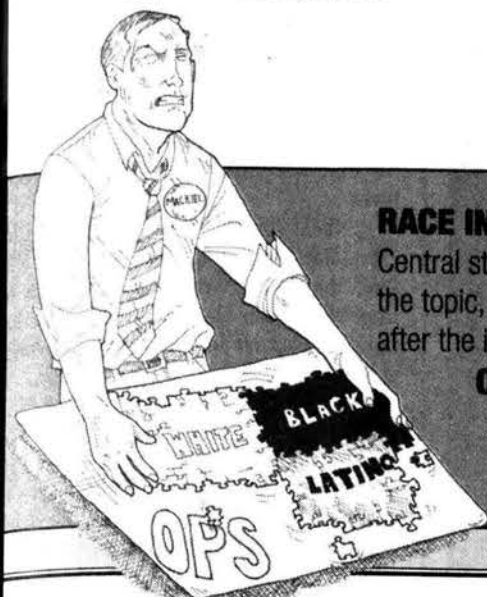


THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2006

the Central High School REGISTER

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RACE IN OUR SCHOOLS
Central students weigh in on the topic, which is up in the air after the injunction of LB 1024.
OPINION, PAGE 7

HORROR SERIES
A look at some of the most famous and drawn-out sagas of terror, and the villains that simply refuse to die.
ARTS, PAGE 8

HARLAND GUNN
The Eagles' star offensive guard is picked to play on the Army's All-American team.
SPORTS, PAGE 12



Candidates visit classes to speak out

BY BOB AL-GREENE

"It is your responsibility to participate," Rep. Lee Terry said. "The people have the power."

Terry, who is the incumbent Republican candidate for Nebraska's second Congressional District in the upcoming election, addressed the 4th hour AP Government class on Tuesday, Nov. 24, speaking on a number of topics before opening up to questions from the class. His challenger, Democrat Jim Esch, spoke the next day to the same group.

Terry passed around copies of the Constitution, which he called possibly the greatest document ever written.

"What I do as your representative," he said, "All of that is set forth in this document."

Both candidates briefly summarized their educational backgrounds. Terry explained what the duties of a representative, and Esch explained why he had chosen to go into politics. He said when he sees a need for change he is compelled to do something about it.

"I haven't ever been to content to sit on the sidelines," Esch said.

While Terry gave a lengthy opening speech before he took questions, Esch was much more relaxed, sitting on a stool instead of standing and telling the class that he would much rather hear what they had on their minds.

"I'm kind of tired of hearing myself speak," Esch said as he opened up to questions from the class, most of which would touch on the same topics as Terry's did.

Both sessions began with questions on the same topic, however: Iraq.

Terry tied in the Iraq War as part of the necessary fight against terror. He called Saddam Hussein the hub of the spokes for terrorism, and said it was an important move to dismantle the regime, though things have not been as easy as expected since then.

"I don't like the current status of Iraq," he said. "It bothers me every night... just horrifies me."

Terry said the government's purpose, however, is to think above an emotional level. He said pulling out of Iraq wouldn't be the right move, and gave three main reasons to keep troops there.

He emphasized the obligation the United States has to the young government, and the fact that the U.S. soldiers are the only thing standing between Iraqi citizens and a large-scale civil war. He said it was all about making commitment to stay in Iraq.

"It looks bad now," he said, "but it'll be far, far worse (if we pull out). Foreign policy is based on credibility."

He said when foreign leaders like

Continued to **Candidates** on Page 3

WORD ON THE STREET

Artist Matthew Dehaemers uses half a mile of downtown sidewalk to tell the story of William Brown, who in 1919 was lynched by a mob of 20,000 Omahans



Dehaemers begins work on his most recent project, a reflection on the 1919 shooting, burning and lynching of African-American William Brown. By the time he was finished, Dehaemers had traveled roughly a half mile on his knees telling Brown's story.

Story and photos by Bob Al-Greene

In the foreground of the photograph, a pile of scrap wood smolders. On top of the pile sits the form of what was once a man, which has become nothing but a charred, absolutely unrecognizable figure. This is the victim, and it too is still letting off copious amounts of smoke. The graphic nature of the victim's remains, however, is in a way not the most disgusting element of the photo.

What's worse is the crowd. Mere feet behind the burnt body, the men who did the deed stand with smiles on their faces and hands on their hips, proudly posing for their photo. A small boy looks over one of their shoulders at the corpse, eyes alight with excited curiosity. They are the triumphant perpetrators of this act of extreme violence.

"Whether you want to forget about it or not, it's there," said Matthew Dehaemers, artist-in-residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.

Dehamer's latest project was a reflection on the riot and subsequent lynching that took place in Omaha nearly 90 years ago, one of 11 lynchings

Continued to **Dehaemers** on Page 4

Mideastern student learns from heritage

BY ALI HODGE

For some Central High School students and their families, the constant bombing, fighting and chaos in the Middle East hits closer home than just something they watch on television or read in the newspapers.

As some students watch the news reports, they are thinking about the safety of their families.

One of those students is sophomore Sarah Barazi.

Sarah is an American teenager who has some closer connections to the Middle East than many do.

Her father, Samer, is from Damascus, Syria, as is the rest of her father's family, who she never really worried about before the current outbreaks of violence in the Middle East.

Sarah said this is obviously a touchy subject since there is so much more involved with her and her family's situation.

Mr. Barazi was raised in Damascus and then moved to America by himself in 1980 when his father, who was in England receiving medical treatment, gave him \$500 and told him he couldn't support him anymore.

However, his family, which consists of his wife and daughter, has lived in America their entire lives.

Sarah has never traveled to Syria, a subject she said has caused some hard feelings between her and her family.

She said many issues influence her decision not to visit the Middle East such as language, money and the simple fact that she's American.

"It stinks that I am so afraid to visit them," she said. "But I feel like they could shut down transportation at any time and I wouldn't be able to get home. I might have brown hair and brown eyes, but I look American and they hate Americans! Also, I'm a Christian and they're Muslim. My dad thinks I'm betraying a culture, but I'm just scared."

Sarah said that her aunt, cousin and grandmother have come to visit for a few months over the years.

She said all of them do not speak English very well, so it is hard to form a deep relationship.

She said she still had a good time with them even though she couldn't communicate with them very well.

She said she and her grandmother would bake cookies and other sweets together when her grandmother came to visit.

Their language would consist of pointing and making signs at each other.

She said her grandmother would teach her songs in Arabic as they would cook.

Sarah said her family has not come

Continued to **Barazi** on Page 3

Security guard with four relatives attending Central plans to stay until their graduation

BY BOB AL-GREENE

It's all about the kids.

Security personnel Joe Venditte might have two nieces, junior Catherine and freshman Anna, a nephew (freshman Louis) and a granddaughter (sophomore Joie) who attend Central, but they aren't the only students who matter to him. To have a job working security at a high school, he said, it is most important to enjoy being around students.

"I love working with kids," he said. "Don't have a bad kid in the bunch."

Venditte has been working as security at Central for 11 years. Before that he said he worked as security at Jennie

Edmondson Hospital in Council Bluffs for seven years full-time. He said when the dog track opened in 1986, he began working there half-time, and then on the casino riverboats in 1996.

He said he worked construction work before that, but got into security because of family members taking the same routes.

"My brothers were law enforcement," he said. "My son was law enforcement."

Venditte said every day he gets up at 4:30 in the morning and arrives at Central at 5:45. He sits at the desk at the West Entrance until the first bell at 7:42, then walks the halls first period looking for students in the hall.

Second period he checks the senior and staff parking lots

for break-ins, then comes back third and walks the hall again.

During fourth hour he works in the security office, where he can monitor video feeds from the nine cameras around the building, from the entrances to the stadium. During fifth and sixth periods he works in the cafeteria and courtyard, then he is back at the West Entrance, checks the parking lots again, and watches the cameras. Venditte said the typical day isn't that eventful. It usually doesn't get too dangerous. He said at the casinos, security sometimes had to deal with people who had had too much to drink, and the same problem applied to his work at Jennie Edmondson.

He said he remembered a drunk coming into the hospital, and being escorted away by Council Bluffs police, who he said

used their night sticks on him.

"He got beat up pretty bad," he said.

Venditte said he plans to stay at Central until Katherine, Anna, Louis and Joie graduate in four years, when he will be 72 years old.

"Lord willing," he said, "I might stay longer."

Security personnel Herb Welling, who has been at Central since 2002, said he agreed with Venditte when it came to their reasons for working at a high school, students were definitely at the top of the list. As for Venditte himself, Welling jokingly refers to him as the Godfather.

"You ever watch an Italian movie? He's the Godfather," Welling said.



Political Candidates

Lee Terry and Jim Esch, candidates for Nebraska's second Congressional District, visit Central.

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Marching Band

The band performs its show and competes for the first time in four years.

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Aca Deca prepares for scrimmage

BY ALI HODGE

The Academic Decathlon team, or Aca Deca, is preparing for an upcoming scrimmage.

Vicki Deniston-Reed, adviser of Aca Deca, said her class is very challenging and the process is a lot more stressful than it might seem.

She said it requires a lot of extra time commitment, intelligence and effort due to the unusually large amount of homework, studying and college-level reading.

"Just taking the class is really really hard," Deniston-Reed said. "It takes a lot of hours."

Deniston-Reed said the pace of the class is very fast, especially in the fall when they are reaching competition time. She said many students take the class for a few years to build up their background knowledge and competition skills.

Deniston-Reed is preparing her class for competitions by covering all seven of the subjects that they have to cover under this year's topic, China.

The seven subjects include art history, music, literature, social studies, economics, math and science.

They also compete on three skills: essay, interview and speech.

Deniston-Reed said she is really enjoying this year's topic and she believes her students are as well. She said in the past her classes have done Europe and related subjects.

She said she thought China was much more interesting and a nice contrast to what they have done in past years.

When Academic Decathlon was first being introduced to Nebraska, Central was always the leader in the competitions.

Deniston-Reed said with all of the rising competition in Omaha, Central usually places around third.

Deniston-Reed said her goal is to obviously beat the winning teams. She said that's her goal every year.

The schools that compete with Central for top places are Creighton Prep, Burke and, just recently, North.

"We'd like to beat all of them," she said. "But they do a fine job."

Regional competition will be held at a local high school the third weekend of January, Deniston-Reed said.

She said if her team passes, they then go on to the state competition held at Creighton the third full weekend in February.

She said her goal is to defiantly get at least third place at state if not higher.

"They're very highly motivated students," Deniston-Reed said.

She said her students treat Aca Deca with more effort than some of their other classes.

Temporary security guard joins staff

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Security guard Pete Andrews will temporarily be a part of the security team at Central.

Andrews said he has been working for Omaha Public Schools (OPS) as a security guard part time for five years. He said he goes to the school he is assigned to whenever he is needed.

"Every school the environment is different," Andrews said.

He said that was one of the most interesting parts of being able to work at different schools. Andrews said he's here to interact with the students, and to intervene in a couple of cases.

He said he has worked for the fire department for 11 years and still works there.

Andrews said he likes to offer advice to students.

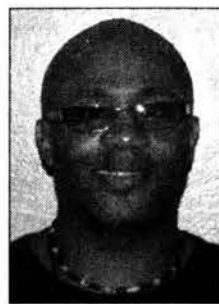
He said he wants to take his experiences at the fire department and express to the students that the next step after high school is the real world.

"A high school is the foundation for the rest of your life," Andrews said.

He said he wasn't there to just walk students to the office.

Andrews said he is not sure how long he will be at Central. He said it could be from two weeks to the rest of the school year. He said it was however long the school needed him.

He said he thought he was called in to the school because the school was short one or two security guards for the year. Andrews said he was not the only temporary security guard at the school. He knew another person from the fire department who was also working as a temporary security guard. He said he thinks the best part at being at the school was interacting with the students and staff in the building.



ANDREWS

CALENDAR

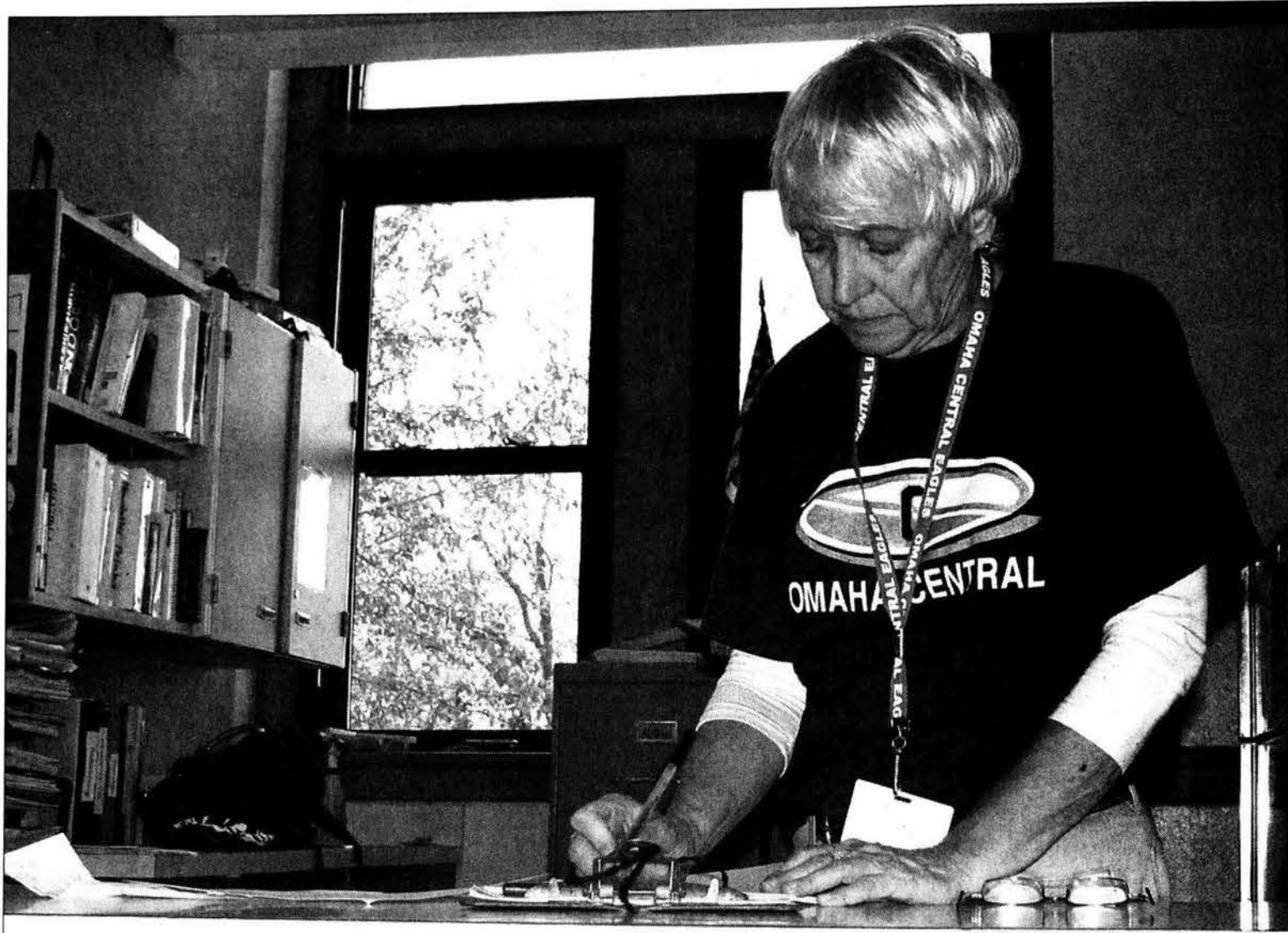


PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/REGISTER

Paraprofessional Ruth Worner works in the nurse's office keeping track of passes from the students that come in. Worner said she hoped people would remember the victims of hurricane Katrina and she encouraged people to help out with other charities as well.

