsay Meyer (11)
KEY GAMES: Marian (3/24), Bellevue East (4/11)



SPRING 2005
Kyle Samuelson
"Kyle has shown a lot of maturity and leadership this year," coach Tim Herbert.
BOYS SOCCER
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: junior
POSITION: forward
AWARDS/RECOGNITION: 2nd Team All-Metro in 2004
HEAD COACH: Tim Herbert
OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Dan Susman (11), Andy Monbouquette (11), Sajmir Gasa (11), Beauchamp Alejandro (11)
KEY GAMES: Creighton Prep (3/24), Lincoln East (4/9), Burke (3/31), Westside (4/20)

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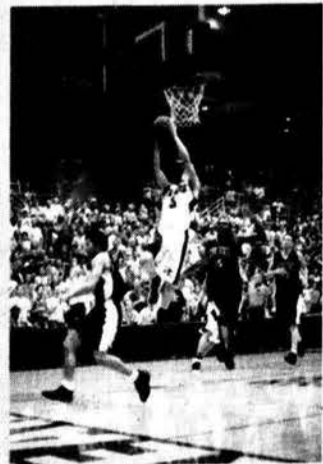
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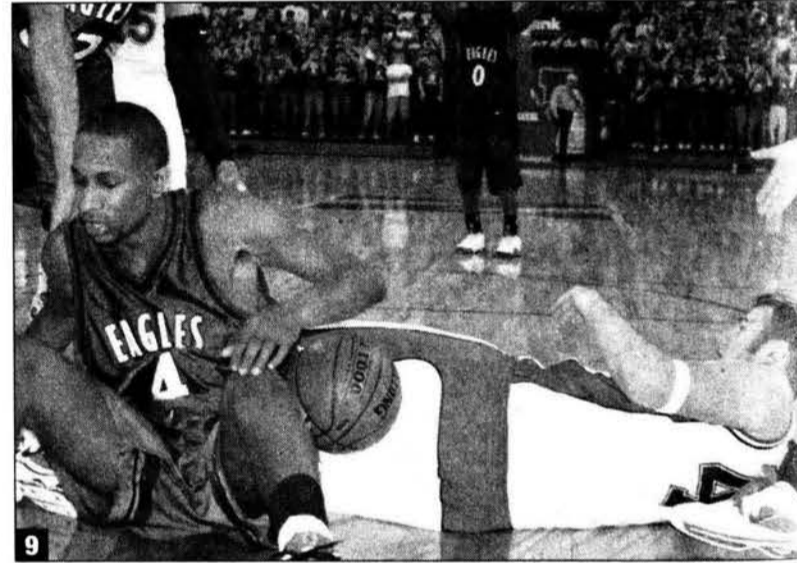
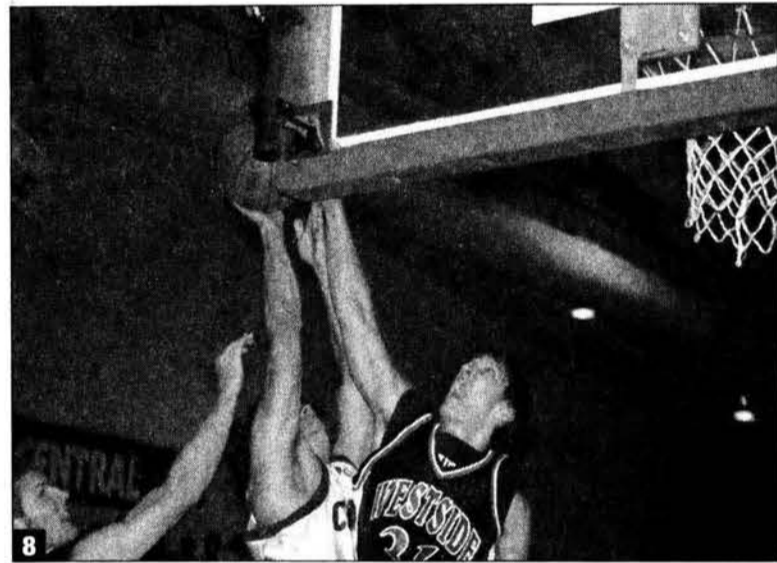
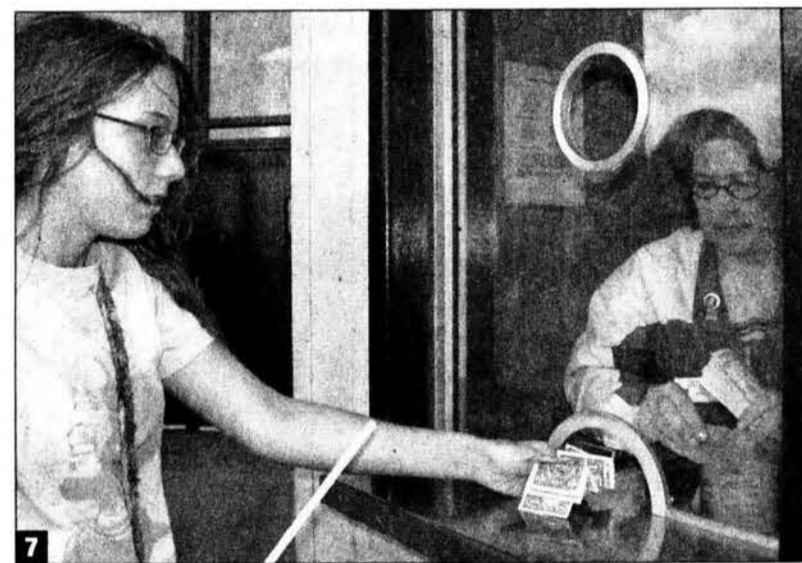
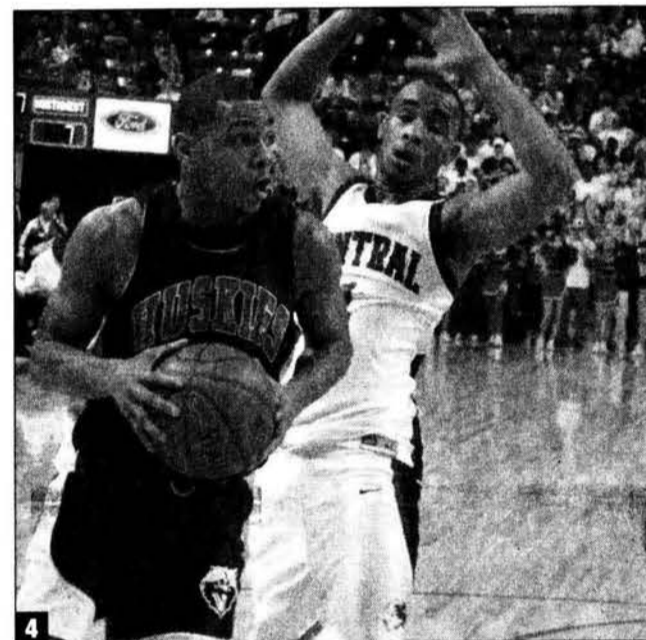
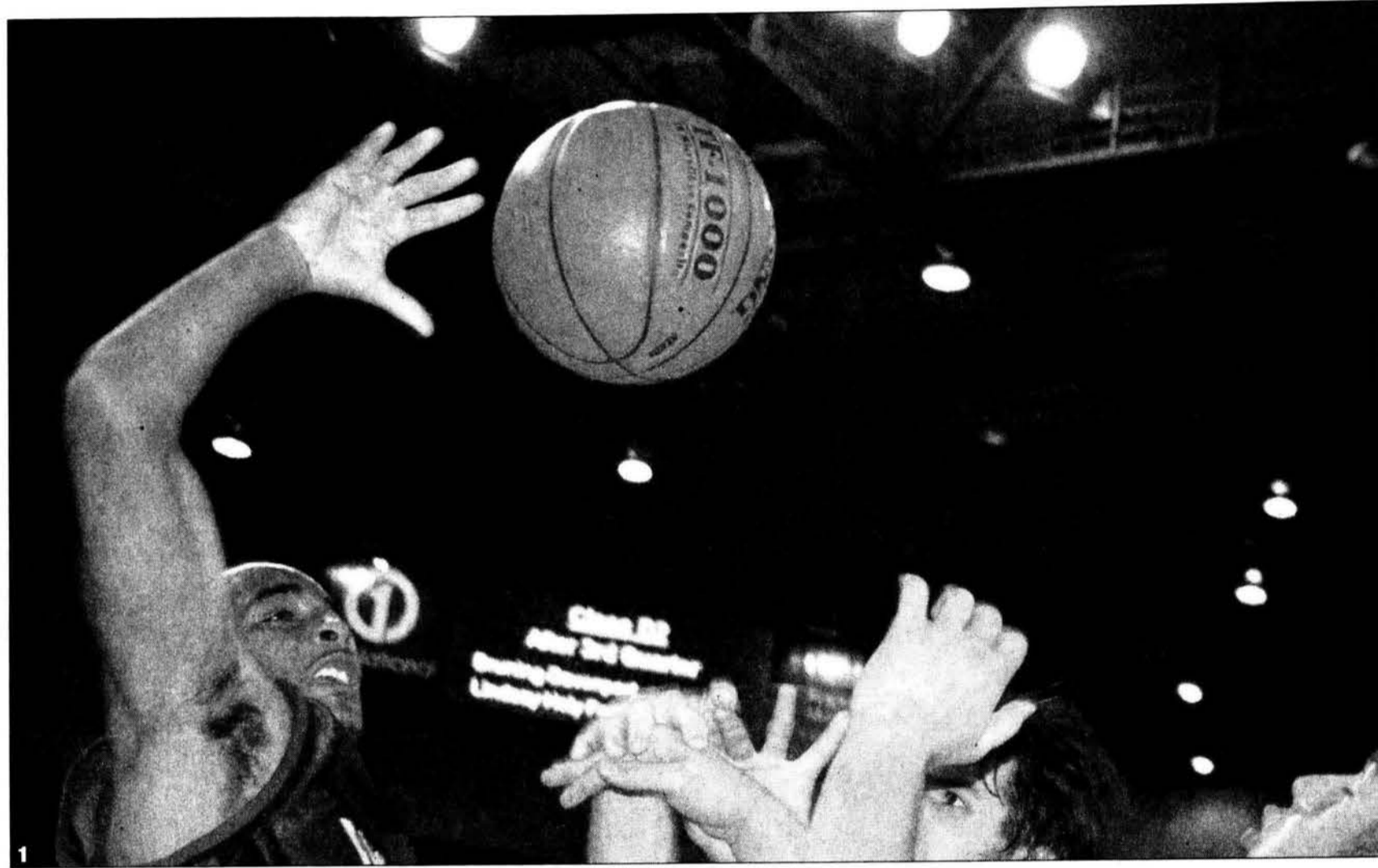
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ANOTHER ALMOST

