

THURSDAY  
February 16, 2006

# the Central High School REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER  
PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL  
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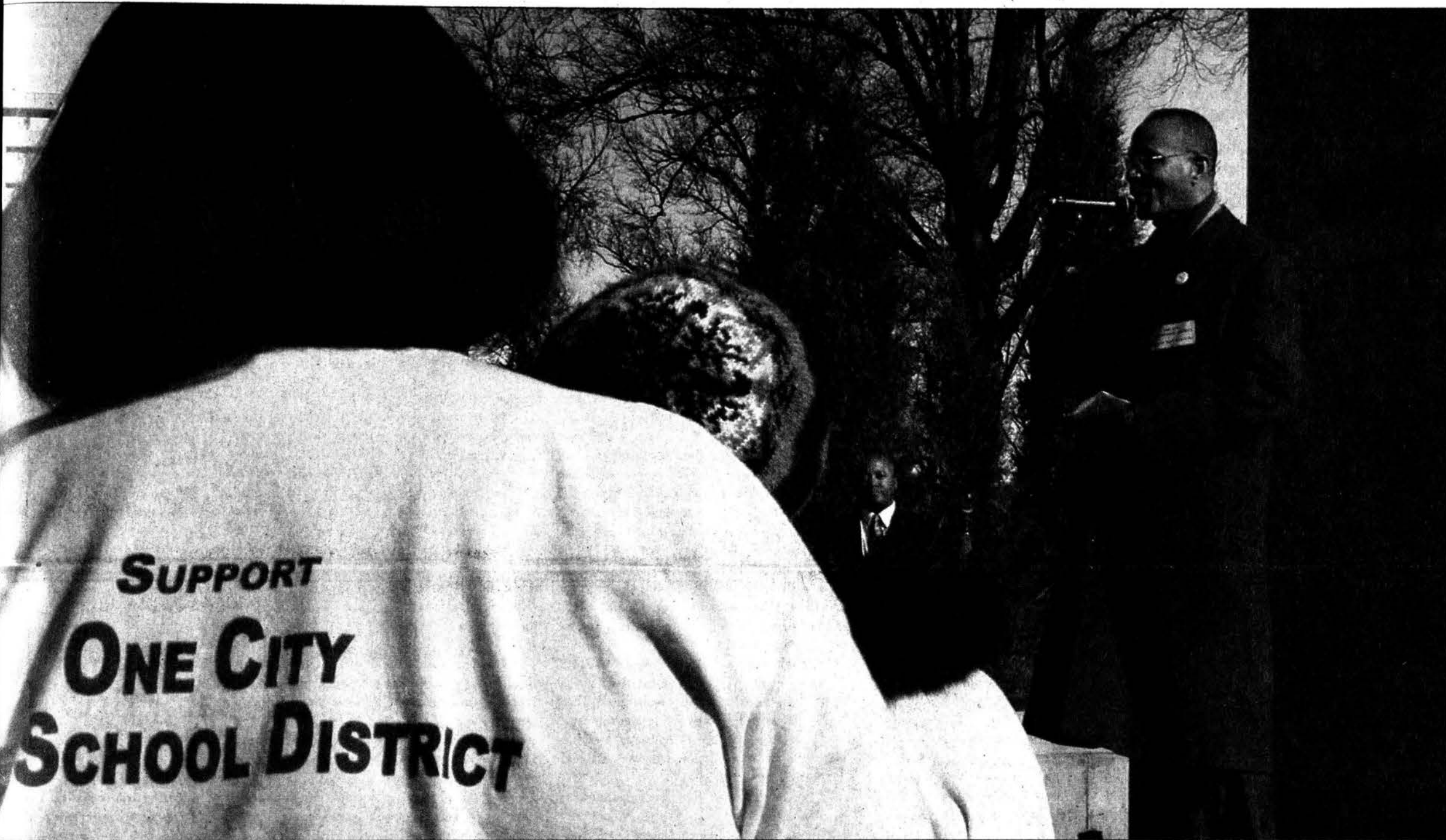
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## DECIDING THE FUTURE OF STUDENTS

The 2006 legislative sessions exploded with controversy when four bills dealing with the One City, One School District plan were introduced



PHOTOS BY MOLLY MULLEN AND ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

(ABOVE) Ben Gray, co-chair of the African-American Achievement Council, introduces a speaker at a gathering on the steps of the state capitol building. The morning rally was held on a school day, so few students attended. (LEFT) Principal Jerry Bexten listens to One City, One School District supporters. Bexten said he was the only staff member in attendance.

## Youth involvement limited at rally

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

A 14-year-old Omaha Public Schools (OPS) student stood outside the state capitol on Jan. 30, telling all who gathered just how much she loved her school district.

The crowd members surrounding Omaha Burke sophomore Elizabeth Lassiter that morning were eager to get pumped up before attending the meeting scheduled for later in the day, when four bills regarding school district boundaries were to be considered by the Legislature's Education Committee.

Much of the crowd wore yellow "One City, One School District" or white "I (heart) OPS" T-shirts, gathered on the stairs outside the building's West entrance.

When Lassiter took the microphone from speaker Ben Gray, she did not address any of the specific laws to be discussed that day; she chose instead to focus on the racial and socioeconomic segregation she said faced her community. This, she said, was because of separated school districts.

Lassiter used her chance on the podium, placed just under a statue of Abraham Lincoln, to encourage the parents and community members surrounding her to make a strong stand for what they believed in.

She was one of two OPS high school students to stay for the entire rally. The other, Central freshman Pete Fey, testified later that day in front of the committee.

"I had been fuming with opinions the entire time," he said.

Fey remained silent for all four hours of the hearing, waiting until its close to speak out.

He was not on the list of testifiers, but managed to slip in as the last person and only student to confront the senators that day when they asked for one last testimony.

He told the senators why he supported OPS's One City, One School District plan to annex suburban schools within Omaha.

"I had a lot of people tell me that it was pretty brave of me to go up and speak, and a lot of people shook my hand," he said.

His mother, Marian Fey, was one of 10 select speakers chosen to represent OPS in front of the senators. "The most

Continued to OPS on Page 5



## Elementary children learn ballroom dance, social skills

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"You have to shake your pockets!" dance teacher Carol Burk said to a cafeteria full of anxious fifth graders.

She was trying to boil the art of ballroom dancing into something 10-year-old kids could understand.

Because One City One School has become such a huge issue the Artery, a nonprofit art education organization, along with Omaha

Public Schools (OPS) officials decided this was the right time to implement the program.

She used terms like red light and green light steps, chicken wings and frying pans to describe the movements.

Intertwined with the funny words were words like "lady," "gentleman," "please," and "thank you," and that was the point of the class.

Burk said the big part of the lesson these

Continued to Dance on Page 4



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Millard parents sign a petition to revoke the law giving OPS control over their districts.

## Anti-OPS petition signed

BY MOLLY MULLEN

A few bus loads of Millard and Ralston parents and supporters rolled up to the capitol building as early as 9:30 a.m. even though the Unicameral session didn't start until 1:30.

They were there to support their small, local school districts. They were clad in "Millard Forever" T-shirts and carried signs that said "Bigger is not better," and "1 City + 1 School: 2 wrongs don't make a right."

Millard North sophomore Ben Chausser said if the OPS plan went into action then the quality of teachers would go down throughout the city.

"I think Millard just has a better group of teachers," Chausser said.

He attended OPS schools until 3rd grade when he would have

Continued to Millard on Page 5

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Freshman stands out in otherwise meek meet for Eagles.  
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Student artist holds first show after life of staying out of the public eye.  
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### CONTACT

PHONE: (402) 557-3357

FAX: (402) 557-3339

E-MAIL: Central.Journalism@ops.org

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# Seniors represent OPS in national test to compare states

BY STEPHEN WILHELM

"I think if people took the test seriously, it would be a good idea to see how much students have learned in the past 12 years," said Randall Woster said.

Woster said the time spent on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test was very much worth it.

He also said he tried his best to do well on the test to make Central look good because it was his civic responsibility.

Senior Kenneth Sunata said government officials need to be looking down at random statistics and start looking for a better way to spend our money.

"Can't bureaucrats come up with a better way to spend our money than using it on the same test with a thousand different tests?" Sunata said.

He said the government use to just waste money, now it's just wasting students' time, too.

"Maybe government employees need to be tested because the problem isn't the students, but those who work for our government," Sunata said.

Seniors were randomly chosen to take a three-section, 90-minute exam on Feb. 1 without any preparation, assistant principal Dr. Keith Bigsby said. The NAEP, also known as The National Assessment of Educational Progress, is the only nationally representative and ongoing assessment of what America's students know and do in various subject areas.

Bigsby said the test was meant to assess students' knowledge in core academic subjects.

"I don't think the test will point out anything because 90 percent of the least-academically challenged students could be chosen," said Neil Bhattacharai.

He said it was a waste of everyone's time and money. Bhattacharai said the problem was students know they can

get away with doing nothing in school and are rewarded for doing so by companies such as Wal-Mart, which hire people with no education at lower wage rates.

He said more tests are not the solution to a growing problem, but businesses creating incentives for the better educated and raising their educational standards a lot more would help by forcing students to do better in school, which students can do.

Bhattacharai said if students are too lazy to meet these standards, then they should lose out by being jobless, for which they alone should pay the price.

Out of the approximately 480 current seniors, 95 seniors were chosen to take the exam, Bigsby said.

"I've never had a student say no to taking the test because it is a chance to represent and be part of the Nebraska team," Bigsby said.

No one was forced to take the test, which was administered by NAEP proctors.

"This is a chance for seniors to represent the class of '06," Bigsby said.

He said Nebraska usually places in the top five for NAEP and top 10 for other standardized tests such as the ACT.

"NAEP shows that the No Child Left Behind Act may be having an impact because studies using NAEP show that students in America are doing better now than in the '90s," Bigsby said.

Bigsby said he was concerned that schools might be over-testing students, but he doesn't believe this test will cause too much stress or have any other negative effect.

The test offers results regarding subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences and school environment for populations of students including high school seniors and groups within those populations including female and Hispanic students, said the Institute of Education Sciences.

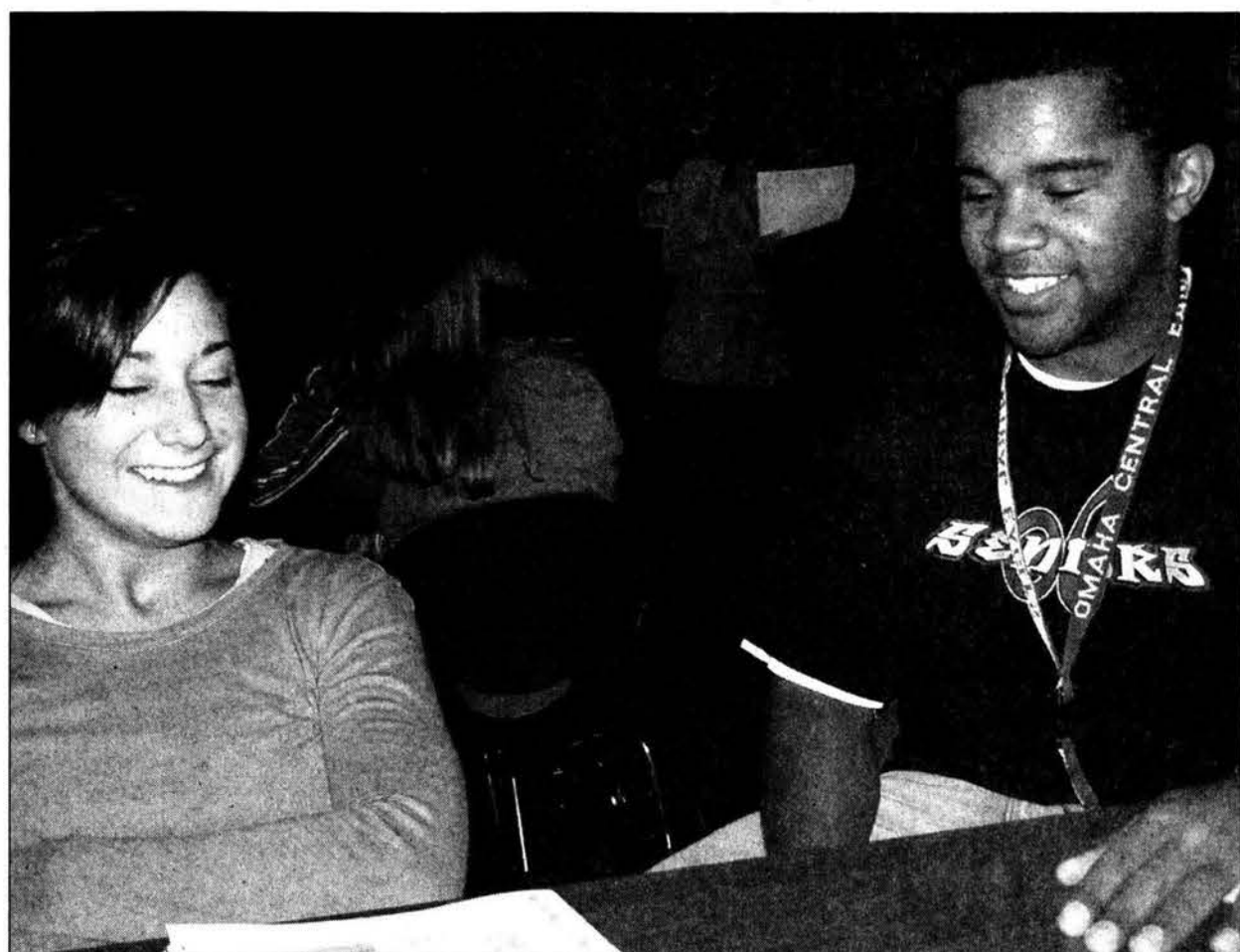


PHOTO BY STEPHEN WILHELM/REGISTER

Seniors Carly Vincentini and Alvin Samuels make jokes and talk during the few remaining minutes before they take NAEP, a test 95 seniors were randomly selected to take. Vincentini and Samuels, like most others in the cafeteria, said they were not worried at all about the 90-minute exam, but were looking forward to finishing and getting on with the rest of their last year.