Nurse volunteers after Katrina

BY ALI HODGE

"There were streets and neighborhoods just washed away," Ruth Worner, a paraprofessional in the nurse's office, said.

This summer Christ Community Church took a group of volunteers to Wavelyn, Miss. and Bay St. Louis to help clean up and paint houses for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Worner was one of the 400 applicants who attended the trip to help out.

"It taught me to be thankful for what I have. A lot of people just lost everything," Worner said. "I mean everything."

Worner said that she traveled to Mississippi at the end of July. During her trip, she said that her team worked on building new communities for the families that have lost their homes.

She said the impact of the event had never hit her until she saw everything with her own eyes. She said the cities and communities are still in bad shape, and she doesn't think people seem to realize that anymore.

She said if it's not on the news, it doesn't seem that people remember it anymore.

"I just don't want people to forget about them," Worner said. "I think sometimes we have a tendency to take what we have for granted. We also have a tendency to forget about those people."

Worner said she spent most of her time painting houses. Others people who were actually

qualified did the plumbing, electrical work and construction.

She said now in this stage of rebuilding what Katrina took down, Christ Community Church is looking for more people who are licensed in plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, and other skills. Not necessarily people who can only paint and clean.

Worner said now she has experienced helping others and has seen everything for her own eyes, she greatly appreciates the volunteer work and charities that everyone puts forth and creates for disasters like hurricane Katrina.

She said she really supported Camp Katrina, an organization that had been put together days after the hurricane to help feed those who had lost everything.

Worner said Camp Katrina set up a soup line in the parking lot of a Kmart. She said she heard people would come back day after day, wearing the same clothes just looking for help. She said she really appreciated what they did and what people are still doing now to help out.

Worner said she realized how hard it must have been for these people to be completely halted in the middle of their lives because of something like a natural disaster.

She said she couldn't imagine the fear some of these people must have had.

She said she started thinking about families that had bills to pay and families to feed and

families that had loved ones in the hospital.

She said many of these people have lived in a hurricane state their entire lives.

She said they were used to just riding out the storm just like people in Omaha don't always go down to the basement right away when there is a tornado warning.

She said she thought it was insulting when people asked the victims why they didn't leave. Many of them simply were not expecting this hurricane, out of the many that they have experienced, to be the hurricane to wipe them out.

She said many of them either didn't have the money or didn't want to spend the money to evacuate a hurricane that could have been just like the rest of them. Worner recalled a time when she and some others were walking around and they came across a man who had survived the storm and was waiting for a house to be built.

She said that they came to talk to him and he told them his survival story of waiting in a tree for rescuers after the storm hit. Worner said like many others, the man and his family expected this to be just like any other hurricane until he was standing in water in his house.

"When that levy broke, those people didn't have a chance," Worner said.

To remember her trip and make sure that the catastrophe is never forgotten, Worner donated a book to Central's library, which has photos of the aftermath of Katrina.

New teacher appreciates diversity

BY ELSE RICHARDS

New teacher Candi Kadar said she likes the diversity and the challenge the school gives.

Kadar teaches five classes of Child Development and a Foods 1-2 class. She said she chose Central because she was impressed with the traditions. She likes how the teachers are so committed to seeing how the students proceed with their education.

To get her experience Kadar said she was a student teacher at Burke, so she knew what the students would be like. She said the new teacher orientation helped her out a lot. She said she came to Central with high expectations. She had a plan in mind when she first came. She wanted to teach the concept and the content standards. Her requirement was she wanted to get to know her students better.

She said she changed some of her expectations to meet her students' needs. She used some of her creativity to meet some of those needs.

"I feel that if you get to know the students, you are able to get to concepts taught," Kadar said.

One thing she was overwhelmed by was all the amount of paperwork.

"I heard about all the paper work," Kadar said.

She also likes the diversity at Central. She said that it makes work fun and challenging.

"There is never a boring day," Kadar said.

She said diversity gives people different opinion on things like culture and ethics.

"It (diversity) gives a chance for students to see how other people view things," Kadar said.

She said this diversity challenged her to meet all the needs of the students. She also said having a great sense of humor helps. If one makes a mistake and is able to laugh at themselves, this shows the students that it is all right to make mistakes.

"Diversity shows that there is different ways to look at the world," Kadar said. "The world would be boring if we did not have diversity."

She chose child development because she was interested in child psychology and psychology while she was in college.



KADAR

A Capella performs at convention

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

"It's a pretty big honor to be asked to perform at the Regional Music Educators Convention," Lyn Bouma, the A Capella teacher said.

They were the only choir from Nebraska to be chosen for the convention, which included nine other states.

The singers sent in a tape last spring of the choir, demonstrating their musical abilities.

The convention will last three days, Nov. 16-18. However, A Capella will only be at the convention on the last day. It will perform a 30 minute show for the delegates.

"We've been practicing since the beginning of the year, and will continue until the second half of the second quarter," she said.

A Capella also performed with the Omaha Symphony at the Celebrate Creativity Concert Series, the theme of which was "Art of Composition."

It performed at the same concert last year as well.

"We were selected because of the quality of the choir," Bouma said.

The Concert Series was held in October at the Joslyn Art Museum, where the choir performed for middle school and high school students. Central students came to Joslyn and went to workshops. The event then ended with a performance from the symphony.

"The students were very excited to represent Central," Bouma said. "It was a great achievement."

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Upcoming Events

November

3-4 "My Fair Lady"

The fall musical, directed by drama teacher John Gibson, will occur on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. No passes or activity cards will be accepted for tickets for any of the shows. Reservations can be made by calling the school store.

4 SAT

Juniors and seniors need to bring a calculator and number two pencils to the exam. A pen for the essay is optional. Students will want to have a good night's sleep before the exam. They may bring a drink or snack if desired.

7 Midterm Congressional Elections

All Nebraskan citizens over the age of 18 can vote in this year's congressional elections. Substitution voting sheets will be available for those out of town on the Nov. 7. Rep. Pete Ricketts and Dem. Ben Nelson are running against each other for the senate, Rep. Dave Heineman and Dem. Dave Hahn are the candidates for the governor's race and Rep. Lee Terry and Dem. Jim Esch are running against each other for Nebraska's second Congressional district.

9 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents will meet with teachers in both the courtyard and the cafeteria beginning at 12:30 and ending at 7:30. This will be a half-day for students. Teachers are arranged in the two areas alphabetically and parents can find a list of their children's schedules from the main office.

23-27 Thanksgiving Break

Students are off from school to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday starting on Thursday Nov. 23 and ending Monday the 27th. Thanksgiving was first celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621 to celebrate the success of their first harvest in America.

Teen learns about family, self from Mideast crisis

■ CONTINUED FROM 'BARAZI' ON PAGE 1

to visit America in a few years.

She said it was due to them wanting her to learn Arabic and come visit them. She said she can't help but be scared of what could happen if she went to Syria.

Sarah said she appreciated being a part of such a unique family. She has gotten to learn about her father's culture really well.

She said she appreciates it, but she doesn't practice it because it's still so foreign to her. She said she really likes some of the different clothing and food that her family has introduced her to.

For example, she said her grandmother spent a week making a dish called kidbae that looked awful when it was done.

"It looks like crap on a leaf," she said. "But it's actually really good!"

She said her grandmother's clothing is really reserved, like a lot of the women in the Middle East.

She said whenever they would leave the house they would put on their long robes and head dresses because in their culture it is unacceptable to reveal their hair and their bodies to anyone other than their husbands and family.

She recalled that when everyone would go out for the afternoon, she felt sorry for her because it would be hot outside and they would have to dress in heavy, dark clothing.

Sarah said she realizes to a certain extent what is happening in the Middle East, but, like many teens, she said she is not too much into it.

"I'm Americanized way too much," she said. "I sit on the couch, watch Gilmore Girls and eat M&M's!"

She understands there is a lot of anger, controversy and finger-pointing going on. She said she believes she does not know enough to voice a significant opinion, but

she still has views.

She said she doesn't agree with Syria, but she said both countries are so different, that it was hard to tell what is really right and what's wrong.

She said that what the Middle East is doing is what they think is right and every government has the right to do what they think is good for its country.

She said she thought there is a big difference between terrorists and freedom fighters, which is something that Americans don't always understand.

She said she believes what happened on Sept. 11 was terrorism, but some of the incidents in the Middle East can't be considered terrorism.

"I'm not saying they're perfect," Sarah said. "But I think they're misunderstood some of the time."

She said she thinks since America is such a protected environment, people don't really understand the full extent of what's happening.

She said her family is blessed to have a Syrian satellite because she gets to see the two different views of the war.

"We're so oblivious to the outside world," she said. "When you turn on the satellite and you see the destruction and murder of children, it makes you want to sit down and cry all day. The satellite is so graphic, but it almost has to be."

Sarah said she thinks the news coverage is much harder on her dad because that is the region he grew up in. She said he watches the Syrian satellite in silence most of the time.

"He'll get angry, but it's basically grief and sadness," she said. "He sees people suffering, and just like anyone would, he gets sad."

Mr. Barazi admits that he gets annoyed with both Americans and Syrians concerning the war and other issues.

"Many times I feel frustrated," he said. "I don't feel it's in accurate pictures.... It's difficult to see all of the suffering. The U.S. government does not show half of it. It's

not easy."

Both Sarah and her father believe the American and the Syrian news coverage of the war is biased.

Sarah said each country interprets the war in their own way and she thinks they have a right to, but she appreciates the blatant honesty of the Syrian news.

She said when there is something going on in the Middle East, they know to almost the full extent. She thinks if people are dying, America should see all of it.

She said she doesn't believe Americans don't care; it's just that they are not entirely informed.

She thinks that if America could see these images and understand what is really happening from the Middle Eastern point of view, that they would be impacted significantly.

Sarah said she also felt that Americans could change some actions that may help the war and society in general, such as a bigger fight against discrimination and more support for the American government.

"I think people do too much bad-mouthing of the President," she said. "I'm not saying he's a perfect man, it's just pathetic how people pick him apart."

She said that discrimination against Middle Eastern Americans ever since Sept. 11, whether its spoken or thought, has to stop.

She said one person couldn't be considered a terrorist or let alone dangerous just because he is from the Mid East.

"Not all Middle Eastern people have the same views," Mr. Barazi said.

He said many people think since they look Middle Eastern they are bad people.

Sarah recalled an incident a few days after 9/11, when a costumer behind her and her father at the grocery store openly expressed her opinions to them.

She said she realized the weight of something like discrimination after she had experienced it.

Congressional candidates discuss politics with AP Government classes



LEE TERRY (REPUBLICAN)

■ CONTINUED FROM 'CANDIDATES' ON PAGE 1

Kim Jong Il see the United States as weak, they are encouraged to attack.

Esch said it was necessary to account for the money lost in Iraq and bring the troops home. He said at the least, the war should be in different hands than it has been from the start.

"I think we have the best military in the world," he said. "We've got to let them run these wars."

He said friends in the military have told him a civil war in Iraq is already in full swing, and said the time has come to bring the Sunnis and Shiites together and let them decide if they want to live together. He said after U.S. troops leave Iraq, they should get back to Afghanistan.

"We haven't finished the job there," he said.

As for the reaction of foreign leaders like Kim Jong Il, Esch said the "cowboy diplomacy" embraced by the administration over the past years has clearly failed, and would not work in a situation in which the foreign leader clearly cares so little for his people.

The candidates also touched on the recent federal wiretapping scandal, which Terry explained in general terms, tying it to the war on terror.

"Capturing these terrorists before they act is absolutely key," he said.

He said the war justifies the administration on wiretaps, just as he said about Congressional spending, which he said worries him but can be tolerated during wartime.

Esch expressed his disagreement with the administration on the point of what he said he saw as loss of freedom.

"We shouldn't sacrifice our civil liberties to save our civil liberties," he said. "What makes this country great is our freedom."

The topics ranged from military to economic battles.

"We have to realize we are truly a global economy," Terry said. He stressed the need for America to be the intellectual, capital of the world, and the importance of education.

Esch also mentioned the idea of a global economy, but also recognized Nebraska's own valuable resources, even beyond agriculture. Terry and Esch also spoke about the ongoing energy crisis.

"Lee's huge on hydrogen," Esch said, referring to his

opponent's insistence on researching and pursuing hydrogen-based fuel technology. Terry had come back to hydrogen as a talking point several times the day before, pointing out the numerous occasions in which has championed alternate fuel sources.

"At this time," Esch said, "we're not making the investment. I would argue that the last energy bill was a disaster."

Terry and Esch also dealt with topics that were more personal to them. Terry said he is fighting to get high-speed Internet spread to rural parts of Nebraska and Esch talked about abortion, which he said he wishes was not a political issue and such a tool to divide. The discussion also addressed educational issues such as No-Child Left Behind, which Terry maintained was purely an assessment tool and Esch said needed revision.

"Arguably public education is the greatest invention of our democracy," Esch said. "It needs to be more of a partnership than a dictatorship."

The first question Terry received dealt with special interest contributions to his campaign. He dismissed it quickly.

"I'm not influenced because someone gave me a dollar," he said. "My record of who I support should stand as what you look at."

Principal Greg Emmel, who sat in on both speakers, asked Esch about strategies to get out the youth vote. This launched Esch into a detailed description of his entire campaign, which is by the candidate's own admittance unusual. In a campaign in which Esch said he took many ideas from past inspiration, he said the structure was probably his most original idea.

"You can win an election without spending \$20 million on it," Esch said.

He said he went on the assumption Terry would get roughly the same number of votes as he has gotten in past midterm elections, in 2002 and 1998. When Esch found that number to be 100,000, he decided the focus of his campaign would be to reach 100,000 votes as cheaply as possible. Simply by getting friends and family to turn out and vote, Esch said, there was a better chance of pulling off a major upset of the incumbent.

Esch said this was rare in the House of Representatives, which he said has an incumbent reelection rate of 95 percent.

"It's basically the complete opposite of any conventional political wisdom," Esch said of his grass roots campaign. "But we're confident."



