

Movie based off video game more thrilling on Play Station.  
See review page 8A.

THURSDAY  
May 25, 2006

# the Central High School REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER  
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PHOTOS BY ZACH PLUHACEK AND KIM BUCKLEY/REGISTER

1. Students protest the Legislative Bill 1024 outside Central the same day a pro-Omaha Public Schools (OPS) rally was held. 2. One of the rally organizers Daniel (class of 2004) introduces speakers at the rally. Students from every OPS school spoke about their experiences in the district. 3. Northwest junior Justin Solomon speaks to the hundreds of OPS students who showed up for the rally. He spoke about unifying students from all schools in OPS.

## Mackiel chooses principal

### Superintendent makes final decision after many interviews

BY KIM BUCKLEY

After weeks of interviewing, guesses and rumors, a new man person be in charge of Central. McMillan Principal Greg Emmel will be the one to lead the school next year.

"The first thing I need to do is get to know and meet the students and the staff, and get acclimated with the school," Emmel said.

He said over the summer, he and current Principal Jerry Bexten will be spending time together during the transition, and to help him learn about Central. He also said he will be doing the same thing at McMillan with his replacement.

"Ever since I left Northwest, I've kind of always had it in the back of my mind that I may have an opportunity to return to a high school," Emmel said.

He said he really had fun at Northwest, and he found high-school activities exciting. He said he enjoyed spending time with the older students.

He said one difference between being a principal at a high school as opposed to a middle school was he expected there to be a lot more events and activities to participate in and attend, and a lot bigger challenge with such a huge school.

Emmel said the principal position was open and he was aware Central was an outstanding high school as well as being the biggest in the state.

He also said it had a great reputation in academics, athletics and activities, so he thought it would be a good fit for him.

"What an exciting opportunity," Emmel said. He said he always loved being a high school student. He looked into teaching as a possible career, and the thought went with him through college. That, he said, and there were few things to do with degrees in English and history.

"I love seeing students learn and teachers teach," Emmel said.

He said when he found out he had been picked as the new principal he was excited.

He said he would miss the students and staff at McMillan, but he was excited about the opportunity to meet and work with all of the students, staff, parents and alumni of Central.

He said he would be challenged to maintain the school's reputation as one of the top high schools in the state.

"It's a great challenge and opportunity," Emmel said.

Emmel has spent 28 years in the Omaha Public Schools system so far.

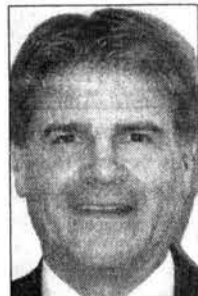
He graduated from Augustana College in his hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He also received two degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Before becoming principal of McMillan, he was a Language Arts and Social Studies teacher at Monroe Junior High for over nine years, and coached the girls volleyball and basketball teams.

After that Emmel was a student personal assistant in the student and community services department.

He then spent 10 years as an assistant principal at Northwest High School where he received his love of the high school atmosphere.

After that, Emmel moved on to McMillan, and will leave for Central after being principal of McMillan



EMMEL

# The R word

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has recently been getting national attention. Some people think the **race** issue being discussed is shedding a bad light on the city.

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Students and alumni from every high school in OPS appeared on Central's south lawn to show their unity, just one day after the Legislature passed a bill to split them apart.

On April 14, an estimated 400 people attended a rally in support of the district, arriving in bus loads shortly after school was released. As the group began to swell in numbers, protestors of Nebraska Legislative Bill 1024 lined up along Dodge Street with signs reading "segregation is unlawful" and "nobody asked our opinion."

The bill, which breaks OPS into three separate districts based on the high schools' attendance areas, is considered state-sponsored segregation by many of its opponents.

They say the resulting districts will be racially isolated: one going to a primarily black population, one to a mostly Hispanic population and one to an area with predominately white students.

Senior Sopnil Bhattarai was one student

at the rally. His opinion echoed many of those present.

"This is crazy," Bhattarai said. "Why do they want to change something that already is the way it should be?"

State Sen. Ron Raikes, the chair of the Legislature's education committee, was responsible for proposing LB 1024 in its original state, which calls for the creation of a "learning community," a collective of Douglas and Sarpy County school districts.

The concept of splitting OPS into three was part of a later amendment to the bill, sponsored by Raikes and Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha.

Raikes and Chambers see the bill not as a final solution, but as a motive for change in the Omaha area.

"School district boundaries...mean much less in the learning community," Raikes said during legislative hearings on the bill. "We are not imposing on ourselves at this point, coming up with a final solution to every single detail."

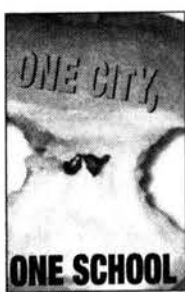
Still, OPS officials feel the move is a turn away from their original goals with the June 6, 2005 One City, One School District resolution.

As far back as last summer and the beginning of the school year, OPS officials were discussing the need for more integration and diversity throughout the city. Now, they say, the problem is only being made worse.

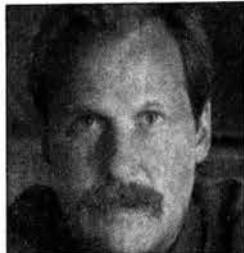
"Separate is not equal, and that is what has been allowed to occur in this community," said OPS Board of Education president Sandra Kostos Jenson, who spoke before a small crowd at Lewis and Clark last October.

The school board has managed to produce four possible plans to fit with the new law, all of which they say would still segregate schools in Omaha.

That plan would move one elementary school to a different attendance area, which could be considered a violation of LB 1024.



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## Navy Seals test willing P.E. classes

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Sighing and panting, red-faced and shaky, a few dozen students sat in the new weight room after pushing their physical strength to its limit.

The volunteers had spent the last half hour maxing-out on sit-ups, push-ups and chin-ups as part of the school's first Navy Seal Challenge, a competitive physical fitness examination with exercises that are part of the actual U.S. Navy screening test. These students chose to endure a grueling period, instead of the usual workout in P.E. classes.

According to iHigh, a national organization that specializes in networking and marketing at the high school level, this was something the students would not only enjoy, but also a valuable opportunity for the Navy to scope out some potential recruits.

Patrick Proffitt, the iHigh representative assigned to Central, said the company used research conducted on its website to serve its clients. For this particular situation, the Navy gave Proffitt a list of the schools in Omaha he should attend.

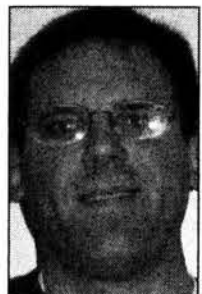
"It gives the recruiter a chance to look at the kids and see who would be a good fit for the Navy," he said.

Both male and female students who participated filled out brief information cards with their contact information, grade levels and grade point averages.

## Research leads class to find WWII alums

BY JARED SPENCE

Social Studies teacher Scott Wilson's American History classes dug deep for their research project this year. Wilson and his class put together biographies of Central graduates who served in World War



WILSON

II. The class found out that there were 79 students from Central who were killed in WWII. Wilson said he thought it would be a good project for his AP class.

He and his students wrote to the government and the national archives, as well as contacting family members and friends of the war victims to retrieve information. Wilson's goal for this project is to compile the biographies from all 79 soldiers over the next few years. The class found it interesting that Central students were scattered all over the world.

Wilson said the realization of the fact that these were real people who were killed and the emotional impact of losing a family member was brought to attention.

"The sacrifice that Central High made to the war effort was amazing," Wilson said.

He said he hopes to add to the history of Central and the community, as well as to enrich Central traditions.

# CALENDAR



PHOTO BY EMMA PHILLIPS/REGISTER

Sophomore Briana Armendariz talks about the awards other cadets have received in the past and awards she received at a recent May 3 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) ceremony. Armendariz joined JROTC after hearing about it through one of her neighbors.

## Cadet earns award for leadership skills

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

Lt. Col. Mike Melvin said he thought sophomore Briana Armendariz was one of the students in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) who showed particular work ethic and motivation to be all she could be this year.

"She's very dedicated and extremely hard working," he said.

It paid off.

Melvin said this was the reason Armendariz was recognized at a JROTC awards ceremony on May 3.

Armendariz said she was introduced to the idea of JROTC through one of her neighbors who had been involved in the program when they were in high school.

She said her neighbor told her the program was a good way to make friends, and she was curious about it.

"There's something about it that intrigued me," she said.

Sgt. Maj. Dwaine Sutter had Armendariz in his

freshmen JROTC class and said he was able to see her potential to achieve in the program early in her high school career.

"Briana has a sense of responsibility," he said.

He said he was able to see Armendariz's dedication to the program through how serious she took her responsibilities over other cadets and how when she set a goal she pursued it without compromise.

Melvin said the leadership he had seen Armendariz exhibit wasn't something he thought would go away.

He said leadership was not momentary and a person who wanted to be in charge of other people would always want to, and would work to maintain it.

He also said it had been interesting to watch Armendariz develop through the time she spent in JROTC.

"She's developed techniques and traits," he said.

Melvin said he thought one of the reasons the other cadets respected Armendariz was because it was easy for people to see she was able to take charge of a situation and she had the ability to direct people well.

"You can tell she's a leader," he said.

Armendariz said she thought her natural leadership skills and the ones she learned and developed while in JROTC would be very beneficial to her later in her life.

"Learning how to take leadership roles and how to perfect them is going to help me in college and the work force," she said.

Armendariz said she thought the reason both her and the program were able to perform well this year was because of the students involved.

She said the new freshmen who joined the program this year were very dedicated and gelled well with the veteran cadets.

Armendariz said seeing where other students are in the ranks motivated her to try her best to attain similar positions.

Armendariz said what she liked most about the ceremony was getting her awards in a situation where she could be around her peers.

"It's nice to walk up on stage and be recognized by fellow cadets," Armendariz said.

## Upcoming Events

### June

#### 2 MG football camp

MG Contracting and Design will now be sponsoring the camp instead of Outback Steakhouse. All those looking to go out for football in 2006 can attend the camp. The conditioning will focus on passing, receiving, blocking and tackling. The cost for the camp is \$40.

#### 5 Summer school starts

Those required to attend summer school should have signed up by May 19. The full fee for summer school is \$85 per class and if you received a scholarship it's \$30 per class.

### July

#### 27 Free Physicals

For any student looking to play a sport for the 2006-2007 season must have a record showing they received a physical exam. The free physicals will be given at Central starting at 9 a.m.

#### 31- Aug. 4 football conditioning week

Any student trying out for the football in the fall of 2006 should attend this conditioning week. The conditioning starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be held in the Seemann Stadium.

### August

#### 23 Freshmen first day of school

The freshmen are the only students allowed to attend school this day. The sophomores, juniors and seniors official day starts Aug. 24.

## Senior gets opportunity to compete

BY JOE DELICH

Senior Bill Chaney managed to make the American Mathematics Regatta (ARML), the national competition, team.

Chaney said the team will compete in early June in Iowa City at the University of Iowa.

He said he was looking forward to the contest.

There are a total of 15 teams on the team, and five alternate members. Chaney said he did not yet know if he would be an alternate because they are determined by the two practices, which have not taken place. Making the ARML team is no easy feat.

Chaney said in order to be on the team he had to be invited.

After being invited, he will have to take a 16-question test that usually lasted 80 minutes.

Chaney said he didn't know what to expect this year.

## Teacher gets grant to visit Jerusalem

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Jerusalem is the city of three major religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

English teacher, Jennifer Stastny has the opportunity to not only visit Jerusalem, but to learn the history of Jerusalem at the highly respected Yad Vashem National Holocaust Museum from July 9 to Aug. 6.

"Beth Seldin Dotan asked me if I was sitting down, and I thought she was going to ask me to do something for her," Stastny said.

It turned out it wasn't for work, but rather for pleasure and learning.

Dotan said the Anti-Defamation League, started to end bias and discrimination, had a national grant to send individuals to Jerusalem to learn the Holocaust. The organization chose Stastny.

"Out of all the educators in Omaha, and they chose me. I was shocked," Stastny said.

She said it was a great honor to be chosen, and it is a great opportunity.

"I'm just hoping I'll have a great time," Stastny said.



STASTNY

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# McMillan principal picked over other two candidates

CONTINUED FROM 'PRINCIPAL' ON PAGE A1

seven years.

Principal Jerry Bexten said besides having conversations with Superintendent Mackiel about the process and his thoughts on the school, he was not very involved in the search for the new principal.

"It's really Dr. Mackiel's decision so my involvement has been very limited," Bexten said.

He said being principal of the school was a busy profession, but enjoyable. "My advice would be take time to get to know the people and learn as much as you can about Central," Bexten said.

Human resources administrator Ed Virant said possible candidates for the job met with the human resources department where the Omaha Public School District's human resource staff conducted panel interviews.

Virant said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sandra Hodges selected the panel members who interviewed the candidates.

He said the interview, applications and references went into a file, and when the opening was announced, Hodges looked at the pool of candidates and discussed them with Mackiel.

They then selected individual candidates for building interviews, where the parents and other representatives of the school had the opportunity to ask candidates a series of set questions.

Virant then said Mackiel reviewed the results of the building interviews and took into consideration other information about the candidates before making the decision.

He said when an opening was announced, the process of finding a candidate moved pretty quickly. He said after an opening, the building interviews took place within two months after the announcement.

Latin teacher Rita Ryan has been teaching at the school for 35 years and has been three principals at the school during that time.

Ryan said teachers were involved in a voluntary effort in the search for the new principal.

Ryan said she wasn't able to go to the building interviews, but knew other teachers and staff who did.

"The teachers do have a chance to ask the candidates questions and to come up with their own ranking," Ryan said.