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# FROM LUNCHROOM TO *Ballroom*

Omaha takes the East-Coast approach for a trial run. The lessons shown in the documentary "Mad Hot Ballroom" were taught to four OPS fifth-grade classes.



(ABOVE) Dance instructor Carol Burk talks to a fifth-grade class at Liberty Elementary School about dancing. They had just learned part of the merengue and realized they would have to be holding hands. "This is before that awkward pre-puberty stage when they really don't want to have anything to do with each other," Burke said. (RIGHT) Fifth-grader Adri Cleveland dances with her partner Luis Rodriguez. Cleveland said she looked forward to dancing lessons every day and it was one of the reasons she liked coming to school.



PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

## ■ 'DANCE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

youngsters were supposed to take away from these dance classes was a mutual respect for the opposite sex.

Mikeisha and Jordan, both fifth-grade students at Liberty Elementary, showed the class their merengue after only being in the class for 30 minutes.

"Gentlemen have to ask the lady for a dance," Burk said, "and ladies have to respond 'I'd love to.'"

She said she was excited to be a part of the ballroom dancing.

"For us to be doing this in your school is a big deal," she explained to the students. "This is part of a larger program all over the country."

After her explanation of this new project she had the students get into lines of boys and girls in order from tallest to shortest.

These would be their partners for the next 20 lessons where they would learn nine dances. After getting in order, Burk put her hand on her hip and called this move the "chicken wing."

The students were to walk in and out of the cafeteria arm-in-arm, or holding out their chicken wing.

Some of the students refused and giggled at the thought of touching their partner when they weren't dancing. She quickly explained that the students were to treat each other as ladies and gentlemen and were to walk that way.

"You don't give them the opportunity to be uncomfortable," she said.

Burk said there wasn't much trouble with the students and she was to expect them to be apprehensive on the first day. She said this was a good age to learn a mutual respect for the other sex.

"This is before that awkward pre-puberty stage when they really don't want to have anything to do with each other," she said.

Susie Buffett funded the project after seeing Dulaine's "Mad Hot Ballroom" documentary this summer. Dulaine has over 60 schools in New York doing this project and after getting it started in Omaha, he went to Chicago to teach people his methods.

"You see it (the movie) and think 'who wouldn't want this in their school district?'" Buffett said.

After seeing the film at the Dundee Movie Theater, she e-mailed public relations director for OPS Luanne Nelson. Nelson said Buffett was not the only person to get in contact with her about the project.

She said many people were excited about it and

wanted to bring it to OPS. Buffett has not been of the implementation of the project, she just wanted to fund it. She hopes this will help people see all the OPS offers in light of One City One School plan.

She is not the type of person to fund a project and then micromanage the project, she said. She said those in charge take control.

"It looked like fun and I thought we should have it," she said.

Barb Farbo is the executive director of the Omaha Public Schools and got the ball rolling on ballroom dancing.

"After New York we're one of the first schools to have this program," she said.

This is a pilot program, she said. If it is successful, OPS officials will look at implementing it in all elementary schools.

She said there were plenty of reasons for the program including physical activity, setting and cooperation. She said a reason to try this was to give students after-school activity.

"This is about ballroom dancing, not trying to produce ballroom dancers," she said.

Adri Cleveland was one of the first students to try this new program. She is in the fifth grade and loves to dance. Every time a question was asked about the rumba or the merengue, her hand shot up.

"The merengue is my favorite," Cleveland said. "It has a fast tempo so it's fun to dance to."

She said she loves walking into the class and seeing everyone. She said she goes to class p.m. twice a week to learn new steps and a little about each song they dance to. Everyone in her school is excited about the ballroom dancing, she said.

"I look forward to it every day," she said.

The dance class helps her stay motivated throughout the week, she said.

"It makes me want to do my chores at night and my homework," Cleveland said.

Director of the Artery Marian Fey said it was to see the changes that took place in the children during the course of 20 lessons.

"You really start to see them change from young ladies and gentlemen," she said.

After she saw the movie, she flew to New York to meet with Dulaine and discuss bringing the program to Omaha. Next she spoke with superintendent Dennis Mackiel and the school board, and they liked the program.

She secured funding and hired instructors by the end of the year. Then Dulaine flew to Omaha and taught the instructors the same way he would teach the children.

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# School officials save 'One City' issue for adults

OPS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

important thing to me was to come at it from the perspective of a parent," she said.

She is the president of the Alliance for Omaha's Future (AOF), a group that started in September for the purpose of promoting the One City, One School plan.

The AOF works closely with school board members and other officials, but Fey felt her strong emotions as a mother and as an emotional witness would better serve OPS's testimony. She thought it would give her perspective other than politicians and school board members.

The OPS representatives seek to defend the current law, which requires that the one district could control all public schools within Omaha city limits, excluding Westside schools, which are exempt under a pre-existing bill.

The four bill proposals would all change this law to some extent, either keeping the district boundaries as they are or creating a new system with which to operate schools in the area.

Superintendent Dr. John Mackiel, who also spoke on behalf of the district, said this increased amount of political discussion went a step beyond blunt, dry statements, giving officials the chance to work it out and take in to account all the details of each of the proposed changes.

"When you relegate a social justice

issue to a yard sign," he said, "you don't allow the civil discourse and in-depth dialogue that's required."

Mackiel has spoken to church groups, youth services and individual classes to address One City, One School, but does not plan on working with any high schools.

"I think there's a role in the learning process for an issue like this," he said.

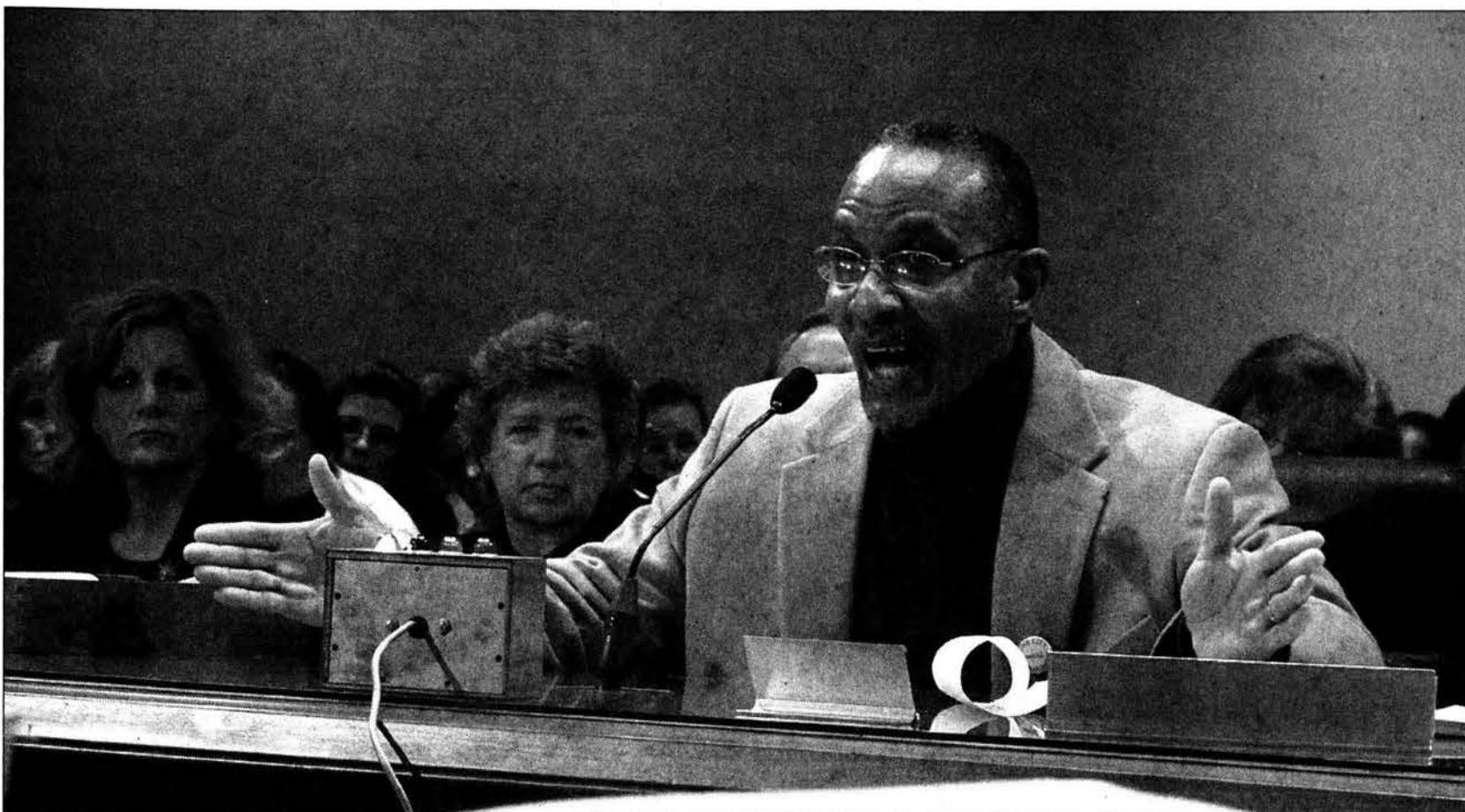
He felt holding school-wide assemblies and addressing large groups of students—many of whom may or may not be interested in the issue to begin with—was like spreading propaganda, and did not take precedence over regular classes.

The Feys agreed. "I think they (students) should stay in school because not a lot of people know what's going on," Pete said. "I only went to hear my mom speak...I think that this is a political issue, not a school issue."

Fey has been following the resolution closely since it first came about, feeding off of the environment in his home and reading the newspaper and information provided on the OPS website. He has also attended meetings with his mother.

He said he wished more students would take an active role in educating themselves on the topic.

Lassiter has been involved in One City, One School since the rally held at Central earlier this year, where she handed out fliers with information on the plan. She started reading the charts and statistics.



Ben Gray deemed the school boundary issue the "biggest civil rights issue of this century." He and his wife helped create the Affinity Council to support superintendent Dr. John Mackiel's One City, One School District plan of integrating Omaha's schools.

She said district officials should attempt to inform students simply because there are so many of them, and because the issue primarily affects young people.

"There are a lot more students than teachers," she said. "If you care about what's happening then you need to take

an initiative. I think that they (officials) should visit so that they (students) know what they're fighting for."

James Kight, a part-time coach at Central, handled the behind-the-scenes operations for the event, setting up the sound system and stage.

"I was impressed that the people

would come out the way that they did...any time you have differences...I think it's important you have dialogue," he said.

Unlike students in Millard, one of the school districts protesting One City, One School, students in the Omaha district had classes on the day of the rally.

Kight wasn't surprised to see mostly adults, but wished more young people would have attended. He said it would give them a chance to give their input on the matter.

"A lot of times, you get decisions made that affect students that they have no say in," he said.

# Millard students attend rally to support smaller school districts

'MILLARD' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

was bused to a school that was not in his neighborhood. He said that was when he moved to Millard with his parents.

He attended the rally to support the fight against OPS, he said. Even though there were not more Millard students in attendance he felt almost everyone at his school was talking about it.

Teachers wouldn't discuss the issue in class, he said, but he said most people he knew were informed and were also against the One City plan.

"We have been very happy with Millard," he said. Omaha North Principal Gene Haynes said the topic had been discussed in class. He said it was an issue dealing with Nebraska's schools and would therefore be discussed in his classes.

"You can't continue to ignore it," Haynes said. "This is affecting many people's lives."

He said it was important for students to know the law and follow so this issue was a good example to discuss in class.

"The bottom line is that is the law," he said. "It is about opportunity and fairness."

Haynes, along with a few other OPS supporters, walked over to the Coalition rally after the OPS rally was finished. They tried to listen to the speakers including State Sen. Ron Raikes, but were unable to hear because of the lack of any sound system.

One Millard parent said he was afraid of busing. He attended a school in urban Delaware during high school and was bused two hours a day through a forced busing program.

He said although schools like Dundee Elementary are good schools, he would not want his daughter to attend.