This was a year of nearly getting there. It was the fourth year for the Eagles to almost win the state championship of the state's largest high school. The team also nearly won 20 games during the season.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST, MOLLY MULLEN AND TANIKA COOPER/ REGISTER

1. Junior Derrick Russell leaps for the rebound in Central's loss to Creighton Prep. 2. Junior Tim Kanger dribbles down the court as Millard North's Cole Salomon tries to cut him off in Central's win earlier in the regular season. 3. The Eagles get pumped in the State game against Creighton Prep. 4. Dorsey attempts to block Northwest's Schyulor Pugh from setting up a play in the State game. 5. Senior Kimberly Gavin blindfolds sophomores Elisabeth Garvin and Amber Hamilton during the three-legged race at the pep rally. 6. Dorsey reaches for the ball as Pugh tries to maintain possession. 7. Sophomore Abby Fleek pays for her ticket to get in to the State tournament. Tickets cost \$4. 8. Westside player Sam Moser leaps up to block a shot by senior Bill Urban earlier in the regular season. 9. Junior Derrick Russell is helped up by junior Rodney Grace after colliding with Creighton Prep's senior Zach Potter.

Offense fails Eagles in last game of season against Junior Jays

STATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33D

movement and good defense." Dorsey, who finished as Central's second leader in points, made seven of his 10 points in the second half. However, Dorsey wasn't the only one who scored points in the second half. Both teams more than doubled their first half scores, including Central having a 29-point fourth quarter. "We knew they were going to be competitive," Northwest head coach Jeff Stallworth said. "But we also knew going in that our guys wouldn't give up." Stallworth realized the Huskies kicked off the second half with junior Nehemiah Blackburn scoring two three-pointers to close Central's lead to four points. However, the gap never became any smaller. Both teams tallied more than 20 points in the first half of the third quarter and the Eagles went on to secure the 14-point win with the help of Valentine earning 13 points in the fourth quarter. "None of us wanted this to be our last game," Valentine said. "And I didn't want my season to be over, yet. So I'll do whatever it takes." The defeat over Northwest in the first round of State meant Central would be going on to play Creighton Prep. The last time Central played Prep the Eagles beat the Junior Jays in overtime.

"We're not scared," Dorsey said. "We just have to keep doing what we're doing." Prep's defeat over Lincoln Southeast was partially because senior Zach Potter led his team with 13 points. "We have better people (than Prep)," Valentine said. "Potter is their best player, and that's their whole team. They don't have heart, and without heart, they're not too much." However, Potter and the rest of the Junior Jays proved to be a little too much for the Eagles. The next night, Central left the Devaney Center with a loss instead of a win.

CREIGHTON PREP

The Eagles held one lead over the Junior Jays with Dorsey's game-opening basket. However, the 2-0 lead was gone at the 5:28 mark when Creighton Prep's senior Andrew King earned his free throws. "We struggled on offense. We weren't doing a very good job, but they (the Junior Jays) did a great job on defense," Behrens said. No. 6 Prep's 68-59 defeat over No. 2 Central was what Prep head coach Josh Luedtke called "truly a team effort." The Jays' team effort was their ticket to the State finals—the first time they have gone since they won the title in 1994. "We had a goal and a vision. We have believed it and dreamed it," Luedtke said. Prep's vision prevented Central from getting another basket until there was 3:30 left in the quarter. By then, Prep senior Hank Jenkins

had already scored two three-pointers. "We had to work and we were willing to work, but we couldn't get some shots," Valentine said. Valentine played for Prep's basketball team his freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Central. However, he said, getting beat by his former team in a State game didn't make the feeling of losing any worse. "Whenever you lose the last game, it hurts," Valentine said. "But it doesn't hurt any different because it's Prep." It didn't make the game any easier when the Junior Jays went on to extend their lead to 19 points by halftime with a 25-point second quarter. "We never gave up," he said. It was frustrating, but we stayed in the game. Plus, we're a second half team. We knew what we had to do." The Eagles kicked off the first three minutes of the second half out-scoring the Jays 13-4. With two seconds remaining in the third quarter, Valentine gained a three-pointer to shorten Prep's lead to 49-44. Valentine ended with 14 points. "It was tough, but we came back and got it to five. That was huge," Behrens said. Prep senior Dan Glassman, who led the game with 16 points, said the Jays usually don't come with the same intensity after halftime. "We had an exciting lead going into the half, but we had to keep our composure," Glassman

said. "We hate coming back from half." However, Prep kept with it and started the fourth quarter with points from Glassman, Jenkins and senior Joseph Temme to extend the lead to 55-44. "We were always chasing them up the hill, and those make for tough shots," Behrens said. After the start of the fourth, Central never came within five points of a tie for the rest of the game. "We cut down the lead, but we couldn't get to the top of the hill," We would get close to the top and get knocked back down again," Valentine said. With Central's first loss since the Bryan game on Feb. 18, Prep made an appearance at the final game against No. 1 Bellevue West. "It's great for the whole school. I've been thinking about this since the beginning of the year—actually, since my freshman year," Temme said. "Coach (Luedtke) has had a goal: not just to get here, but to win it all." Temme's team limited Central to seven points in the first quarter, restricted the Eagles' leading scorer to 14 points and prevented the former No. 2 team in the State from getting to the State finals. "You have to give them credit for a heck of a good game," Behrens said. Prep's 67-49 loss to the Thunderbirds the following night prevented the Jays from being named State basketball champions for the fifth time in the school's history.