JIM ESCH (DEMOCRAT)

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SESSION DATES

OCTOBER
(6:30 - 9 P.M.)
3
5
10
12
17
19
NOVEMBER
(6:30 - 9 P.M.)
2
7
9
14
16
21
THANKSGIVING
(8 A.M. - 3 P.M.)
22
25
26 (12 - 4:30 P.M.)
DECEMBER
(8 A.M. - 3 P.M.)
2
9
16 (8 A.M. - 2 P.M.)
WINTER BREAK
(8 A.M. - 3 P.M.)
27
28
29 (8 A.M. - 2 P.M.)

Artist uses piece to trace footsteps of 1919 lynch mob

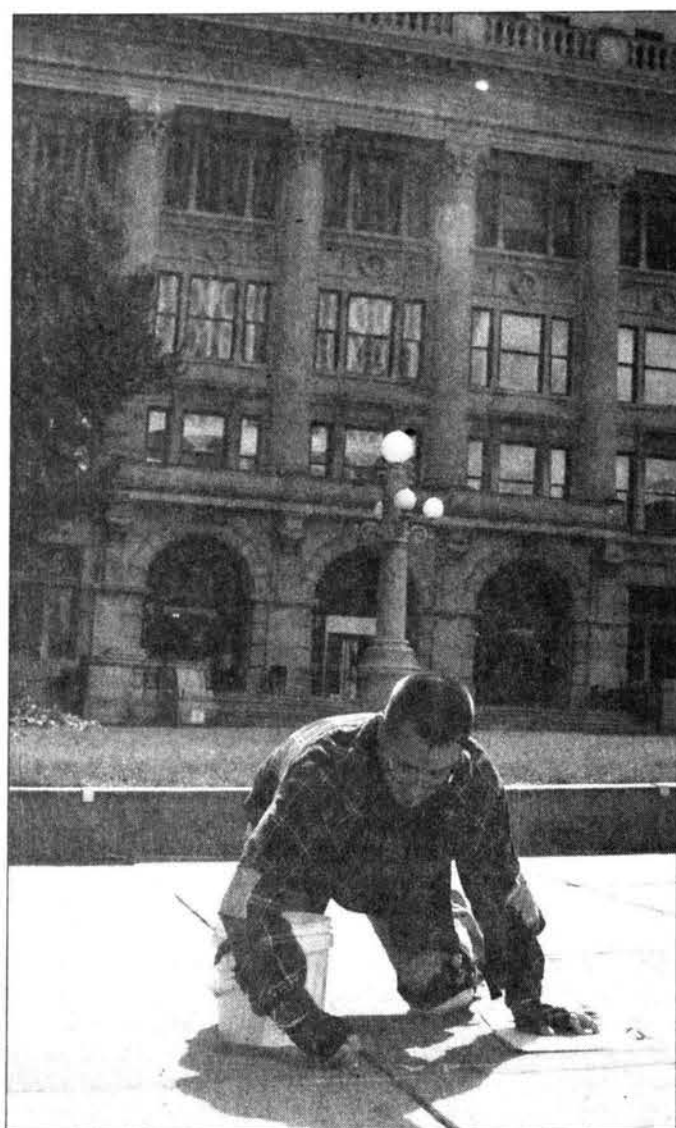


PHOTO BY BOB AL-GREENE/REGISTER

Artist Matt Dehaemers works to write half a mile account of the 1919 lynching of an Omaha man, William Brown.

■ CONTINUED FROM 'DEHAEMERS' ON PAGE 1

in nine cities that took place in the "Red Summer" of that year.

On Sept. 28, 1919, a group of 200 boys began gathering at a downtown Omaha schoolyard. Soon they were on their way to the courthouse, and their numbers had inflated to roughly 20,000 men. No longer an unruly group, they became a lynch mob.

Their target was William Brown, an African-American man accused of assaulting a white couple. The enraged mob attacked, invaded and burnt the courthouse, which was ironically built to be mob-proof and fire-proof. Cutting fire hoses to keep the building aflame, they captured Brown and brought him outside before shooting him perhaps hundreds of times, burning him at the corner of 17th and Dodge and finally hanging his body at 18th and Harney.

"Killing someone over again three or four times," Dehaemers said. "That shows a lot of hatred."

For the project, Dehaemers wrote in chalk on the sidewalk in front of and around the courthouse, ending at the spot where Brown was set on fire. Word-for-word, he copied an account of the events that had been published months after Brown was killed.

He said the project was purely from an educational perspective. He said he considered it a history lesson, and he did not think it was controversial.

"Personally, I love history," he said.

Dehaemers said he decided on pursuing the project two weeks into his residency at the Bemis and had been doing research to find a topic. The lynching grabbed his attention immediately, although he said he didn't initially know there was an anniversary coming up. He said after contemplating it he came across the account that he would eventually transcribe verbatim outside the courthouse, and decided that with a topic with such heavy imagery, drawing and sculpture would not be a possibility.

He said he chose chalk as a medium because of its ephemeral qualities. This perhaps backfired as more than a block of writing at the end of Dehaemers' project, on the sidewalk by the First National Bank tower, was washed completely away overnight, and numerous other portions were smudged or vandalized.

"It was a metaphor for memory," he said of the short-lived remains. "It's up to us to recall it if we want to or conceal it."

He said some people couldn't understand why he would choose the 87th anniversary to do the project, but he said he didn't see the need to only remember events on years like 25th or 50th.

"It should be every year," he said. "I think it's relevant today."

He said the purpose of the project was not to express his opinions, but to inspire thought and dialogue about the lynching. He said the idea was to have people who walked by look

down and, even if it was just for a few seconds, read the words and place themselves in the footsteps of Brown or the mob.

"I didn't try to force it on someone," he said. "I gave them the opportunity to get engaged. Open up a dialogue about the community and possibly racial differences."

He said being able to stop and share history as he is able to tell it is the most rewarding part of his art.

"(I'm) creating an epiphany for someone," he said.

Dehaemers said he felt himself identifying with Brown as he worked on the project and afterwards.

He said the hardest part of the project was the physicality of working on his knees for over six hours, which left him unable to walk normally or go up or down stairs for the next few days. He said after kneeling for what turned out to be half a mile, he felt arthritic. He said he felt connected by the project to Brown, whose entire body was arthritic.

He also said that while working, he felt connections to his subject through the medium. He said he thought about the contrast of the white chalk with his dark brown gloves and the connections to skin colors. He said the chalk also reminded him of the subject.

"It was almost like grinding bone," he said.

Besides vandalism, Dehaemers said the reaction to his piece has been very positive, especially from young African-Americans.

"A lot of people said thank you," he said.

Social studies teacher Eric Behrens, who told his students about the project beforehand, said the lynching was an important part of Omaha's history, and something he doesn't know every student is aware of. He said most students seemed interested, but it seemed like new information to at least half of them. He said students should be aware of their history.

"I always think students should know the community," Behrens said.

Dehaemers graduated from Creighton in 1996, and has spent the time since then teaching art, working as a graphic designer, and getting his masters degree.

"I come back to Omaha a very different person," he said. "I enjoy that difference; I have a new set of glasses I look at this community with."

He said the project was similar to his past works in that his art is usually historically based and he frequently works in public. He said sometimes he resorts to guerilla, or commando art, for which he does not ask permission, but he was able to get an official from the courthouse to okay the project.

Any problems came after he left courthouse property.

He said he is considering reworking the lynching project to more easily fit a gallery, and said his next project will also deal with Omaha history.

He said he is considering the subject of terrorism or World War II's Japanese-launched balloon bombs, one of which reached Omaha.

Homosexual rights, other issues inject emotion into students' play

BY MAX LARSON

"It feels like you're a part of something bigger than you," senior Aaron French said. "You're getting a message out that will last."

French was one of nine Central students in the theater production "Pride Players," and he said that it made him feel like he was a part of something important.

He also said he was glad that there were so many of his own classmates involved.

"I think it's great because Central is a diverse school," he said. "I don't think that the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) group is always represented."

"Pride Players" promoted GLBT rights and took place at the Rose Theater annually. The cast was made up entirely of teens.

Co-director Brian Guehring said the goal of "Pride Players" was to create a theater piece to explore what it means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or a straight ally teen in Omaha.

He said they seek to further the rights of those people.

Tracy Iwersen, the second director, said the show was comprised of skits developed by the cast over a six-week period.

She said people did research on common issues facing the GLBT community, such as AIDS, dating, homophobic language and coming out. They worked with organizations in the community like Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Citizens for Equal Protection and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

She said that, besides dealing with GLBT problems, the performers developed their acting abilities.

"They all spend the first two weeks working on basic acting skills because a lot of the kids have never acted before," she said.

After research and acting development, the cast began to create original sketches pertaining to the topics. Around 25 ended up in the final production, but they were picked from a much larger selection, Iwersen said.

"They probably do about 100 to 125 different scenes that we watch," she said.

She said that one of her favorite parts of being involved in "Pride Players" was witnessing the creation of these scenes.

"I just love watching them come up with improvisation," she said. "It's like, how do these people come up with these things? It's so good."

This was senior Amanda Pintore's second year participating in "Pride Players," and she said building the skits was one of her preferred experiences.

"You get 10 minutes to make something up, and everyone throws stuff in," she said.

She also said she liked the cast and the positive atmosphere it made.

"They are definitely the most accepting group of people you'll find," she said. This was junior Rachael Farhat's first year in "Pride Players," and she said she plans to audition again.

"It's really eye-opening to all the things that go on," she said.

Farhat said Central is relatively tolerant of people who identify with GLBT.

"There's a lot of work to be done, but compared to other schools, I think we're doing pretty well."

She said she found this to be especially true when she heard people tell her that the show had a strong influence on them.

Iwersen said the play recently earned a National Education Association Human and Civil Rights Award, specifically the SuAnne Big Crow Memorial. It was presented to students whose achievements have helped all students improve their senses of worth and unity.

"Tracy and I flew down to Orlando in the middle of the summer," Guehring said. "It's sort of a career achievement. It's for all the work of 'Pride Players.'"

Iwersen said she was glad to accept the award.

"It was such an honor," she said.

Although she was proud, she said the teens who performed in the play deserved the credit.

"It's really the kids who do the work and carry it on," she said.

Pintore, like French, said she felt as though being in "Pride Players" helped her contribute to something important.

"I know that one person alone can't do much, but a group can," she said. "If we impacted one person, then I'm glad."

French said that during his first year of the production, the cast went on a tour to Hastings, Neb., and that Tom Osborne had contributed money to the town at the time. But, because there was going to be a performance of the show, he took some of it away, proving the production's impact.

Iwersen said from the time of "Pride Players" inception, there was only one Gay-Straight Alliance in Omaha, and now there are around 15.

The show and its members give her support, she said.

"Many times I hear grown-ups making awful slurs against GLBT, and I'm glad for the 'Pride Players,' Iwersen said.

Project Night Life demonstrates to students the importance of driving safely

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Hours before Project Night Life even started, a badly damaged crashed car was already being set up in the parking lot for students to see.

Project Night Life was a presentation sponsored by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and the Omaha Police department on Oct. 16 in the auditorium. The purpose of the presentation was to educate and inform both students and parents about driving safely on the road.

The speakers at the presentation included Sgt. Laurie Scott and Officer Bob Vondrasek.

"It's not just about you wearing your seatbelt, but what about everyone else in the car?" she said during Project Night Life.

Besides seatbelt use, other topics covered in Project Night

Life were drinking and driving and street racing.

Scott said that she really didn't think street racing really happened in the city until she saw two teenagers having a street race at an intersection.

Also in attendance was School Resource Officer Matthew Kelly, who helped sponsor and set it up.

"It has a good message of making people aware of the choices they make while they drive," he said.

Kelly said he thought the message of Project Night Life was to make smart choices while driving. He said even though there were some technical difficulties during the presentation, it didn't take away from the message.

Ginger Riffel, who is the sponsor of SADD, said Project Night Life was a powerful reminder about the issues that affect safe driving. She said it was originally Kelly's idea and he approached SADD about sponsoring the program.

Kelly said he approached Riffel last year about Project Night Life, but it was too late in the year to get it started. He said both of them thought it was a good idea.

"The program fits in with the purpose of SADD to raise awareness of safe decision making and safety issues," Riffel said.

Kelly said he wanted the parents who went to Project Night Life to get a general awareness of teenage driving behavior.

Riffel said that SADD worked hard to advertise the program. She said they passed out fliers for the program at Open House and put an announcement in the newsletter.

Sophomore Madisen Stoler attended Project Night Life and said she wanted to go to it because she could earn extra credit in her English class from Riffel. She also said since she was starting to drive, she thought it would be good for her mom to watch it as well.

She said she thought the presentation was really good to watch and wished more students would have come to it. She said she thought the presentation was truthful, and told students that bad things happen and students need to be prepared for any circumstances.

Stoler said she already knew it was important not to drink and drive and to wear her seatbelt, but thought the presentation made it even clearer. She said the presentation helped her learn more about driving at night, and that it was good to realize that people have to be really careful driving.

"Even though you might be a good driver, others around you might not," Stoler said.

Riffel said she had several students come to Project Night Life and told her they had not worn their seatbelts before, but when Project Night Life was over they wore them and would continue to wear them.

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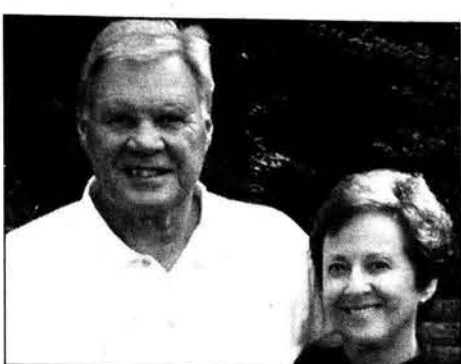
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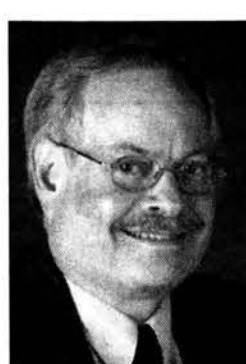
2006 HALL OF FAME: Eleven of the Best



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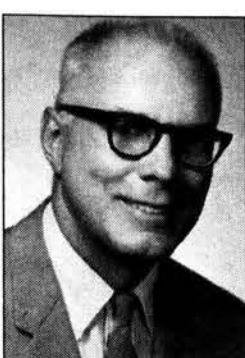
Marc Kraft
Class of 1966



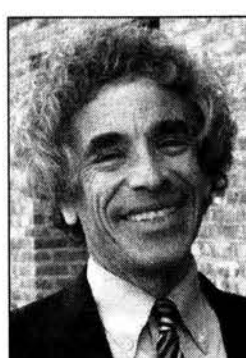
Robert S. Brown
Class of 1931



Cherie Curry
Class of 1954



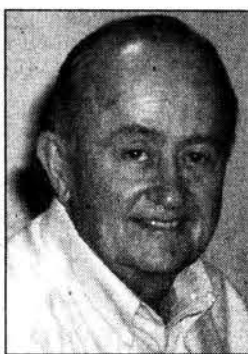
W. Edward Clark
Class of 1932



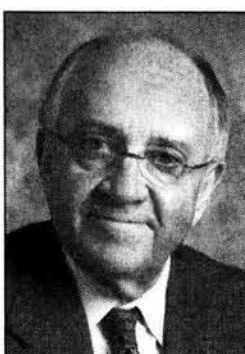
Martin Shukert
Class of 1967



Leonard G. Muskin
Class of 1936



Robert Chedester
Class of 1950



Harlan J. Noddle
Class of 1954



Robert Mancuso
Class of 1951

Successful graduates recognized

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

"It was a spiritual message," Gary Willis, the chairman of the Selection Committee for the Central High Hall of Fame, said.