"Parents have to drive out of their neighborhood to be involved in their children's schools," he said. "I would have to drive a long way to attend parent meetings and plays."

He held a sign that said "No thanks, OPS" and had attended nearly every rally and meeting on the subject.

OPS schools need to start fixing their own problems before thinking of absorbing other schools, he said.

"OPS receives more money for education than any district," he said. "They're spending it all on administrative costs."

He said OPS is the 98th largest district in the country and if it annexes Millard, Ralston and Elkhorn schools it will be in the mid-30s.

"Bigger is not always better," he said.

His daughter attends a Millard elementary school. He said if the annexation plan goes through, he will begin sending her to parochial school.

Also in attendance were parents from both Lincoln and Omaha's suburbs handing out petitions.

Karol Swotek said she had been involved with the fight against forced school consolidation since it began in May.

"We are working to amend Nebraska's constitution," she said.

Over 80,000 signatures had already been collected, she said, but they only needed 30,000 more to take the issue to the governor and possibly have the 1891 law amended.

"Smaller schools are more efficient," she said.



Millard student Lauren Kurfman was one of a small handful of students to attend the rally against the OPS plan. People held signs saying "One City, Many Choices" and signed a petition.

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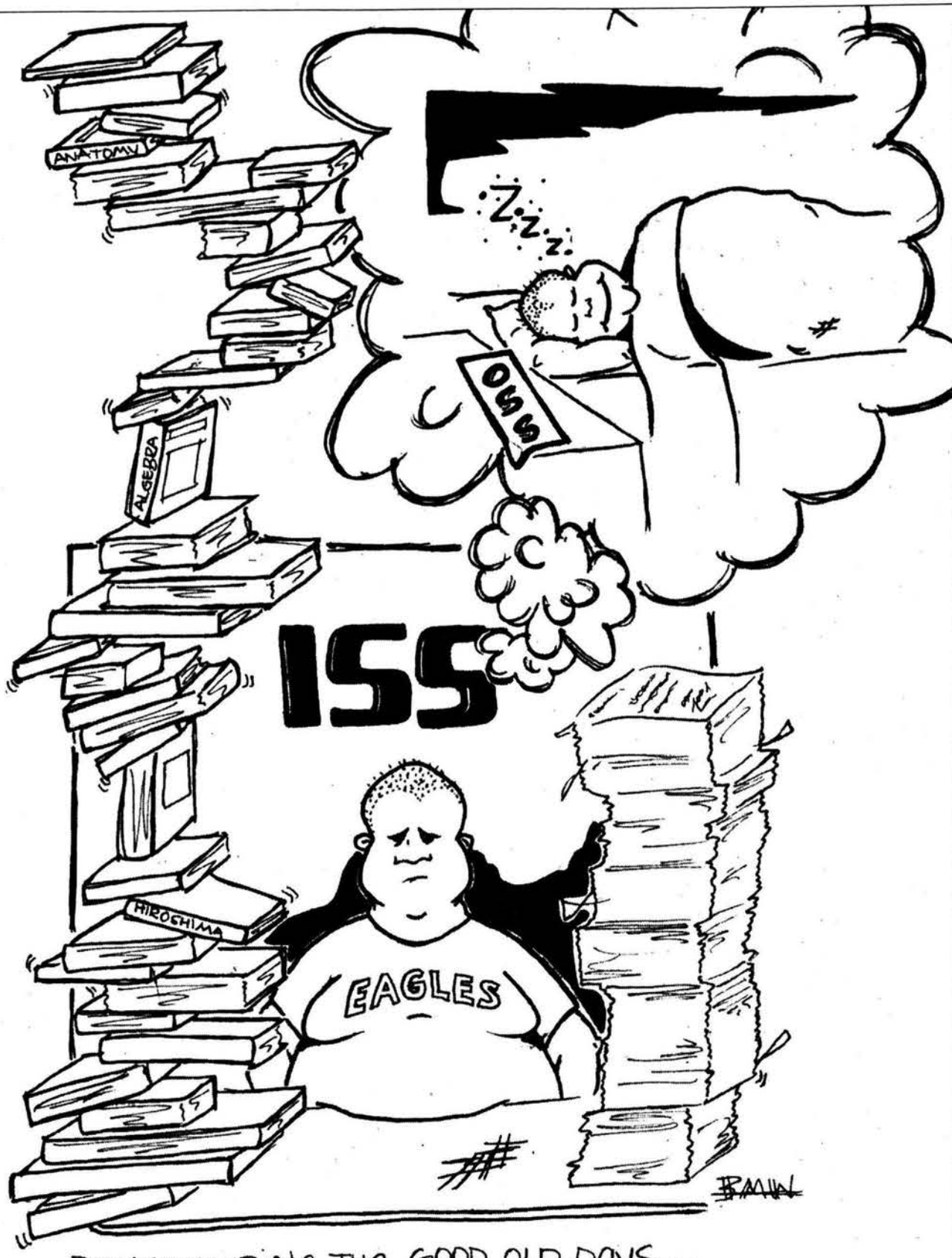


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FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

# EDITORIALS

Jerry Bexten  
PRINCIPAL  
Matt Deabler  
ADVISER  
Molly Mullen  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

## Teens need school structure

In-school suspension (ISS) has finally been implemented again across the Omaha Public School District (OPS) after a temporary change of policy.

No longer can disobedient students look forward to an easy out-of-school suspension, where they can spend their days at home while watching television or sleeping, at the mall or with friends.

These days are finally gone now that school officials have seen the light and realized out of school suspensions are not punishment at all, but a reward for those who couldn't follow the rules.

What's better for someone who doesn't follow rules in school than a free pass out of school?

Out-of-school suspensions taught students if they purposely screwed up, then the schools would wash their hand of these students and leave them roaming the streets of Omaha.

It has been time for out of school suspensions to be replaced and now is better than never.

In-school suspensions teach students a lesson by showing them that if they do the crime, then they are going to do the time, but at school, not a comfy bed at home.

ISS demonstrates to deviant students there are consequences for every action, which will come back to haunt

them if they have acted wrongly.

The ISS program will also make our city safer by making sure students, who have not shown the best judgement already, do not do so again by not allowing them to leave the building and by watching them like a hawk.

Words were put into action early on during second semester when ISS became the law of the land for OPS.

According to the administration, approximately 75 in-school suspensions have been issued this semester so far. Whether or not this works will be found out soon.

Students, who are sentenced to ISS, are watched by Charles Williams, a security guard, who makes them work on their homework, as it should be.

ISS students are in room 233, also called the Student Success Center (SSC), for either half or the whole school day depending on the severity of their crime.

If students are in the SSC for a full day, then they're given some trust by allowing them to eat lunch without any supervision.

However, if they are tardy or don't come back, then they are punished further by either assistant principal Darin Williams or their administrator.

The school wants to keep as many students as possible in school where they no doubt will benefit the most.

### EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

### 05-06 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 nine-time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas, Washington D.C., Seattle and Chicago.

The Register staff is also responsible for the publication of the EDGE feature magazine, which has won a first place Best-in-Show award for specialty publications.

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers.

The Pacemaker is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school

journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA.

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

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## Junior fed up with hostility towards his political beliefs

Imagine, if you will, the power a president inherits at the beginning of a term.

Imagine the capacity for good. Imagine the influence one single person is allowed, with the trust of the majority. Then wonder: why do it wrong?

The topic of politics and our president came up in history class and a slight debate arose between myself and a friend.

This friend, a staunch supporter of the prez, felt it necessary to proclaim his admiration for the man and then scrawl "I (heart) GWB" across the top of his notebook pages.

I didn't say anything. I hate arguments, and I hate instigating them even more.

But he pushed it by turning around and asking me what my "political persuasion" was. I told him I wasn't registered, dodging it as best I could, but when he pushed for my response, I stated: "Liberal."

"I thought so," he grumbled disappointedly, and then he told me he would never read anything I write ever again.

He amended his decision immediately, however, claiming "maybe" he would read my movie reviews.

What? "That's all right," I said sarcastically. "I've charged my reviews with political hackery, too."

You can't escape my liberal media. What, you think Edward R. Murrow was a conservative Republican ("Good Night, and Good Luck.")? No, it was the bad guy: Joe McCarthy.

He didn't answer me, just gave me this look like I'm on a vendetta against Republicans. Yeah, right.

What I just can't understand is why Bush still has my friend's support. Why he has anyone's support, for that matter, and how long it'll last.

Imagine that presidential power again. The capacity for good.

Because really, at this point in history, the president has the ability to do so much good. Unbelievable good, for the country and the world.

Social justice. Environmental improvements. The undeniable power of peace.

Beyond the petty politics, even past the trouble of economics, there is so much room for greatness.

The president inherits the potential to become the single most-loved man or woman in history.

The greatest American. It's a massive task,

but one a president should be up to.

It shouldn't be a shock that anyone would fight so hard to grasp that power only to squander it selfishly, but it still is amazing to me.

Why? Why would you do that?

How simple of a conscience do you need to know that bending over for corporate interests, lobbyists and self-empowerment is wrong?

Cronyism is a word for it, one that's been more and more used in the public circle, not available to describe the current administration. But shouldn't it go beyond that?

It's sad to think all the political analysts talking heads are so callous and bored that they don't even notice it anymore.

They fling around words of indictment, do they don't think about what they mean because sound bites and talking points.

What's tragic is that the enormity of the situation is slipping from their grasp with the repetition of the word "corrupt."

Every second of a presidency is precious because the president earns a monumental salary in four years (even more than eight!).

Not because the president's friends can be getting just as rich through tax cuts and bogus war contracts.

Not because there could be oil derricks, wildlife preserves. Not because the American people could stand to sacrifice "a little bit of liberty for a little bit of security."

No, the answer is the simplest one of all: answer a child could (and would) come up with to make the world a better place. That quote about liberty and security is Benjamin Franklin's.

According to Franklin, anyone willing to sacrifice their liberty for security would deserve neither.

Franklin, though never a president, was willing to risk his life to make the world a better place.

Every second of a presidency is precious that's why every single person should be angry, sad, indignant, rebellious, take your pick, no matter your personal values or political beliefs.

And to claim "I (heart) GWB" so blindly and foolishly is insulting to me, and to the American people, know, love and miss.

I probably shouldn't be talking about my friend that way, but it doesn't matter, because I never read this.



### INITIATE PLAN 9

A Column by Bob Al-Greene

## Car accident complicated when boyfriend's father is involved

I felt myself making one of those lovey-dovey smiles that I make fun of couples for having as I rolled down the driveway at what I could tell was an awkward angle.

Slam. I felt and heard the back of my car hit hard into something.

With a fresh out-of-the-oven, 2-month-old license, I was accustomed to rolling up on curbs and turned my body around ready to change gears and pull up.

Then I saw what I had hit. I saw the massive beast of a vehicle towering over my little Camry.

It looked ready to eat the back end of my four-door with one chop from its gleaming silver jaw and toss it from side to side, ripping apart hunks of metal like the T-Rex out of a bad "King Kong" remake.

My mouth dropped as I pulled away from the truck revealing a huge gash in the front bumper, my jaw dropping lower and lower with each inch growing between the two cars.

Like a light switch I felt my face sting with heat immediately as I flicked my head around to see the once smiling face now mirroring my own expression.

For a split second I considered driving away, the only thing stopping me was the fear of hitting another car.

Although, hitting another car would probably have been better than what I had done.

All my strength slipped out of the top of my head and through the open moon roof like smoke from a burned out candle as I stumbled out of my car, jaw still hovering over my feet.

I walked up the driveway over to Sean, my boyfriend's young once smiling face now molded into the concerned face of a little boy.

"Oh my God. No, oh my God," I said, unintentionally sounding like Janis that annoying character I'd seen on "Friends" so many times.

"Do you want me to tell him?" Sean said.

My head said no, and consequently so did my mouth, but he went into the house anyway with a frightened child face, edging away from a box of spilled cereal before his mother found it.

I found myself standing in the foyer of boyfriend's house looking up the stairs waiting for two pairs of feet to come down.

I envisioned one stomping down and a smaller pair cowering behind the broken floorboards, resulting from the stomps.

I waited as I heard "Dad?" echoing through the old hallways of the upper floor.

The wait was very minutes probably, but million things ran through my head.

First, I just repeated over and over what I had done in my head.

I hit his dad's car. His dad's giant million-dollar beast of a car. I didn't know Nissan made tanks.

I pictured the middle-aged man yelling at me through his gray mustache the friendly face I had become familiar with, or worse, giving one of those deep eye contact parents give, the kind that don't require eye contact and always mean that you are permanently beneath them, so you might as well climb back down the ladder of respect, and start counting bugs on the ground. I thought of all the times that Sean had greeted me politely in that very same entry and how we had shared small talk and poked at Sean.

I looked farther back in my memories to Sean's dad to middle school.

I was always overly shy and our conversation usually consisted of sweet perky, but nervous laughs and nods of agreement on my part.

It wasn't the closest relationship, but I knew now there was no more room to grow.

Then I pictured awkward to come to which I would have to wait outside the front door or call from a pay phone at the gas station down the street.