She said while teachers had the chance for input during the process, it was the superintendent that ultimately made the decision of naming Emmel as the new principal.

Freshman Christina Ritchie said she was a little uncertain about the school during a new principal.

"Mr. Bexten is pretty nice, and I don't know how it would change the school," she said.

She said she hoped Emmel would understand what the students go through and that people would feel comfortable talking to him. She hoped he would be as personable as Bexten.

Ritchie said she thought students should have been involved with the search process because the principal was in charge of them.

# Senior helps children at Sunday school

BY STEPHANIE WILHELM

"I'm no saint by any means. I hope I get the messages to them and the children see the positive," senior Alvin Samuels said. "No one's perfect. It's so hard nowadays; there are so many negatives."

Samuels said he has been a Sunday school teacher for a little over a year.

He said he first became a teacher because the original Sunday school teacher was going off to college.

"I didn't have an official role in the church," Samuels said. "They needed a substitute and gave me a chance."

He said he's one of the only young males active in the church. He said he hopes the children learn religious foundations and about Christ and also learn how to be young adults.

"I see myself as a role model; more like a big brother," Samuels said.

He said right now they're on a monthly schedule. He is teaching for the month of May.

The classes last one hour every Sunday and the children range in ages from 5 to 9.

Samuels said in the first 10 to 15 minutes teachers gave the children snacks to eat like juice and apples.

"We don't want the kids complaining about wanting something to eat," Samuels said.

After that, Samuels said they would give the students an activity that went over the Bible.

He said the lesson came from a teacher's manual that he stripped to the bare minimum to get the students the basic ideas. The lesson usually involved a color activity that went with the day's lesson.

"It's a challenge keeping everyone calm," Samuels said. "I'll have to be

grown-up Alvin and not play."

Samuels said he won the most energetic teacher award.

"I go in dead tired and 10 minutes into the class I'm dancing with the kids," Samuels said. "I don't want my negative emotion to rub off on someone."

He said staying positive and energetic wasn't too hard, but he became a new fan of coffee.

Samuels said he enjoyed being in a role to guide children.

"It's not so hard anymore. I know how to approach each kid," Samuels said. "It was hard to learn what works for everyone."

The best part is when the students present to the congregation every other Sunday, Samuels said.

He said some of the children are really shy, while others come in energetic for the day.

"One kid was forever quiet. He was really attached to the old teacher. He wouldn't talk to me for a while," Samuels said. "Then he started asking me to tie his shoe and if he could sit next to me in church. I really appreciated it."

Samuels said he has learned patience from the children.

"I learned how valuable they are," Samuels said. "I was just like them. They've afforded me this opportunity because I don't have any siblings."

Math teacher Susan Drumm said Samuels always has a positive attitude. He shows his classmates how important education is.

Samuels said he just tries to get along with everyone. He tries to make people laugh because he said he believes it is the best medicine in the world.

"I hope at the end of the day no one has anything bad to say," he said. "I'm a child at heart...always will be."

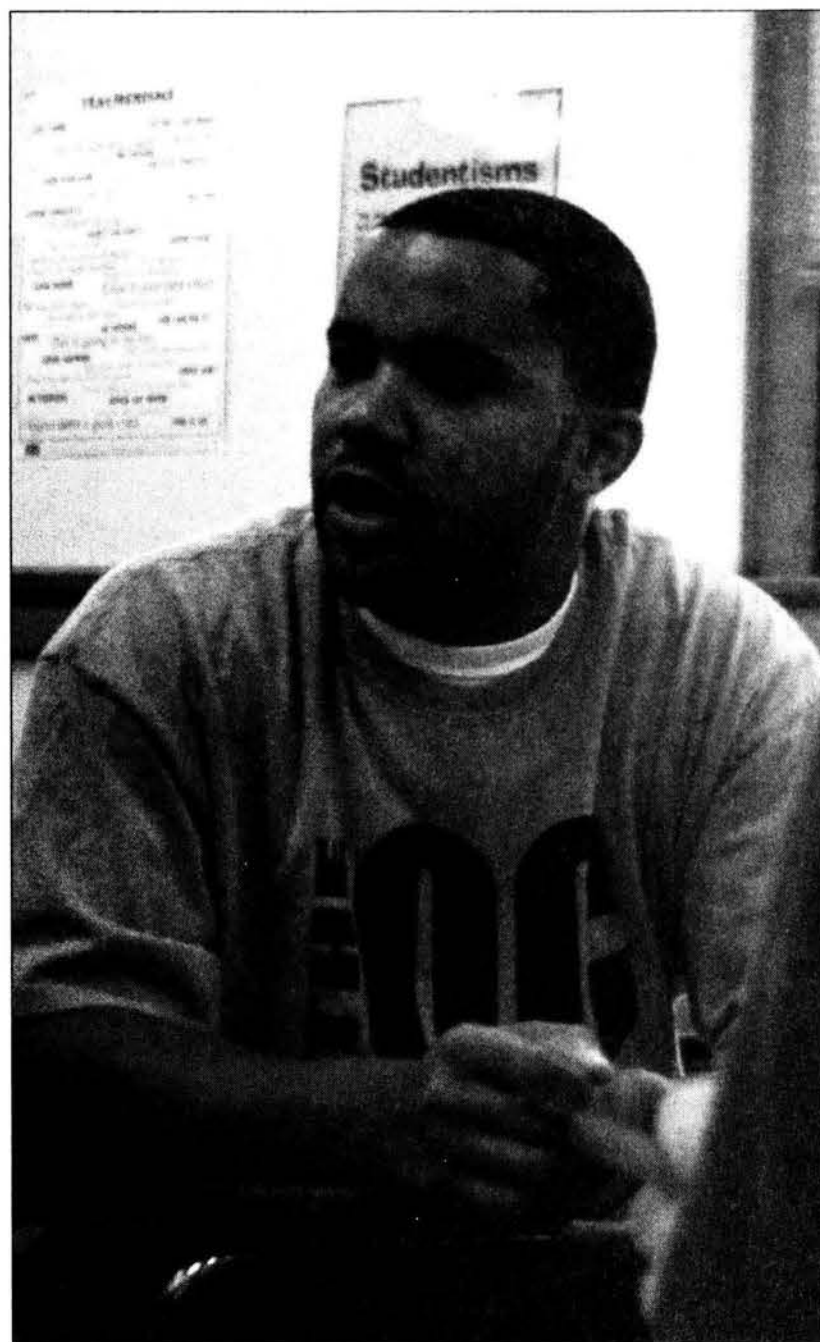


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER  
Senior Alvin Samuels has been teaching Sunday school for about a year and a half now. He sees himself as a role model and big brother to the children.

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# RALLYING

If the annexation of other schools didn't get the student body fired up enough, LB 1024 certainly did. Three smaller school districts, students have come together to show their

## Students voice opposition

■ CONTINUED FROM 'OPS' ON PAGE A1

said. "(OPS isn't) going to go to court. They can't win. They cannot establish that my plan harms any student...OPS is in a lose-lose situation."

Chambers has opposed traditional "bogos" desegregation plans before, namely forced busing, because he feels they do not address the root of the problem.

Because of this, he has carried much of the burden of criticism following the proposal.

He said people do not recognize one intent of his amendment to the bill, which he says will attack the long-term effects of institutionalized segregation in the city.

"It is impossible to talk about integration because, with these segregated housing patterns, it is impossible to achieve such a goal," he said. "The houses of black people and the houses of white people are not going to be picked up and be relocated in each other's neighborhoods, and white people are not going to tolerate mandatory busing, so there's no way, practically speaking, to achieve integration."

Bhattarai, as well as other students present at the rally, disagree.

They said they feel OPS is already a haven for minority students in the area, and is less segregated than the rest of the city.

"OPS is a pretty diverse school district compared to others around Nebraska," Bhattarai said.

He said splitting OPS in three would threaten the level of integration brought about by the district's size and policies. Preventing the split was his primary reason for attending the rally, although organizers say it was not their intent to make it a protest.

"The rally wasn't necessarily a result of 1024. We wanted to have a pro-OPS rally," alumnus Dan Gutman said. "Even though we framed the rally as a pro-OPS rally, I think the bill really did inspire a lot of students to come out."

Gutman, class of 2004, was one of the key planners of the demonstration, flying to Omaha from school in Washington, D.C. to work with junior Seth Rich and other students in getting the ball rolling.

At the rally, Gutman introduced the other speakers—one from each OPS high school and a close friend of his, alumnus Steve Hogan who also graduated in 2004.

The speaker from North, senior Aaryon Williams, told a personal story of how OPS had impacted him.

He grew up in Gary, Ind., one of the country's most segregated cities, which was the murder capital of the United States last year.

"OPS has basically saved my life. I didn't have much to live for," he said. "...College wasn't even in my vocabulary before I got here."

Other students told about their experiences at schools in the district, apparently trying to steer clear of mention of LB 1024 and keeping their statements purely about what the district has done for them.

While the onlooking students gathered at the front and cheered their fellow students, OPS board members and teachers sat quietly in the background, for the first time choosing to remain on the sidelines of the issue.

Many of them even wore sunglasses and casual clothes to avoid drawing attention.

Chambers said the apparent lack of involvement by OPS administration was a facade.

He felt the rally was carried out in a manipulative fashion, with adults "injecting" students with legal issues they know little about.

No students had read his amendment, nor the bill to which it was attached, Chambers said.

"The only reason they had the rally was because of LB 1024," he said. "I believe that the students understood clearly that they were assembled in regards to LB 1024. The students knew that even if adults said the contrary."

He said the race issue was exploited by OPS to gain more state involvement and backing from individuals with less knowledge of OPS One City, One School District plan.

Chambers said he felt LB 1024 addressed many of the issues city schools' other concerns, such as the need for a broader tax base. The three different districts would file their applications for state aid separately, giving areas with little tax money a chance to gain even more aid than before, Chambers said.

He said this could also mean a greater percentage of each dollar in classroom instruction instead of an "overpriced central administration."

Elizabeth Eynon-Kokrda, the OPS legal council, said the OPS board's action against the state of Nebraska, currently still being investigated by the state and the parents and school systems involved, could potentially be affected by the new law.

Also, the state aid could be affected as well.

"We believe it won't provide any more state aid, and it could provide less," she said.

Another concern would be busing within the two-county area, which would be provided free of charge to all students in the learning community and controlled by the integration task force, a representative board in the learning community which would ensure a relatively diverse population.

Chambers said this should quell any complaints from students or parents who want their students to attend the same schools in the future.

"If they are concerned...they are mistaken because the OPS guarantees that right; to continue attendance at a student's current school," he said.

Chambers said his proposal was mischaracterized by the national media and by local business and school leaders.

"These people in Omaha don't realize that history, literally, is being made," he said. "They just resent the one who is making history."

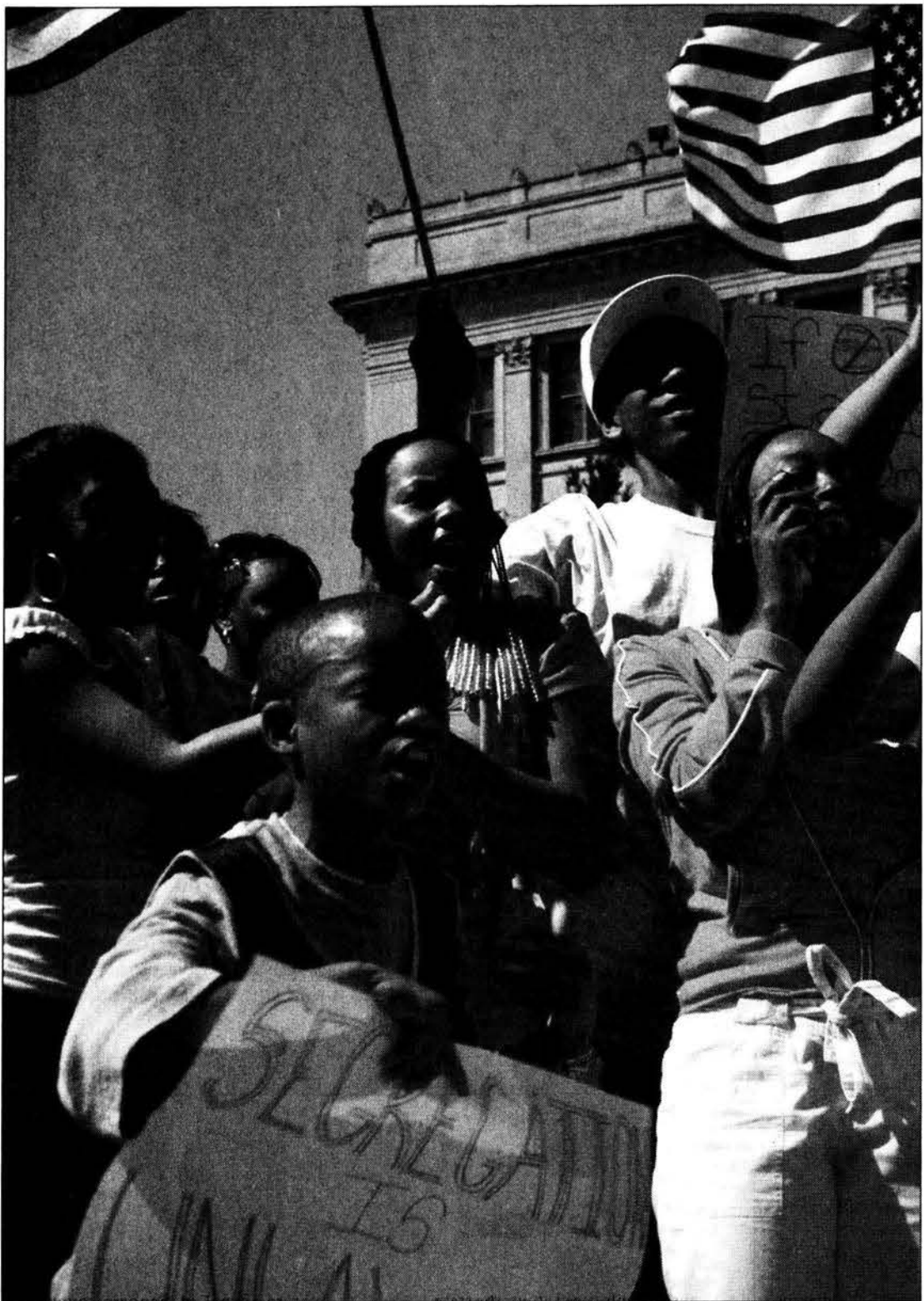


PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

Freshman Edward Pierce (middle) protests the dismantling of Omaha Public Schools (OPS) with other Central and Benson students. The demonstrators stood along Dodge Street while the rally was going on after school on April 14.