He was describing the most striking nominee. Leonard G. Muskin, a World War II veteran, described a bombing mission, in which two planes that according to his superior did not exist saved him. He and his fellow soldiers had successfully sunk a Japanese ship, though all of the other planes had been shot down.

The crew plane spotted two planes which signaled Muskin to follow them back to the aircraft carrier. When they got back, no one knew what planes he was talking about. They told him everyone else had died.

Willis said it was the most inspiring story he had ever heard. "That stuck with me," he said. "It really got to me."

This year's Central High Hall of Fame Induction had a large turnout.

The induction was held in the courtyard last month. Eleven people were chosen this year. "It's usually about 10 people," Willis said.

This year it was 11 people due to Howard Rosenburg, an ABC News reporter who was chosen last year but who could not make it to the ceremony.

The people were chosen through the selection committee. The members of the organization received all of the information of the nominees. The next time they met, each member picked three individuals. Finally, at the last meeting, the members voted on the people chosen from the previous meeting.

Although Principal Greg Emmel was not directly involved in the planning of the ceremony, he still learned a lot about it from former Principal Jerry Bexten.

"I knew that Mr. Bexten was working on updating the actual wall," Emmel said. "In July, he

completed the lighting, illuminating the wall."

He said he liked looking at the Hall of Fame. Willis thought all of the candidates were very good.

Franklin Pepper, class of '51, said he thought the inductees were great.

"I didn't know what to expect," Pepper said. "I was pleased though. They told what the people did and then each of the inductees spoke for themselves."

Emmel said the people inducted at the ceremony impressed him.

"Everyone was so positive about Central," he said. "There were no problems."

"Dr. Brown, the first principal at Burke High School, sang a Central fight song from the 1930s," he said. "The audience loved it."

Emmel said another one had the audience in tears. Robert Chedester, a veteran, told the audience how loyalty and dedication were so important.

"He talked about soldiers," Emmel said. "It was very moving when he spoke about the sacrifices of the soldiers."

Emmel thought the ceremony went great. He said the guests were extremely happy to see the stadium.

"It was fun, hearing the things people said and the impact Central had on their life," he said. "Also, hearing them talk about what they did with their life was enjoyable. It went really well."

Many of the inductees said Central gave them a great education.

Pepper said Central gave him experience for the real world.

"Central brings in all races and diversity is important," he said.

Emmel said the induction made him feel good because of all the good things that were said about Central.

"I'm part of it," he said.

Credit recovery program not in Central's future

BY FRANI JAMROZY

*Names changed to protect identity

"I think the program could be really good, especially for kids who have skipped so much school, like me," Jane Doe*, a second time Central sophomore said. The program Doe referred to is a new credit recovery method currently in action at North High School.

At Central, administrators handle unexcused students, whereas at North a coordinator and police officer funded by the Nebraska 21st Community Learning Center grant now have that responsibility.

North Principal Gene Haynes said North officials are trying to make a family-to-school connection by sending the police officer and coordinator to where the kids skipping school live.

"One step we will be taking is that the coordinator and police officer will visit the homes of students with truancy problems and get their parents involved with the issue," Haynes said.

He said he hopes this will motivate students with pressure not only from the school, but also from their families to start attending school everyday.

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has dealt with truant students the same way for about 40 years; calling the homes of students not attending class.

John Doe*, a Central freshman, started skipping school immediately following the beginning of the school year. He said the classes he skipped tended to be his electives, and no action was taken.

"If I don't want to go to class, I don't go," Doe said. "Since it's not an academic class, the school really doesn't care."

He said no action has been taken in regards to his skipping, consequence or grade wise.

"I actually have an A in the class that I skip the most," Doe said.

"Central handles absent students by alerting their administrator, who deals with the issue," Dean of Students Lynn Slobodnik said. "If the student continues missing class, after about 15 times, we will arrange a personal meeting with the parents, and if even that is ineffective, the student is referred to a county attorney."

Ultimately, the student will have to make up classes they failed due to absences. This is where the second part of North's new program comes in.

Instead of making up an entire class, students make up credits in small groups and computer programs after school. This could take only one quarter, or up to a year considering how much school the student had missed.

Jane Doe said she thinks this program would be fairer to students, and more effective than making kids retake classes.

"When you're taking the same class again, you're still getting held back, and that isn't going to make anyone used to skipping want to go back to school," she said. "It's hard enough already, when you start going back all you think about is skipping."

Other students disagree, finding it unfair that these students are barely being punished for their actions, while Doe rationalizes her and other truant students' behavior.

"I never really knew the consequences of skipping school," she said. "I mean, sure. I knew I shouldn't have, but the handbook only goes up to 6-7 skipping offenses and mentions suspension, but I didn't know the state could get involved. Now I'm on probation for 6 months."

It comes down to money and time.

Dean of Students David Andersen said having a program like the one at North was simply a matter of funding.

"Right now, the finances aren't available for a program like the one at North to be instituted in the building," Andersen said. "That money is just not currently available."

He also said looking at the issue of why kids don't come to school is an important one.

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

EDITORIALS

THE FINAL SUBJECT

POINT/COUNTERPOINT ON FINAL EXAMS

PRO

Break time should be left free for students

The schedule for the final exams is being changed this year so that they are taken before students leave for winter break.

This was a wise decision made by the school administration.

Students are becoming too lazy. Over the winter break they just want to have fun and goof off. It's their vacation, after all.

They will most likely forget most of the stuff they have learned from the past few months over those two weeks.

Then they have to relearn everything they've learned in a short matter of time when they come back after the break.

That is just pointless.

Moving the final exams to before the winter break will help students do

the best they can for the tests because they won't forget as much information as they would have over the intellectual vacuum of two weeks.

Some students may complain about having to take the finals earlier in the year, but that also means that finals can be finished earlier as well.

Students shouldn't complain about taking the finals earlier anyway because final exams have to

be taken either way, no matter what day they are taken.

Moving the finals so they're earlier means students have the entire winter vacation to relax.

This will also free up schedules for the students over the winter break, and they won't have to worry about studying for finals. They can enjoy their vacation time without having to worry about taking their final exams.

Since the final exams are going to take place from Dec. 20-23, the last three days before winter break, this means students could also look forward to being done with finals as well as the two weeks off from school, an early holiday present for the students.

With finals over and done with for the semester, this means there will be less stress for the students after the break, another good thing.

Teachers will have more time to grade all of their final exams before grades for the semester are due, and they can still continue teaching their class subject during those few weeks before the second semester officially begins.

Teachers who use Scantron sheets for their finals can get them graded faster and use that extra time doing more productive things for their class. This will allow students to learn more in their classes.

Having the finals earlier will allow teachers to put in the grades for the finals in the grade book earlier and allow students the chance to pull their grade up as much as before the end of the semester. This means students won't have to rely on the finals to pull their grade up before the end of the semester.

Moving the finals schedule so it is before winter break is a win-win situation for both the students and the teachers.

A lot of schools have their final exams before students are let out for their winter break. Even colleges take their finals before the winter break.

Something must be working with this system or those high schools and colleges wouldn't keep giving finals before the winter break.

Think of all of the good things that can come out of having finals before winter break, better grades for the students and less stress for everyone.

That doesn't sound too bad. What student wouldn't want to relax during winter break?

CON

Winter break offers students study time

There's an old adage some might consider appropriate for the switching of the final exams schedules to before winter break: change is good.

There's another that gets even closer to the truth, however: Don't fix what isn't broken.

Changing the schedules certainly seems to be the popular choice among the student body. Complaints have abounded about dates for final exams for a long time, and the rearrangement appeared as an answer from above.

But such a change is not the heaven-sent quick fix that some would wish it could be.

The main complaint from students about post-break finals has been that students cannot just slack off over the break and leave their books under a pile until January rolls around.

Not if they want to get a decent grade on any of the tests that will hit them in the face once they get back.

There's just too much distraction over the holidays: family dinners, evenings before a cozy fire, building snowmen or whatever. There isn't any time for studiousness or any of that school-related stuff.

The average student cannot be blamed for wanting to relax over the break. Unfortunately, things just don't always work that way. And the way to help a student epidemic of laziness is not through appeasement.

Winter break and summer break are not the same things. Besides the obvious (their length), one separates two school years, the other separates two calendar years.

Over the summer months, it's understandable for a student not to want homework assigned as a sophomore and due as a junior, but the calendar year means little when it comes to those matters (at least it should).

It's like homework over Thanksgiving break, which often amounts to little more than a four-day weekend. No one ever really wants homework, especially when procrastination is possible, but it's one of the facts of life.

And it's something students should get used to. It sounds like a cliché, but life isn't fair.

When students grow up and get jobs beyond the fast-food lane, and even in college, there's going to be a lot more expected of them than finishing worksheet packets or reading assignments.

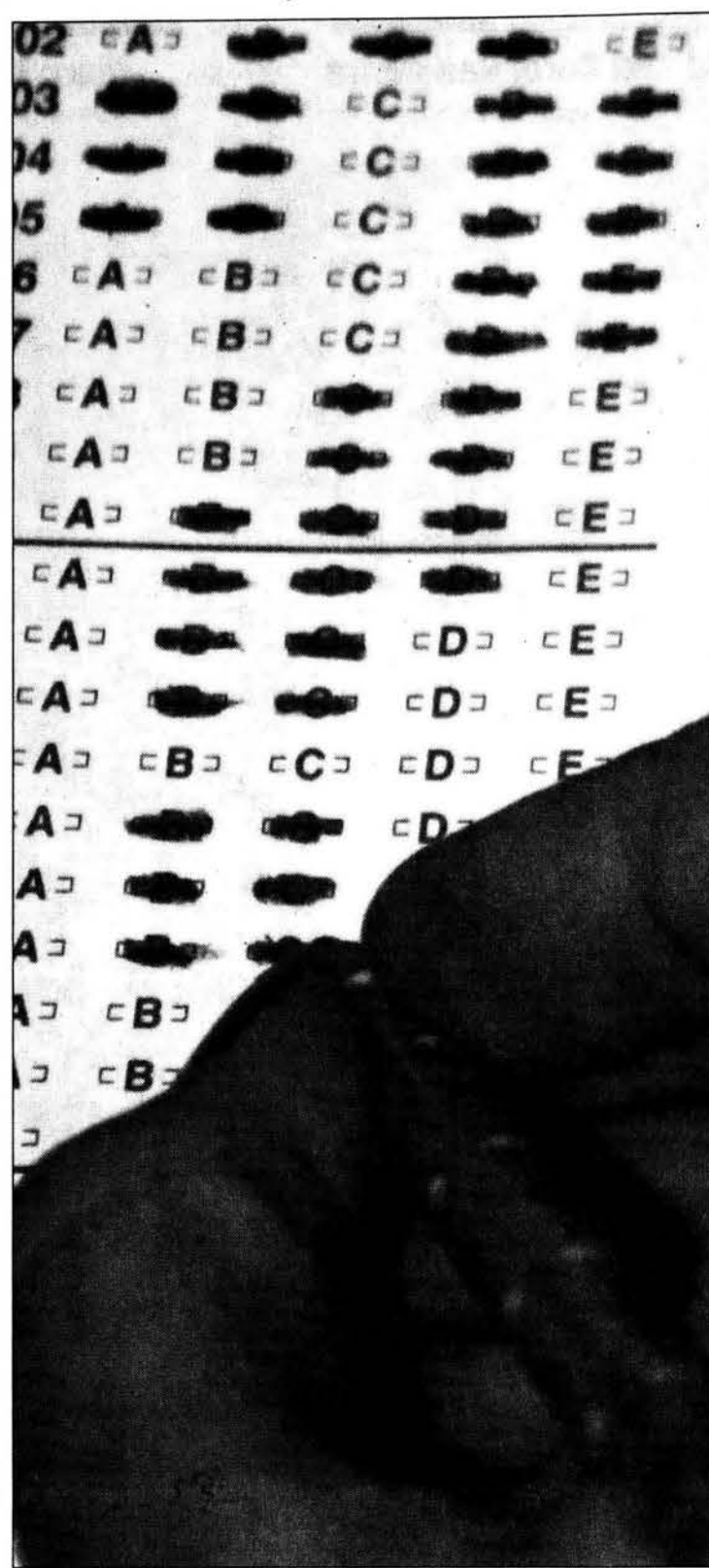
So why not get started growing up now?

The same students would rationalize away their slacking off by saying they simply couldn't help but forget the information expected of them on the tests. They'd shuffle off the blame for their own lack of dedication and reach for their own humanity and flaws as the reasons they don't bother trying to crack one single book in two weeks.

Maybe if students had a little better understanding of responsibility, it wouldn't be a problem.

Plus, it's not as if finals begin first period on Jan. 3. There are entire weeks after the break for students to get acclimated to school and rekindle the fires of knowledge.

In the end, this extra time actually gives students more prep time and a better chance at acing their tests. The extra weeks, in addition to the time over the break, are more of a great opportunity than a pushed-up test date which students will dread no matter what time it comes.



GRAPHIC BY ASTRIKA WILHELM/REGISTER

Students have complained for years that putting finals after winter break diminished their chances of scoring well. Are they being realistic in their assumptions, or lazy?

Witnessing death on vacation opens teen's eyes to frailty of life

Looking back on it now it was very much like the movies. You know those old horror movies that mock you by portraying a wonderful day? And then it all goes to terribly wrong when aliens come and take over the earth?

Yes, well it was very much like that, which was the scary part. I didn't see anything coming. Maybe that's why watching that man die hit me so hard.

Our day was very routine. We went to church, came home, packed a picnic, and went to meet my family.

Our first trip down the river went as usual. After we came back, we switched up our usual routine and decided to eat before we went rafting again.

Isn't it funny how our decisions put us in different places at different times? What if we decided not to eat, but instead go down the river again? We would have never been on the tram with that family in the first place.

They first caught my eye because they were obviously on a family vacation.

There was a mother, a father, two children and a college-aged daughter.

They were speaking in an Asian or Middle Eastern-sounding language and they all shared the same dark eyes, hair and complexion.

Once we got to the dock, I forgot about them and started building up courage to jump in. The water in the river was freezing because it flowed from a spring. It is not uncommon for the wind to get knocked out of you when you jump in.

It was a perfect day until everything went bad.

I heard the man's wife scream for help.

She had pulled her husband on the bank and was holding his unconscious head in her hands.

Apparently, the man had asthma and when he jumped into the freezing water, it triggered an attack.

On top of it all, he had dropped his inhaler when he jumped. We swam over and my Uncle's friends started performing CPR on the man, which made his wife and family hysterical.