Clearly, I was being over dramatic, but those two minutes I spent awaiting my fate at the bottom of the stairs, unrealistic thoughts of a dark future were maybe the only things keeping me from melting on the floral rug into a bloated car-crashing pile of Claire.

"Claire?" he said.

What's the worst that can happen? Don't he'll tell you.



### TALKING FOR MYSELF

A Column by Claire Anderson



# OPINION

"I think Millard is blowing the whole 'I love OPS' T-shirts out of proportion. The T-shirts are just a statement that we love the Omaha Public School District."  
**Lyndsey Bulls (10)**

7A



## NOT GONNA LIE TO YOU

A column by Molly Mullen

## Shaved head more than just a haircut

I ran my hands over my head. It felt like a mirror.

"This is perfect," I said.

If my mom knew I was borrowing a debit card to go shave my head, she wouldn't have given it to me.

She, along with most people with short hair, doesn't understand the wonder of shaving your head. It is amazing.

The first time I shaved it off was after I won Nationals in Seattle. It is a tradition after we win every time.

Now getting it shaved can bring me to that day. It feels good to be the best at what I do and have a physical way of showing it.

I had originally walked into a salon to get my hair cut because my mom said my hair was beginning to look like a mullet. She was getting my hair cut and I was mad at her for wanting me to have to endure the haircut.

I hate looking through magazines of models of girls with their hair gelled up and braided with thick green mascara. I look at each individual photo and wonder how this style would look on me, but the gel and the makeup.

I hate sitting on a couch that is supposed to be bright yellow, but at closer inspection has turned a few shades darker. I have all of the small hair trimmings piled into the fabric. The couch is like hair spray and there are always people sitting next to me who want to talk to me. I don't want to have a conversation! I want to concentrate on how I'm going to look after I walk out.

This time I didn't want to deal with the woman, whose first language as a Russian, said she'd take me right to the hair salon. This was already a good thing because I could avoid the couch and the magazines.

She draped the trash bag apron over me and started running her fingers through my hair. She asked if I wanted it washed. There was no question I needed to have it washed. It was so greasy the oil saw sticking all my split ends together.

I didn't want to. I hate having my hair touched as much as I hate the rest of the hair salon experience. The stylist would come back into some weird shaped chair. It looked like someone knocked over

the mold when the porcelain was drying and created a huge gap in the front. Then the beautician would lean my chair back so my neck would awkwardly fit into this little slope.

They would tug on my hair, while running the water all over my face. They would use four different shampoos and let all of them slowly run down my forehead into my tear ducts. Just thinking of this stupid experience I said I didn't need to have it washed. She looked surprised because of the condition my hair was in.

"Just shave it all off," I said.

She asked what I meant and I said it again.

"With a razor?" she asked.

What else would I shave my head with, a cantaloupe? I told her I had done it before, and it was no big deal. My hair is never longer than a few inches anyway. There isn't that 6-inch commitment so many girls seem to have with their hair. If it's longer than 6-inches it must always stay longer than 6-inches. There are no exceptions.

She asked if I wanted a guard on the razor and I said no, but she put one on anyway. I don't know what she was worried about. I asked for a shave, so I couldn't rationally get mad and not pay when it was all over. She started running the electric razor all over my head and those long bits of hair stuck together from oil started falling over my trash bag apron.

A beautician who was standing next to mine turned around and asked me what I was doing. She was excited. My stylist answered before I could, "She gets this all the time, don't worry."

She acted like she had been caught skipping class. "I have a pass, I always leave this class early. My teacher doesn't care, I swear."

I didn't say anything. I just sat back and enjoyed the feeling of stripping off five months of grime.

When it was all over she ran her hand over my head, her long, fake, purple finger nails lightly scratching my pail scalp. I forked over \$12 for the haircut and walked out.

Right then my mom passed by me and didn't notice me. I called her name and she turned around.



## Health depends on diet, duh!

Adults across the nation are accusing soda machines for the increase in child obesity in America. They are pointing their fingers at the wrong people.

They should point the fingers at themselves.

The America Beverage Association announced that the number of non-diet soft drinks sold in schools dropped over 24 percent between the years of 2002 and 2004.

They reported this in an effort to stop the onslaught of lawsuits against the soft drink companies.

The plaintiffs blame the companies for making their children so obese.

It isn't the soda industry's fault. Adolescents are stuffing their faces. They have free will, and so do their parents. If parents are concerned about their child's health, then they should talk to their child and try to get them to eat healthier food.

The parents should buy healthy food, and they should outlaw all junk food in the house. And, if that doesn't work, then they should not give their children any extra money for junk food.

A major food industry has to defend themselves all of the time from constant attacks from parents, biased scientists and the government.

In its latest report, it said between 2002 and 2004, sports drinks grew by 70 percent, bottled water by 23 percent, diet soda by 22 percent and fruit juice by 15 percent. Even though, by these statistics, people are drinking healthier items it seems they are getting more obese. There must be a different source of the weight problem.

How is it that people are getting fatter if they are eating and drinking healthier?

Because they go on different diets every few weeks causing their metabolism to lose control of itself and store more fat.

In schools, only 45 percent of the sales come from regular soda. This is a dramatically good decrease from the 57 percent it was just three years ago.

During those three years sports drinks jumped from 7 percent to 14 percent. Water jumped up by 4 percent.

Opponents of the Beverage Association said these statistics are not good enough. They said sports drinks are still not good for the population because there is a considerable amount of sugar in them.

Because of these accusations, almost two-thirds of the schools in the nation have some sort of limitation on foods and beverages.

They are afraid that the blame will be pointed at them. Half of the schools include more healthy food as a substitute for the sugars and fats.

A whopping 18 percent banned carbs entirely from all vending machines. If all schools did this, then students would just hoard junk food from home. The America Beverage Association would lose money, the schools would lose money, and thousands, if not millions, would lose their jobs.

All this just because a few people, who think they should control everyone's eating habits, want the whole nation to eat healthy. Just think about it. Carrots, peas, spinach, all the greens and all the fruits all the time. No more chips, no more Hostess treats, no more fat and the worst of all, no more sugar.

People should have the choice of what they eat. There is nothing wrong with eating sugar in school.

It isn't the fault of the soda companies that everyone is gaining weight. It is the person's fault, unless he has some sort of metabolism disorder.

Pop machines and vending machines should be open all the time with their products, the sugars and fats.

## EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the *Register* staff

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

### OPS T-shirts meant no offense

Dear Editor,  
I think Millard is blowing the whole "I love OPS" T-shirts out of proportion. The T-shirts are just a statement that we love the Omaha Public School District.

Yes, the Omaha Public School District has their problems, they were not saying anything about taking over Millard.

Also, the T-shirts were a form of fund-raising for the pom squad and the pom squad needed the money because they were in debt.

They did not mean to make a political statement and it should not be taken that way, they were just showing district spirit.

It is not like the Omaha Public School District is getting anything about Millard's "Millard Forever" T-shirts. Millard does need to overreact over a T-shirt.

**Lyndsey Bulls (10)**

### Central regarded as the best

Dear Editor,  
I think Central High School is the greatest school in the world. I am glad to be a student in the greatest school in the world. It is full of great and fun opportunities. If you want to be successful in life, Central High School is the right place to be and your high school years.

**Corbin (9)**

### Academism needs to reverse

Dear Editor,  
I feel as though people focus on the problems of Central High School. The teachers and the lessons are excellent, but the problem with school is that there is no dedication anymore. Students who come to Central are not bringing Central up to the scores on academics. Central is known for being a party school, friends and etc. I am not saying that we should kick students out, but teachers should crack down on bad students, and the teachers should focus more on those who want to learn.

**Jonathan O'Neal (11)**

### Teachers' antagonism of students is wrong

Dear Editor,

I am a freshman and even though I am new to the high school thing, I know that teachers are not supposed to irritate their students by being sarcastic.

Now don't get me wrong. I know that if it's a teacher's class, he can do what he wants, but it is not right for him to push me off the ledge with sarcasm. Sometimes I feel as if the teachers are trying to make me or any other student cuss them out more than they are trying to teach us.

Even though I know you can't stop these acts, I would appreciate it if you brought them to the Central High staff members' attention.

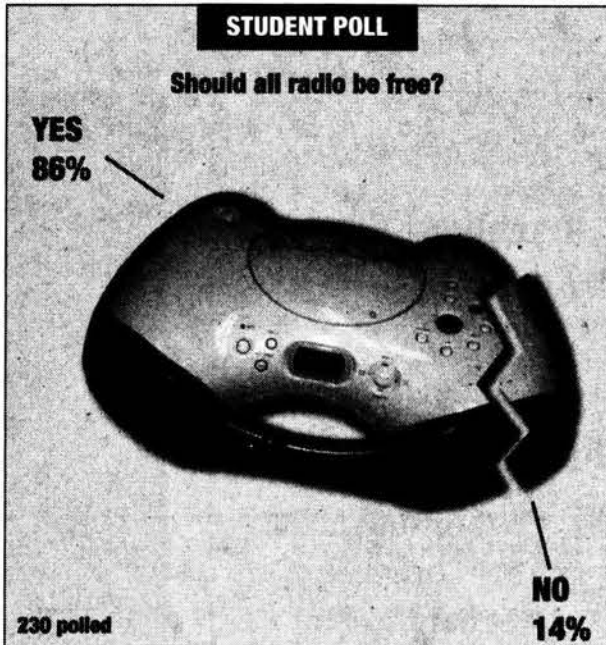
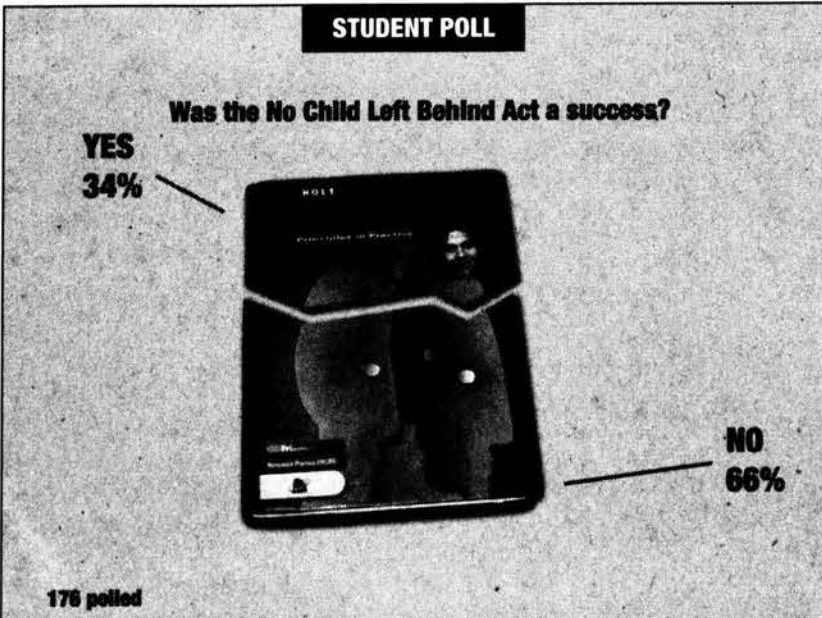
**Edward Pierce (9)**

### Art classes need more support

Dear Editor,

I think that we need more funding for the art programs. Central High School just got a multi-million dollar stadium and gym, but we do not even have markers in our Art 1-2 class. Sports will not pay for a future forever. More people in the arts programs get into college because of their talents and intelligence. High school should be the time to enhance our skills.

**Jessica Smolinski (9)**



### Early mornings restrict thinking

Dear Editor,

I think school starts too early. If it started later in the morning we would be able to think better. Also, the school lunches are disgusting, and they are not nutritious at all. We could get healthier lunches for the exact same price as the lunches they serve us now.

**Michelle Rieger (9)**

### Words are step backward

Dear Editor,

A few months ago there was an announcement about using the n-word. I notice it's not people using it in a derogatory way.

Quite a few years ago there was that thing called the Civil Rights Movement that they started to get things we kept them from. In the end, they're doing the same thing that happened so long ago.

**Laura Kraft (9)**

## REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Is there someone to blame for teenage obesity?



"McDonald's products. Fast foods because they put commercials out. Then, kids say they want to hang out there, instead of at the gym."

**José Peralta (9)**



"I think it's peer pressure. Boys and girls want to be like the people on T.V. It wears them out, so then they overeat."

**Sha'Niece Woods (11)**



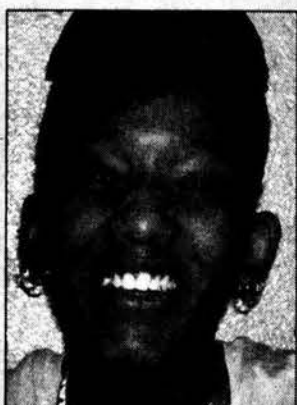
"No. It's a person's fault. No one forces you to eat the food."

**Cara Beck (10)**



"Themselves. They are not forced to eat that food."

**Michaela Bradley (11)**



"No. I don't know. It's the person's fault. But, I don't really know."

**Makayla Jenins (10)**





PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Junior Alex Fuhs tries to get the ball past Bellevue East's senior Amanda Cook. The Eagles made a good push in the second half, but lost due to turnovers.