LOOKING BACK

Starting from the very beginning, Central was ranked as No. 5. "We were picked as No. 5 in the preseason and we eventually got to No. 1," Behrens said. "We exceeded the public's expectations." The key games that bumped Central to the top were the win over Bryan, 77-70 overtime win over Creighton Prep, the win over Lincoln High and Bellevue West game. "We split with Bellevue West which was named the best school in state basketball history," Behrens said. "So, at worst, we were second best." Central was beating Bellevue West by 17 at halftime and held on to win by one in the heart racing game on Feb. 4. The win for the Eagles brought them to the spot as No. 1 in the state and dealt the Thunderbirds with their lone loss of the season. Behrens said although the Bellevue West game was amazing, winning Districts was also one of the team's high points. "At beginning of the season, we knew we didn't want to go into State through the back door," Behrens said. However, perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the season is that the team broke the school's best win/loss record. "We only lost three games all season," Behrens said. "And we didn't lose to any bad teams. Bellevue West, Bryan and Prep are all good teams."

FOR THE EAGLES

make it to the State finals. This elusive win has been, for a long time, just out of reach regular season. All of the almosts were not enough to bring home the crown.

Sophomore shows school spirit by acting as mascot

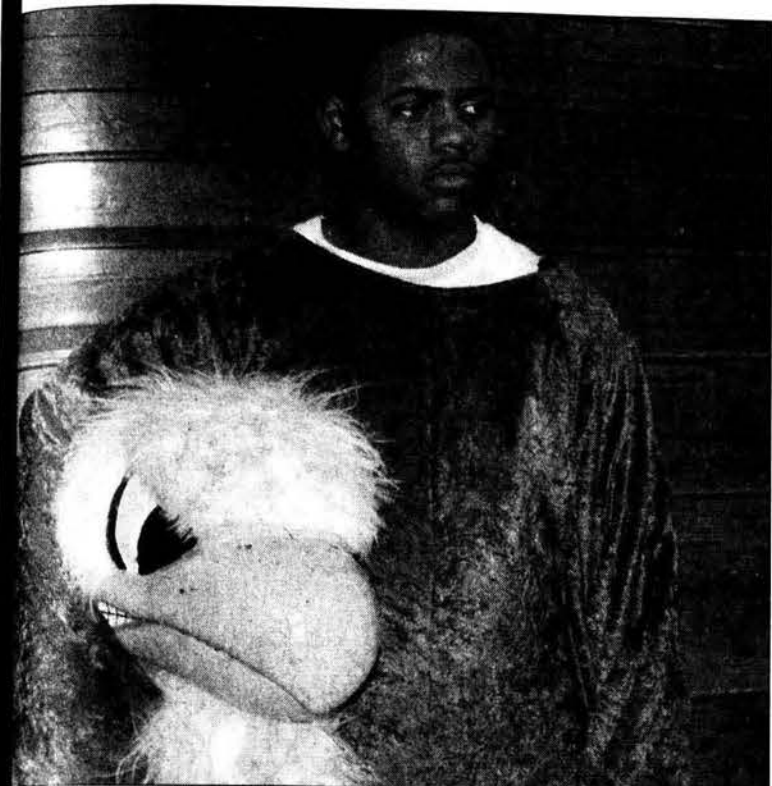


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER
Sophomore Brenton Donaldson said he wanted to be the mascot next season. "The best part was entertaining fans," he said.

BY KRISTINA ALAS

Cheerleaders weren't the only ones trying to get the fans up and out of their seats at games.

Central found someone courageous enough to put on the Eagle costume, sophomore Brenton Donaldson.

He and many other students wanted to volunteer their time to be the mascot.

The delegates talked to student council sponsor Judy Storm and she then decided who was going to be lucky enough to be known as the school's mascot.

"I picked him because his schedule fit the times when we needed him and he seemed so enthused and excited to do the job," Storm said.

She said a good mascot should be enthusiastic.

Donaldson believed he was the best person to be mascot because he had a lot of school spirit.

He said school spirit was not simply displayed throughout school, but by showing up to games and participating in after-school activities.

He said he always tried every way

possible to attend each game.

He said another reason he made a good mascot was because of his social skills.

"If you point to a crowd of people, chances are I know most of them," Donaldson said.

He wanted to be mascot since last year, but never got a chance to talk to Storm about it.

Donaldson wanted to be involved in something big at school.

He tried out for varsity basketball, but didn't make it, so he figured this was the only way he could get his name in the spotlight.

"The best part about it was entertaining the fans," he said.

Even though at times it could get hot in the suit, Donaldson said there was nothing about being mascot he disliked.

Unfortunately, his time as mascot might not last long.

Storm was unsure if she wanted him to continue being mascot next year. The reason for this was student council is planning to get a new blow-up mascot

To wear the new blow-up costume

required training and student council has to pay for it.

Donaldson said they already found somebody trained to wear the costume next year.

"Training is needed because the new blow-up mascot had a built-in cooling system and there were certain things you could and couldn't do to be safe," Storm said.

She said another mascot costume was needed because the other one they had was old and it got way too hot to be worn at games.

The costume getting too hot and smelling bad from sweat was the reason students never have seen a mascot at football games and most of the basketball games.

"Since we were being renovated and the building had a whole new look, a new mascot added to that look," Storm said.

The athletic department, student council and the administration will decide on who will be mascot next year.

Donaldson is hoping he will be able to continue to entertain the audience at games for the rest of his time at Central.

New rules for transportation due to past disturbances

BY TANIKA COOPER

Athletic director Paul Pennington said he ordered three buses last year and had to order two more yellow buses because many students waited until the last minute to buy a ticket for the trip down to Lincoln for the tournament.

That was last year. "Because of last year's misbehavior, the sponsors didn't want to sponsor this year," Pennington said.

This year he said he wasn't expecting any problems. He ordered only three coach buses and was not going to order any more.

Junior Dominique Davis attended last year's game and was one of the students who rode the yellow bus.

"Last year, I could have stayed at home," Davis said.

She said she didn't think the yellow buses were fair for students to ride, even if they did order a ticket late.

She said they were dirty on the inside.

This year, she said she was one of the first students in line to buy her ticket.

Mathematics teacher Paul Nielson was one of the sponsors last year and also was a sponsor for this year.

"They waited until the last minute

and complained about not being able to ride the coach bus," Nielson said. "I didn't feel sorry for them and it was their fault they didn't sign up early."

Many of the students said they were hurt by last year's disappointments, but were looking forward to this year's games.

Pennington solved the bus problems by only ordering three buses and limiting the days of when students were allowed to buy a bus ticket.

Sophomore Aaron Gregory bought his ticket three days before the game. He said last year's game was a good one, but he was upset about the loss.

This year he said he was expecting to witness a good game and a win.

Senior Stephanie Lemek bought her bus ticket two days before the first game. She said although the Eagles lost last year, she was still going to attend this game because it's her senior year.

Junior Krystal Curry said she is a dedicated fan and decided to come to this year's game.

"I've been to most of their games except three: Bellevue West, Lincoln and the Burke game," Curry said.

Social Studies teacher Rod Mullen was a sponsor for the bus and was not expecting any problems to occur on it. Plus, he said he knew many of the

students on the bus and has previously warned them of their behavior.

Security guard Mike McWhorter was also a supervisor for one of the buses.

"I don't think the team will rest until they get a championship; this goes for coaches, students, the student body and everybody connected with Central High School," McWhorter said.

The other setback last year came from the outcome of the game. The Eagles lost in the first round.

"Last year was my first game and it was disappointing because they didn't try as hard as they could," sophomore Maggie Baumann said.

With the new bus method, this year's game started off well.

Pennington said he was pleased with how the results of the bus situation turned out.

Another plus with this year's game; the Eagles made it past the first round.

It was freshman Patrick Byrne's first State basketball game to attend.

He said he was ready to see what Central could do.

"It's better than what I thought it was going to be," Byrne said.

He said he liked the three point shots especially the one from freshman Josh Jones in the first half.



PHOTO BY TANIKA COOPER/ REGISTER
Sophomores Maria Harris (front) and Fabiola Nomenyo walk from the coach bus to the Northwest game. This year there were three coach buses and no school buses.

Senior KayLisha Taylor said she was pleased to see junior Derrick Russell play.

"He (Derrick) came back and he promised he would do his thing," Taylor said.

She said she was also pleased with freshman Josh Jones' performance.

Junior Courtney Davis is apart of

the pom squad that performed for the halftime show.

"I was excited about the half time show and was also nervous," Davis said. "I think we had a good performance and we worked hard."

The Eagles did lose in the second round to Creighton, but many said they believed the ride down was enjoyable.

Valentine dominates basketball team with towering statistics

BY TESS MANDELL

Senior B.J. Valentine has been the Eagles' star player since he came to Central his junior year. His statistics top the rest of the team's significantly, especially in points. His closest competition in points is junior Avery Tyler with 8.0.