The CPR that my Uncle and his friends were performing had minimal effect. The man still was on the ground lifeless and was growing paler by the minute.



SOMEONE'S GOTTA SAY IT

A Column by Ali Hodge

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06-07 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 also 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 CentralJournalism@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.

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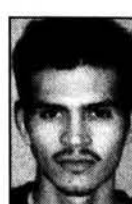
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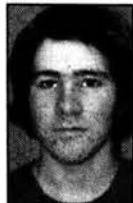
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BIG ISSUE: RACE IN OUR SCHOOLS

The controversial learning communities specified in LB 1024 have been effectively halted. While some students see this as a step in the right direction, others say racism is still a problem that can be seen every day at the largest, most diverse school in the state.

Racial mix a positive force

Dear Editor,
The diversity of the student population makes it unique and special. Most students appreciate the fact that the school isn't segregated. There are students of every race, religion and ethnic background, but that's what makes you an individual, not an outcast.

I am quite surprised at how little racial discrimination actually takes place at Central compared to some other schools in Omaha. From what I see taking place everyday, the majority of the students get along. I also think that it makes coming to school more relaxing and a lot simpler for the staff to control.
Angelica Genovesi (10)

Look at all facts before judging

Dear Editor,
What really bugs me sometimes is the false accusations of racism. It isn't that I don't believe racism exists. I am quite familiar with it and the pain it can cause, but what bugs me is when race is looked at before the more important facts are revealed.

An example is the rape accusations made against two white students. People took sides immediately without knowing anything about the facts. For some all it took to make up their minds was the apparent victim was a black woman and the accused were two white Duke University students.

It isn't that I don't believe or haven't experienced racism up close, but it's just that false accusations or assumptions about race are just as bad when made about a white person.

Now I'm not saying the allegations against the Duke players aren't true or wrong, but what I am saying is that maybe knowing all the facts would be helpful before making your decisions especially in issues involving people's lives.

This is just bad because it stereotypes and makes us look naive and ignorant. It also takes away from issues where racism really is an issue.
Jason Herrera (12)

Racism exists despite diversity

Dear Editor,
Central is very diverse. We are considered to be one of the most diverse schools in Omaha. Diversity is a good thing, but it can also be a bad thing. Racism isn't a large problem at Central, but it is still here.

Many of the kids here discriminate against other kids because of their race. Even though most of the time everyone gets along, not everybody is easy to get along with.

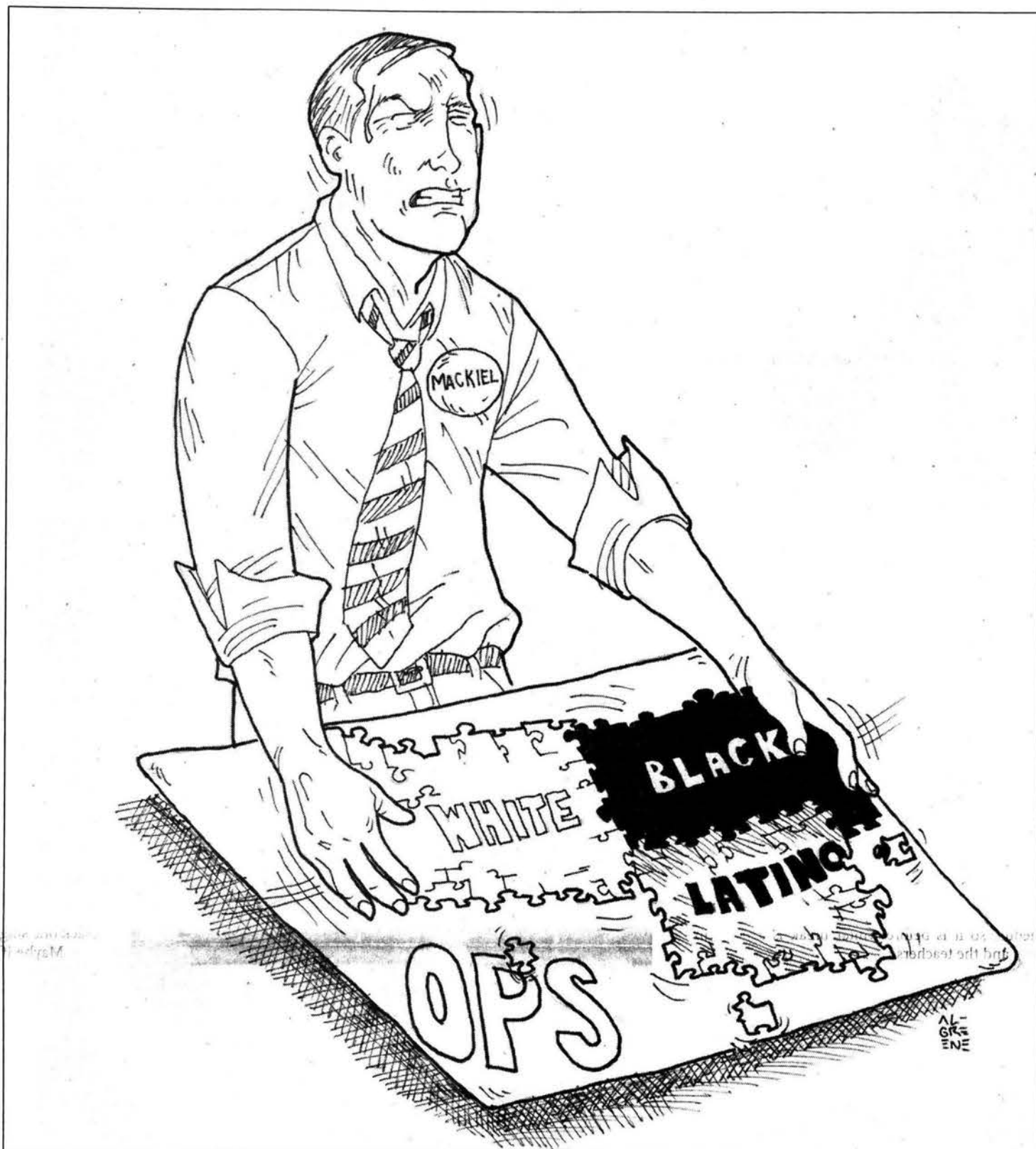
Even though we have some cases of racism, I like being in a school that has diversity. It gives me some other options.
Andrea Davis (10)

Diversity encourages student

Dear Editor,
Race relations are pretty good at Central. I see mixed couples walking through the hallways holding hands. I'm glad that Central has so much diversity.
Bresia Reed (10)

LB 1024 breaks up diversity

Dear Editor,
I think dividing the school districts was a bad idea. I love the diversity at Central. I love that my friends are all types of races. Some people do



not appreciate that as much as me though.

Alexis Bromley (11)

Student thinks skin color irrelevant

Dear Editor,
During my time at Central I've witnessed and experienced racism. A peculiar racism I've seen is when an African American person whose skin is maybe a little "lighter" than some others can be made fun of by other African Americans. I've also seen how African Americans with more pigment in their skin can be torn down by their own race.

I'm tired of hearing "He acts black". How do you act black? Since when does the color of your skin determine your lifestyle? I'm offended by the "N" word, but if you refer to people as wiggers, that leads to it.

There's no room for racism in a country where many races live together. If you were blind you wouldn't have any thoughts on the color of people's

skins. As long as we all bleed red we are all the same. Skin colors are like clothing or our personality. You can't tell how a person is by their clothes. Being proud of your culture is one thing; isolating others is what makes people racist. Skin color isn't who or what you are. It's the person behind the skin.

Nick Rose (10)

Freshman glad for judge's injunction

Dear Editor,
I didn't like the law LB1024 in the first place, so I am happy with it being halted. I don't think it's cool to separate kids from different neighborhoods. I like the way it is because I met a bunch of people that don't necessarily live by me, but they're really cool. Also, I think this law would segregate Nebraska, so I am relieved that it is getting halted.
Thomas Beatty (9)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Schedules exclude crowds

Dear Editor,
I think it's hard to receive recognition for sports that don't have a set day of the week.

For instance, volleyball games. The tournaments vary on which days they are scheduled. If more people knew when the games were played, then maybe we would have more of an audience to play in front of.

I am part of both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. Generally, our crowd consists of our parents and other family members; hardly any students or faculty members come.

When we travel to other schools, their crowds include students. There should be a way to let the school know when our games are.
Immalee Fishburn (9)

Student glad for LB 1024 halt

Dear Editor,
I am overjoyed that LB1024 has been stopped. Last year when there was the big rally about the event, I made sure that I would do my part in putting a stop to it by making signs and giving them to random people so the message would be heard.
Jose Cardenas (10)

Milk bottles rise in popularity

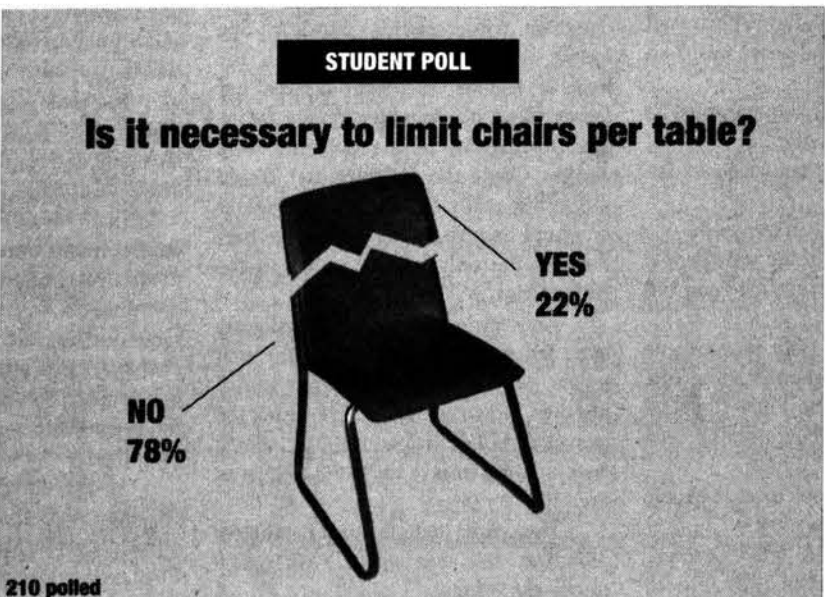
Dear Editor,
I have noticed how Central switched from milk cartons to milk bottles. I noticed more kids are drinking the milk, too. There is a girl at my table who drinks three bottles a day. Most people said the milk tastes better coming out of a bottle. I think because the bottles look better and that is why more kids are drinking it.
Brittani Faulkner (10)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via e-mail to Central. Journalism@ops.org or can be placed in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office. Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.

Lunch table limits upset students

Dear Editor,
I'd like to discuss the eight people per table rule. Is it really that important to have a limit? Lunch is a social time and it's hard to socialize when people are breathing down your neck about standing up next to someone or sharing a seat.
Laura Kraft (10)



Students upset with chains ban

Dear Editor,
It upsets me that Central is trying to ban pants with chains. They do nothing to cause problems and it's ridiculous how the teachers are saying these things. They're just doing it because they hate people who dress differently.
Alyssa Thomas (9)

Dress code raises questions

Dear Editor,
The dress code at Central is pretty strict. The new student handbook states that chains, spiked or studded accessories can be used as weapons, therefore we are prohibited from wearing them.

I think students should be able to wear them because if you were that determined to harm someone, a simple pen or pencil can be just as harmful.
Alana Brunon (10)

Media represents schools poorly

Dear Editor,
The number of shootings and how horrific they all really tell us about our society. Gruesome killings of children have been taking place too often.

No matter what kind of media they get, it keeps on happening.

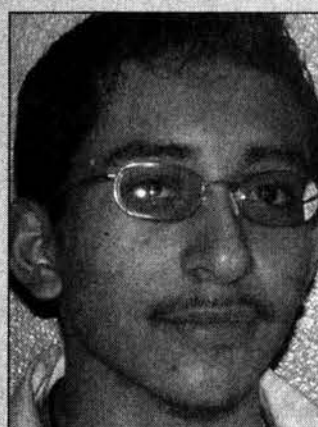
This is definitely a reflection on how we live. Our television, radios, movies and other forms of publicity and media are glamorizing violence. The most compelling movies, ones that win awards, are teaching our society that violence is "OK" and is the only answer to our problems.

Things like these school killings are only a reply to our media and not a good one.
Jessica Turner (10)



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Does Central do enough to promote racial diversity?



"Yes. I always thought of Central as a diverse school."
Todd Alba (10)



"Yes, because if you look at the classes there are a lot of different races and you don't have to try to seek out people of a different race."
Matthew Koehler (9)



"Yes, because so many different kinds of people are here. They mix it up a lot."
Amanda Scott (9)



"I don't know. There's no racism."
Kelsey Swoopes (10)



"They don't really take time to talk about it."
Traea Bowden (12)

STACKING IT UP: HORROR SERIES BY THE NUMBERS

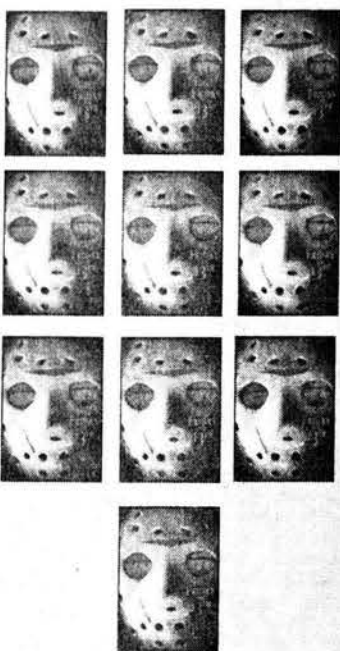
"ALIENS"

Number of Movies: 4
Total Revenue: \$267,074,342
Original release: 1986



"FRIDAY THE 13TH"

Number of Movies: 10
Total Revenue: \$480,303,203
Original release: 1980



"NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET"

Number of Movies: 7
Total Budget: \$204,847,420
Original release: 1984



"HALLOWEEN"

Number of Movies: 8
Total Budget: \$205,181,573
Original release: 1978



"SAW"

Number of Movies: 2
Total Budget: \$142,178,496
Original release: 2004



"POLTERGEIST"

Number of Movies: 3
Total Budget: \$131,606,280
Original release: 1982



"I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER"

Number of Movies: 3
Total Budget: \$112,500,000
Original release: 1997



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THE SAGA CONTINUES...

Some villains just keep coming back for more.
How do these movies keep getting made?
Here is a look at some of Hollywood's greatest
(or most ridiculous) Halloween marathons-in-one.



20TH CENTURY FOX

HORROR REVIEW



"ALIEN"
1979-1997

Starring: Sigourney Weaver

BY ALI HODGE

Vulgar language, a tough heroine, massive explosions, and a hokey alien monster that won't go away. What more could an audience ask for from a sci-fi masterpiece?

The classic science-fiction quadrilogy "Alien" is one of the most excellent space stories ever told.

The series followed warrant officer Ripley, played by Sigourney Weaver, and her fight against the aliens through an installment of four movies.