## Attempted comeback fails in second half

BY CLAY LOMNETH

It was a game to end a tradition that lasted too long. Before, the Norris Middle School gym was used every Friday for as long as anyone could remember. Now, due to a Roadshow performance, it would be used one last time.

The girls said their goodbyes by playing No. 2 Bellevue East Feb. 4.

The Eagles lost the game 73-61 after another great second-half fight for the lead. The physically even-matched Eagles couldn't gain control of the game due in large part to the amount of turnovers.

Head coach Chad Townsend said there were over 20 turnovers in the entire game.

"It was back and forth, we had chances all night long," he said.

Bellevue East started off the game with two points by senior Jasmine Mosley. Mosley was a dominating force during the 1st and later on in the 4th period.

Back on Central's side, however, there was a basket put up by senior Cheryl Leffall, who ended up having a spectacular game with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

"That's probably my best performance all season," Leffall said.

Townsend said he hoped Leffall would continue to play like she did for the rest of the season, especially since the Eagles may see the Chieftains again.

The Eagles had no full-court press as they usually would have at this point. Instead of Townsend's usual style of an all-out defense all the time, they held back and met the Chieftains past the half-court line.

Townsend said he changed the Eagles' style to protect the basket from layups. He said they let a few layups by, but the majority of the shots were taken from outside the paint.

"We just decided to protect the basket," he said.

The Chieftains turned on the press, however, and scared the Eagles for a bit. Central looked a bit awkward for about two plays, until junior Jasmine Johnson found a way to get around the press.

With her speed and agility, the ball was on the Eagle's side of the court within seconds.

Overall, there were just too many turnovers for the Eagles. A little mistake gave it to the Chieftains and they usually capitalized on the opportunity.

"If we can limit turnovers we can win," Leffall said.

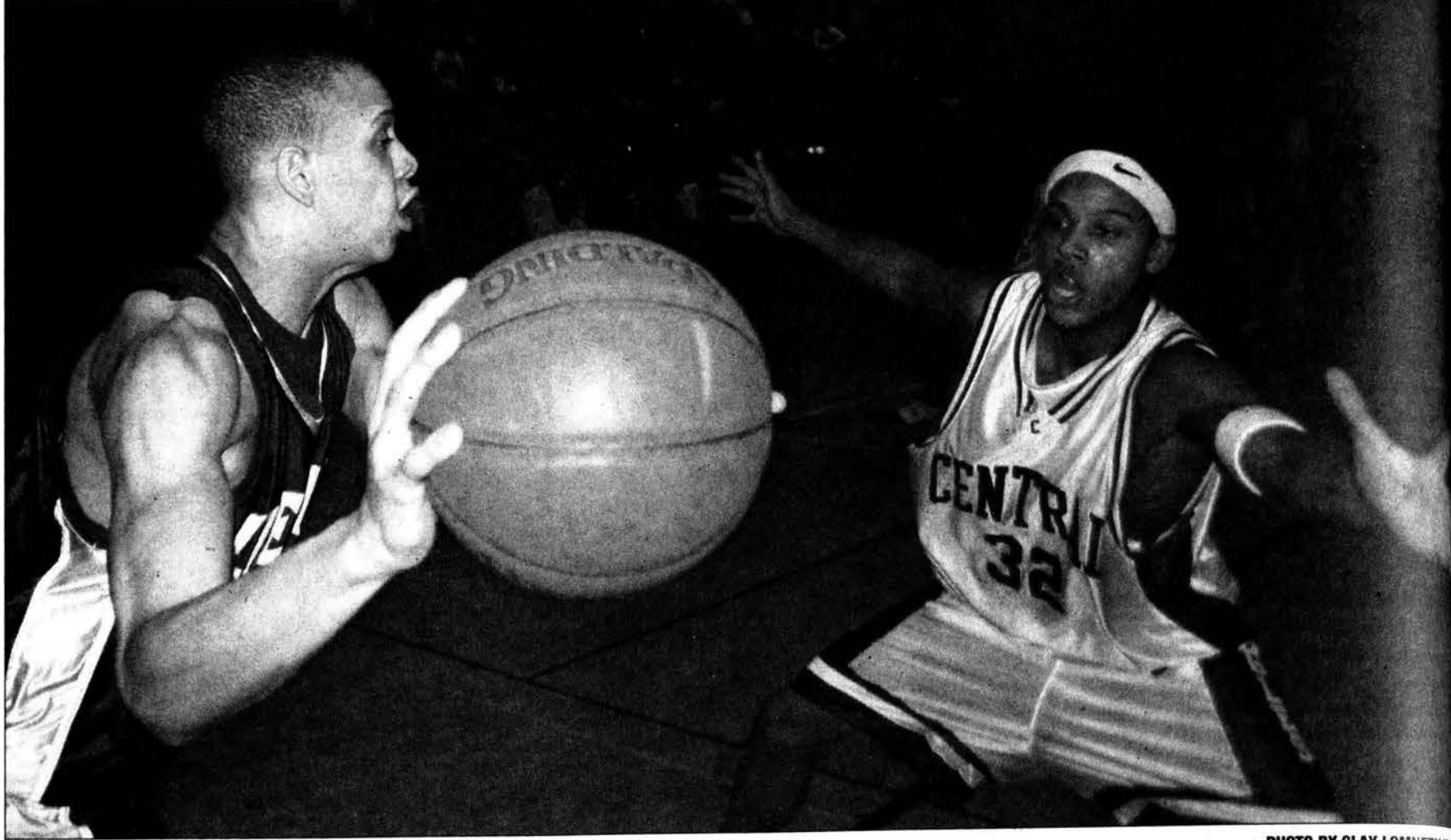


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Senior Rodney Grace blocks Bellevue East's sophomore John Robert Bryan from passing the ball to a teammate. The Eagles won the game, the last time they will play at Norris gym for home games, 68-50.

## Eagles say goodbye to Norris with a win

BY CLAY LOMNETH

From here on out, it would be only the Eagles' Nest.

The final home game at Norris Middle School took place Feb. 4, against the Bellevue East Chieftains. The Eagles left the old home gym victorious, 68-50.

The Eagles started off great, senior Rodney Grace got the game rolling by scoring within the first 15 seconds of the game.

He had a fantastic game as usual, with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

"I think my best game (earlier on) was 23 and 14 rebounds," he said.

The Eagles turned on the full-court press right away, but later head coach Eric Behrens changed up their style. They met the Chieftains at half court to keep them away from the paint.

The Chieftains took the lead after Grace's start, with their junior Ronell Cutler scoring

two 3-pointers in a row.

Through most of the game, a scoring battle took place between Cutler and Grace, some of the top scorers on both teams for the entire game.

Cutler's team came out on top for the first period, but just by one.

The score was 12-11 when the second started and Grace began another scoring streak.

A lot of the time, Grace was the only one to score two or three times in a row.

Everything was going right for Grace, he could get to the basket from anywhere within 15-foot radius of the paint.

"Any time I get the ball within the paint, I'm going to make it," Grace said.

Central really took the lead during the 2nd half. In addition to Grace's ball control, sophomore Josh Jones proved his worth from anywhere on the court, especially with a breakaway layup two and half minutes into

the period.

To start a threat in the 3rd period, Grace's impressive playing was joined by junior Ben Kline.

Grace said he was the one his teammates passed to the most because of his height advantage.

When the Eagles played the Chieftains last year, he said Bellevue East had a player even taller than him and that was a challenge.

This year, however, Grace towered over everyone on the court.

"They just kept getting the ball to me," he said.

By far the most interesting period, the third, almost turned into a Chieftain comeback.

"They cut it to three in the third quarter," Behrens said.

However, at the end of the third, the Eagles had again increased their lead. There were at a comfortable position with a 41-32

lead over the Chieftains. But, looking at them, the Eagles could see Bellevue East nipping at their heels.

The 4th period was just as intense as the third. Both teams played all out.

Bellevue East narrowed the score, but only managed to get within nine.

At the 1:54 mark, sophomore Leffall Wilson took a bad fall.

Wilson had been seeing some playing time in recent games and played a remarkable game. When he got up, with help from his teammates, the crowd could be heard yelling "Lorenzo for mayor."

With a 13-point lead at this point, the pace of the game actually started to slow down.

Chants began between the Central student section and the visiting crowd.

With the exception of a smooth shot by senior Bryant, Central at the very end was nothing else to see.

## New indoor stadium offers soccer team chance to grow

BY KIM BUCKLEY

No more trying play a real sport in a cage.

The boys soccer team is now playing in a new and bigger stadium so it's more like the soccer they're used to playing during the regular season. Indoor soccer, usually restrained by Plexiglass walls, now resembles the turf they're used to.

Now they can get ready for the spring season when there's still snow on the ground.

Co-captain and goalkeeper senior Daniel Susman said he helped organize the team with his co-captain and forward senior Kyle Samuelson.

"It keeps everybody in shape and helps us come together quickly, instead of in March," Samuelson said.

Susman said playing indoor soccer helps to keep the team sharp.

"In the winter, it's hard to play soccer outdoors, and the team is able to get together," Susman said.

Eight people play on the field during indoor soccer, as opposed to regular soccer which has 11 players on the field at

one time.

Susman said the team contacted the Indoor Soccer Center and paid for time it would use it. They boys chose to play at The Center at 104th and Giles streets.

"We just divided the cost between the players so each person had to pay \$40," Samuelson said.

He said there were no walls around the field in the center. Instead, nets separated the two fields.

"It's on a field turf, which is the same stuff as the stadium," Samuelson said.

Susman said he thought it was good for his younger teammates.

"It's a lot of fun," Susman said. "It's a good experience for the younger kids, too. I really enjoy it."

Boy's soccer coach Tim Herbert said because of a state athletic association rule, he wasn't allowed to coach the soccer team at indoor soccer.

He said he enjoyed watching indoor soccer as an observer.

"It gives me the opportunity to watch them play," Herbert said. "It also gives me the opportunity to watch some guys play

before the spring."

He said he thought indoor soccer helped the chemistry and unity as well as the overall physical fitness of the players.

Susman said freshmen were able to see what high school soccer was all about before diving into it in the spring.

He also said it showed the freshmen what the competition was like playing on the varsity level.

Freshman Mark David said playing indoor soccer was a good way to gain experience in the off-season, experience that would help him in the future.

"It's given me the opportunity to meet upperclassmen and make a name of myself as a freshman," he said.

David said Herbert sent him a letter in his first hour. He attended a meeting later that day and the coach explained what the season would be like and how fun of a league it would be to play in.

Interested, David signed up and has liked it since.

"It's pretty intense because there is only one ref and school kids take the game pretty seriously," David said.



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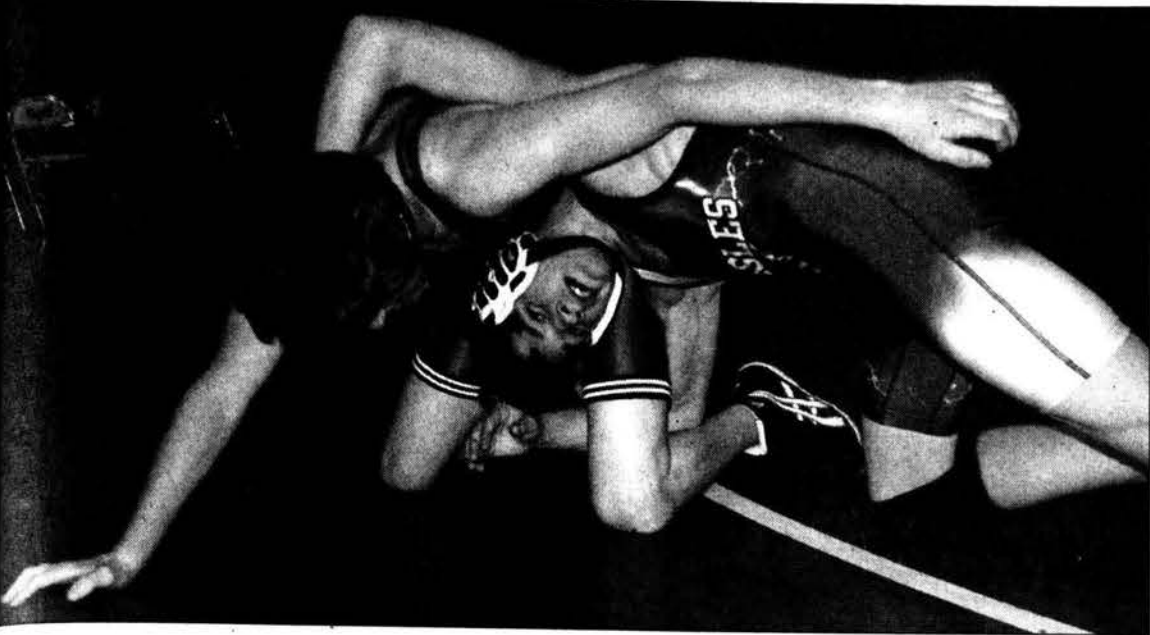
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# Forfeits cost Eagles key points at South duel



**Freshman Blake Cantrell gets a hold on South's Colin Riley. He was the star of the evening when the Eagles lost the duel due to lack of wrestlers, 54-39.**

PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The mats were taped to the floors and the fans were screaming at the top of their lungs.