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# THE TROOPS

nd. After state Sen. Ernie Chambers pushed to get the bill passed that would separate OPS into their support for the largest school district in the state.



PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER  
Alumnus Dan Gutman (right), class of 2004, talks with junior Seth Rich before the beginning of the rally. Gutman said he had been closely following news about OPS as the One City, One School issue went on.

## Alumnus helps organize pro-OPS rally

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

He helped organize a rally that involved over 400 rowdy and angry students from all over OPS.  
Dan Gutman, class of 2004, was one of the major planners in the event held on the steps of Central. Working with junior Seth Rich for three days, Gutman made sure the rally would be a complete success.  
"I had been in contact with Luanne Nelson and we started talking," Rich said. "Then Dan Gutman gave me a call and we came up with the rally idea."  
Gutman said he had been following the news about OPS very closely when he was at college in Washington D.C. He called people he knew from the Teachers Administrative Center (TAC) and then called Rich.  
Rich said OPS spokesperson Luanne Nelson really helped them out. She went to the other OPS schools to get the other students involved.  
In order to get the students from the other schools, buses were sent to all of the OPS schools that then came to Central, where the rally was held.  
Many think the rally was held to protest Sen. Ernie Chambers' amendment to LB 1024. However, none of the speakers even mentioned the bill.  
Instead, they all talked about the positive role OPS has in their lives.  
"I think the rally got the message out that we do have an opinion," Rich said.  
Rich also said the rally was a huge success for two

main reasons. One was all the media attention the whole rally and protest got.  
"I was even quoted for CNN," Rich said.  
Also, a lot of students realized the importance of the rally, and decided to show up. Gutman said this was part of the reason the rally was such an achievement.  
"It was definitely an unexpected success," Gutman said. "We didn't think the rally would fail, but we didn't expect so many students to come."  
He said the rally was intended to be more of a press conference to let the public know the students' opinions.  
Despite the fact none of the speakers mentioned anything negative, Rich, Gutman and the others said they had strong opinions on both Sen. Ernie Chambers and Gov. Dave Heineman.  
"I think Chambers has a little too narrow view point on some issues. I don't understand his opinions, like the break-up of OPS," Rich said.  
Gutman said he believed Chambers had a lot of bad experiences with the school system growing up, so he had given up hope in OPS. Gutman said it was he and the students who showed up at the rally who hadn't given up on OPS.  
Rich said his opinion on Heineman was almost the same as his opinion on Chambers.  
"He (Heineman) isn't one of my favorite people," he said. "I think he doesn't look at the issue for the best of the state. His ad on television says he listens

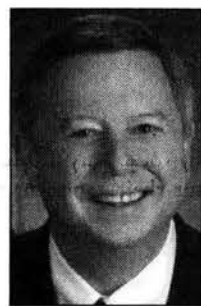
to the entire state and he has decided to stop the OPS annexation. He shouldn't hold OPS below everyone else. I think he has ulterior motives."  
Gutman said he thought Heineman was too hasty in his decision to sign the bill. He said an issue that was big and important should not be decided upon in one single night. Now, all the students could do was wait to see what will happen and stay involved, he said.  
Rich said he had heard some OPS lawyers were writing up a lawsuit.  
But before any OPS lawyers sued, parents and representatives from the NAACP filed their own lawsuit against Heineman.  
"It's a good sign," Rich said.  
If there is a trial, Rich said he will be sure to attend. He'll also continue his work for the district.  
"I know this issue won't be resolved by the time I graduate, and I am still going to organize rallies and go on the radio," Rich said.  
Everyone can expect more actions by Gutman and Rich in the future. They have been involved since the beginning. Gutman said he wants to stay involved in the battle with OPS and the state.  
Rich debated the One City, One School issue on the radio with an Elkhorn student before Chambers' amendment was ever attached to the bill.  
Even though Gutman returned to Washington D.C., he said he would continue to fight for OPS and its students.

## Governor stands by his decision to sign bill, split district into three

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Out of all the issues facing the city over the years, the One City, One School District subject is one of the biggest.  
Now, Gov. Dave Heineman faces a new chapter in One City, One School in addition to possible re-election in November. He signed legislative Bill 1024, a plan to split Omaha Public Schools (OPS) into three districts.  
"When I first heard about One City, One School I thought this would be a very decisive problem, and not necessary," Heineman said.  
The issue surfaced last summer, and he said since then the tension between OPS and the suburban schools has risen astronomically.  
Heineman said he thought both sides were arguing on the wrong issues, and instead should look at what was best for the students and the teachers.  
"I have had conversations with people involved in the annexation on both sides,"

Heineman said.  
He said he wanted all of the districts to come together to solve the issue, but it should not end with OPS annexing the others.  
"Bigger is not always better," Heineman said.  
The smaller districts, he said, were sometimes good for the students.  
If OPS was split into three separate districts, then the original big issue of annexing Millard, Ralston and Elkhorn into OPS, would not be even an issue anymore, since the Omaha Public Schools would not exist as they do now.  
LB 1024 caught Heineman totally by surprise, he said.  
Even though Heineman signed the bill, making it a law, he said the law might not exist a year from now.  
"The issue is still on the table," Heineman said.



HEINEMAN

The law, even though it enforces racial segregation, is not a foregone conclusion.  
Racial segregation is against the law. Heineman said he didn't want to get involved in the issue of whether Omaha and its public schools were segregated.  
Many people in Chambers' district are pro-OPS. Heineman said Chambers represented his district well in order to have won so many re-elections.  
In the middle of April, OPS students held a rally at Central to show their support for OPS. Heineman thought it was great the students decided to get involved in an issue that was all about them.  
"It's a great thing, freedom of speech. I support that," Heineman said.  
He said there were supporters of all the school districts, and it's healthy for students to get involved in their individual issues.

One student, junior Sophie Wang, said she feels strongly about the split of OPS.  
"I had heard OPS was going to repeal the law, and I think OPS should sue the state," Wang said.  
Since the law was passed on that late night in April, Omaha has been making the national news. Wang said the news wasn't necessarily positive towards Omaha, or the schools.  
Heineman said he wasn't concerned about making news because he only cared about the state of Nebraska and the children in the education systems.  
However, many believe the national attention Omaha was getting was giving the state a bad reputation.  
The split of the biggest district in the state will prove to be a hard ordeal. Heineman said OPS will remain a strong district. To make sure OPS stays strong, Heineman said he had one major plan.  
"My two main focuses as governor are

education and economic development," Heineman said.  
He said he will help every school district that needs the help. However, to make sure every student receives a good education, he said there is one major factor.  
"The key to a good education system is local control," he said.  
He said he knew about Nebraska's education systems because he grew up in one.  
He went to school in Sanders county, 25 miles west of Omaha. His wife graduated from South High School, and he has been the Governor of Nebraska since Jan. 21, 2005.  
Heineman has lived in Nebraska for the majority of his life.  
Whether or not Heineman will be re-elected this November, the segregated split will still exist until the courts decide whether the governor or OPS was in the right.  
Will Omaha really end up segregated? As Heineman said, only time will tell.

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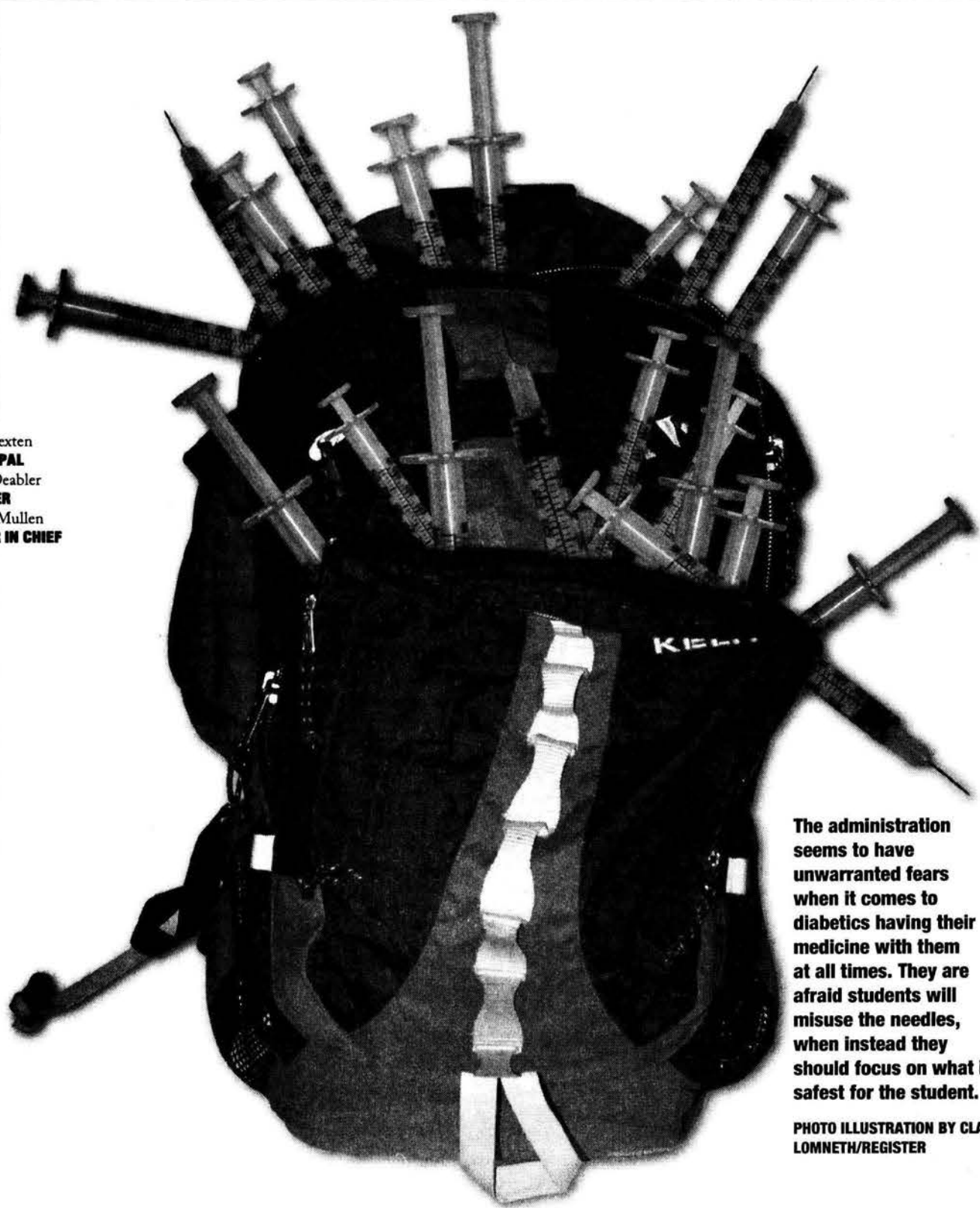


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FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

# EDITORIALS

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EDITOR IN CHIEF



The administration seems to have unwarranted fears when it comes to diabetics having their medicine with them at all times. They are afraid students will misuse the needles, when instead they should focus on what is safest for the student.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

## THE POINT OF NEEDLES

A high school in Arizona recently came under fire for refusing to allow a student with diabetes to carry a tester in order to monitor his blood sugar. The blanket ban on all needles in school received fire because he could not carry his medicine with him in case of emergencies.

Instead he must go to the nurse's office every time he wants to check his blood sugar.

Central has a similar policy. Diabetic students must keep their supplies at the nurse's office and go there in order to check their blood sugar. This inconvenience could be deadly.

First and foremost there is always the risk a student may faint before he manages to reach the nurse.

This could result in serious head injuries. This absurd policy should be discarded without a second thought. The school's policy against needles is certainly understandable.

There should absolutely be rules in place to prevent students from using drugs intravenously at school, but logical exceptions can and should be made.

A student bringing a blood sugar tester or an insulin needle is not going to contribute to in-school intravenous drug use in any large way.

Students doing hard drugs in school have likely already figured out where to get their hands on needles without having to buy or steal them from the diabetics at school.

Besides, if students keep their supplies with them, the odds

a junkie would get his or her hands on them is slim to none.

The fact is allowing a diabetic student to bring these things to school would seemingly have little effect on the amount of intravenous drug use at school, not allowing these things could put a diabetic student in a very dangerous situation. A diabetic has to constantly monitor his blood sugar and forcing him to do it in the nurse's office poses a number of significant problems.

In addition to risk of death, there is also the disadvantage the student will be at as a result of frequently missing class. Students with diabetes should be allowed to function as normally as possible. Forcing that student to be chronically tardy and absent is something sure to have an adverse effect on his performance in school.

It would be very easy to allow students to simply test their blood sugar themselves and simply take a few extra steps to ensure the needles are being used for their intended purpose only.