The first movie, "Alien," was created in 1979 and was directed by Ridley Scott. The movie opened with officer Ripley and her team being interrupted from their cryo-sleep by their ship.

After 24 hours, Ripley's entire staff had been murdered.

Finding a foreign planet, the crew explores only to discover the horrors within: an alien life form that uses human bodies as incubators for its eggs.

The film was full of technology that at that time they thought was advanced. Details like this only defined this sci-fi movie as a classic.

The second installment of the quadrilogy, "Aliens" was created in 1986 and directed by James Cameron.

At the start of this movie, a space crew found Ripley in a cryo-sleep in her escape pod. When she woke up she learned that she has been lost for 57 years.

Soon Ripley learned that planet LV-426 had been inhabited over 50 years. With no communication with the colony, a team of marines (along with Ripley), was sent in to investigate.

This movie showed more improvement as far as filming and scripts are concerned.

The director obviously tried to make the movies more dramatic by filming silent scenes, adding more creative scene transitions and using slower, classic music.

The third of the series, "Alien 3" was released in 1992. Ripley was the only one to survive and was left on planet Fiorina 161, a male prisoner correctional planet.

An alien had started terrorizing this planet that was neither technologically advanced nor equipped with weapons.

This time Ripley does not escape. She ends up killing herself and the alien in order to save humanity.

It was shockingly obvious how much better this movie was put together. It was very well done, however it was created recently, so it lost its classic charm.

The fourth and final installment of the "Aliens" quadrilogy, "Alien Resurrection" was created in 1997 and directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet.

This movie was simply the demise of the dangerous alien race that has terrorized the human race for over four hundred years.

In this movie, scientists cloned Ripley, and the aliens were keeping them for study.

But as suspected, the aliens broke loose and murdered the entire ship. Ripley and a few others managed to just barely escape and blow up the ship and the alien species forever.

The movie and the series concluded with Ripley finally reaching earth after being gone for over 250 years.

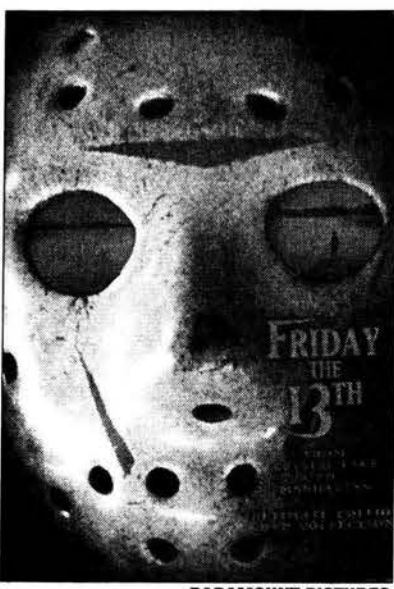
It seemed the story would have had

a better ending if they had stopped at the third movie.

That's not to say the fourth installment was not an excellent movie.

It was still a perfect end to a great series.

What more could any sci-fi fan want in his horror series?



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

HORROR REVIEW



"FRIDAY THE 13TH"
1980-2002

Starring: Kane Hodder

BY KIM BUCKLEY

At first glance, one wonders why "Friday the 13th" is one of the most successful horror series ever made.

The acting was poor, the dialogue was bad and the movies' plots were never about more than the villain, Jason Voorhees killing off as many people as possible before the end of the movie.

"Friday the 13th" (the first of ten) had the makings of a typical horror movie, so why won't Jason rest in peace already?

In the first film, teenagers went to Camp Crystal Lake to be counselors. They were warned beforehand by a town not to go, but of course they foolishly ignored the warnings.

The killings began on (what other day) Friday the 13th.

A hatchet in the forehead, a knife through the throat, and you've got yourself a horror movie right there.

Add new characters and enough variation in plot structure and you get a horror series.

In later movies, the killings were upgraded to a spear gun in the eye, guns, and even Jason using his own hands as deadly weapons.

Besides the original, there were nine, count 'em, nine other installments in the series, plus "Freddie Vs. Jason."

Another Jason movie is already being planned, for better or for worse.

Hasn't the horror movie industry done all they can with the series? It certainly would appear so.

But maybe the reason Jason wouldn't die is because he was the best thing in the whole series.

He was a guy in a hockey mask who killed as many teenagers as possible before getting temporarily defeated.

And then he waited for a while and came back again in the next movie.

Who doesn't want to see that? Well, teenagers who are afraid of hockey, but that's about it.

He was a ruthless, efficient killing machine, and even though he didn't put on the mask until the third movie, Jason still managed to scare in the first two.

Numerous actors have portrayed Jason, but the star of the series wasn't an actor, it was a character.

Jason was the true star and must be given credit where it is due.

He made it to Manhattan in the eighth movie.

He's in outer space in the tenth.

And he was one of the only people to actually hold his own against good old Freddy K.

Even when the fourth movie came out with the somewhat misleading title of "Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter," one knew movie audiences hadn't seen the last of Jason.

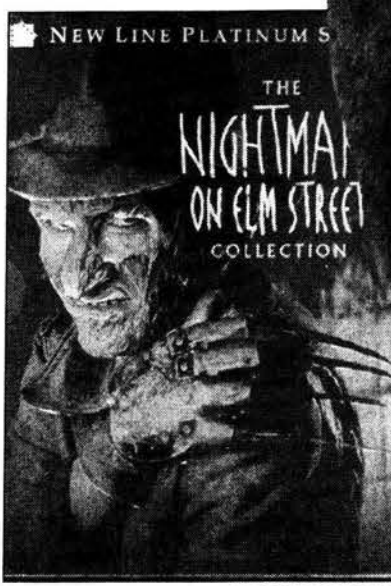
In the dark, all it took to scare people was the infamous mask.

Nothing else was really needed.

Jason was the sole reason why "Friday

the 13th" became the horror movie classic it is today.

Don't worry, he'll be back.



NEW LINE CINEMA

HORROR REVIEW



"NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET"
1984-1994

Starring: Robert Englund

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

The movie collection promised that it would "scare the daylight out of you."

Tragically, that was simply not true. Horror was not the word that came to mind while watching the movie collection.

All the movies, starting with "A Nightmare On Elm Street," had the same plot lines. Freddy wants to come back and kill. He succeeds. All of the teenagers are afraid of him. They try to defeat him.

The first movie, starring Heather Langenkamp, set the stage for the six preceding movies.

She was having nightmares which left her with fears of a madman.

Her friends all started to die in their sleep. The adults didn't believe them, which wasn't that surprising.

But slowly the teens learned about Freddy Krueger, the man who had haunted their dreams and lives.

Exact same story for all of the other six movies. Exact same story.

Nightmares, then deaths, then happy ending, and then some more death.

Freddy Krueger may be one of the most (in)famous villains in cinematic history, but that doesn't mean he is the terrifying dream stalker everyone has made him to be.

In the second movie, everything was the same except it's a different time and some new characters.

Freddy wreaked havoc on the entire town again, once again returning to Elm Street to house number 1428, where the story began.

In the third movie, all of the teens from the previous movies were in a psychiatric ward, still haunted by the psychotic murderer. Once again, with no adult help, they had to fend off Freddy and his dreams or else they would die.

In the fourth movie, Freddy came back again, and the teenagers, with the help of a telepathically-gifted girl, desperately tried to destroy Freddy once and for all. And they succeeded (whoops, no they didn't).

In the fifth movie, he began haunting not only the living, but also the unborn. As vengeance, Freddy used the telepathic girl from the fourth movie. She was pregnant, and Freddy haunted the unborn child's dreams. That's just cruel.

In the sixth movie, Freddy's daughter witnesses his murders. She found his knifed-glove. And with the help of friends, she went against her father. Now, it's daughter versus father. The possibilities of the outcome were endless. Could the daughter die? Would the father really kill his own daughter or would he give up his life to save her? Possibly the only bit of tension in the entire series.

The very last movie happened years later, when Nancy, the star of the first movie, was all grown up with a son of her own. Now, the perspective wasn't the teenager's, but of the parent's. The parents were fighting to save their children from Freddy.

The same tedious, unimaginative plot over and over again, with a few minor alterations.

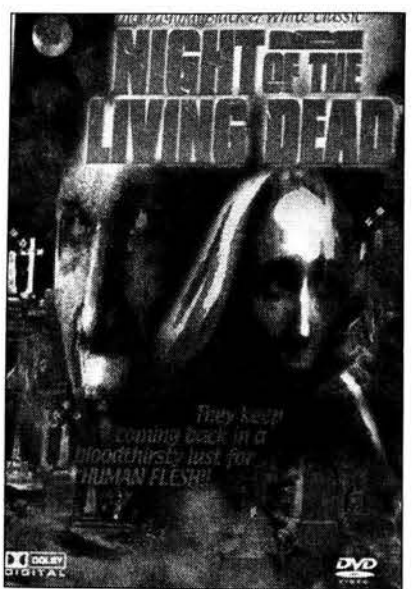
Watching one of the movies is forgivable and all the experience a viewer might need. For if a viewer watches just one flick, he will know exactly what happens in all of the rest. Even the dialogue became painfully predictable.

"Nightmare on Elm Street" does not deserve its "classic" status.

Not only that, but the special effects and the acting were also horrible. When a bed shook, when a character died, it wasn't convincing in the slightest. Despite the years that separated the movies and their actors, they all had the same lack of emotion. The few good actors that did manage to make it into the cast usually died off quickly.

Even "Freddy v. Jason," a terribly boring movie, was better. At least it was laughable. With this movie collection, all you could do was grimace in embarrassment for the actors and director.

The movie was an embarrassment for the horror industry and Hollywood.



UNITED FILM COMPANY

HORROR REVIEW



"THE LIVING DEAD"
1969-1985

Starring: Duane Johnson

BY BOB AL-GREENE

To strive for more than a crude horror movie, to carry a social message along with the gore, is admirable.

To do so for more than one movie is even better. To go for three, apparently, is impossible.

"Night of the Living Dead" and its sequels are among the most revered in horror moviedom.

Though at the surface they may appear to be simple zombie flicks, director George Romero instilled meaning in his works (at least the first two) in an effort to do more than shock and horrify.

"Night of the Living Dead" hit the screen in 1968, a cheaply produced black-and-white feature destined to become a classic.

The plot sounds cheesy: radiation caused the dead to rise and begin attacking and murdering innocents then eating their flesh.

The way information and development were presented, however, made all the difference.

Instead of awkward expository sequences or ridiculous deduction by the characters, everything to be told was told by the television or radio in the form of interviews with experts or breaking news briefings.

As the six main characters came together in an abandoned farmhouse in rural Pennsylvania, TV and radio were their only grasp on the outside world as their reality came crashing down around

The "Saw" series has shown creativity by incorporating gruesome images into its titles.

them.

Nearly all of the film took place in one room, with tense drama playing out between the characters, many of whom were strangers.

And at the center of the conflict, though it was never spoken outright, was race.

Duane Johnson played Ben, a black man who took hold of the situation and adapted quickly as he found himself alone with a shell-shocked young white woman.

Ben boarded up the house and set fires to scare away the zombies, all while trying to get a response from a nearly comatose woman. His character strength swelled as he pried the legs of the table or uncovered stashes of boards, while doing his best to comfort her through the terrifying situation.

Soon the plot twisted with the revelation of a white family in the basement, hiding all the while. Ben, the head of the family, Mr. Cooper, himself swelled as he pried the legs of the table or uncovered stashes of boards, while doing his best to comfort her through the terrifying situation.

The obvious racial overtones were not a coincidence at the end of the film and made the film that much better. Combine that with a grim final credit montage reminiscent of lynching photos and the message becomes clear.

The social commentary continued into "Night of the Living Dead's" sequel, "Dawn of the Dead," which for all intents and purposes picked up the day after the events of the first film (despite the obvious time difference, as the sequel came eleven years later).

The beginning of the film offered a hint at a society going insane in debt over a zombie menace which was beginning to threaten the entire world, signaling the change in scope between movies.

This time there were but a few survivors to focus on, barricaded (and also stranded) inside a mall. The comment to be found as the flesh-eating ghoul staggered around outside a Penn State made for more social commentary of the characters commenting that the zombies were following an instinctual memory of their lives.

Though the amped-up gore and addition of color made "Dawn of the Dead" very different-looking from its predecessor, its spirit remained the same.

If only the same could be said of the final film of the trilogy, "Day of the Dead," in which Romero's message apparently ran their course.

The only morals to be gleaned from the zombie-tastic finale were the same as the first two films especially held in the genre: Bad guys (soldiers) die, good guys (kindly, romantic scientists) live away.

A flat note to go out on, perhaps, by not a ruined ending for the series.

As it stands, the "Living Dead" trilogy was solidly entertaining, the first two films especially held more substance than any slasher flick or supernatural thriller.

Senior enjoys scaring customers at downtown haunted house

BY STEPHANIE WILHELM

"On opening weekend, I had one girl pee herself twice," senior Brenton Donaldson said. "It's the most exciting feeling to scare someone that bad. It's bragging rights." Donaldson said this was his second year working at Mystery Manor. He said he was the monkey guy. He wore all black with military boots or with an orange sweater and prosthetic teeth. "I free range...I'm a line monster meaning I can go wherever in the house," Donaldson said. Mystery Manor owner Sealey Wayne said the actors range in age from 14 to 65. He said last season there were 60 actors and only 10 were below 21. "The only way for a younger person to get in is if they're really good or related to someone here," Wayne said. Donaldson said one of the challenges was the competition from the other houses. "We're always trying to outdo each other, but it's fun," Donaldson said. He said another challenge is to make sure he scares people. "Of course some say 'I don't get scared. That was at a different house,' while others are scared about everything," Donaldson said. "But you have to deal with the people who aren't trying to have fun." He said the best part has to be the excitement and getting reactions from people. Donaldson said you can free yourself and do whatever you want in costume and no one can criticize you. "For example, I was in costume and I had thrown my McDonald's bag in the trash. It still had food in it that I wanted," Donaldson said. "So I went through the trash can and found the bag and started eating it again. People were saying that's nasty and I offered it to them. They ran off." Wayne said Donaldson is one of his better actors and he is very energetic and creative. Donaldson said the worst part is waiting for another season. From mid November to July, there is nothing to do. Donaldson said in July they started makeup class so people could learn how to do their character and makeup. He said they also did construction and rebuilding in late August and early September.

Auditions began in late July.

He said another thing that is difficult to deal with is legal side of the business. They have to make sure everything is safe.

"There was a room built specifically for me and two other people...Rumor got to the fire department and they checked it out," Donaldson said. "There was no sprinkler system so we couldn't open the room until it's installed."

He said the room is about 5 feet 6 high. If has very low light with a blue tint in the basement. He said having a room in the basement has never been done before.

Donaldson said the room is nothing but walls. It's a maze with glass walls. He said the visitors have to find their way from the ambulance to the basement to the front in the well.

Donaldson said they also had to worry about someone complaining and shutting them down. The house is in the middle of Creighton University though Creighton doesn't own it.

"If Creighton wanted to, they could buy us out and there's nothing we could do," Donaldson said.