"They're just stats," Valentine said. "I do whatever it takes to win. If I score a lot to win, then that's what it takes."

He said even though he's considered the top player, he doesn't feel pressured.

"I play at certain expectations, but there's no extra pressure," Valentine said.

Head coach Eric Behrens said Valentine handles the pressure of being one of the top players really well.

"He has had a big hand in the percentage of scoring, even if it was an assist," Behrens said. "He has a hand in a number of things."

Senior teammate Aaron Dorsey said if he wasn't on the same team as Valentine, he would probably be intimidated by his statistics.

"I don't care how high they are if we're winning," Dorsey said. "The higher his statistics, the better we are."

Valentine's statistics aren't the only thing that helps the team. Teammate junior Rodney Grace said Valentine's leadership skills have given him the spot as team captain.

"We really didn't have a leader last year. There was no one to tell us

if we were right or wrong. But now we all look up to B.J. as a friend and a ballplayer," Grace said. "He directs us and we follow him. He tells us what to do, and we do it. It feels weird when he's not there."

Behrens said Valentine earned the role as captain primarily because he was a senior, returning starter, one of the best players and a point guard.

"Being a point guard is a position to have leadership," Behrens said. "He's the guy to let everybody know what's going on."

Along with Behrens, Dorsey said Valentine is similar to "a second coach on the floor."

"He controls the game. We miss his leadership if he's not out there," Dorsey said. "He has a positive impact with his leadership and point guard play."

Team member senior John Skanes said Valentine has made a positive impact on the team.

"He gets us fired up. He makes decisions, and he knows what he's doing," Skanes said. "He's also more of a team player. He's not selfish with the ball."

Valentine said he was also a captain his sophomore year at Prep.

Valentine attended Prep his freshman and sophomore years. Central won against Prep in the regular game and lost against them in the State game. However, he was benched for the regular season game. Despite the disappointment of the game that would have sent the Eagles to the finals, Valentine said he liked Central better than Prep.

Additionally, he left Prep for Central because of basketball.

"I didn't switch school-wise. I switched for basketball. I just didn't like the way things were going," Valentine said. "Central was one of the most dominant teams, and in order to be considered one of the best, you should play with the best."

Valentine said this year's basketball team is one of the closest teams he has played on since his freshman year at Prep.

"Some people thought we couldn't win without the people who left last year," Valentine said. "But we showed

them what we are capable of. We proved them wrong."

Valentine said it is not only his team that has helped him get to where he is. He said role models and friends have supported him through thick and thin.

"My role models aren't big NBA stars. It's mostly everybody from around here," Valentine said. "Everybody I know has played a key part in my life. Whenever I have my head down, someone has helped to pull it back up."

He said he was playing basketball long before high school. Valentine said he started playing when he was 4 years old. He said his grandma owned a basketball team and he fell in love with it.

Now after all the years of preparation, Valentine said he is definitely ready to play basketball in college. He said he was going to commit to St. Frances in Pennsylvania, but the position was filled before he signed.

However, he said he has talked to about five other schools, including Rockhurst, Iowa Western and Northwest Missouri State.

Valentine said he hasn't decided for sure where he wanted to go to college, but right now, he's leaning toward Texas. He said before he goes on to a bigger college, he wants to attend Howard Community College for one year.

"I don't know where he'll end up," Behrens said. "But I know he'll be successful wherever he goes."

Now that college is in the works and high school is coming to an end, Valentine said he was proud of all his accomplishments.

"I don't regret anything," Valentine said. "It's been good for me."

Behrens said the game feels different to a degree when Valentine isn't on the court.

Behrens said Valentine had a good couple of years at Central.

Valentine said some of his role models include people he knew from Prep. Valentine said security Herb Welling helped him.

"Herb kept me out of trouble," Valentine said. "He helped me go the right way."



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Students were asked at the State game, "What was the team best at?"



"Bringing in a good crowd, winning and letting people have a good time."

Jim Hubbard (11)



"Working together. They help each other out."

Hannah Wunsch (12)



"Dunking on the other team."

Tim Clough (9)



"It's not one person. It's a team."

Caitlin Teare (12)



"Fast-paced offense."

Andrew Haskins (11)



"Shooting, making baskets and scoring points. We played quality games this year."

Ben Zimmer (11)



VALENTINE



PLAYING ROUGH

Rugby is one of the biggest club sports at Central. It has more than three other schools participating on the team. Some say it is too brutal for high school students, but the players say the pain goes along with the game.

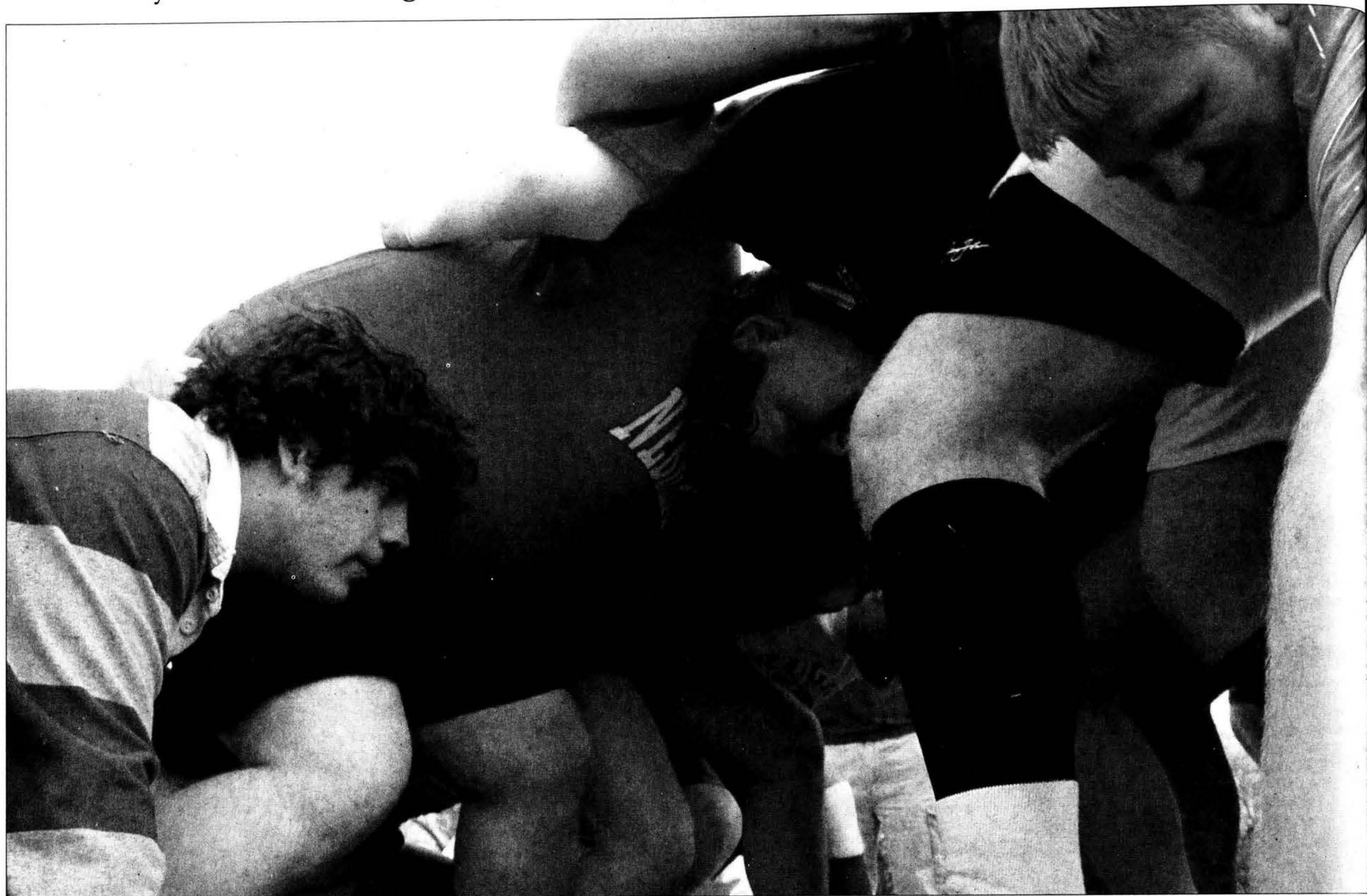


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

The rugby team practices at Memorial Park, teaching newcomers to the sport the basic moves and allowing older students to refine their technique. It practiced every other day to prepare for the season that begins in early April. It does not know who it will be playing yet due to scheduling changes.