It would be easy to simply give diabetic students a special ID they might be asked to present if a staff member found the needles or saw them testing their blood sugar.

This would allow the school to continue a strict policy on needles at school, without putting diabetic students at a disadvantage.

The idea of a school even seriously considering not allowing diabetics to test themselves is simply ridiculous.

### EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

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### 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 10-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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Letters to the editor are encouraged.

They can be sent to the Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via e-mail to Central.Journalism@ops.org.

Letters must include the author's full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy.

Misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

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## Late night encounter with homeless enlightens seniors

At one a.m. on a Friday night, we traipsed into a Village Inn after an evening of music in a smoke-filled Sokol Underground. This restaurant seems to be a haven for the drunks, the addicts, the lost.

We sat down and ate our early breakfast. For some reason the greasy hash browns always seem like a bright idea late at night. Mine were gone too fast as usual, and afterwards we sat in idle conversation when all of a sudden a patron caught our attention as he entered the restaurant.

He staggered in, a relic with an olive green trench coat rippling around his legs. His brown skin wrinkled, folded, creased and hardened; covered with a brown broad rimmed hat floppy with wear and rain and age. On his shoulder he carried an army surplus duffle bag and in his hand he held a large staff topped with feathers. He seemed to be a refugee from the past, a time traveler from the Old West. But not the old west of our movies and childhood fantasies, but a harsh world, a home to an entire disenfranchised people.

His limbs possessed an arthritic stiffness, making each step in his heavy boots less than graceful. He took one look at the blue pale-faced soldier and knew his time inside would be brief if he didn't take action.

He crossed the waiting area as if making for the bathroom as the cop walked out slowly from behind the register. However, as he reached the restroom door he turned with surprising quickness to the right and the hostess's worst nightmare was realized: The homeless man was wandering among the paying customers. The cop and the hostess quickened their pace; the dirty eyesore had to be removed before the damage was irreparable.

But the old man was too smart for them; he spotted some friendly faces and sat down at their table like he'd been born there. The cop lingered close, ready to take away the filthy man at the slightest word from the sure to be scandalized diners. To his disappointment, the table seemed to be completely undisturbed by the interruption. This is because the table was occupied by my girlfriend and me.

At first I was slightly taken aback that this man had decided to use our table to try and escape

ejection from the Village Inn, but then I was somewhat flattered. Out of all the people in the restaurant this man had decided that we appeared to be the kindest, the most accepting.

He sat down, and laid his dirty hat near our dirty dishes, the green duffle bag temporarily forgotten and left in the middle of the floor. Each time a guest was forced to maneuver around the green lump he apologized, but he never thought of moving it.

He just sat and smiled, the slightest smile, like he might have it figured out but you'd never know if he did or not or what the "it" was in the first place. The other customers stared and laughed at our apparent misfortune. He smiled and told us he'd sat down with us because his hair reminded him of Bob Dylan. He proceeded to tell us about how he knew Bobby Dylan and he almost met Charles Bukowski and that Jack Kerouac may have been drunk, but his friends certainly didn't do anything to save him.

All his tales seemed to be random collections of thoughts and memories, somehow strung together by a man with slow broken speech frequently punctuated by long silences. None of all of his sentences seemed to end with this silence, during which he would stare off into nothing until we dragged him back into reality with our questions.

We asked him about life on the road and the places he'd been. We asked him about the boxcars, the boxcars and the hobos.

He told us he was a poet. He read a poem he claimed to have written, but I'm pretty sure he made it up on the spot. He talked about a "geetar," but he didn't seem to have one. He told Claire she was too pretty to spend her days hopping trains. He told us broken stories about the reservations and the Mississippi. He showed us his Grateful Dead cassettes. He refused to let us take his money for food, but he did take our money for a new tape player.

Eventually the pauses in his speech took control of his voice and he slipped into silence. He left him with a cup of a coffee and a few dollars to the waitress. He gave us some magnets he had in his bag. I think we got the better deal.



BOMBS AWAY

A Column by Joe Delich

## Mentally handicapped women show student not to prejudice

I never imagined I would be eating lunch with someone with a mental disorder, or that if I did, it would be one of the most meaningful and memorable experiences of my life.

When I visited Community Alliance with my youth leadership class, I was faced with what I thought was going to be a very awkward situation. I wasn't sure what to expect, and wasn't sure I would like what was coming.

I didn't know whether some seemingly normal individuals would be placed at my table or a paranoid psychotic. That was my problem.

I was a bit surprised at what I got, however.

My table's lunch guest was a slightly older woman. She had depression, but also suffered from cerebral palsy.

I wasn't expecting her to have a muscular disease, but I didn't know what to expect in the first place anyway.

After being guided over to our table by her worker, she sat down with her tray and introduced herself and told us what illness she had.

I was nervous about the whole thing. I didn't want to ask any questions that had obvious answers or anything too complicated either. At the same time, I didn't want to shy away from asking questions and seem as if I was ignoring her.

My goal was to make this lady feel comfortable and not make her feel like some sort of spectacle on display.

Her cerebral palsy made it difficult to understand her speech, so I had to be patient and attentive. This made it more awkward, seeing as how I am not too keen on making eye contact with people as it is.

Sitting at that table, listening to the lady talk about her life opened my eyes. I soon realized that my earlier apprehension was nothing but a prejudice.

Linda was just as normal a person as any of the rest of us are. I think that was the most important thing I learned that day.

Later on that afternoon, we sat in a room with a panel of people before us. These were real people. They had regular jobs and regular lives. They spoke about their illnesses without any fear or uncertainty.

It was very impressive.

It suddenly became evident that these people

didn't let their disease define them or control their lives.

Other people shouldn't either.

People should never let a medical title or title for that matter, get in the way of getting to know someone or treating him or her with respect that every human deserves.

People with mental disorders, or any illness for that matter, are people too. Those who suffer from a mental disorder have an illness just like someone who has cancer.

The truth is, you never know who around you could have a mental disorder. These illnesses aren't always full blown. Sometimes they

go undiagnosed.

Through my experience, I learned how a mental disorder can affect someone without a warning.

It is like a bomb that is dropped on someone's life and brings all the other aspects crashing down with it.

It slowly creeps through the cracks into every part of a person's life like a snake.

Someone speaking to the group that we made us acknowledge the fact that we often look at those who are different and pass judgement.

We see someone limping along the sidewalk and we laugh at them, or we notice someone muttering to themselves in public and say to ourselves, "Look at that crazy person. Look at that poor, poor crazy person."

People form judgements on someone else because they are different from what seems to be the majority.

There's a social stigma that follows these individuals around.

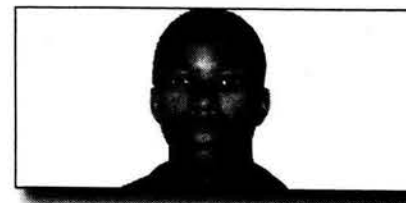
They are looked at as crazy, as clinically insane and dangerous just because they suffer from a disease they have no control over.

They're punished for a decision that they never theirs to make.

I think that it would be wise for each of us to take a step back and look at who we are and how we treat others, regardless of if they have a disorder or not.

People too often rely on a nonexistent standard of normalcy to judge others.

Everyone, including those with mental disorders, should be treated as equals.



HONEST TO A FAULT

A Column by Jared Spence



"We have done just fine with OPS staying OPS and Millard staying Millard..."  
**Lauren Trummer (10)**



**NOT A STEREOTYPE**  
A column by Kim Buckley

## Death of patient leaves student without friend

One of the most rewarding experiences of my life was getting to know my first hospice patient. My mom and I volunteer for the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), which is a program for the terminally ill. She was already my mom's friend, so she let me meet her. I can't tell you the name because of patient confidentiality, so let's call her "Kate."

My mom and I took turns telling stories out loud to Kate from the "Chicken Soup" book my mom has. I found out her favorite story was a humorous one about a lost family and a motorcycle gang.

Whenever I read that story I remember how much she loved it, and each time makes the story special to me. However, the visit was soon over, and I would keep coming back with my mom to visit Kate. I don't know what happened about Kate, but I don't need to know what connected us. What I do know was she made a lasting impression in my mind.

One of the things I loved about Kate was she made me laugh. She was really a laugh a minute. For example, being sick never stopped her from eating the foods she loved. One of my fondest memories was when my mom and I drove for an hour to get Kate a slushy. I know she was really fond of it. When my mom visited her and I was there, she would ask my mom where Kate was. Her eyes would light up when she would visit her. It was as if she was a part of the family I never knew I had.

Pretty soon her health started deteriorating and it showed. It was really tough for me at that point because I couldn't understand what she was saying some of the time. I would visit her as much as I could, which wasn't often because of school.

Kate died in the summer, right before school started. It was the week I was still at a summer camp, and when the news when my parents came to pick me up. I was completely silent for a long time.

I know I was warned that I would be attached to the patients, but I didn't expect the news to hurt as much as it did. I just couldn't believe she was dead. I was shocked and devastated about the news. I didn't even get to go to the funeral to say goodbye.

My mom told me Kate died shortly after she had visited the hospital. She said Kate had died in her sleep and wasn't in pain. Mom also described the funeral to me and how it seemed as if Kate's spirit was there.

I don't normally believe in those kinds of things, but this time I did. I really do believe her spirit was at the funeral. There were just too many coincidences.

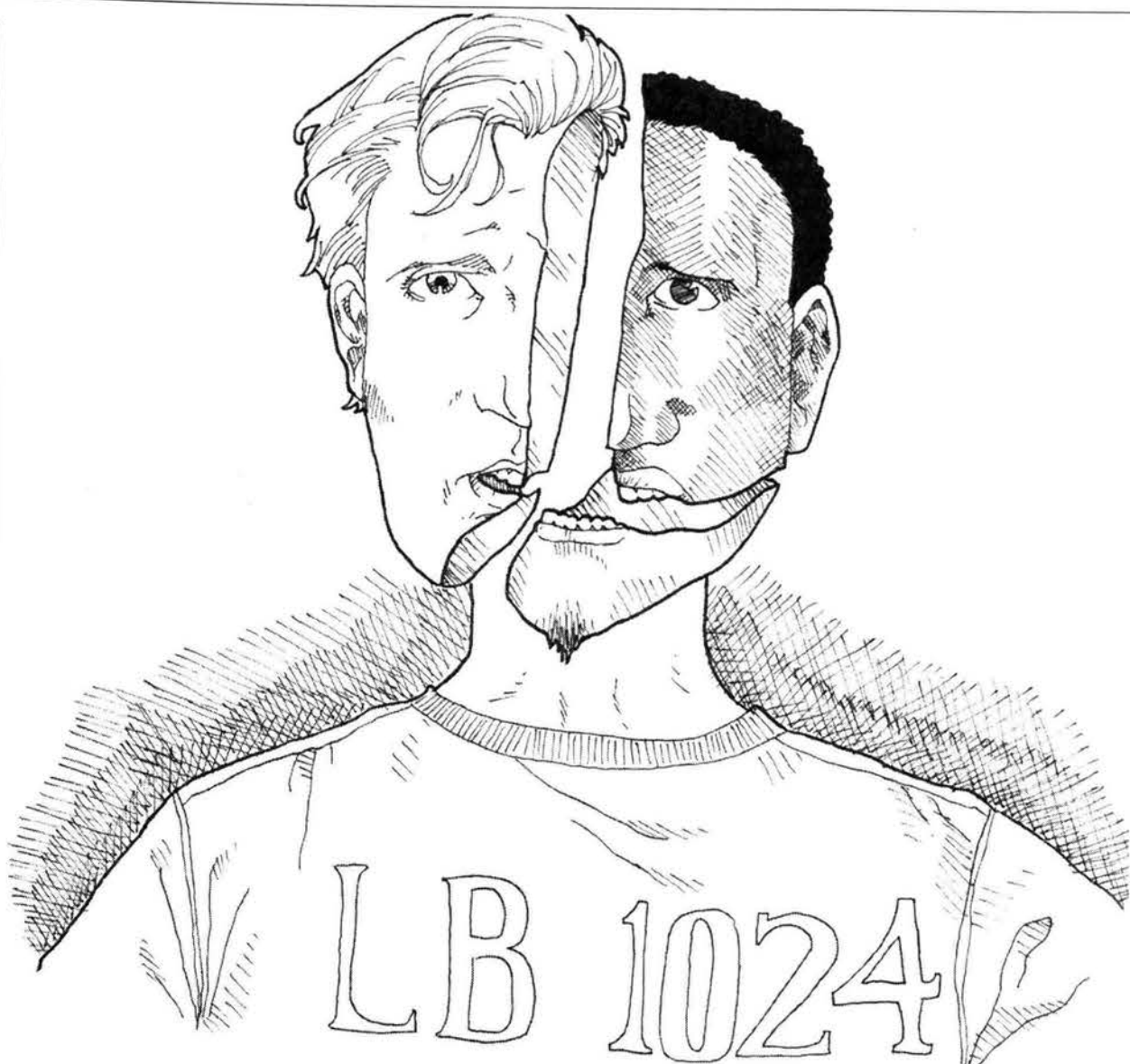
There was a couple on a motorcycle that drove past, and Kate and her ex-husband used to ride on a motorcycle together. A butterfly kept hovering by one of her daughters, and the butterfly was Kate's favorite animal.

About a week after the funeral, my mom and I bought purple flowers (her favorite color) and put them on Kate's grave, and I said my last goodbye. That was one of the hardest things for me to do.

Maybe it was good that I didn't get to go to the funeral. I don't know if I could have handled the sight of a coffin being lowered into the ground. I almost cried visiting her grave, the funeral probably would have been too much.

For a while after she died, it was hard for me to get around the fact that my mom and I would be visiting another patient. When we got our next patient, I was secretly glad that I couldn't go visit the patient when I got sick. I didn't want to admit the fact the patient I would be seeing would not be Kate. I had gotten so used to Kate that I was nervous about seeing another patient.