At the South and Central wrestling duel, South won 54-39 due lack of wrestlers from Central.

The second match of the night, the 112-pound weight class, really set the stage for the rest of the night. A great match by freshman Blake Cantrell. He had a very quick attack right off the whistle and had him down on the mat within seconds.

Unfortunately, Cantrell couldn't keep Colin Riley down. Riley had a way of almost getting completely pinned and then he would struggle and escape Cantrell's grasp.

Riley made his way crawling toward the outside of the mat. At least then he would get a chance to start over again and try to escape from Cantrell's hold.

This seemed to be Riley's way of running out the clock, which seemed to work. Coach Jimmie Foster said there were not enough wrestlers to take on all of South's team.

The 140-pound weight class was the next one up. Junior AJ Wilwerding was up against Cody Vosler. Right off the bat, Wilwerding was taken down to the floor and Vosler tried to hook him with his leg to keep him down.

Wilwerding saw this coming and avoided the hook. Back up on their feet, Vosler made another move and ended up with a minor violation. Wilwerding had his chance to pin Vosler and he took it. After a brief struggle, he broke free again. Both wrestlers made attempts at tackling the other. Wilwerding eventually made the move and held Vosler until the referee said it was over.

In perhaps the fastest Central win of the night, senior Chuck Mulligan pinned and held his opponent in under 20 seconds.

"I have to go out confident every match," Mulligan said.

As a senior, Mulligan said his goals were to place at State, but that was what his goals always were.

"You always want to make a push for State no matter what grade you're in," he said.

One of the best wrestles of the matches took place at the 215-pound weight class. Freshmen Sam Almazan was set up against Zack Wilcox. Most of the time was spent with each wrestler slapping each other and trying to do a takedown every once in a while. The final match was the 275-pound class.

It ended as fast as the earlier Central win. South's Nick Wilcox was up against freshmen Josh Cowdery.

Cowdery put up a little struggle, but was pinned within 30 seconds.

## Brutality of rugby draws members

BY PATRICK BREEN

Bloody noses, broken bones and guaranteed bruises are the norm for the Omaha Public Schools Rugby Team, and the Central students who play on it can't wait, senior captain Ian Danielson said.

"It's just the reality of rugby," Danielson said. Junior Robert Dowd said the physicality of the sport was what made it fun and unique.

"After the first hit, you never really worry again," Dowd said.

Senior Nate Hall said at first he wasn't worried about injuries, but last year when he broke his collarbone and tore ligaments in his shoulders.

The team is looking forward to a good year, coach Tim Anderson said. The team calls themselves the Royals, because of the blue and white uniforms.

The Royals face at least seven opponents this year, and more if other teams can come together. Players said they hoped to improve on the 4th place finish they had last year.

Hall said this season would be different than last year, mainly because of what they can do.

"This season we can take it all, without a doubt," Hall said.

There are about 45 members playing rugby this year, and according to Anderson, there will be two teams. There are no tryouts for the lists of players.

"Anybody can play," Anderson said.

Dowd said all a rugby player needs is to be durable and have plenty of stamina. Dowd, a flanker on the team, said the team was getting a head start on the rest of the league by practicing two months before the others started to practice.

"We look pretty sloppy right now," Dowd said, "but practice is helping."

The team practices every Tuesday and Thursday at Storz complex, and conditions every Monday and Wednesday. For conditioning, the team runs three miles and lifts weights, so they can get in shape for the season. The players practice scrums, rucks, wide-kicks, pop passes, scissors, loops and off loading. The two months of practicing helps the new players with the rules and moves.

"I feel confident in the starting lineup," Dowd said.

At the practices, coaches Tim Anderson, Tim Kock and Sam Comfort instruct the team. All coaches were rugby players early in their career.

The games are also played at Storz field. Anderson said the field was changed from a soccer field to a rugby field because in the summer there was a mosquito problem. This was Tim Anderson's second season coaching the team, but he said he feels more confident than two years ago.

"We should do well this year," he said.

Games are free admission and the players encourage spectators from Central to come and cheer the team on.

"It's pretty interesting to watch," Danielson said, "unlike football, basketball, and soccer, it (rugby) never stops."

Other tough teams in the league this season are Sioux Falls and Lincoln, Hall said. The coach and players said they believe they have a very strong team this year.

Anderson said the team has several players returning for their third year, and senior leadership should be strong. The team is led by senior Ian Danielson, who is the captain of the Rugby team for the second year in a row. Another co-captain will be chosen before the season starts.

The team's star players include senior Ian Danielson, senior Ian Zimmer and junior Robert Dowd. All last year played on the Select Side team, which is made up of the best rugby players in the state of Nebraska. Zimmer, Danielson, and Dowd played in tournaments across the United States. Dowd said this year the all-state team is planning on going to Oregon, Maine and Colorado to win tournaments.

"Rugby is a sport that can take you across the world," Danielson said.

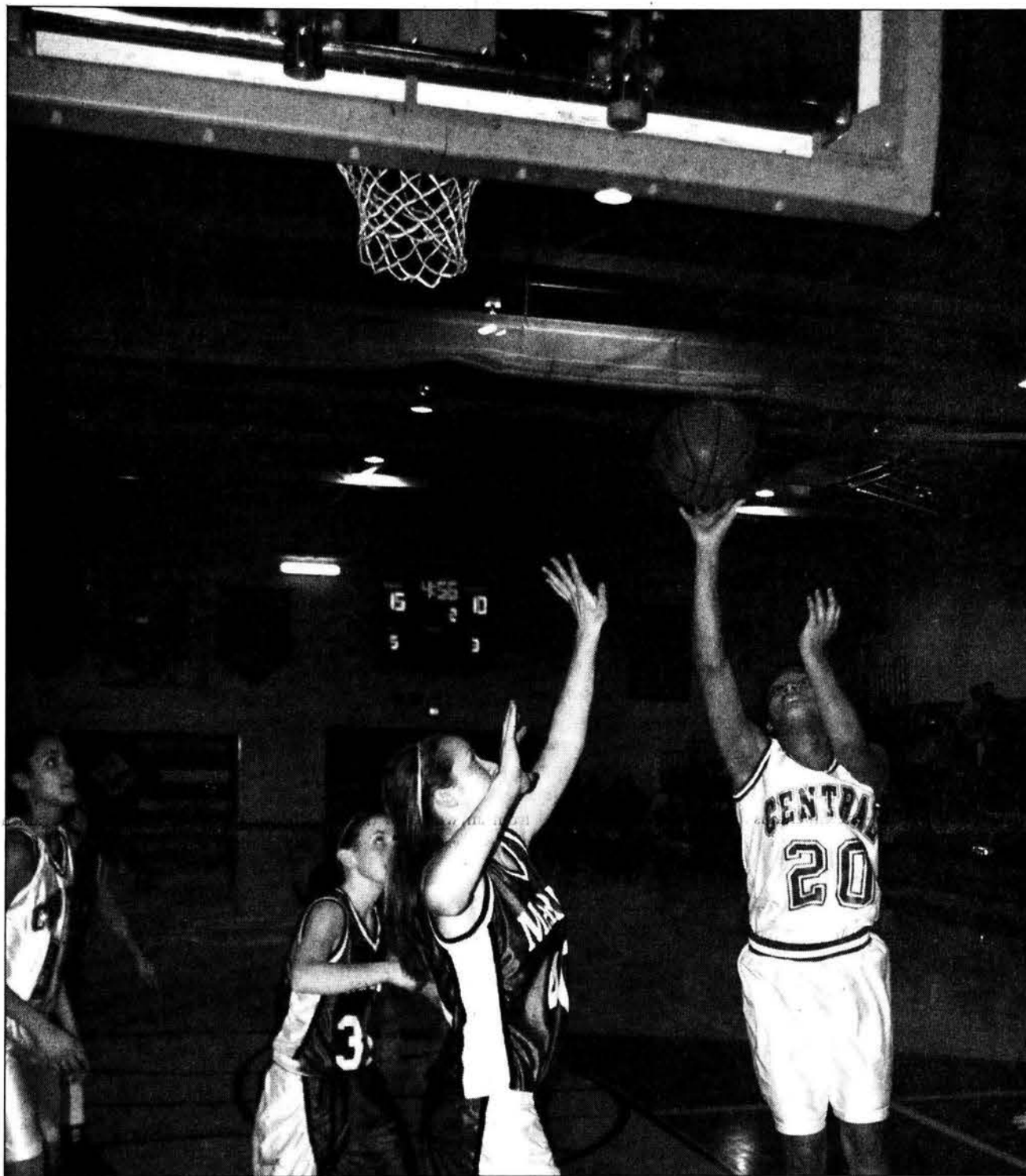
Despite the brutality of the sport, some players said major injuries like broken bones were uncommon and minor injuries didn't worry them.

"This year," Anderson said, "we are looking for new sponsorships." The team buys new jerseys each year and wears the royal blue and white.

Jerseys cost \$1,500 for a set of 22, Anderson said, and each jersey number corresponds to the players spot on the field.

Next season many starting seniors graduate and the team wants to recruit new people to play.

Hall and Danielson graduate this year, but Hall said he believes next year's team can pull together and play well.



**Freshman Jasmyn Flowers puts up the ball in the second quarter of the game against Marian. The Eagles kept clawing at the Crusader's heels for most of the game, but in the end lost 37-32.**

PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

## FEEDING THE PIPELINE

When the varsity coaches are looking for more starters, they look no further than the reserve basketball team

BY CLAY LOMNETH

In the machine that is varsity basketball, there is one main pipeline leading right into it. Its name is reserve basketball.

The reserve lady Eagles played the Marian Crusaders in a Jan. 31 game at home. Coached by Drue Weber, the Eagles put up a great fight and kept nipping at the heels of the Crusaders, who eventually won the game 37-32.

Marian won the tip to start the game, and Central's defense kept the Crusaders on the outside for a while as no shots went up from the lane. Sophomore Stephanie Hines was especially strong in this area. She used her height to keep away all shots from inside the paint.

The Crusaders had three chances right away to take the lead with free throws, but they were not able to capitalize on them. The shots bounced out and the Eagles took them back for two points.

Freshman Jasmyn Flowers was a key player in this part of the game. Her speed was unmatched on the court and she had a jump shot to threaten the tallest player from Marian.

The Crusaders, however, could still put up a fight. On defense they stole the ball before the Eagles could put it to good use. The steals gave them the opportunity to keep up with Central, and by the end of the 1st they barely trailed behind the Eagles, 8-6.

Right into the second the Eagles turned on the heat. Three baskets in a row told the Crusaders to back off. The Eagles started up full court press, but it was ineffective. Marian cut through the defense and got it to their side of the court. It seemed Marian was starting to make a comeback. It didn't matter what the score was, Marian was somehow improving.

"They really took it upon themselves (to keep playing)" Weber said.

Flowers kept playing her heart out until tragedy struck. Up for a breakaway layup, she collided with a Crusader and ended up clutching her knee on the ground. Flowers ended up tearing her anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament, taking

her out for the rest of the season.

The Eagles did not need this misfortune at this point in time. Freshman Cydney Dorsey saw it as a chance to step up her game and get some more shots, but the energy and zeal that Flowers offered was gone.

"When I got hurt, it really brought them down," she said.

Still, Flowers said, her teammates were talented enough to keep the game going despite the injury.

What appeared was a chance for Marian. At the start of the 3rd, the score was 20-19. Central was only down by a single point. With a whole half left, the game could easily go either way. There was a tension in gym and the coaches could not stay seated. The Eagles were having trouble holding onto the ball. A steal by Marian became expected each time Central had the ball, and a basket on the breakaway was almost guaranteed.

The light at the end of the tunnel, the 4th period, came up. Central had a whole period to make up only five points.

By the next timeout, however, the Crusader's sophomore Amanda Rickabaugh would have scored another basket. With 49 seconds left to go, Central had to kick it into high gear and fast. A fight over the ball with less than 30 seconds left did not help matters. Nobody could get their hands on the ball and it switched from Crusader to Eagle control until the referees called for a jump ball.

Marian had control and used it the best it could. Right away it got a chance to shoot for two and one went in. Central followed up with one free-throw out of two, but it was too late. The game was over, 37-33.

Next year, these players could be the varsity team. Weber said he didn't know how many of the players would go on to play at the next level.

"Hopefully all of them," he said. "We'd like all of them."

Flowers is one of those players who plans on coming back. She said she plans on making varsity next year.

"I didn't make varsity this year, and that's fine with me," she said. "I'd rather take my time and build up my skills."



**MOLDING THIS CLAY**

A Column by Clay Lomneth

## Stars can learn from high school

Instead of getting multi-million dollar contracts and endorsement opportunities, there's a load of history homework.

But we still have high school sports celebrities.

Back in grade school, nearly everyone was in a sport. No student fans went to games, so there wasn't anyone to say "Did you see David's touchdown last week?"