Forwards make move to grind out better season

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Junior Ian Danielson is the captain of the rugby team, a team composed of more than 20 people from different Omaha high schools.

During practice on Wednesdays, he and his co-captain sophomore Nate Hall have to lead the team without a coach.

"At practice sometimes we have to make sure that they don't get out of line," he said. "It's hard when they don't want to listen."

He said he always has to watch all the players and make sure they were doing their jobs correctly. If he saw someone doing something wrong he had to go to them and help them personally.

"Being the captain means being a good role model," he said. "You always have to lead by example."

Junior Tim Bertino said Danielson and Hall always let him know when he is doing something wrong.

"There's a lot of criticism from them to me," he said. "It helps a lot."

He said Danielson really looks out for the team.

"He's very dedicated," he said. "In the off-season he worked with the coach and got better

at his position."

Danielson plays the scrum half and leads the forwards on the team.

"He always has to tell the forwards what they're supposed to be doing," Bertino said. "It helps a lot that he knows what he's doing. We'd seriously be nowhere without him."

He said there are new players every year who don't know anything about rugby and it's the captains' and coach's jobs to make sure they know what to do.

Junior Michael Hartig said rugby was unlike any sport he knew.

He just got started this year and the captains along with the coaches have helped teach him the rules.

"Passing is the one thing that's really hard to learn," Hartig said.

He said it's less complicated than he thought before he started. He doesn't have a position yet, but he is learning the different jobs of each player so after a few games he can find a permanent position.

The assistant coaches along with the head coach help him see what to do during a scrimmage.

The first game is in early April, although they don't know who they are playing due to a

schedule change.

Sophomore David Saniuk is a starting lock on the team.

He plays the only position who has to tape his ears to the side of his head so as to not have them torn off during a game.

Saniuk said while in the scrum his position was behind the hooker and the props, the biggest men on the team.

His job is to put his head between the hooker's and prop's outer thighs and push forward.

If anything were to happen and the props fell they would fall right on the lock's head and possible tear his ears or snap his neck.

"I'm not afraid of getting hurt," he said. "It goes with the game."

He said he has calcium build up in his knees which causes shooting pains in his legs because of playing rugby. His position requires a lot of lower body activity and in turn has put much strain on his knees. This is Saniuk's second year on the team and he said this year will be much better.

"I think we can dominate this year," he said. "We have a forward heavy team."

He said it is important to have strong forwards because they were the big men and the

backs were just the "pretty boys."

Assistant coach Sam Comfort said this season there are 25 people on the team, 13 of which are new to the sport.

He said because there are 15 people on the field at a time many newcomers will get the chance to play their first game.

"I think it's great so many people are out (for the team)," Comfort said. "We want them to spread the word about rugby. It is contagious. Once you first play, you're hooked."

He said it is a hard-hitting sport where students can meet new people.

From his own experiences, Comfort said there were less injuries in rugby than in football.

He played rugby on the Central/Prep team and now plays at University of Nebraska at Omaha. It is the most popular college sport, he said. It is because people don't have to be picked to get scholarships to play.

They can play whenever they want and have a good time. Comfort, like Saniuk, said the team is very forward heavy.

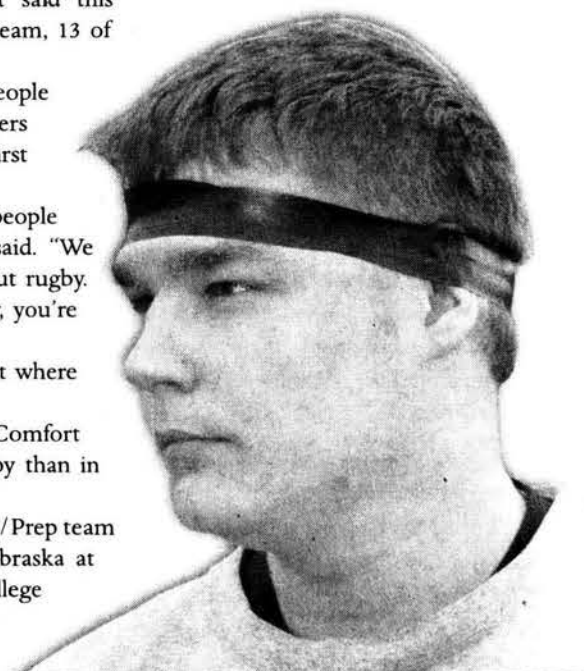


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Sophomore David Saniuk plays with electrical tape wrapped around his ears. He said playing a lock on the team means his ears could easily get ripped off.

Basketball player searches for ways to improve golf techniques

BY MOLLY MULLEN



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Junior Drew Meier tries to perfect his golf swing at practice. Meier placed at State golf last year and went with the basketball team to State this year. He said he hopes to place higher this season.

The basketball team he was on this year made it to State. He hopes the golf team does the same.

Junior Drew Meier said his stroke average was 76, which would probably make him the best player on the team. He placed in six out of 10 tournaments in the last season, including State, although he thought he could have done a better job.

"I worked really hard and practiced everyday," Meier said. "After we (the team) play nine holes, I usually stay after and hit for 45 minutes or so."

He said he practiced often in the summer and played in the off-season. He participated in the Nebraska Junior Golf Association tournaments and worked one-on-one with people at Shoreline Golf Course over the summer.

What gave him an advantage at tournaments was the fact that he would play an entire course through before the actual match to get a sense of how to play.

"It helps me know what club to hit for what shot," he said.

He and his dad got involved with golf at the same time.

"I was 7 and my dad got a set of clubs and I've loved it ever since," he said.

He said golf was much more relaxing than basketball.

"They're very different," he said. "But for golf, there is no one else to blame when you mess up. It's all on you."

He said he liked all the personal responsibility that went along with golf. He would like to play either basketball or golf in college and get a scholarship doing it.

He said his best drive was 310 yards.

"Everyone likes to drive because it's more fun," he said. "I need to work on my short game, chipping and putting on the greens."

Junior Guy Smith said he and Meier golf together all the time.

"You have to lead by example," Smith said. "If he plays well, I have to play well. It's not really a competition against each other, but you still don't want to get beat."

They are both trying to lead the team this year. They are the top two, but they need other players to fill in the top spots if they want to do well at tournaments.

"Last year we had a really good top five, this year we'll have to build for it," he said.

Coach Jim Galus said Meier had a good season last year and he hopes for a better one this year.

"He placed in the top 15 at the A.L. (Abraham Lincoln) tournament," he said. "That was probably the highlight of the season."

He said last year he was No. 5 on the varsity team, and this year he is No. 1.

The four players in front of him last year graduated.

Galus said he was better than last year, but not completely ready for a match, yet.

"He was a basketball player so he hasn't gotten his swing back, yet," he said. "I think he'll be ready."

He said one reason he assumes Meier will be good this season is the fact he spends extra time working on the course.

"A lot of kids just go home when practice is over but he'll stick around and work," he said.

Meier and Smith should be working with some of the freshmen on the etiquette of golf before they go to a tournament, he said, because they are the older and more experienced golfers.

"It doesn't matter what your score is as long as you have good etiquette," he said. "Always replace divots, don't walk in someone's line when they putt, don't put your bag on the green, things like that."

He said he expects Smith and Meier to make it to State this year because they are the most experienced having played varsity tournaments last year.

Club recognizes old weapons over guns

BY LAUREN CRIST

With hopes of furthering knowledge of the sport, freshman Amanda Jensen has become a new leader in the archery club.

She has been practicing archery for six years. She began after her mother bought her a bow and arrow.

She started helping people learn about archery and practicing her own skills with the Girl Scout program by helping to maintain the bows and retrieve the arrows.

Jensen said she volunteered on different weekends for five months and showed other people how to do archery.

"I volunteered as much as possible with the program," Jensen said.

She said she was busy with her other activities, but did archery in her spare time because it calmed her.

"It's very relaxing and kind of different," she said. "I have a lot of stuff on my plate and it's kind of nice to take a breather."

Jensen said she joined archery club after going to the first meeting, which she heard about from the homeroom announcements.

There were several people in the club at the beginning of the year.

There were two former presidents for archery, but neither were able to fill the position, so Jensen decided to take it.