I think the next patient helped me move on more than anything. He was a man who my supervisor wanted me to visit for the day. I went in with the supervisor, and the man and I talked. What I found was someone willing to open up to me. Talking with him made me think it was OK that Kate wasn't my patient because I would never forget her.



## THE NEW FACE OF OPS The new heartland of racism

As it stands now, the city's largest district is to be split in three, in an effort by State Senators Ernie Chambers and Ron Raikes to give each community more local control. Their amendment, approved by the Legislature on Apr. 6 as part of the larger Legislative Bill 1024, will use existing school attendance areas to potentially create a Northeast, Southeast and West district of what is now Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

to Raikes and Chambers. The division could, in fact, have two very positive effects on the Omaha community.

First, smaller districts allow the education system to work more closely with community members. Each district would have a separate board of education and smaller administrative staff, creating closer ties to the community in which the district exists. The division would also give the area more of a say in the learning community created by LB 1024. The area currently represented by one district (OPS) would have three times as much of a say in local decisions.

Both of these solutions could have been achieved in a much more appropriate manner by the Legislature, but the lack of integration within OPS should have been bettered years ago by the Board of Education. The district is too willing to exploit its diverse population, especially considering the severity of the still-rampant segregation throughout the inner city.

Another concern should be for the security of this system in years to come. If racist district leaders can manipulate the learning community to segregate schools down the line, the integrity of Omaha's school districts, and the state of Nebraska in general, could be in some serious trouble. The success of the amendment, as well as LB 1024 in general, lies in the vigor of the community's integration task force and the responsibility through which the new system is run. Looking at past precedent, such an integration effort will likely have little to no effect on the problem.

Should this task force fail, the schools in Omaha are most certainly going to be segregated—and the Legislature will be to blame.

### EDITORIAL The OPINION of the Register staff

These changes will not occur immediately, but the issue is likely to be resolved by 2008. OPS's stance is that any other forms of the split would go against the language of LB 1024, therefore making them impossible. The potential attendance areas, which are described in four plans released by OPS, are already deeply segregated, both racially and economically, and splitting them apart will make this division more solidified.

Central would most likely be placed in the Northeast district, along with North and Benson. According to information released by OPS, that area is mostly made up of African-American families with below-average income levels. The Southeast district would also have a high average of low-income families, but students would primarily be of Hispanic heritage. It would have by far the greatest percentage of English language learners in the metro area. The third district, composed of the Burke and Northwest attendance areas, would have a less than 30 percent minority population, as well as the smallest percentage of low-income households and English language learners.

However much these divisions echo the Jim Crow laws of the early 1900s, they serve a much different purpose, according

## 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 its problems, but it was not saying anything about taking over Millard. Now we are just fighting to not be broken up.

Also, the T-shirts were a form of fund-raising for the pom squad, and the pom squad needed the money because it was 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 any about Millard's "Millard Forever" T-shirts. Millard does need to overreact over a T-shirt.

**Andsey Bulls (10)**

### Proposed bill unconstitutional

Dear Editor,  
LB 1024 is unconstitutional and it doesn't make much sense. If we are taught to come together and help each other all of our lives, then why would we contradict that and tell everyone to split up again? LB 1024 isn't even clear.

It just says OPS would be divided. The boundaries they would be putting up seem segregated by race. It's hard enough trying to get along. But, now putting up racial divisions would just make people feel like they need to beat the rest, causing more fighting.

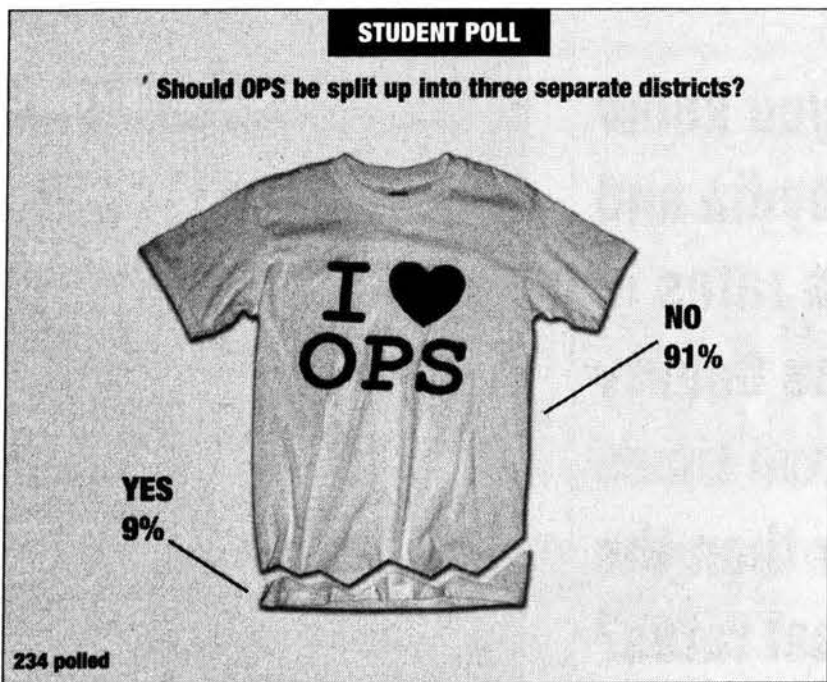
**Wiley Minshall (12)**

### Segregation would split friends

Dear Editor,  
I think it is wrong to pretty much segregate the OPS district because I have some friends who are black and I have friends who are Mexican.

If Ernie Chambers does get this passed to separate OPS into three school districts, I might lose some friends I see at school every day.

**Stan Stoffel (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)**

### Annexation increases educational success

Dear Editor,  
My opinion on the One City, One School District matter is that it should happen. Millard Schools have a good education like Central, and so does Elkhorn and all those other schools. Parents who have students at North, South, Northwest and etc. want their children to have a good education.

But Central can only have so many kids. Millard is judging the matter of thinking

our kids might harm theirs. I think any one should be able to go to any school they want. If they want a good education, why should they not get it because of where they live?

**Elizabeth Reynolds (9)**

### Separation of OPS is unwanted

Dear Editor,  
I personally feel that OPS splitting into three different sections is a bad idea. But, it might help the schools. However, I think they should just let the schools stay the way they are.

We have done just fine with OPS staying OPS and Millard staying Millard and etc. I really do hate the idea. I am tired of hearing about it. They should just let it be and leave it alone.

**Lauren Trummer (10)**

### OPS split will disturb community

Dear Editor,  
I think what's going on with the idea to split the school district is completely ridiculous. Why is it okay to have a segregated community? That is all this bill is proposing.

We would be in a district with North and Benson. This will disrupt Omaha's community as a whole and even Nebraska's.

Segregation is not the right answer, and neither is taking the easy way out. I will do whatever I can to stop this.

**Elizabeth Erikson (10)**

### Law adds even more commotion

Dear Editor,  
This thing about forming three school districts just seems to sound like it's adding more commotion to everything else involving schools and education.

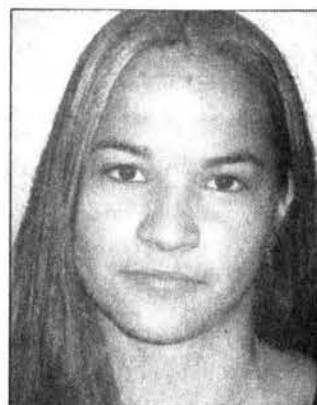
Can't we all just get along? If there is proof that shows that forming three new school districts will better the system and our education, then let the new plan roll. Otherwise, we should just leave it alone.

**Crystal Huynhcao (10)**



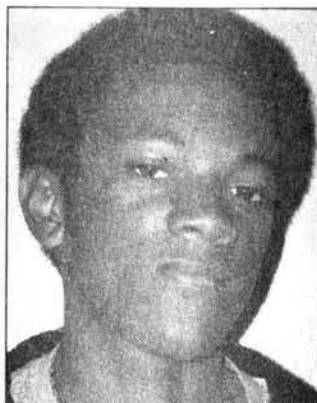
### REGISTER YOUR OPINION

#### Will LB 1024 better the education system?



"I think it's just going to separate the schools. I don't know if it will change the education. It depends on the new districts and what people do."

**Christina Ritchie (9)**



"I don't think so. I just think if you want to learn, then you will learn."

**Michael Williams (10)**



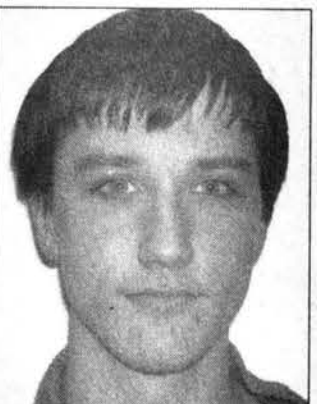
"To tell you the truth, it probably won't work. But I don't really know. There's no certain answer."

**Kiera House (9)**



"I say no. I think segregating schools is ridiculous. I love going to a diverse school."

**Molly Tipton (11)**



"No, I think that it would hinder our learning experience."

**Matt Cronin (11)**



# Williams unable to salvage 'RV'

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Take a spoiled family, a talented comedian in the wrong role and a plot as bulky and awkward as a recreational vehicle, and that is the premise of "RV."

Bob Munro, played by Robin Williams, was in danger of losing his job until his slave driver of a boss gave him one chance to save it. Bob needed to be at a company meeting to convince a smaller soda company to merge with the larger soda company he worked for or else he would have been fired.

Bob took the opportunity to save his job and canceled the family trip to Hawaii to take them in an RV to Colorado with him.

Of course he didn't tell his pampered wife Jamie (Cheryl Hines) about nearly getting fired, or his rude children Cassie and Carl (Joanna Levesque and Josh Hutcherson respectively).

For the next hour or so, the entire movie was filler. Bob endured his family complaining about not going to Hawaii.

However, it was easy to see why Bob didn't want to tell his family he could get fired because they didn't show any sign of support for him throughout most of the movie.

Hines, Levesque and Hutcherson didn't leave any impact on the audience with their ability because they spent most of the film whining instead of acting. Anybody can do that.

Williams gave an OK performance, demonstrated by the general affability of Bob, but he got stuck in a role that required most of the comedy to come from awful things happening to him. He didn't get the chance to really show his acting skills until the end of the movie when he finally told his family the truth and he was doing the best he could since he was the only one actually providing any money for the family.

Williams couldn't help but be sweet and kind-hearted in the movie, and the audience was sympathetic to Bob, even though he was supposedly a failure of a father.

The jokes in the movie were tired and old, providing very little to laugh at. The jokes included attacking animals, the RV crashing into things and disgusting waste products being dumped on Bob, all of which have been seen before in other movies.

One couldn't help but wince when they remembered other great movies Williams had been in.

The movie was predictable and it was easy to guess where the plot was headed. It was fairly simple to tell what jokes were going to be made as well. The end of the movie seemed to be put together at the last minute, when the writers realized they had eaten away almost two hours.

The only redeeming quality of the movie was the nice but perky Gornicke family they met on the way. Jeff Daniels and Kristin Chenoweth played the parents, Travis and Marie Jo. Their talent was under-

utilized and wasted in the film, just like Williams'.

They were supposed to be weird and annoying, but the audience could not help but like the Gornicke family better than the Munro family.

As a running joke, the Munro family kept trying to ditch them, even when the Gornicke family had been nothing but kind and thoughtful to them. For instance, Travis hosed down Bob after waste products fell on him, and later invited the Munros over to dinner at their RV.

These are people who didn't deserve to be looked down upon by the snobby Munro family because they seemed unintelligent.

Daniels' character was a little more believable. He seemed more like a lovable dad than Williams' character was. Even when Chenoweth was supposed to be annoying, she still had an air of sweetness that one preferred over Hines' character. The audience probably wished the movie had been about them and their family instead of the boorish Munros.