The glory that did take place on the field or on the court lasted until the next time out. Unless it was something really rare, like a right tackle making an interception, it was never ever mentioned at school. An incredible breakaway was never spoken of. There were no celebrities.

With high school, it's almost completely opposite. Everyone talks about that game Friday night. That 3-pointer that won the game is the talk of the water fountain.

The players are gods during games. Everyone knows who they are. They sometimes have their own personal cheers.

The crowd knows who is the best to give it to when the Eagles are down three points. We know the players' statistics and what colleges they are signed to.

What happened between grade and high school? When did we gain student celebrities?

It's not necessarily a bad thing. In a school the size of a small town, it adds to the atmosphere of a small city. The celebrity syndrome attaches to students in drama or in the Roadshow, too.

Here at Central, too, our celebrities are more down to earth. They are in our math classes and at other sports games off-season. They acknowledge us and we can approach them without asking for an autograph.

Soak it up. Are these the same people who on a professional level, get paid millions of dollars to complain about their paycheck and how tough steroid laws are these days.

Maybe it builds up. Maybe the special treatment increases until they become that snobby overpaid sneaker-endorsor.

I can't see it happening. I remember some of this year's star seniors as wide-eyed scared freshmen. Sitting in Pathways class, they knew nobody and were recognized by no one.

Maybe the public's tastes changed. Maybe they want younger and younger star players each year, until high schoolers will be better known than anyone in the NBA or NFL. The channels ESPN 17-34 will be dedicated to all high-school sports all the time.

The trend would continue down to Little-League sports. Children would get signed at 7, then kept alone on a field or a court to practice 24/7. Their parents would watch them from behind mirrored glass and yell instructions as their child practiced free-throws for eight months straight.

A downward spiral would continue. Women would conceive children for the sole purpose of making them the next invincible athlete. Highlight clips would be played to the child in the womb. Cloned John Maddens would serve as nannies for all the toddlers.

Or maybe our high school athletes are what professional athletes should be and how they should act. They should be the person you can say "hi" to as you pass them in the hall. They should be the ones you can chat with about the next game. They should be as respectable as they are now.



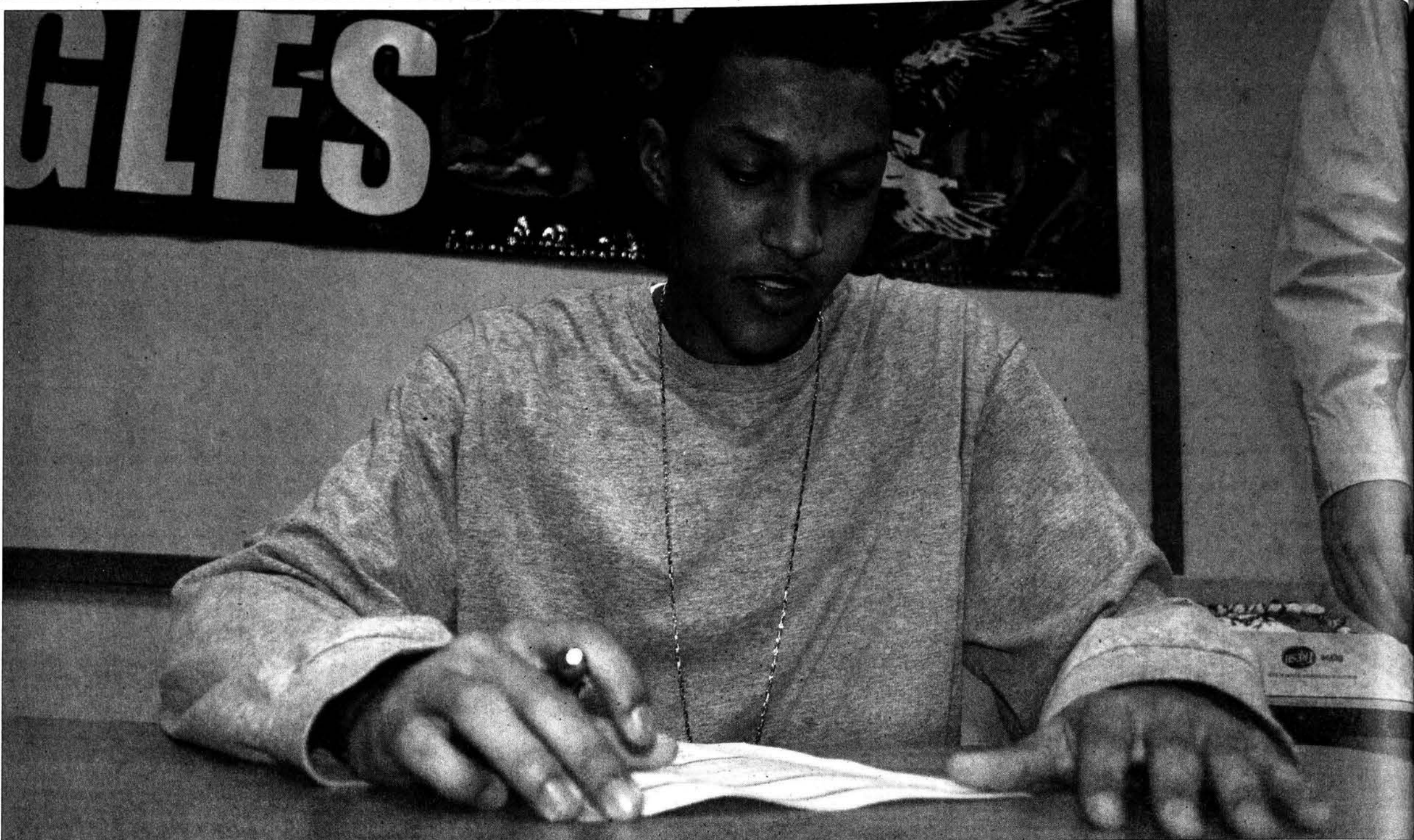


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMINETH/REGISTER

Senior Bryant Cotton signs a letter of intent to Butler Community College. He made the choice to live in Omaha when his grandparents moved to St. Louis in September. Cotton said he has had an interest in baseball since age of 9, when his grandfather used to practice with him in the backyard.

## Senior determined to play for Eagles despite obstacles

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Senior Bryant Cotton will look across the baseball field this spring with an all-tuition scholarship to Butler Community College, an 87-mile per hour pitch and a leadership position under his belt.

But all his accomplishments this season might still be a little bittersweet for Cotton, because when he looks into the stands, his two main supporters will not be watching for the first time in his baseball career.

His grandmother and grandfather moved to St. Louis in September because of his grandfather's job and Cotton is now living with teammate senior Kyle Judevine.

Cotton's grandfather was the one who got him interested in baseball when he was 9. He never knew his father and didn't know much of his mother either.

His grandparents raised him, and said his grandfather was pretty much his dad.

"We would always go in the backyard and play," Cotton said.

He said living here without them is hard, but he said he had to look at it like it was preparing him for college.

"I'm happy I'm here, but I wish I could be with them," he said. "I miss them a lot. It will be weird not having someone in the stands."

Either way, he said his grandfather was proud of him.

"He's happy to see me do this," Cotton said. "He left it up to me, though."

When he was younger his grandfather would make most of his decisions for him, but now he's treating him like an adult.

The opportunity to attend a junior college was one Cotton took seriously.

He said although he would have the opportunity to go to a Div. I school, he wanted to soak up playing time and also time to develop himself.

After two years at Butler he said he will be looking to attend a Div. I school.

Regy Cotton, Bryant's grandfather, said he will be looking for time off in the spring to come up and see Bryant play.

"I check the web site," Regy said. "I'm just waiting for them to post the schedule."

He said moving was hard, but because Bryant was a focused and mentally matured student and athlete, it would not negatively affect him in the classroom or on the ball field.

Regy was happy to see Bryant play.

"I love the game and I was glad to pass my passion down to him," he said. "It's the fairest game. You don't have to be 300 pounds, or 7 ft. tall. If you understand the game you can do well."

He played when he was younger until he hurt his arm, but he never lost his love for the game.

Bryant has a good circle of motivation, Regy said. He said he and his wife call Bryant a few times a day and keep in contact with other players' parents.

Butler Community College is in El Dorado, Kan. and Bryant was offered a scholarship that paid for tuition and books.

Butler Community College assistant baseball coach Rob Morrissey said Bryant was a perfect recruit for the school.

"He's a 6'4" outfielder with a good arm," he said. "It was a no brainer."

He said his attitude was something to look for as well because he was committed to pushing himself.

Morrissey said they had been talking for three months prior to the signing.

Varsity baseball coach Scott Hodges said playing at a community college would offer Bryant more of an opportunity to play early.

Cotton's success was also a sign of where the baseball program has come in the past five years, he said.

Four years ago the team only had two players continue in college.

Cotton was the third yet this year, and the season hasn't even started, yet.

He said Bryant had a lot of good attributes.

"They would benefit to play him," he said. "He has a light arm and understands the game."

Hodges said playing on the junior college level would help him develop fast.

"He's not very physically mature," he said. "This will give him an opportunity to gain muscle and focus strictly on baseball."

Bryant said Hodges has been a real role model for him throughout high school.

"He is like one of my fathers here," he said. "He looks after me and won't let me settle for anything less. He'll be the first one to tell me to work harder."

He said he's grateful for the coach and team. "If it wasn't for baseball I'd be down there (in St. Louis) right now," he said.

Hodges gave Bryant the opportunity to act as a leader this season.

"I try to be a leader, when they (his

teammates) want to listen," he said.

After the seniors graduated last year he's trying to emulate what they did.

"I want to be the person they look up to," Bryant said. "I hope they know that."

Senior Bryan Benes said Bryant was responsible for all the summer's big wins.

"He got us that victory against M. North," he said.

He said playing with him has been part of the entire team.

"He's my number one man," he said. "He succeeds he makes everyone else want to."

Bryant said he liked living with Judevine.

Judevine said they were going to take team to State together.

"This year we have nine seniors coming," Judevine said. "We may have lost some good guys, but Millard and Ralston lost good guys, too."

He said they both wanted to win it all year, and had the talent to do so.

Cotton said Judevine is his best friend. His parents knew Bryant's grandparents.

"They (Judevine's parents) were campaigning to get me to stay," Cotton said.

He said he could tell the entire team wanted him to play for the Eagles.

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# Old tale gets revamped to scare younger audiences

## MOVIE REVIEW

**'WHEN A STRANGER CALLS'**  
Starring: Camilla Belle

BY BETSY WALLACE

Successfully recreating a movie proves to be quite the challenge in today's entertainment industry.

So, recreating a horror film and keeping it viable must take superior talent and a clever director. Director Simon West exhibited his skill in the thriller "When a Stranger Calls," a remake of the 1979 film by Steve Feke.

Jill Johnson, played by Camilla Belle, was left off-guard when a night of watching television turned into a nightmare game of cat and mouse. Running from room to room became a theme in this spine-chilling film.

A sky-high phone bill kept Johnson from attending a night party. She instead found herself locked in for a month.

With her newly opened schedule, she spent Friday night baby sitting for a wealthy couple. The couple's enormous house proved that there was plenty of room for herself, the housekeeper, two children and one unwelcome guest.

The children were sick and asleep in bed, the housekeeper was nowhere to be found, the door



Jill Johnson, played by Camilla Belle, is running from the stalker after a frightening encounter. Suspenseful background music made this one of the most terrifying parts of the movie.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCREEN GEMS

locked and the alarm was set. The house was quiet as Johnson killed time by exploring large closets and unfamiliar rooms.

The tranquil night was quickly interrupted by a series of eerie phone calls and deceiving,

threatening noises.

Phone calls from an unknown caller persisted through the night. The phone rang, the burglar alarm sounded, the phone rang, the sprinklers in the greenhouse suddenly went on. Another

phone call was followed by rumbling sounds from behind a door.

The call was traced and Johnson's state of fear quickly rose to a state of panic. The call had been coming from inside the home.

"Have you checked the children?" The alarming climax of the film was suspenseful enough to raise a viewer's blood pressure.

Danger lurked around every corner, inside every cabinet and behind every window and door. The plot took crazy and unexpected turns.

One minute the housekeeper was feeding the fish and in the blink of an eye she vanished from the scene. Surprise encounters kept the audience on their toes.

Impending danger was outstandingly emphasized by a looming sound track and suspense-inducing cinematography.

Camera effects made the screenplay believable and utterly terrifying. The sound track, which consisted of booming percussion and high-pitched stringed instruments, greatly intensified the climax of Johnson's night.

The camera rolled behind Johnson as the young baby sitter dashed from the stalker, which kept the audience still in fear.

"When a Stranger Calls" went against the grain. Unlike many cliché horror films, this movie was not a gory murder mystery nor a tale of risen zombies. It captured audiences with deceiving and unpredictable happenings.

"When a Stranger Calls" left weak attempts for special effects to movies like "Friday the 13th."

Camilla Belle's captivating performance made Johnson's traumatic experiences relatable, especially for teenage viewers. Baby sitters will be chilled and forever subjected to paranoia.

# Lifelong artist finally begins selling his work at shows

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

Freshman Winslow Dumaine truly believes in the saying "Every man tells a story."