"She has really stepped up," club sponsor Matt Hammill said.

She also helped organize outings and find someone to sponsor them.

"It's a student-run organization," Hammill said. "They do a lot of the planning for events."

Hammill said he was impressed with the role Jensen took, particularly because she has already helped arrange the club's first event.

He said she began in the education part of the club because she worked well with new students.

"She has some experience with archery and has helped out people who haven't done it before," Hammill said.

Jensen said she enjoyed teaching people about archery.

"I like helping people and giving them a chance to learn something new," she said.

Right now she is trying to get people motivated to go on an outing.

"We're trying to find at least 10 people to go on the first outing," Jensen said. "We're also working on recruiting and organizing an event."

She said archery club is unique.

"It's a very interesting sport," Jensen said. "You don't see many high schools with an archery club."

She said people should try archery club because it is a good way for people to experience something different.

"People should have a chance to try something new and not be scared of it," Jensen said.

Jensen said she enjoyed archery and thought bows and arrows should replace guns in today's society.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Freshman Amanda Jensen draws back her bow in preparation to shoot an arrow. Jensen said she believed bows and arrows should replace gun use in today's society.

She said she grew up with this belief. Jensen, as well as the rest of her family, is anti-guns.

Jensen said her uncles and other relatives sometimes went hunting for deer and turkey with bows and arrows, yet she usually went to archery ranges with her cousins instead hunting with her other relatives.

This summer, Jensen will be eligible for her archery hunting license.

"It's more of a natural way (to hunt)," she said. "I don't believe people should use guns to kill their food, they should use archery."

Jensen said she thought archery was important, and she enjoyed it because she liked

the medieval era.

"Archery has been around since the beginning of time, and people should be able to hunt their own food," she said.

Jensen said this makes her different from most teenagers she knows.

"Most kids believe in guns, but I believe in the old-fashioned ways," she said.

She said archery is more civil. It has been around for a longer period of time than guns.

"People should know their own history, and about the lives of people who came before them," she said.

She also said people should use horses instead of cars for transportation.

"It's more environmentally friendly," she said.

She said the pollution from the car can be destructive and horses would be better overall.

She has volunteered at horse ranches in the past and plans to move out to the country and go everywhere on horseback rather than owning a car.

She said through archery club, she hopes to keep the past alive in today's society.

"People forget where we come from and about our past," she said.

She said studying and learning about old-fashioned weaponry will further help society become more civilized.

Diver wins top honors after state

■ 'DIVE' FROM PAGE 33D

probably also taken into account.

"It's important to me that teachers think that I'm doing my best," he said.

DeLashmatt suspected his AP English teacher Jodie Martinez nominated him for the award. He was right.

"I nominated him because he's positive in class, his diving and everything that he's involved in," Martinez said.

She praised DeLashmatt in many ways, but she said she nominated him particularly because of an essay he wrote.

She said the essay was to be written on each student's reflection on his or herself as a writer, and DeLashmatt's stood out among the class.

"His was particularly good because he had some kind of bad learning experience in his past, and he was shut down on his writing or speaking.

I would never have guessed that he was ever discouraged," Martinez said. "His essay was so good that after he read it out loud, everybody clapped."

Martinez said his participation in diving and other sports wasn't the only reason she respected him so much.

She spoke of how his personality was what really stood out.

He said he makes the class fun and that's important in the learning process.

"He has this weird, quirky, off-the-wall, funny sense of humor," Martinez said.

DeLashmatt's diving teammate senior Elisa Berzins said she knew he was going to win State since the beginning of the year. She said last year, DeLashmatt placed second in the state, and the only reason he didn't take first was because of a "messed-up, overly-easy dive."

"He probably knew from the beginning that he was going to win it all, but he didn't mess around about it," she said. "And he ended up beating everybody at State by like 40 points, which is ridiculously good."

Berzins said one of the reasons why DeLashmatt is so good is because he loves what he does.

"He has always been really focused on his dives—even when he's having fun," DeLashmatt said.

Although DeLashmatt was surprised by the many awards this year, he said he has been working really hard for all three of them.

"I'm actually very proud of myself," he said. "I put in a good amount of effort my senior year to finish this final year strong."

Construction for gym, stadium set for completion before winter

■ 'FIELD' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33D

in the summer.

They will probably be purchased before the summer is over and should be delivered by Nov. 15.

Pennington said it would be easier to purchase the bleachers later than sooner in the interest of space.

The east end of the gymnasium is going to have three portable bleachers put in. The north and south sides of the gym already have bleachers and west side will not have any bleachers due to a lack of space.

Despite the list of things to be done, Pennington said now that the weather is better, the work will get done quickly.

"Once they get started on it, it goes fast," he said. "Kiewit's good at moving fast."

Pennington said since the construction should be completed by Nov. 7, it gives the school about a month to be prepared for the first home basketball game.

He said even though the basketball teams will have home games at Central next year, they will still practice at Norris because Central can't accommodate all of the teams.

Even though Pennington said he expects the construction to be completed on the date planned, he is going to make arrangements with Norris to reserve

its gym for the basketball games next year should the situation require it.

Pennington also said even though the construction will not be completed until Nov., the volleyball teams will still be able to hold games in the new gym just as they did last season.

The only problem the sports fans will encounter is they will have to use a different entrance, since the north side will be closed off until renovations are complete.

THE STADIUM

Pennington said the two new scoreboards for the gym are already put up, however the new scoreboard for the stadium still needed to be ordered.

He said there are also two more layers of concrete to add in the stadium, the entryway's plaza needs to be completed and the workers still have to lay out the field and track.

He said the Sprinturf is supposed to be put down on April 15 and the track a month later.

"It all just depends on the weather," he said.

Pennington said there has been a lot of work done on the restrooms and concession stands.

However, an issue that may never be solved is the lack of parking.

"Parking at Central will always be a problem," he said. "People will probably park in the staff lot first and then probably at the Civic. It all depends on if people want to pay or not. We might have to work with Joslyn on game nights."

Pennington said people seem to find parking for Joslyn's Jazz on the Green, so it shouldn't be too difficult to accommodate parking for Centrals athletic events.

Pennington said the stadium is scheduled to be finished by the beginning of Aug.

He also said he believes the stadium will be finished on time for the dedication ceremony on Aug. 20, and the first home football game in early September.

THE MOVE

Moving into a new home for basketball and football will be different after playing at Norris for longer than Pennington can remember.

"I've been at Central for 34 years, and the games have always been at Norris," Pennington said. "To be honest, I don't know when Norris was even built."

Pennington said football games have never been at Central, and basketball games haven't been here since at least the '50s.

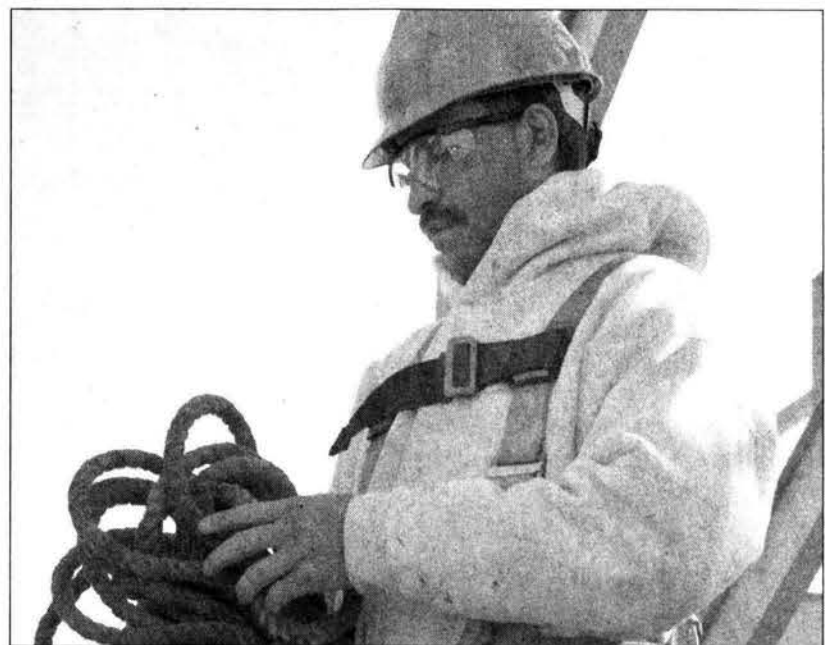


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Adalberto Abalos of Scott Enterprises adjusts his safety harness. All workers are required to wear full equipment including the safety harness when working at heights of over six feet.