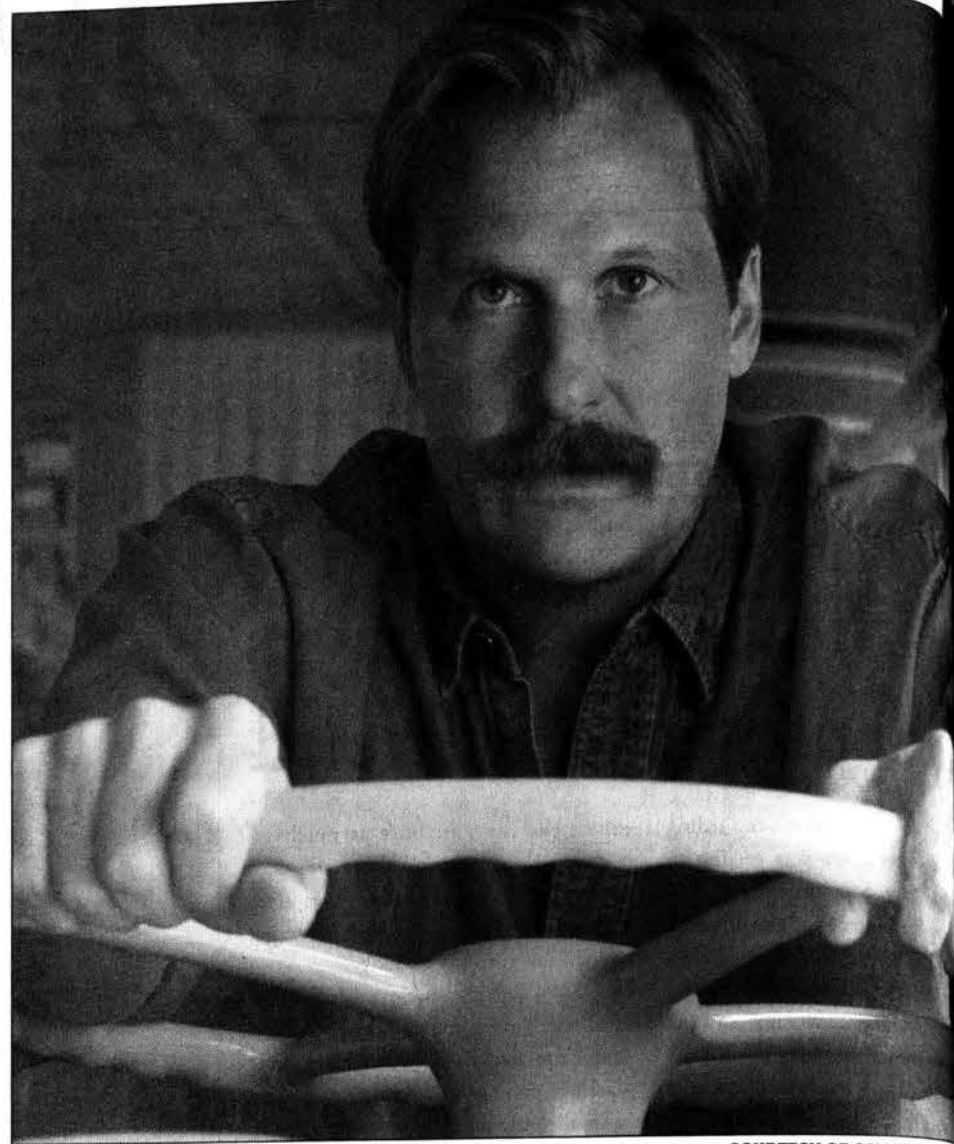
No matter how rushed the conclusion may have seemed, the audience was already disappointed in how long it took to reach the end of the movie.

One wonders why Williams took the role because the movie quickly runs out of gas.

## MOVIE REVIEW



Starring: Robin Williams



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Travis Gornicke (Jeff Daniels) and his family hurry to catch up with the Munro family on the road. Throughout the movie, the Munro family kept trying to ditch them because they thought the Gornicke family was strange. Daniels' talent was wasted in this bland film.

# Musician uses grief, loss in songs to impact listener in haunting way

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

Even when the only sound coming from the speakers was the soft plucking of guitar strings, there was still a feeling of unspeakable sadness. Coupled with haunting vocals the debut album "Five Leaves Left" from Nick Drake gave off the feeling of loss and grief. The emotion in the music was so raw that at times one felt uncomfortable listening to it, like one was hearing something forbidden, reading his best friend's diary.

Drake's songs were consistently striking throughout the album, both lyrically and musically. Several of the songs featured extended introductions and instead of getting bored with hearing acoustic guitar one was instead enchanted by the creative pluck patterns and extremely cohesive chord changes.

The difference in sound was so subtle it could barely be detected, but it also was very important to the music and

complemented Drake's wavering vocals perfectly.

The style of singing Drake used also made the album incredible. At times, it was very strong and swelled with a musical crescendo, or it whispered and faltered when singing about something very emotional or tragic. The breaks in Drake's voice were no doubt intentional and probably were thought out in the studio, but instead of sounding staged like some sad-eyed songwriters of today they struck sadness into the listeners' heart and made one wish there was something one could do to ease Drake's pain.

One of the stand-out tracks on the record was "Time Has Told Me," a soft and simple ode to the lessons Drake had learned in his short life. The song outlined several instances in which Drake learned something and it seemed there was a running plot to follow as opposed to the more common verse-chorus-verse pattern that most pop songs follow.

While listening to the song, one would hope for a resolution,

some glimmer of hope, and that was what one received in the end.

As the song closed Drake whispered into the microphone that he was close to feeling fixed, but he didn't think he'd be able to find the cure he was looking for.

Listening to this track gave the listener the same effect as being punched in the stomach. The disappointment of not given a happy ending was enough to make the listener sit on their bed and stare at the ceiling.

Even though the song was undeniably sad and brought on depressing, it was still immensely beautiful and appreciated by anyone who has a pure love for music.

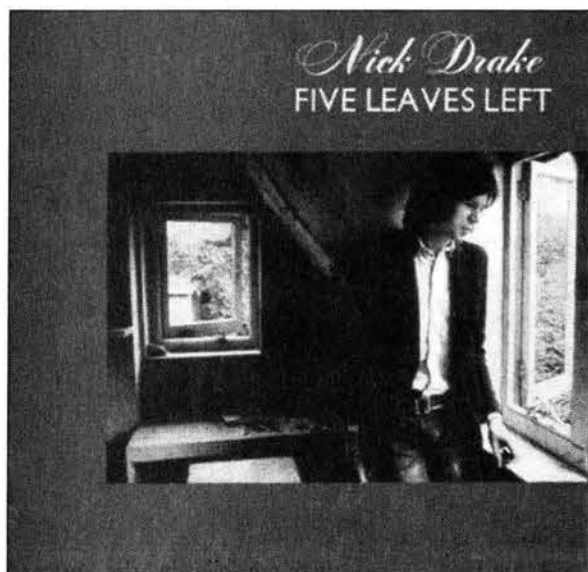
Perhaps the most haunting element of this album was the title itself, "Five Leaves Left."

It was Drake's first album released in his early twenties and five years later he overdosed on sleeping pills and died. While he never achieved the acclaim he longed for during his life, his music still lives on decades after his death.

## MUSIC REVIEW



Key track: "Time Has Told Me"



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# New film based on video game fails to recreate suspense



PHOTO COURTESY TRI STAR PICTURES  
Radha Mitchell plays a mother frantically searching for her daughter in the newest movie based off a video game, "Silent Hill."

BY PATRICK BREEN

"Silent Hill" was rated "R" for strong horror violence, gore, disturbing images and some language, but it should have been rated "T" for terrible.

The special effects blockbuster, with millions of dollars written all over it, became weak after only half an hour of agony.

The plot came from the extremely popular video game, "Silent Hill," and although it directly followed the plot of the game, the movie came up short for audiences.

Little Sharon (Jodelle Ferland) was the daughter of Rose (Radha Mitchell). Recently Sharon had developed a mysterious sleep walking habit. In the middle of the

night, she would get up and walk to a cliff while mumbling "silent hill."

So, of course, the mother in her genius ways decided to take her daughter to the place she kept walking to. No therapy or drugs here, so Tom Cruise would be happy. While driving to the destination, there was a sudden (and predictable) appearance of a freaky little girl.

Rose swerved to avoid the child, and crashed the car. When she woke up from the crash her daughter was missing. As if it was tough to see that one coming.

In most horror movies, the plot is not plausible at all, but this one completely jumped the boat with crazy creatures and evil lords left and right.

The plot drudged through the mud before it reached

the end, and by that time the viewer was fundamentally confused.

The plot twisted and turned into a tangled web that no one could understand.

Director Christophe Gans went into a totally different realm to pull creatures from the game into the motion picture.

The costume designs were solid and the weird deformed figures creeped out the anxious audience. Other than that, the film was a flop.

The script lacked even mediocre dialogue and moved slowly. Some of the most memorable lines were some of the oldest of horror clichés: "Everything is going to be all right" and "Something terrible happened here." It seemed the writers took notes from B movie horror flicks.

"Silent Hill" was a movie to rent, not a movie to waste money on in the overpacked theater.

## MOVIE REVIEW



'SILENT HILL'

Starring: Radha Mitchell

# Student takes passion to next level

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

They are the students who will create the masterpieces enabling the art department to thrive as it has done in years past.

Sophomore Rachel Woolard is one of the students that the department will depend on.

Hundreds of works of art were displayed for auction at the art sale, which took place on May 14 in the courtyard. Of those hundreds of sculptures, paintings, pots and sketches, one was Rachel's.

Art teacher Tanya Simmons told Woolard's class that she believes their class is the best at drawing.

"The other classes made things like clay, keyboards and crafts," Woolard said.

She said she didn't know what to expect from the sale. She created an 8 by 11 drawing of a waterfall.

"I first did it in pencil, then water color and finally brushed water on it," Woolard said.

She said she did that so the sketch would actually have the appearance of a real waterfall.

Although Woolard was unaware of the value her work would go for, she said she just knew that it would sell.

However, Woolard said she had some idea of what it would sell for.

She said another piece of artwork that she had sold was a picture of a plastered face and hand with pieces of glass and wood sold for about



PHOTO BY ASTRIKA WILHELM/REGISTER

Sophomore Rachel Woolard works on her latest project in art class. Woolard said students were able to pick their designs and shape for their pot sand she was looking forward to taking a pottery class next year.

when she was a little girl.

One of her friends, sophomore Crystal Huynhcao, thought Rachel's work was magnificent.

"It just grabs at your heart," she said.

Rachel said she was nervous before the sale, as can be expected. She said her expectations and hopes were not parallel at all.

Rachel said she expected the crowd at the art sale to be mostly parents supporting their students and the Art Department.

Rachel said she believed the art sale this year would be just as or more successful than last years, although she did not go to the art sale last year.

"I seem to remember that they (the Art

Dept.) got \$600 last year," Rachel said.

She has been involved in artwork for almost her entire life. She said she took an art class in seventh grade.

Both her parents, as well as her siblings, are really proud of her.

"My dad says that I'm really talented," Rachel said.

She also said that she would ask for advice from her dad and he would always say that he couldn't give any because he isn't an artist. But then he would say he can see beauty and all of her art is beautiful.

Unfortunately, Rachel and her family weren't able to attend the art sale due to prior commitments with track meets for both Rachel

and her brother.

She said she would put pieces in the art sale again next year since she was going to be in pottery.

"We have to participate in the art sale," she said. "It's for a grade."

Ann said she believes Rachel will dramatically improve when she does it again next year.

"I can find out what art sold the best so then I could do that next year," she said.

Rachel said she believed she got a lot out of the sale and that she could do a lot better next year.

She said she could learn from her mistakes as well as others' accomplishments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart), a tobacco lobbyist, defends himself and his industry against a barrage of reporters.

## 'Smoking' balances comedy, truth well

BY BOB AL-GREENE

A film that opens with the proud statement that the tobacco industry kills 1,200 people a day (that's two airliners full of men, women and children) and about 445,000 a year is likely going to become a brutal, honest and somber exposé of the billion-dollar industry.

That, or it's going to become the funniest movie of the year.

"Thank You For Smoking" told the story of Washington tobacco lobbyist extraordinary Nick Naylor

## MOVIE REVIEW



'THANK YOU FOR SMOKING'

Starring: Aaron Eckhart

(Aaron Eckhart). For those not following the stories of corruption on Capitol Hill, a lobbyist's job is to ensure questionable industries have a safe place in the future.

Naylor at first came off to the viewer as a smiling, lying and inhuman monster, but it was revealed that he was in fact a father struggling to get to know his son of a failed marriage, and troubled at the prospect of bribing a dying opponent of the industry into silence.

Hounded by an anti-tobacco senator and a "seductress" of a reporter, Naylor gave a number of excuses, such as the joking "population control" or the more realistic "yuppie Nuremberg defense": Everyone's got a mortgage to pay.

The quick wit of the characters made "Smoking" a masterpiece of humor.

All in all, the premise alone should be enough to ensnare any moviegoer with an eye for quirky humor.

The fact that the film actually delivered, and that it came off as original, relevant and refreshing, made it great.

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# Sale offers opportunity to buy student-made work

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

As soon as the final bell rang, students began filing into the courtyard to admire and purchase items created by art students. The items available ranged from edible goods, such as a cake commemorating the senior class, to more traditional things like pencil sketches, painting and pottery.

Sophomore Megan Kreigler worked at the fair monitoring the tables displaying art for sale. She had some of her own work up for purchase. Kreigler and her class had two days to make magnets for the sale. She said she enjoyed participating in the sale, but it was hard to let go of some of her pieces.

"My favorite magnet already got bought," Kreigler said. She said the magnets were priced at two for \$1 and she was glad the money was going to the school.

"It's better used for the Art Department," Kreigler said. Junior Lindsay Schulz said she had a drawing featured in the sale. She said she also had other mediums of art included, such as pottery and a decorative box, which was sold quickly.

She said she was not surprised, but very pleased the art was selling fast. She said there was the usual rush of purchases at the beginning of the sale.

"The first hour is really busy," Schulz said. She said the sale had benefits other than raising funds for the Art Department. It also taught students who were interested in pursuing art as a career how to handle buying and selling pieces.

"I think it's good that students get to learn about commission," she said.

Some of the art sold had a practical use as opposed to being purely aesthetic. Some of these items were beaded lanyards that were priced at \$4 each.

Schulz said it was unique pieces like these that made the art show interesting and accessible to all students.

"There's a little bit of everything," she said. Sophomore Adrienne Anderson said she came to the sale to support the art program and to look at all the things the art students had produced over the course of the year.

"We have very talented artists here at Central," she said. Art Department head Larry Andrews said the art sale has happened for the past five or six years, but he had wanted to organize it ever since he came to Central 23 years ago.

"I had wanted to do this for the longest time," he said. He said most of the art for sale was made after second semester.

"Most of these were all made in class," he said. Andrews said the department tried to involve every student who was currently enrolled in an art class in the sale. "Every art student was responsible for doing one piece from each class they were in," he said.

Andrews said typically the sale made \$1,200 to \$1,800 in profits. He said this money was used to help buy supplies for the Art Department to use the following year.

Schulz said the money was very beneficial for the department because if the teachers ran out of money for their supplies, often they would buy the materials themselves. She said the money was not used for anything specific, but was spread out to different areas.

"We use it (the money) all throughout the year," Schulz said.