He said once in character, a person has to first keep an eye out for the women workers for safety reasons and make sure all the monsters are safe. Then you make sure the costumers are safe. Then you scare them.

Donaldson said he had to audition in order to work there. He said he emailed the manager (the owner's son) and they communicated through e-mail for a while. Then Donaldson came in for an audition.

He said he applied for the job because he has always wanted to act.

Usually at an audition, Donaldson said the owner asks what room and what type of the character the person wants to be.

"I was different though. I came in character," Donaldson said. "They liked the way I looked in costume so they took me through the house to pick the room I would work in."

He said he auditioned as Jeepers Creepers. He wore a green leather mask with gray hair and was dressed in all black.

Wayne said Donaldson has many possibilities.

"He plays all kinds of characters and is very versatile," Wayne said.

Donaldson said he has worked in four different rooms. The rooms were the black and white room, the insane asylum, the horseshoe range and the faces room.

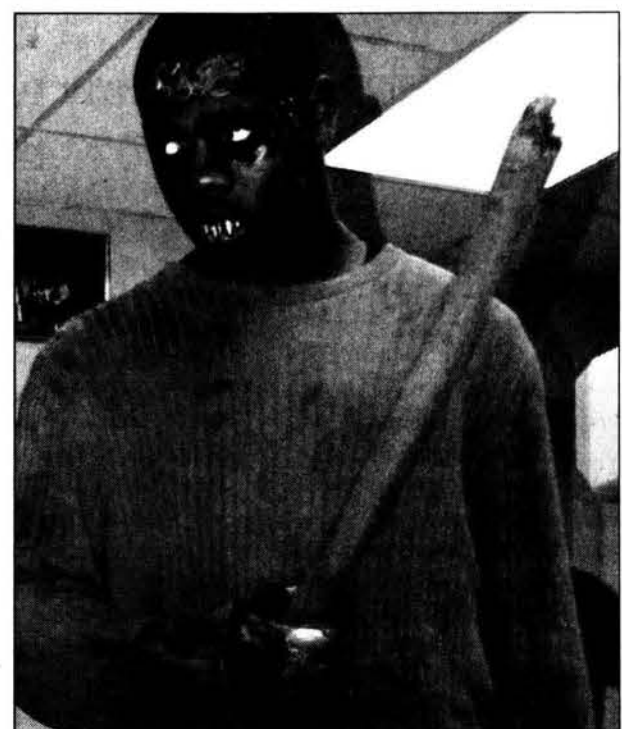


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE WILHELM/REGISTER

Senior Brenton Donaldson tries to get into character as he prepares his costume. This was the second year Donaldson had worked as a line monster at Mystery Manor. He said scaring all people was the best part of his job.

WHEN SERIES COLLIDE:

"FREDDY VS. JASON"



HORROR REVIEW

"FREDDY VS. JASON" 2003

Starring: Robert Englund

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

The two biggest villains in movie history faced off in this subpar film, surprising the audience only through the fact that it was made.

In one corner, Freddy Krueger, the demented dream demon from "Nightmare On Elm Street," and in the other, Jason Voorhees, the never-dying friend from "Friday the 13th." Let's get it on.

The movie started out the same way as all of the "Nightmare On Elm Street" movies. "I miss my children. I need my children," Freddy croaked out. No one remembered him anymore, and the town he had haunted for decades had covered him up.

But none of the teenagers knew why or what exactly the adults were covering up.

They soon discovered, though. It wasn't just a replay...but a massacre.

Freddy and Jason went up against each other in a macabre competition. Who could kill the most?

The competition heated up, and their focus drifted to each other instead of the children.

The plot, while not exactly original, was still the best part of the film. Unfortunately, a horror movie is supposed to scare, not make people laugh, which this one did.

It may have been the ultimate battle of evil versus evil, but there wasn't anything scary about the movie. Maybe one gasp. One gasp isn't worth the cost of a ticket or DVD rental.

The constant flow of blood wasn't even thrilling.

It was like blood from old cowboy films: too light, too runny, too fake.

The acting was acceptable, but it was nothing special. No big surprise here.

In the other "Elm Street" movies, Freddy was terrifying.

He made the audience stay up all night for fear of being murdered by the madman in their sleep.

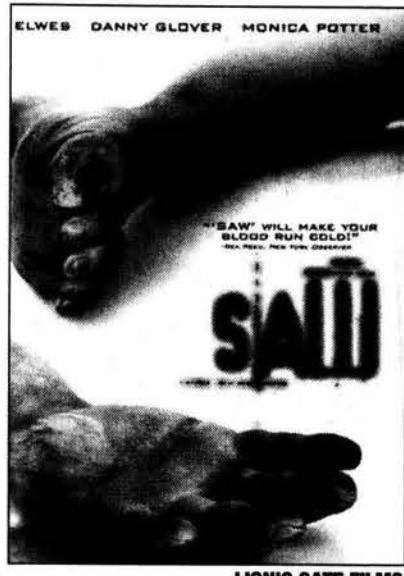
"Freddy vs. Jason," on the other hand, could and probably should be dubbed a comedy: a bad comedy. I would be better than a quasi-frightening horror film.

With every scene, audience expectations of fear dripped away until there was nothing but bare bones.

For a dead man bent on vengeance, Jason didn't seem to have a lot of dedication to punish the wicked teenagers who get high and have sex.

According to Freddy, "Winner kills All." So, who wins?

It seems pretty obvious who doesn't win in this free-for-all of buse.



HORROR REVIEW

"SAW" 2004-2005

Starring: Tobin Bell

BY PATRICK BREEN

Macabre. Gruesome. Grisly. Violent. Disgusting. Horrid. Shocking. Dreadful. Hideous. Chilling. Frightening.

Those are just some of the adjectives that could be used to describe the awesomely scary horror series, "Saw."

The movies had a simple and scary plot. A sadistic man called Jigsaw taught people lessons of how important life is.

The acting was superb and the actors really seemed to be completely and utterly frightened every time they were on screen.

Danny Glover was the only true star in the first film. He played a cop on the pursuit of the vicious killer.

Jigsaw chose victims who he thought weren't making use of the life that had been given to them. Each victim had a survival situation to prove how much he or she really didn't want life.

One victim who had been failing at suicide was set in a room full of barbed wires. Jigsaw played his eerie recording, saying that if he really did want to die, he could starve himself.

But if he wanted to live, he had to climb his way through the barbed wire to the door. He didn't make it, and ended up hanging in a bloody mess of barbed wire.

The plot focused on two guys chained in a room together with a dead guy. Each one had no idea why they were there, and just wanted to escape. Slowly, Jigsaw turned them against each other.

The horribly gory plot was what kept this film going. It caught fire when it was out in theatres and held true to a gruesomely scary film.

The success of the first film led to the second being produced very soon afterwards.

The second film sold the audience on another evil plot of Jigsaw and his captured victims. The movie previews promised more blood.

And they came through. The second film knocked the violence up another notch, but didn't seem to have the same effect as the first one. Saw's plot in the first movie was original and always kept the audience guessing and in shock. No one had seen a movie with such blatant gore and cruel killings.

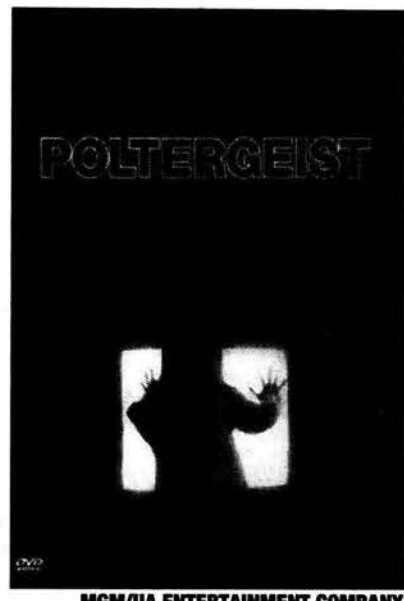
The first had a surprise factor that the second one lacked. "Saw 2" played off a slightly different plot, but held true to the story line of the first. In this sequel, the victims were all in one booby-trapped house. They were played off and against each other, because each of them wanted to escape.

The victims were chosen the same way, but the film lacked a new twist. The actors did a good job portraying the horror of the situation, but much like the rest of the film, lacked a standout.

Each victim died in a new horrible way that did indeed frighten the audience.

In every aspect, the second lacked the pop the first one capitalized on.

Now the series is complete with a third installment. The "Saw" series belongs on every horror fan's shelves.



HORROR REVIEW

"POLTERGEIST" 1982-1988

Starring: Heather O'Rourke

BY MAX LARSON

"Poltergeist" is a name that carries a lot of weight.

The "Poltergeist" trilogy is relatively well known. While it's no "Godfather" or "Star Wars" trilogy, it created a high standard of expectations for the viewer.

The first film, "Poltergeist," certainly accomplished all of its goals as a scary movie. It commanded attention, delivered suspense and thrills, and had its own style and creativity.

It featured an ideal family, the Freeings, living in a home built over a cemetery. The spirits in the cemetery became attracted to the powerful life force of the family's daughter, Carol Anne, played by Heather O'Rourke, and they decided to steal her.

The story seemed basic, but this film has since exercised some amount of influence over movies to come. It has been duplicated and parodied.

The cute little girl, the static-filled TV, the insane woman who can communicate with other worlds.

The symbolism involved, such as Carol Anne's dead bird, was a little pretentious. Putting a work by Da Vinci in a shack does not make it sophisticated. It was an awkward extravagance. The film was no work of art, that's for sure.

The scares of the film were created in a relatively balanced way. Beasts flashed themselves onto the screen, loud noises filled the silence, but suspense was also achieved by more creative means.

Unfortunately, viewed in the present day, the ability of "Poltergeist" to scare was gone. It didn't exactly live up to its hype.

"Poltergeist II" and "Poltergeist III" shot away from any strides that their predecessor made.

It would be easy to imagine a pre-production meeting for "Poltergeist II."

Production Official 1: "Oh no, we actually have to write a script for this thing."

Production Official 2: "Don't worry. I know what to do. Let's just take the first movie and add an Indian and a reverend."

Production Official 1: "Wow, that's a great idea! But, just for good measure, let's bring in Carol Anne's grandmother. And let's not forget to give the Indian magical powers."

Production Official 2: "It's a done deal! Sounds like an open and shut case."

In one word, the two sequels could be described as unnecessary. The story from the first film, with the complexity of a second grader's coloring book, did not need to be extended.

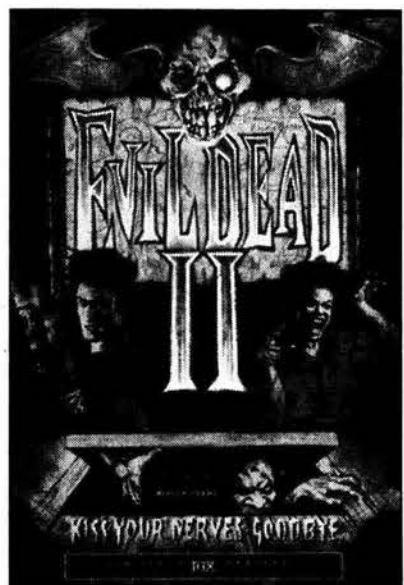
Basically, the Freeings spent an hour and a half avoiding a religious zealot called Reverend Kane, who constantly brought to mind a pedophile.

"Poltergeist III" was just as

unnecessary. Apparently most of the actors from the old films knew this, because only about two returned.

It would be unfair to say that the last two films were punishable by death, but it wouldn't be far off.

The trilogy was carried by the initial "Poltergeist," and it sank like the Titanic.



HORROR REVIEW

"THE EVIL DEAD" 1979-1993

Starring: Bruce Campbell

BY BOB AL-GREENE

Someone once told aspiring young filmmaker Sam Raimi if he was going to make a successful horror movie, he'd better "keep the blood running down the screen."

If anyone needed proof that Raimi took those words to heart, the "Evil Dead" series should just about do it.

When Raimi and a few of his pals, just out of college, set out to make their first feature film, none of them could have imagined the cult phenomenon the series would become.

After all, the set up was simple. A secluded cabin. Five careless college kids. And a mythical Book of the Dead (Necronomicon ex Mortis) with the power to turn humans into brutal, cunning monsters. One by one, the force possessed the unwitting humans until only the unlikely hero Ash, played by Bruce Campbell, was left to reluctantly fend against his friends.

In the first film, Raimi went all-out. Crazy camera angles, wonky sound effects and over-the-top violence filled the film (watch for the scene in which blood literally runs down the screen).

But the sequel called for a little more character development. Or at least character mutilation.

"Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn" followed Ash back to the cabin. In the sequel/remake, he was unexpectedly joined by a group of strangers including a young female expert on the Necronomicon, her assistant and a chubby, gap-toothed yokel.

Raimi and his cohorts returned to the horror genre with a better sense of humor, deciding to beat Ash up a little bit more. Guilty pleasures have never been better than when his hand "went bad" and started beating him up, forcing him to remove it with a chainsaw.

The sequel also contained the single best scene in the series (and possibly the best scene in motion picture history). With all but Ash and his lady friend turned into hamburger and with a cellar beast guarding their only chance to banish the evil, Ash headed out to the work shed and in what must have been five minutes, figured out how to clamp the chainsaw securely to his stump and wield it with a vengeance.

There's only one word for that and after using his new appendage to saw off his shotgun, Ash found it: "Groovy."

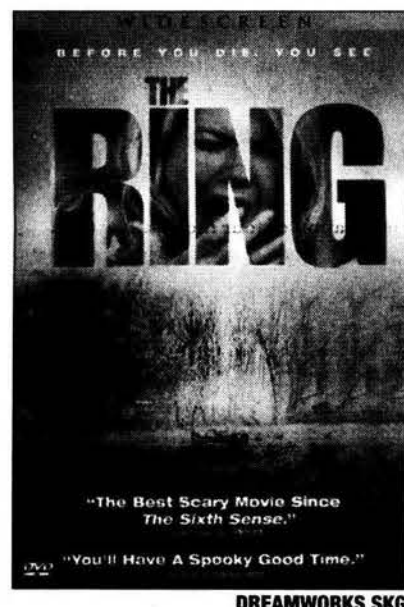
Groovy indeed.

"Army of Darkness," the final film

in the trilogy, saw a switch-up in the traditional zombie plot, but with all of the wit and cheesy goodness remaining. Transported back to the Middle Ages by the Necronomicon, Ash was faced with a Medieval world gone crazy with the monsters. The reluctant and quite thick-headed hero rose against the odds to become a champion.

Virtually all traces of true horror were left behind for "Army of Darkness," replaced by even more comedy routines and stupid lines from the bumbling hero. The spirit of the films remained the same, however.

Altogether, the "Evil Dead" series might not quite fit together. What started as survival horror somehow became a tale of time travel and hijinks. But that's beside the point. Way beside the point. In the end, all that mattered was the guy with the gun.



HORROR REVIEW

"THE RING" 2002-2005

Starring: Naomi Watts

BY ALI HODGE

This sad excuse for a horror series ended with a weak movie. It was apparent the producers were trying to stretch out their success and make the movie scary. Eh, not quite.