Junior holds family tradition despite risk of injuries

BY ANNIE KLINE

"It's just something that has been a part of my family for so long," junior Keenan Page said. "It's like second nature."

Page said he became interested in hockey because his father, uncles and grandfather who have played it as long as he can remember.

Page has been playing hockey since he was 5 years old.

He is a member of the Metro North hockey team where he plays a defensive end. He said hockey is all about fun and it can't be taken seriously all the time.

"Hockey isn't something you just do right away," he said. "You have to wait for the ice because it isn't always available, but I like playing it for fun when I get a chance."

Senior Aaron Ball, who is one of Page's teammates and plays right wing, said Page has what it takes to overcome any challenges

that arise.

There are a few things Page said he would like to improve on during games.

"I'm not the fastest," he said. "But I make up for it with my hard hitting."

He said he is good at knowing where to be at the right time.

Ball said Page needs to relax more and not worry so much about trying to be perfect all the time.

"He's already great," Ball said. "He just needs to take a breath every once in a while. He's always trying to do the right thing and always working so hard. He deserves a break."

Page said he concentrates on staying in shape and keeping his endurance up more than anything else.

He said all athletes should be sure to keep in shape, so they can play as long as they want.

"It's all about conditioning," he said.

Hockey can be a dangerous sport in which injuries are common.

Page broke his finger this season and has

previously broken an ankle and arm, along with getting three concussions.

However, he said the injuries were worth the pain because they reminded him of the hard work he had to endure to get where he is today.

Head coach Paul Wilwerding said Page is a very talented hockey player and thinks he will be able to play hockey forever.

"I think he'll do well in high school and even after that," he said.

Wilwerding said he has enjoyed coaching Page because his positive personality always keeps the team optimistic each game and practice.

He said Page was very good at hitting the puck hard, which was a positive because some of the team would just lag on the ice and Page would pick up their mistakes.

Page said he doesn't think the team will do well at the playoffs because not many members of his team really care to try hard enough.

"This is a rebuilding year," he said. "And we're gonna blow them (other teams) away

next year. We're gonna rock the ice."

Wilwerding said Page has improved since he began coaching him.

"He has the right techniques and knows when and where to use them on the ice," he said.

"He (Page) would definitely be able to help the team come together," he said.

Page said he enjoys working with most of his teammates and they work well together through practices and games.

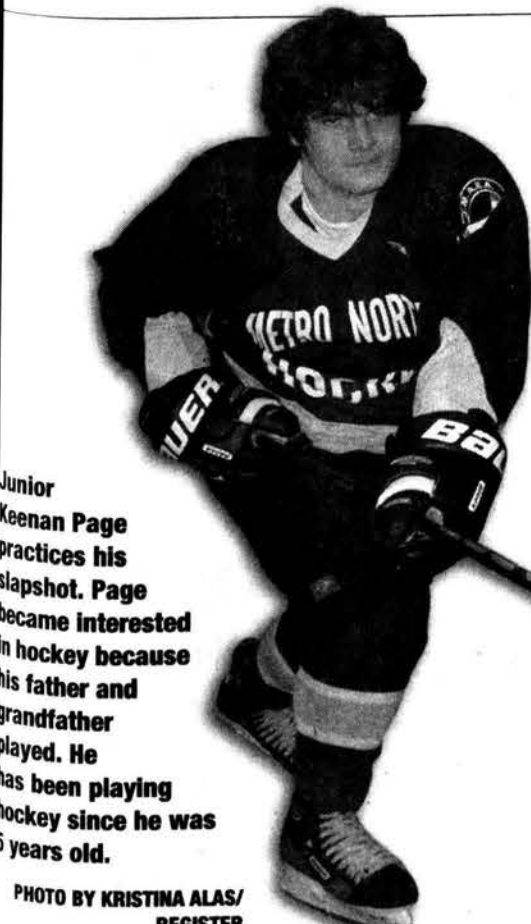
"They are good kids and good friends," he said. "I love being on the ice with my homeboys."

Page said he is going to play hockey for the rest of high school and join an intramural team when he goes to college.

After that, he plans to move back to Omaha and play for an adult league.

"I hope to pass my knowledge of the game of hockey on to my son," he said. "Just like my dad did to me and my grandpa did to his sons, so he can learn how enjoyable it would be for him."

And so the tradition continues.



Junior Keenan Page practices his slapshot. Page became interested in hockey because his father and grandfather played. He has been playing hockey since he was 5 years old.

PHOTO BY KRISTINA ALAS/REGISTER

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ILLEGAL SLAPSHOT

A Column by Tess Mandell

Teen meets hockey hero at ice arena

I know it's just a legend that there are hockey gods who will watch over the goalie or who gives the team a goal. But my hockey god actually exists. I saw him.

It was at the early Sun. morning high school practice. I woke up late. So I was racing to the rink and I ran inside and started getting dressed in the same spot I always get dressed, in the lobby with my back to the door.

It was weird. It was like a movie. I didn't even hear him come in. I swear the door never even opened. I remember I was leaning over my bag getting out my elbow pads when I saw him out of the corner of my eye. The guy was in sweats walking into the boys bathroom.

I would have thought nothing of it, except it was hard not to notice what he was wearing because it wasn't just sweats. Actually, it was barely sweats. The pants had holes running down the legs. The hooded part of the sweatshirt was safety pinned all the way around. By the time I finished putting on my elbow pads, he was walking out of the bathroom. I didn't look up because I didn't really care, but then he asked me, "Playing with the girls this morning?"

I was startled and sort of forgot what he had asked.

"What was that?" I said.

"You playing with the girls?" he responded.

He was like a cartoon. His face was about as floppy, but warming as faces get. He just looked at me with those sweet, interested eyes. And he had this smile that seemed like it took so much effort to hold up all the extra skin.

"Actually I'm here with the guys," I answered.

"Oh, in my days, girls didn't play hockey. Hockey was different in my days. It wasn't about the money and the publicity. We didn't even wear helmets. I was a goalie and I didn't even wear any face protection. You want to know why my left eye is bigger than my right eye?"

He made sure to point out all the scars on his face from the goal he stopped with his left eye, to the puck he blocked with the left side of his jaw. He told the world amazing stories of his days before World War II when he was on the pee-wee team.

"We didn't always play on the rink inside," he said. "Sometimes we played out on the pond. It would get chipped up, but we didn't mind."

I didn't feel like any of my hockey experiences could relate to his, and my knowledge of the sport came nowhere close to this guy's. He was telling me of back when the National Hockey League only consisted of six teams, back when Omaha had the Knights and all the professional teams recruited players from Omaha.

"We have the Lancers now, but it's not the same," he said. "The Knights were amazing. That's when Omaha was known for his hockey players."

He looked to look to his left when he talked, like he was trying to remember something that had happened in the corner where the pop machines were. Especially when he was looking away. I caught myself staring at his face. I saw every scar from every puck from every game. His stories took me back to his hockey days when he didn't have the double chin and when hockey didn't have the lockouts.

"Well, I should let you get to your game," he said.

I leaned down to find my jersey in my bag. By the time I sat back up, he was gone. I never heard him walk out the door. I never heard the door at all. And I was only looking down in my bag for two seconds.

He wasn't just any old jogger on a Sunday morning. He was more than that. He was my hockey god. Hockey god may just be a general term: "the hockey gods were with you." But not me.

I have my own hockey god, and I've met him.

CRUSHING THE CURVEBALL

Winning the first game of the season 11-0 was hopefully a sign of things to come for the varsity baseball team. Pitcher Dave Cleveland said everyone has their sights set on State.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

Senior Dave Cleveland watches as the ball falls to the ground after hitting him. Although the team had 11 of its players graduate, it still managed to start the season 3-0.