Dumaine does photography, and he said he writes a story to go along with every piece of art. He said he is creating a message and releasing it. Dumaine, also known as Winslow 404, has been into art his whole life. Only in the past year and a half that he has actually expressed himself through art.

He had his first opening in December at the Meeting Place in the Market. He said it went really well, and that he's very pleased with many pieces he sold.

"I sold about \$300 worth of art, and around 120 people showed up," Dumaine said. "I only have five pieces yet to be sold."

He chose his nickname, Winslow 404, to be something more permanent. He didn't want to use his first and last name, so he just chose to go along with his first name. He said his nickname comes from computer religions and holy numbers.

"Now that I'm done with my first art show, I can move on to other things," Dumaine said.

He said he started working on a book before Winter Break.

"Books have a wider spectrum than photos and stories," Dumaine said. "so that'll take more time."

Winslow's mother, Caryl Dumaine, thought her son's art was at a level. She said since he started attending Central he did a lot more and showed more interest.

"I think he was more sheltered at St. Cecilia's," Caryl said.

Winslow attended St. Cecilia's for kindergarten through 8th grade. He said he couldn't really express his art there.

He said administrators burned one piece of his art dealing with a representation of the United States. He said he included photos of Iraqi prisons and they were offended. Winslow said the censorship was so bad he could barely do anything. He said it was easy to make his teachers there angry, and he liked to make them squirm.

Winslow said he liked public school because it's not so secure. He felt he could express himself more freely now without worrying about offending everyone. He said his parents were very proud of what he was doing. He said he doesn't show them every single thing he makes just in case they take it the wrong way, but if they come across it, they never took any art away from him.

"I don't hide anything from my parents, and they like that," he said.

Caryl said ever since Winslow was little, he was different. She also said he has a way with language as well as photos.

"He has a really active imagination and he perceives things differently than most of the kids his age," Caryl said, "so when he was little I would run interference."

Winslow also said his friends were pretty supportive as well.

"My friends are basically divided into two groups," he said. "One group is like a faucet, and they want to almost follow in my lead. The other group is like the drain, and they just take it all in."

He said he was creating art while he still could. He also said it's not a matter of attention, but more that his art gets recognized.

"I'm not giving myself attention, but I'm bringing attention to my art," Winslow said.

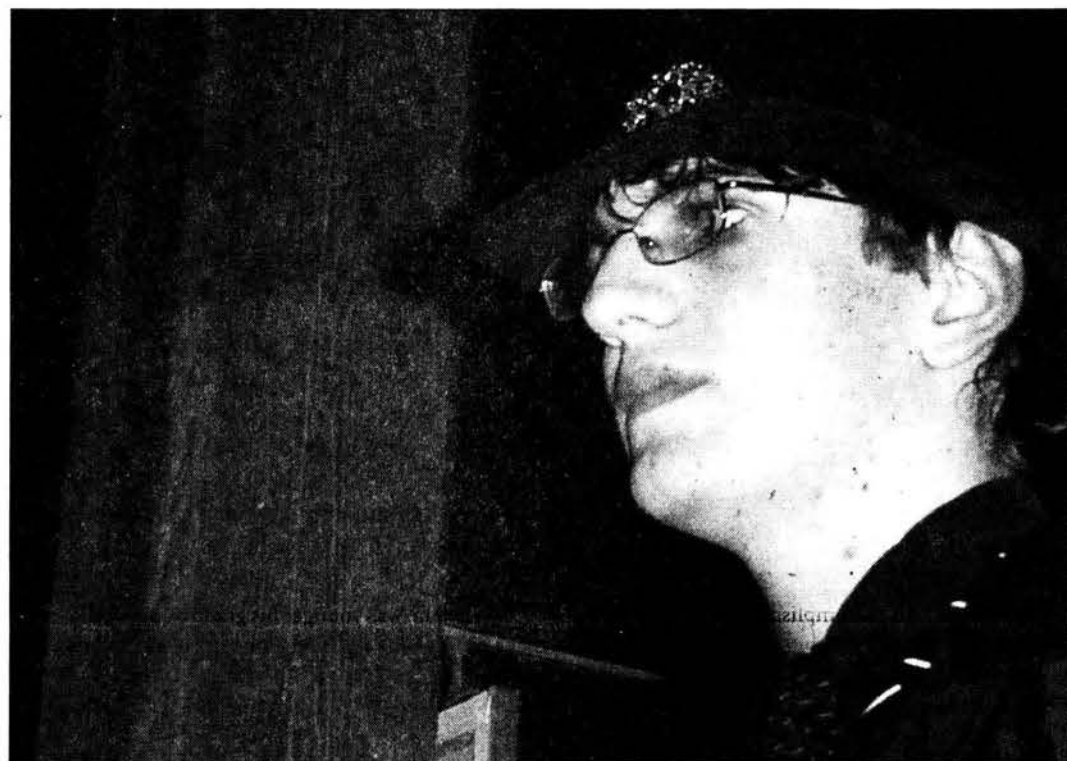


PHOTO BY EMMA PHILLIPS/REGISTER

Freshman Winslow Dumaine put on his first art exhibit at the Meeting Place showing his skills at both photography and storytelling. Dumaine said he was starting a book.

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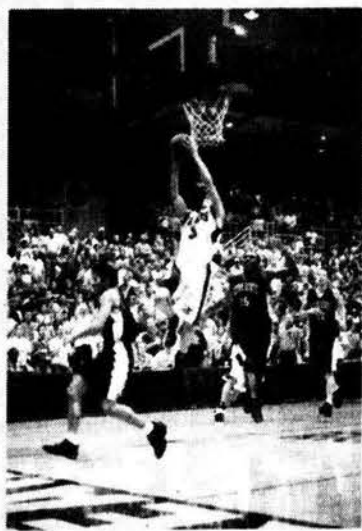
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## MORE THAN A TALENT SHOW

From bagpipers to band members, this year's show was full of unique acts with students doing what they're best at.



PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

(ABOVE) Senior Natalie McClellan practices singing her solo in "Seasons of Love," a vocal act from the musical "Rent." The act was the finale for the show, and had a student draw because of the recent film made of the musical. (BELOW) Senior Michael Greenberg looks on from his drum set during rehearsal. (FILMSTRIP TO LEFT, FROM TOP) Junior Aimee Koenig plays piano during the Jazz Band's performance. Junior Israel Pommells plays drums during the same performance. Playing a song they wrote together, Greenberg and senior Jennifer Castello perform on stage. Staff accompanist Lisa Linenberger assists A Cappella during the opening of Act II. Senior Andrew Haskins plays the trombone. Sophomore Adrienne Anderson and seniors Timothy Battafarano and Stephanie Christensen perform a song from the musical "Chicago." Senior Lindsey Gault sings during one of the last performances in Act II. Sophomore Kevin Mitchell plays the bagpipes. During the Jazz Band's performance, sophomore Will Robbins plays upright bass. Senior Joe Iwen plays the horn in the second act.

## Roadshow formula continues to entertain

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

There were some familiar faces in the Roadshow this year—students who were no strangers to the stage, and some who made their presences known behind the scenes as well. A few performers were involved in more than five acts.

"There are people that step forward because they love the Roadshow," director John Gibson said. "There is a group of people that come and do their thing and the time they do it is during Roadshow."

This year, the 92nd annual performance saw the return of dozens of Roadshow veterans, including current students who have been in the show in the past, as well as alumni who came back to judge tryouts.

"As you get more experienced, as you get better...it's sort of like the family passing down history to the family passing down history," he said. "Some of them have been in it for four years."

Although this year was not a banner year for the Roadshow, like the 90th or the 75th anniversary performances, the Feb. 3 and

4 shows featured two subtle themes: "Under the C" and "One City, One School, One Roadshow."

The "One Roadshow" theme was thought up by music department head Pete Wilger before the immense criticism surrounding the One City, One School District plan took hold.

The original idea was to tie Roadshow in to the school district's plan to annex other district within the city.

"Had we been able to not have it turn in to a political rahoo, it would have been fun to explore," Gibson said. "It really never did go anywhere. 'Under the C' was the main theme."

The idea was a play on words, to incorporate the auditorium's location with the vision of an ocean. Two acts, "Neptune" and "Under the Sea" fit the theme well.

Not everything fit the theme, and went into a bit of a retro twist. The finale was one of them, a song from the hit musical and movie "Rent."

Senior Erik Frey, president of the Mens Chorus, was concerned that the Roadshow was too similar to those of previous years. He thought this redundancy took away from the acts themselves, some of which he said were spectacular.



"It felt like a rerun," he said. "It felt like I was watching 'Rent' at 10 o'clock at night...the Roadshow has a formula."

Gibson said the younger students, many of who were new to the stage, provided a fresh look to the show by blending their perspectives with those of returning performers.

## Diversified skits make students stars of stage

BY CLAIRE ANDERSON

Talented musicians really defined the 2006 Roadshow. Performances by the Band, Drumline, Jazz Band and some individual acts showed off a mature but fun side of the instrumental music department.

Also saxophone player senior Radell Young stole the show after he lit up Act II in numerous performances.

Young definitely wasn't shy about showing off his smooth style and skill in pieces like jazz band's "It's About Swing" and a five part number "Cantaloupe Island."

Young captured the heart of his audience with a personality that made the only thing

separating him as a high school band student from a professional jazz musician in a downtown Chicago nightclub, was the fact that he wasn't getting paid.

Drumline's haunting but upbeat performance of "Neptune" also had the entire audience's ears and eyes wide open with anticipation, before the piece even started.

In a rush of sound the music quickly picked up and exploded with an intensity that filled the entire auditorium and left audience members with chills as Drumline lingered off stage eerily as the closure piece of the

first act.

Even with so many bodies on and off stage, the Band didn't let quantity override the quality of what was obviously a well-rehearsed strong piece.

Light feel-good pieces like "The Little Mermaid" and "Rockin' Me Baby" showed a more laid-back side of the vocal music department. However, the pieces did lack the volume that would have

taken them to the next level. CHS singers and A Cappella's acts both showed emotion and character that made long songs like "The Manhattan Transfer in Concert"

an easy listen.

There were only two dance acts this year, neither of which lived up to last year's "The" which was a pretty hard act to top.

With an exception of "Our Favorite Song" dances lacked character and energy.

The Roadshow this year really showed students' talent and work ethic that was obvious in every piece.

Singers, actors and musicians especially gave a personality to their work that set them apart from other high school variety shows.

Senior Natalie McClellan's powerful finale "Seasons of Love" really ended the Roadshow on a high note.

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW



'ROADSHOW 2006'  
Directed by: John Gibson

## Junior sees underground shop attendants in Old Market as different species

Basements are traditionally damp and poorly lit holes under houses or businesses, built mainly as a place to store grain or where to run when a tornado strikes. Of course people have come up with ways to utilize this seemingly useless space.

Several shops in the Old Market have merchandise located in their musty and humid cellars. The basements themselves are not what draw me to the store, rather the type of person typically employed there.

Entering the basement of a store is really an experience in and of itself. My favorite part is the placing my foot on the first step. Usually it is creaky and covered in dust. Once a few steps have been taken, I put my hand on the banister and hope I don't pick up any slivers as I slide my palm along the wooden surface.

About halfway down the stair case, I begin to inhale the distinct basement smell, it's either slightly chemically due to a half hearted attempt at cleaning, or so musty it stings to inhale.

After entering the room it is easy to pick out the employee. They are inevitably slouched in the corner behind a counter, or sitting on the floor talking to their friend who has decided to spend the day helping to make sure customer service is poor.

In my experience the cashier will usually either totally ignore my presence altogether or briefly glance in my direction. I think these characteristics are almost exclusive to the basement people. I'm sure there are sullen workers everywhere, but somehow the people who work on the main level businesses are held to a higher standard than the employees who mainly work underground.

The few times I have dared to buy something from one of these people the experience has been the same: they are

irritated because I forced them out of their stupor and I'm uncomfortable because I'm sure they're judging me based on my purchases.



OPAQUE RAINBOW

A Column by Emma Phillips

After I have selected what I wish to buy, I stand at the counter nervously drawing pictures in the dust until the cashier can bother to exert the effort to pull himself up to a standing position. After the initial goal of standing has been accomplished, he must undertake the formidable task of shuffling to stand before the cash register.

After his long and arduous journey, the cashier is tired which makes it very difficult to speak clearly. After examining what I placed before him, he will undoubtedly run his fingers through his hair and mumble something. After two or three unsuccessful attempts

to articulate himself to the point where I can recognize the language he is speaking as English, he will rest his hands on the counter and stare at me, quite possibly the stupidest person I have ever seen, through his hair.

After apparently counting to 10, he will repeat himself once more, enunciating the words so sharply they hit me like shards of glass. After shifting all his weight to one leg, he'll stare blankly at the ceiling until I slide the money across the counter to him.

Once he's finally printed off my receipt, I'll grab it gratefully and he'll shuffle back to his nest to continue whatever he was so engaged with before I interrupted his musings.

Every time I venture into a basement shop like this, I always look at it like a competition. The employees win if they too intimidated of them to buy anything and I win if I manage to make it out with both something new and my dignity still intact. It's a constant battle.