Andrews said he thought both students and faculty looked forward to the sale and benefited from it. He also said he thought students getting to see what the art classes have been working on was a very positive thing.

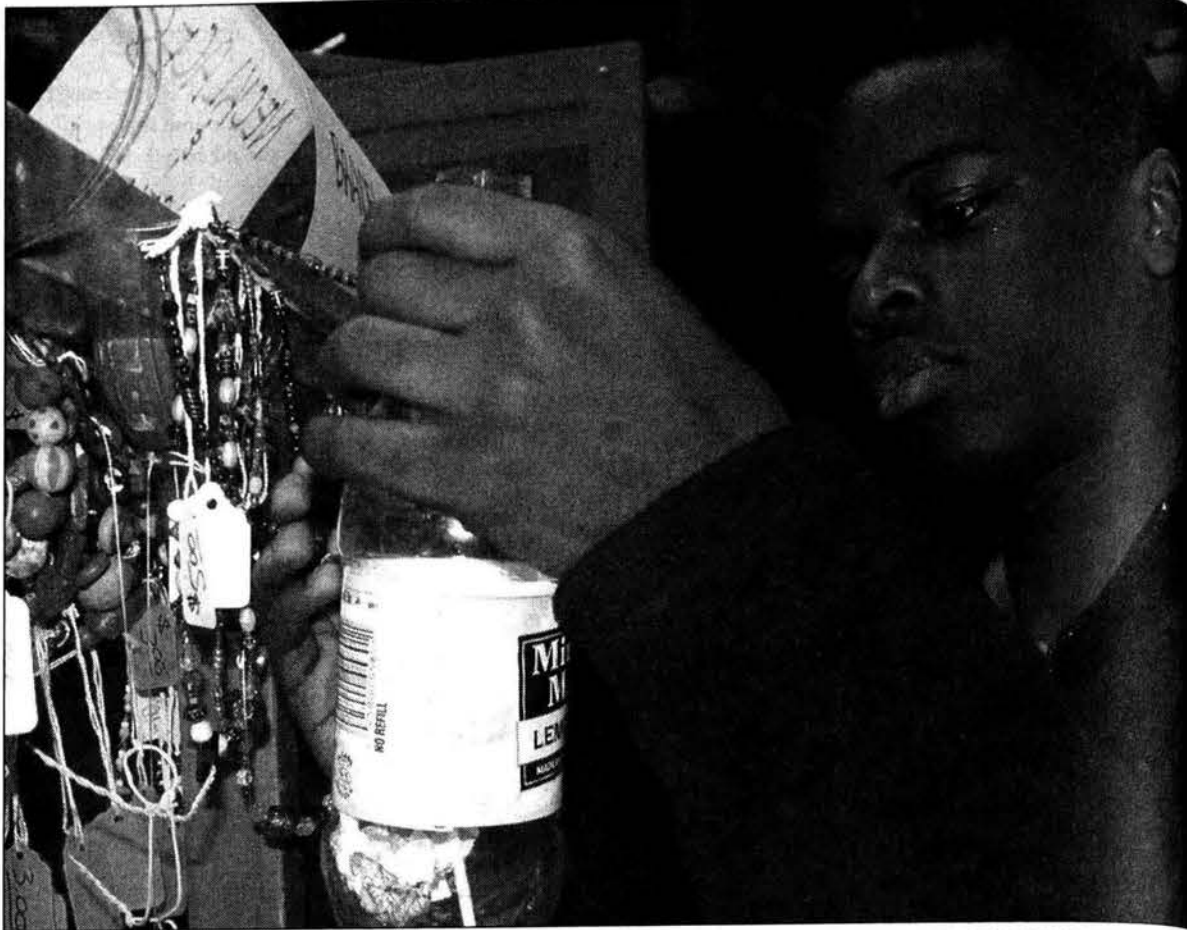


PHOTO BY EMMA PHILLIPS/REGISTER

Freshman Darryl Johnson looks over some bracelets at the art sale. He was considering buying one of the bracelets as a gift for his girlfriend. The bracelets were moderately priced, ranging from \$3 to \$5.

# Sophomore thinks American art has received bad rap over last century

The United States has been accused on more than one occasion of not producing anything of any artistic value. I think this could not be farther from the truth.

Although the countries of Europe and many others have contributed an amazing amount to the worlds of art and literature, the United States cannot be counted out as a mere speck of nothingness in the creative world.

One of my favorite things to do is read, and of the all the novels I have read and loved many have been European. But more have been American in origin.

When I stand in front of my bookshelf and look at the titles I can see the melting pot that is America. Just the last names of the writers are interesting to me: Sedaris, Foer, Fitzgerald, Rice and Rakoff.

In just seeing the different ethnic groups represented in my books it is enough to show that America is more than capable of producing talented and legendary writers.

One of my favorite writers is F. Scott Fitzgerald. He has been recognized for his genius not only in the United States, but abroad as well. His books are often set in different countries, but some of his most well recognized, such as "This Side of Paradise," are specifically American in origin.

One of the shared experiences of all Americans is we all come from a very heterogeneous society.

I think it is a need to prove ourselves that makes Americans especially creative and eager to show the rest of the world that our artists are deserving of hanging in museums next to the greats of Europe.

It is, of course, possible that I have imagined anyone having a prejudice at all against artists and writers whom are American in origin. It may also be true that American is not on par with

the rest of the world in terms of artistry.

I think that most great art originates out of suffering and just in the 231 years our country has officially existed as a sovereign nation we have had our fair share of national heartbreak.

I remember sitting in art class in elementary school and learning about an artist who, during the Great Depression, painted landscapes and incorporated the food the population so desperately longed for. The pies and loaves of bread were concealed in the rolling hills and trees.

In its essence, art is supposed to convey an idea or a perspective, and knowing that American citizens were so hungry that the need for food was never forgotten, even when a person sat down to paint, is mind-boggling. This is the pure spirit of American art

as I see it.

I like to think of how nice it would be if the United States could be known mainly for art and music as opposed to imperialism.

Countries like France have this special distinction; it is not out of the question to think the United States could achieve this reputation. Essentially all that would be to be done would be to funnel more federal dollars into programs.

Instead of invading any country that does not agree, we should be the dominant country of the world, we could use those billions of dollars to give scholarships to art and music students while at the same time building more museums.

Even without these measures it is impossible to ignore the fact that the United States has produced great artists in every genre, however it would still be nice to be known more for art than missiles.



OPAQUE RAINBOW

A Column by Emma Phillips

**1995**

Bobby Echert  
Mary Danfield  
Steve Delvin  
Angela Fatino

**1996**

Bobby Echert  
Mary Danfield  
Steve Delvin  
Angela Fatino

Two weeks after this photo was taken, Angela Fatino died while on meth. She was 15.

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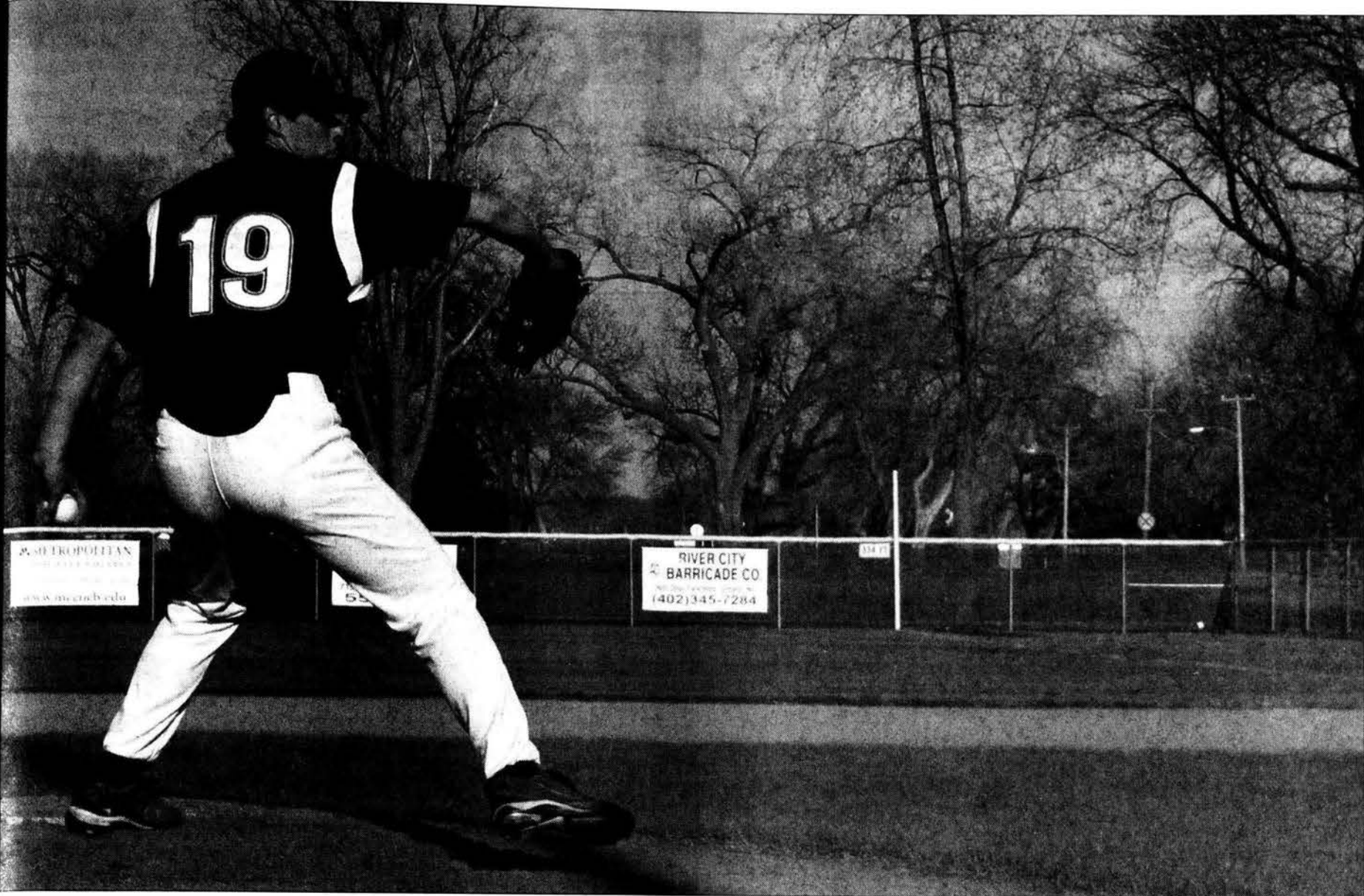
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Junior Dan Smith warms up during a break in the game against the Northwest Huskies at the Eagle's new baseball field. After falling behind early in the game, the Eagles came away with a close 8-7 win.

PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

# Eagles win first game on new field

BY CLAY LOMNETH

It was year of firsts. The first real home basketball game took place during the school year. The first home football game was well. Don't forget the first ever home baseball game. Each of these games ended with an Eagle victory, of course.

The Eagles squared off against the Northwest Huskies and won the new Boyd Field with an intense last-minute 8-7 win.

Watching the first few innings, however, not a fan in the stands would have guessed the result.

This new field was something special for the Eagles, senior Brian Benes said. Benes and his teammates had worked together the field last year, over the summer and in the fall, planting grass and laying the dirt. They worked hard, he said, because they wanted to make the perfect playing field diamond.

There would be no blaming the playing field now if they lost.

"We have a sense of pride in that field," Benes said.

Junior Chris Miller started pitching for the Eagles, and after two strikes right away, everything looked good. That was until he hit the Huskies' senior Jay Irvin and he took a walk to first.

Miller said he had some nerves during that game, and didn't do as well as he hoped.

"I've never been pitching in a game that big," he said.

Another walk followed and then came the Huskies' senior, Svoboda. With Svoboda's hit, Irvin ended up at home plate and the Huskies had the first score of the night.

The Huskies were loading up the bases in anticipation of a big hit. Sophomore Kyle Heuertz from Northwest finally delivered one for them. Added to a previous run from their senior J.D. Herman, the Huskies were put at a comfortable 4-0 going into the next inning.

Heuertz hit a high ball out to far left field. Svoboda and sophomore Andy Samson, on third and second base respectively, made it all the way home.

Northwest was almost handed perfect opportunities by Central. The Huskies used every opportunity given to them. At the end of the second inning, the Huskies had seven runs.

Senior Bryant Cotton said he thought the Eagles had their

minds on other things during that game. It was their own fault for getting off track, and what got them in the right mindset was the Huskies leading 7-0.

"I told myself, 'we're going to come back and win,'" he said. "But how, I had no idea."

This game was especially a big deal for Cotton, who was also a member of the basketball team that had its first game and official win in the new gym this year. He understood the significance of having a new home field and court.

In the third inning, however, Central began its comeback. The Eagles switched pitchers to junior Dan Smith when on the mound and stopped hitting so many pop flies when at bat.

Coach Scott Hodges said pitchers were switched because Miller was a bit weak in the beginning.

"He earned the opportunity to start that game," Hodges said. "Unfortunately for him it didn't go the way he wanted."

Hodges has been coaching Miller since he was in the seventh grade, and said he still had a lot of talent.

"He's got a lot of stuff as far as pitching goes," Hodges said.

The first run for Central was scored by Cotton. After a huge hit by junior Ben Kline, Cotton made his way around the bases to get the Eagles on the board.

Kline made it to second, and was knocked in just two batters later when Benes hit what should have been an easy out that was missed by the outfield. Kline scored the second point as the Huskies were scrambling around for the ball.

Going into the next inning, the Huskies were still ahead 6-2. Barely a scratch on their rock-solid lead, they would still need to make the most of their inning at bat and try to shut Central down for good.

With Smith pitching, only two batters made it to a plate. Before they could get past second, however, the Eagles had their try again at batting.