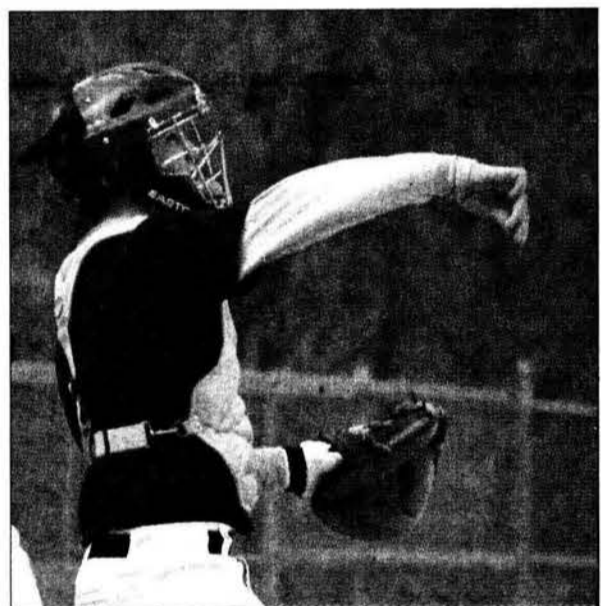


PHOTO BY LAUREN/ REGISTER

Catcher junior Brian Benes goes through a few practice catches at Lynch field with coach Scott Hodges.

Team tries to beat record-breaking season

BY TESS MANDELL

Despite the 11 graduating seniors, baseball head coach Scott Hodges said this year's team has the potential to be even better than the previous year.

Last year's team had 20 wins, which is the record for most wins in one season at Central.

Central had not been ranked in 10 years until last year, when it was ranked eighth.

The team also had Pat Venditte, an ambidextrous pitcher.

Hodges said Venditte's graduation caused a problem.

"Pitcher-wise, there's more inexperience (this year), but the potential is there," Hodges said.

Junior Matt Martin said he thought this year's team will do fine even though Venditte graduated.

"We'll be just as good because some people are stepping up," Martin said.

In addition to talented pitchers, Hodges said this year's team appears to have a strong offense.

"Last year, we were dedicated to defense and pitching," Hodges said. "This year, we'll put in more runs to offset the pitching."

He said typically when you have a lot of graduating seniors the year before, the next year's team goes downhill, but this year's players have worked hard.

"(Senior Dave) Cleveland is destined to have a big season," Hodges said.

The soon-to-be Creighton Blue Jay is expected to be one of the leading pitchers not only for Central but Creighton as well.

Hodges also said seniors Jabby Bakhit, Sedale Banks and Corey Tomasek will be key players throughout the season.

"A lot of kids put in a lot of time in the

weight room for preparation," Hodges said. "And due to that preparation, we have the potential to be better than last year."

Hodges said the scheduling is the other part of this year's expected success.

"The first couple games are against upper-tier opponents," Hodges said. "The way we can get our feet wet before we play Millard West and Prep back-to-back."

Hodges said the schedule and an even better team could help top last year's record.

"I think the kids' hunger to make the next step is there," Hodges said. "State berth is our overall goal."

Martin also agrees this year's team can be better than last year's.

"We'll be a lot better because of our attitude, and talent-wise, we're better," Martin said. "We want to get further than we got last year. We won't give up and we'll work harder to get as far as we can."

Coach foresees good throwing this season with four strong pitchers

BY LAUREN CRIST

Four pitchers led the boys varsity baseball team in its first games of the season.

Head coach Scott Hodges said all the pitchers would play this season, but senior Dave Cleveland will probably get the most time on the mound.

"Dave is exceeding the average," Hodges said. "He has the potential to be drafted to a major institution."

He said going into the season, Cleveland will be the number one pitcher, and the other three are interchangeable for the number two position. The other three pitchers are seniors Nick Hoy, Corey Tomasek and junior Bryant Cotton.

Hodges said Hoy's experience gives him an

advantage.

"We lost pitchers from last year, and although they (the new pitchers) have a lot of potential, they need more experience," he said.

Hodges said Hoy could pitch an average of about 87 mph, which was a little above average for a high school pitcher.

He said Hoy also has an advantage because he is left handed and has good velocity and movement of the ball.

Hoy said he felt his left-hand pitch was a strength because it sometimes threw off the batters.

"I've got a good change-up pitch," he said. "I'm pretty good at hitting the spot."

He said overall the team is strong this year, especially the returning members, and along

with the pitchers, the infielders are strong.

"We probably have the best infield in the state," he said. "All of our positions are really solid, especially our short stop and our infielder."

He said one of the team's pitchers, Cotton, will be returning next year. Hodges said Cotton's advantage in particular is his ability to do a variety of pitches.

"He has control of four different pitches," he said. "It's rare for a high school kid to have that type of control."

He said Cotton could pitch a fastball, curve ball, split-fingered pitch and change-up. He said he pitched an average of 84 mph.

Cotton said he thought his best pitch was his split-finger pitch.

"It's thrown like a fast ball, but it moves

everywhere, it can pull up or drop down," he said. "I have good control over the ball."

He said he usually uses the split-finger pitch when he has two strikes on the batter.

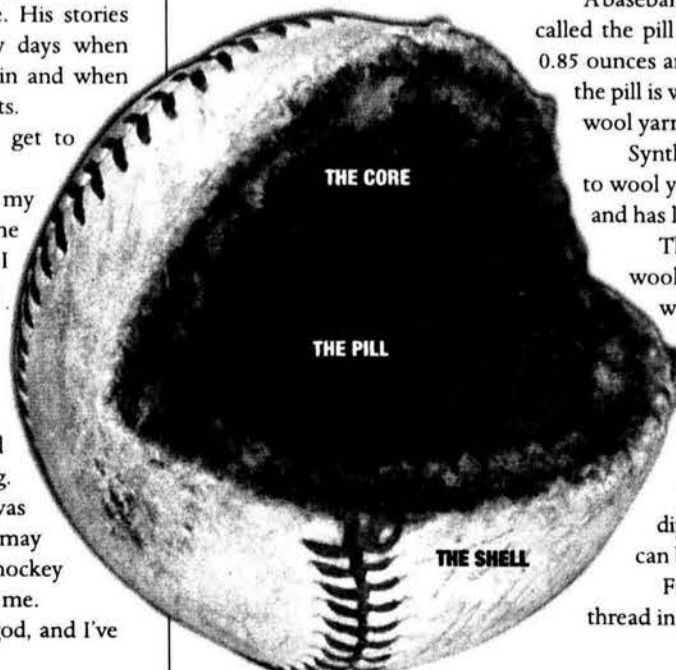
Last year he was the only sophomore outfielder and all the other outfielders were seniors.

"I have to be a leader, I'm the only returning outfielder and need to help people who are new to it because I've been there before," he said.

He plans on pursuing baseball in the future, but he knows it would be a very difficult field to pursue.

So far, he's received letters from Stanford, Arizona State, Mississippi State, Iowa, Virginia, Kansas and Creighton as well as a few other schools.

the ball



A baseball starts with a small sphere of rubber and cork, called the pill (left). The pill must weigh approximately 0.85 ounces and have a diameter of 1.375 in. From there, the pill is wrapped in three layers of either synthetic or wool yarn. This is called the core (left).

Synthetic yarn is used as an inexpensive alternative to wool yarn. Unfortunately, synthetic yarn is heavier and has less loft, making the ball heavier.

The more expensive baseballs made with wool yarn are sometimes made with virgin wool, which has no synthetic fibers or oils.

The core is then wrapped in cotton or polyester yarn. This keeps the ball wound tightly. This is important for the ball's ability to return to its original shape after pressure has been forced upon it.

After the last layer of yarn, the core is dipped into a latex cement so the cover (left) can be applied.

Finally, the ball is stitched with red cotton thread in a 104-stitch pattern.

Information courtesy of R&D Technology

The Anatomy of Baseball

Aluminum bats have many more advantages than the standard wooden bat. Aluminum bats can be swung faster although they are usually heavier than their wooden counterparts. This is due to the different balance points on each bat.

On an aluminum bat, the balance point is closer to the handle, making it easier to swing.

The ball also comes off an aluminum bat a different way than it would off a wooden one. Because aluminum bats are hollow, the bat barrel compresses when the ball hits it, creating what is called a "trampoline effect."

When the ball hits a wooden bat, the ball compresses to half of its original diameter, losing 75 percent of its initial energy. When using an aluminum bat, the ball does not compress as much and therefore loses less energy. Another advantage of the aluminum bat is it doesn't break. Many wooden bats are made of ash, which is much weaker.

Information courtesy of Dr. Daniel A. Russell of Kettering University

aluminum vs. wood



SCOTT HODGES
COACH



MATT MARTIN
THIRD BASE

"The only advantage (of a wooden bat) is a better way of teaching. It teaches how to find the sweet spot."

"Aluminum (is better) because they have more pop. They also have a bigger sweet spot."