Sophomore Drew Drickey added another run for the Eagles before they had to go into the outfield again. He was put on first with a walk. Sophomore John Shanahan was right behind him in line.

Shanahan's bat connected and the ball went sailing over second. The Huskies scrambled for that ball and attempted to get him out at first, not noticing Drickey was already halfway

home.

Coming into the fifth inning, the Huskies added one to try and stop a comeback. This would be their final run of the night.

Perhaps the Eagles' best inning was the bottom of the sixth. Scoring two points during their time at bat, they dominated the diamond. Six different people got a chance to step up to the plate before they were finally brought down.

The fact they were playing on their home field made the difference between the win and loss, Benes said.

"If we would have been anywhere else, we wouldn't have won that game," Benes said. "Pride's a huge factor."

Hodges said at this time there was probably a turning point in the game. The Huskies started making errors and the Eagles started hitting the ball harder.

Spectacular plays by the usual big dogs - Cotton, Kline, Shanahan and senior Ben Salzinger - gave Salzinger and Shanahan the chance to run it in.

Salzinger had an impressive play earlier in the game when he gained ground on an error by Northwest.

"Ben is pretty much a catalyst of our offense," Hodges said.

With a batting average of about .442, Salzinger was a key in the Eagle victory.

Finally came the seventh inning. The Huskies had one last chance to increase their lead and grind the Eagles into the ground one last time.

After a walk to first and one strike-out, Svoboda attempted to steal second, but was tagged out by sophomore Kyle Lynch. Northwest's senior Chris Samson struck out next and the teams went into a 7-5 inning.

The Eagles loaded up the bases. With Salzinger at bat, he hit one sailing over the Huskies' heads and made it to second. With the two-run play, the score was now tied.

Finally, in one of the greatest plays of the game, Cotton stepped up to the bat. The first pitch was a ball, but the second went flying far into left field.

Shanahan made it in, and the Eagles came away with an 8-7 win at the first home game.

Miller said this game was a very important one for the school and the baseball team.

## Sayers returns to alma mater to raise money

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The man who some would say gave Central the nickname I-Back High came back to his alma mater to help raise money for a local charity.

Gale Sayers (class of 1961) was a busy man April 28. In addition to getting his jersey retired, getting a tour of the school and attending a showing of "Brian's Song," he also received a key to the city handed to him personally by Mayor Mike Fahey.

Sayers said he was pleased to use his name to help local charity the Wesley House, but he didn't let the attention get to him.

"I'm not an ego person, that doesn't cross my mind," he said.

The visit was the first time Sayers got a chance to see the new football stadium.

"Central high is probably the last high school in Omaha to have a football field," Sayers said.

He said he wished his year had something like the field. Instead, they were stuck practicing on something less than par.

"We had a little piece of dirt about 60 yards by 50 yards," he said.

The whole ceremony was in anticipation of something even bigger in the future. A golf tournament will be held with Sayers to help raise more money for the Wesley House. Sayers said they are planning on raising \$80,000 to \$100,000 after it's over.

Senior DJ Jones was one of the students who helped give Sayers a tour of the school.

"It was overwhelming," Jones said. "All you hear about at Central is Gale Sayers, Gale Sayers."

Jones gave Sayers a summary of the stadium, including how long it took the build and how much it cost.

The work with the Wesley House wasn't the only charity work Sayers has done. He said he often helps out charities by making appearances.

A big reason for Sayers being back was the influence of his wife, Ardythe. Ardythe, a 1953 South High graduate, knew Paul Bryant, one of the organizers of the event, from the Wesley House.

"I think it's a great program," she said. "It's a needed program."

Bryant had known the Sayers family for a while, and growing up, he said Gale was one of his heroes.

"He was the Kobe Bryant, the Tiger Woods," he said. "Gale was the man."

Just based off this event, Bryant said over \$60,000 was raised.

Living in Chicago now, Gale said it was good to come back to Omaha about twice a year. The building had gone through a lot of renovations over the years and looked different, he said.

"A lot of changes," Gale said, "but it's change for the good."

Coach Joe McMenamin helped prepare for Gale's appearance. He had a jersey made with Gale's number, 48, and his name on the back.

Five other former Central football players had jerseys retired this year for the Central wall of fame.

"I had a couple pictures enlarged for the press conference," McMenamin said.

McMenamin said a lot of the rest of the night was organized by people from the Wesley house. Before the showing of "Brian's Song," a movie based on part of Gale's football life, students from the Monroe Middle School choir sang for Gale.

McMenamin said Gale coming to Central was huge for the school.

"Most people consider him the top athlete to ever come out of Nebraska," he said.

Some of the students perhaps couldn't appreciate how good Gale was, he said. To do that, you either had to see him in real life or on film.

"Some of the runs were neat to watch," McMenamin said. "He went through them (the defenders) like water."



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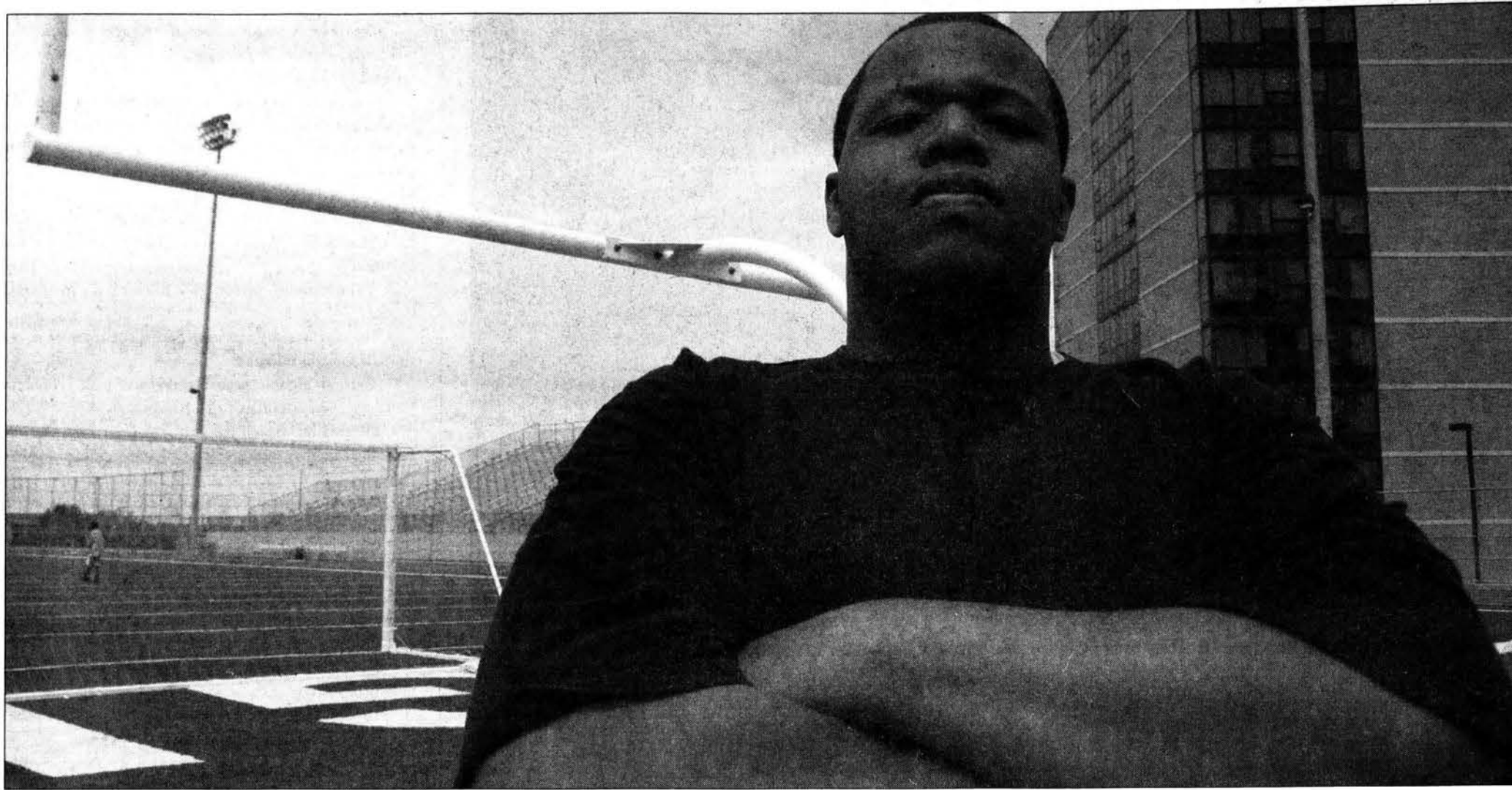


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Junior Harland Gunn recently verbally committed to the University of Miami. Gunn said playing for the Hurricanes has been a dream of his since he was younger. He said he hadn't expected scholarship offers as early as his junior year, but Miami was the first to offer him something and that left an impression on him.

## Junior looks forward to being a Hurricane

BY PATRICK BREEN

At 6 feet 3 inches and 311 pounds, junior Harland Gunn towers over most students in the hallways, and many on the field. What makes this varsity football star more interesting is the fact that this offensive lineman was offered a scholarship to one of the elite football programs in the country. Gunn verbally committed to the Miami Hurricanes last month and looks forward to fun times in college.

"It feels like Miami is the place for me," Gunn said.

He has always wanted to play for the Hurricanes, and when they made an offer he said it was like a dream come true. Miami wasn't the only Division I school that offered. Nebraska, Iowa State, Kansas and Kansas State all offered Gunn a full ride, but Miami was the first, and that made all the difference.

Gunn didn't expect scholarship offers early in his junior year, but was delighted that so many different schools had so much interest in him.

Varsity football head coach Joe McMenamin said teams have really been interested in Gunn since he sent out over 30 films, which showed Gunn's strength and versatility on the line. McMenamin said he couldn't cut much off the films because Gunn had too many powerful highlights to leave out.

"He is really explosive off the line and has tremendous strength," McMenamin said. "He improves every year, and works hard to get better."

What clinched the deal, Gunn said, was an expense-paid trip to the Miami campus. Gunn traveled to Florida for a 4-day tour of the college. Gunn said the visit was the finishing touch to him deciding on Miami. He said the coaches and players he met treated him like family.

"Everyone was really nice and friendly," Gunn said.

He called McMenamin on his trip because he was so excited to join the Hurricanes. McMenamin advised him to take his time and talk with his family about the decision.

When he got back, he discussed it with his family and decided Miami was the place.

"For me it was an easy decision," Gunn said. "I've wanted to play for them a long time."

McMenamin said Gunn had always been a hard worker, and would make a major impact on the team next year.

Gunn will be the first Central football player to receive a scholarship to play for the Hurricanes. Miami is a strong team, he said, and they are strong competitors every year. The recruiters told Gunn he would make a huge impact on the team, and he would have

plenty of opportunities to shine. Gunn said he loved the physicality of being on the offensive line.

"I love to pancake people," he said. "It's a lot of fun."

Gunn has the option of changing his mind before officially signing next year, but he believes his mind is set on playing for Miami. He said it has been a childhood dream to play for the Hurricanes, and he was steadfast in his decision.

Gunn said he believed his strength, speed and ability made him an elite tackle. He benches 400 pounds and squats over 600. He blows people off the line and uses his size to stop the other team, he said. McMenamin said Gunn was a great athlete and team leader.

"Once he blocks someone, they won't get through," McMenamin said. "He is that good."

McMenamin said Gunn handled his quick rise to notoriety in the high school football world very well. He said some players can't handle the attention, and have trouble keeping their egos under control.

"Gunn is a quiet, modest person," McMenamin said, "and he doesn't boast about the scholarships."

Gunn will return next year for his senior season to play on the offensive line, and looks forward to a new coach, Jay Ball, and a new schedule. He said he couldn't wait to start playing for Miami.



### MOLDING THIS CLAY

A Column by Clay Lomneth

## Athletics at CHS in best shape in years

This has to be one of the best years for sports at Central in CHS history. Look at everything that happened.

Right in the first few months of school, Seemann Stadium opened. It's the epitome of a quality college stadium, put right in the middle of downtown Omaha at the largest high school in Nebraska. Other schools look in envy at what we got, it's no secret.

Next was the first home basketball game in the new gym. Think of how much more convenient that is than the drive to Norris. Beautiful facilities right next to the state-of-the-art stadium.

Now, in the tradition of first years, the baseball team had its first game at Boyd Park.

This year will be the year to look back on in the future. This is the year everything happened.

Central is finally more like a college prep school it should be. All we has got to be great for recruiting. We should play this up as much as possible before North gets its new stadium.

Something made this year a perfect year for sports. This year was a year up for even higher expectations.

Football is getting a new coach. McMenamin, who was around when Central won its last State championship. Those are big shoes to step into. But possibilities are endless.

I think just about every sport is coming back stronger than ever. If this year was a rebuilding year for younger players, then now they have the experience. If they had an excellent season, then fortunately most of the players are coming back next year.

As a senior, I almost wish I would be here one more year. I almost wish I was staying for the year every thing would go right.

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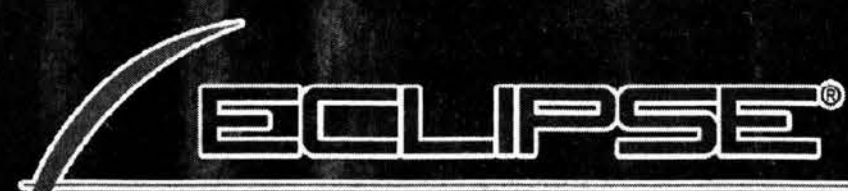
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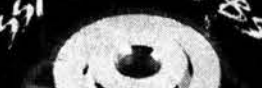
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