The dramatic lines and silly story made the movies that much funnier (and weaker). Not once while I was watching the series did I get scared or jump for that matter. In fact, I have never laughed that hard at a horror movie, ever.

The first movie, "The Ring," based on a Japanese horror tale, followed young mother Rachael Keller, played by Naomi Watts, and her son Aiden as they uncovered the secrets behind an evil video tape.

This videotape made its way into the hands of many people, mainly teenagers. The mystery of this tape and the murders of teens and adults led Rachael and her ex-husband to the discovery of Samara Morgan, the little girl in the evil video tape who was pushed to the bottom of a well by her adoptive mother and left to die.

Able to save her own life, but unable to stop the murders and the haunting of Samara, Rachael and Aiden ran to another city in hopes of losing the ghost forever.

But they were wrong.

In the sequel, Rachael Keller found out about the return of Samara when she went to investigate the murder of one of two teenagers.

The entire second move was basically Rachael running her possessed son around worrying about why he was being so creepy.

If someone was watching the movie just for the faint glimpse of a love interest, or, you know, a plot, she would be disappointed.

Finally, the series ended in the exact same position as it did millions of dollars ago, at the beginning of the first movie.

It would have been better to leave the first movie as it was and leave the

audience on a cliffhanger than drag the story into pathetic sequel.

The first movie had a problem that the characters were trying to fix. It was easy to follow. The only reason to watch "The Ring Two" would be the hilariously fake evil deer. Trust me on that one.



HORROR REVIEW

"I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" 1997-2006

Starring: Jennifer Love-Hewitt

BY PATRICK BREEN

He knows everything. He knows trigonometry. He knows all the state capitals. And most importantly, he knows what you did last summer.

Some people say that the original is always better than the sequel. Most of the time it is true.

Movies like "Dumb and Dumber," "Jurassic Park" and even "I Know What You Did Last Summer" are better than the sequels.

Barely true in the latter's case. Not because they started good and got progressively worse.

They started terrible and got progressively more...uh, terrible.

The trilogy was less of a horror movie series and more of a knee-slapping hokey comedy about teen life and murder. It violated every key rule of a good horror movie.

The first rule was to draw the attention of your audience with a scary, ominous title. This rule was broken by what almost seems like a skit for Saturday Night Live.

"I Know What You Did Last Summer" was a mediocre title with a little bit of the wonder element.

"I Still Know What You Did Last Summer," well, that makes one chuckle.

"I'll Always Know What You Did Last Summer"? Come on, man.

The actors were the best in the business. Actually, they were more like the best actors to be turned down by Melrose Place. Jennifer Love Hewitt had the same surprised look on her face throughout.

The plot was below sub-par. Twists were meant to be surprising. The audience should jump and turn with the crazy, not foreseen conclusion. All three of the movies tried to find that surprising twist.

And all failed miserably. The initial shock of how bad the twist was caused confusion.

The plots were also very similar. Continuity is important when drawing up a trilogy, but the movies shouldn't follow the same format each time.

The first movie's plot was original and slightly clever.

But recap after recap got annoying. The producer must have assumed the last film was so forgettable that he had to retell the whole story instead of just a quick recap and flashback.

The first two movies held the audiences attention.

The below average acting, slow plot and uninteresting, unrealistic dialogue does not interest the viewer.

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

With only two years of marching under their belt, the Eagle Marching Band members take their "007"-themed show to fields at Northwest and Burke for an exhibition and competition

BY PATRICK BREEN

With a flourish, the majestic fanfare of trumpets filled the stadium. Like a well-oiled machine, the tight ranks of the band split and formed precise visuals in time with the music, bells held high, towards the rapt audience.

Each person in the crowd already had his favorite band chosen. Parents awaited the start of the music and anticipated when their child would march onto that humongous football field.

The Omaha Marching Exhibition (OME) was held on Oct. 3 at Northwest's football stadium. The exhibition was the first chance the bands received to watch each other perform. It was an opportunity for preparation before the competition, which would come less than two weeks afterwards.

Though bands were not graded at OME, they met with clinicians or judges after their performances to get advice on how to improve their shows and make last-minute adjustments. This advice would come in handy when implemented at the next marching event.

Band director Pete Wilger said preparations for the competitions and exhibitions began in early spring. He said that's when band members and teachers first got to see the talent the relatively inexperienced group had.

"It's only our second year of marching since the renovations," Wilger said.

The band competed in non-marching competitions during renovations, but had to give up marching band. The four-year gap left the group with no returning students with any marching experience.

The band overcame that obstacle last year, however, when it officially opened Seemann Stadium. The band got its field back, and with it the chance to truly learn what it means to be a marching band, from fast-paced music to difficult steps and visuals such as horn flashes.

Now, the band enters its second year, hoping to build with every rehearsal.

"We're starting off well," he said.

Wilger said playing in band is similar to playing sports, if not harder.

"In some ways it's more difficult than a sport," he said. "There are no timeouts. It's a continuous environment and very much a momentary art. You can't ask to play a section over."

Central performed first at OME last year and played last this year. As the Eagles' performance concluded, they were met with thunderous applause and shrieking cheers for the show, which was filled with tunes from James Bond films, including the Bond theme and "Goldfinger."

The crowd's enthusiastic reaction to Central rivaled the earlier applause for Omaha Burke's band, which played music from the film "Footloose."

The band practiced hard during the following two weeks before competition in the Omaha

Marching Invitational (OMI) at one of the strongest band schools in the district, Burke.

OMI, like OME, showcased schools from OPS, Bellevue and District 66. All the schools had come with hopes of earning a coveted Division One rating.

After a strong showing from all, the band directors and drum majors were called down to the sidelines and presented with their ratings. Central, like many of the other schools, was awarded a Two.

Sophomore saxophonist Alex Greene said the ranking was good, but the band could have done better. She said the band practiced a lot for the competitions, which were difficult.

"They're pretty tough," she said, "but still real fun. The hardest part is just trying to keep the count during the song."

Junior drummer Ben Brich said the band practiced hard, always striving to be the best it can be. Band camp was held at Central over the summer so new students could learn and upperclassmen could get used to marching and playing in formation again. Once school began, zero hour rehearsals were held most days of the week and the band practiced together every Tuesday night for around three hours.

"It takes a lot of practice," Greene said.

Brich said the band did well, but could always improve. He also said he didn't like being beaten by other schools.

"It always feels better to beat everyone else," he said.

To become the best, Wilger said it is necessary to focus on smaller aspects of marching or playing which can often be the most important. Practicing marching in unison, accuracy of notes and overall sound quality are important as well, but small things like smiles and uniforms can make or break a band.

"All the details make a difference," Wilger said. "You have to work at it to become better."

At every home game, the pep band played during timeouts and at the ends of quarters. Then at halftime, the band marched to the middle of the field and entertained the crowd with its show, which evolved throughout the season.

The extra experience received from playing in front of an audience on a full-sized field helped the band prepare for competition.

Brich said the choreography, all of which was designed specifically for Central, also helped keep the students involved and interested in the music, just as it kept the audiences at games and competitions entertained.

OMI was the last marching event of the year for Central, but the band will continue to improve its marching and playing, always getting ready for next year, Greene said.

"We can definitely improve," she said.

The band will also play in non-marching competitions, with eyes all the time on a Division One rating for 2007-2008.

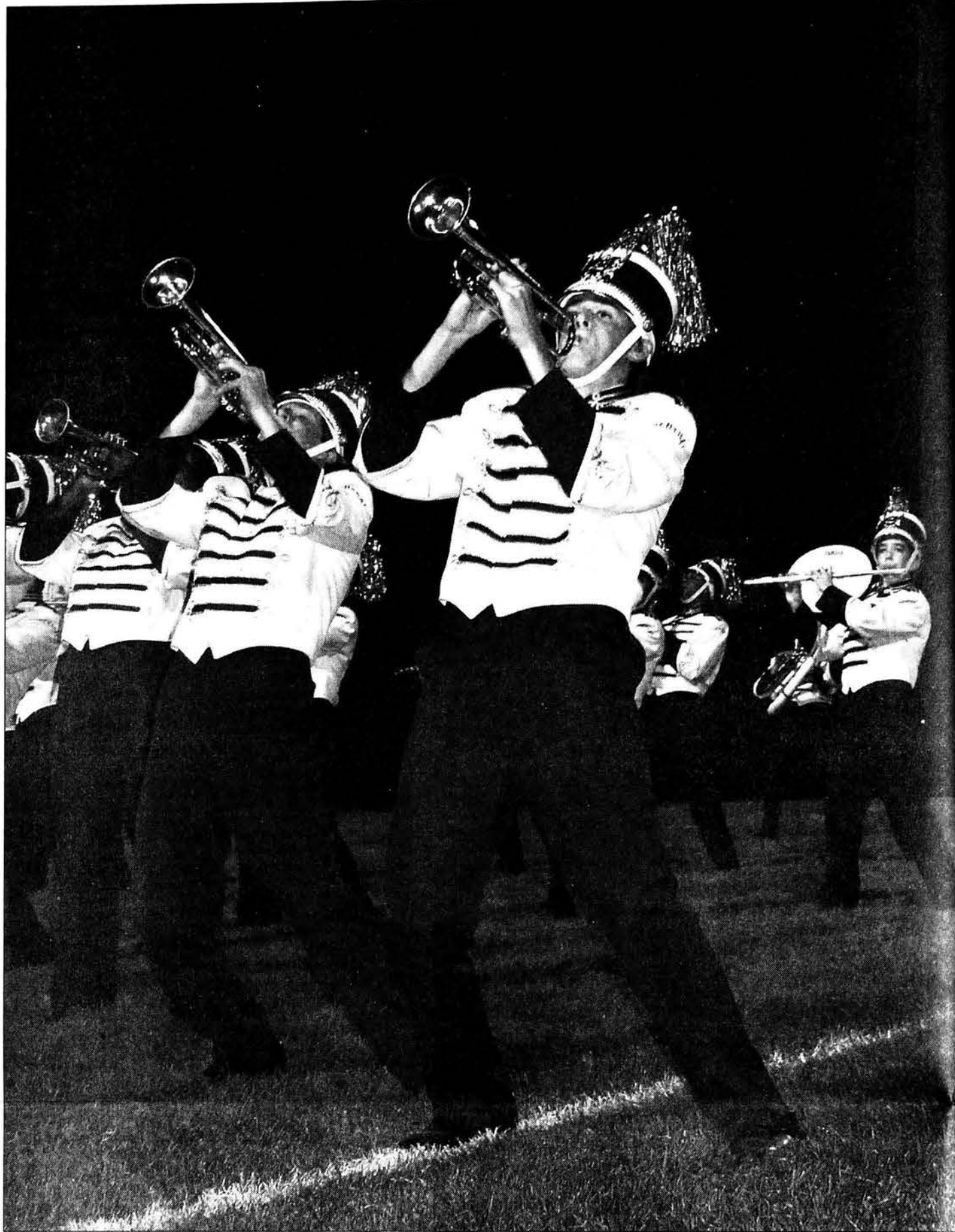


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/THE REGISTER

Junior Kevin Mitchell (middle) plays with the rest of the band during Central's performance at Northwest for the Omaha Marching Exhibition on Oct. 3. Band director Pete Wilger said preparations for competition began in early spring. He said for four years while renovations on the school were being made, the band only entered non-marching competitions.

Rapper's new album offers soulful jazz, clever raps, relaxing beats

BY PATRICK BREEN

Combining a coffee shop's relaxing background music and rap might sound like a bad idea. But Pharrell pulled it off in his new album "In My Mind."

The CD was not filled with loud screaming raps and big bass beats. Instead it put creative, new and innovative beats behind different raps that weren't as repetitive as most of today's new rap.

Pharrell didn't put up a gangsta front, even though some of his raps were explicit.

He was mostly focused on his imaginative and artistic lyrics.

The CD also featured guest artists who made a major impact on the tracks, including Gwen Stefani, Snoop Dogg, Jay-Z, Nelly and Kanye West.

The stars helped make the album an amazing fit.

"Baby" featuring Nelly was the best track on the album. Its bass and soul made it the song best suited to represent the album.

The scene was set simply with the bass, but became more elaborate and intriguing with each new verse and chorus.

The first number, "Can I Have It Like That," was one of the jazziest tracks. It came in with a clever beat and

background piano spot.

Other great tracks included "Best Friend" and "Our Fathers." The two tracks blended well and had a subtle, quaint niceness about them. Neither seemed to dominate the other, but both hit the sweet spot in a listener's heart.

The album changed as rapidly as the wind. None of the tracks were the same. Some sounded as if angels dropped the beats to the ground with clever distinction. Other tracks were quick and powerful with strong, explicit lyrics.

They all sounded completely different yet crazily similar. Pharrell kept the beats fairly simple and the rap weaved its way between some sultry soul. The listener could almost drift to an easy peaceful sleep thanks to Pharrell's quiet raps.

The quirky cover of the album was very plain, but the small, boxy drawing of Pharrell was interesting at the same time.

It drew attention to the CD, which would be fighting for a customer's attention against the other albums in the rap section of your local Homer's. In a way, it represented the quirky, cool nature of the music.

Now, not all the raps were kind, peaceful and

relaxing. Some of the tracks degraded women and talked of "notches in their belt."

But the majority of the raps were quick-witted and fun.

The raps that were degrading to women had to be listened to very carefully, otherwise the lyrics might have been overlooked.

That's a far cry from other rappers of today, and in honesty it was much more than relieving.

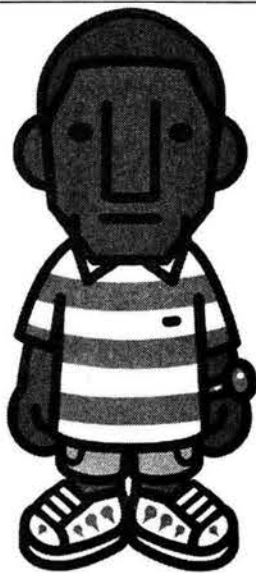
This is an era in which the most famous, celebrated and most wealthy musicians are the ones who habitually rhyme about sexism and over-the-top violence.

Whether or not you believe it's fair to criticize rappers for referencing such topics which may or may not play a part in their daily lives, it gets to be a little messy sometimes.

The word "gat" needs to be banished from the language once and for all.

But when an album like "In My Mind" comes along it gives hope to those who would like to see rap succeed the art form it should be, not the bullhorn for idiocy.

If you like funky rap with powerful beats and innovative lyrics, this album would be everything you need to complete a collection.



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in my mind

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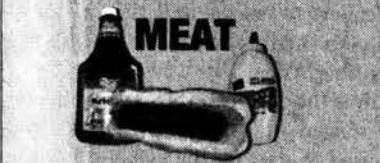
Seniors hold annual tailgate party

TAILGATE ESSENTIALS



GRILL

Whether it's a massive chrome grill or a hotplate balanced in the back of a truck, this is always the first step.



MEAT

Hotdogs, hamburgers, wings, brats, whatever. Just throw it on the grill and get cookin'.



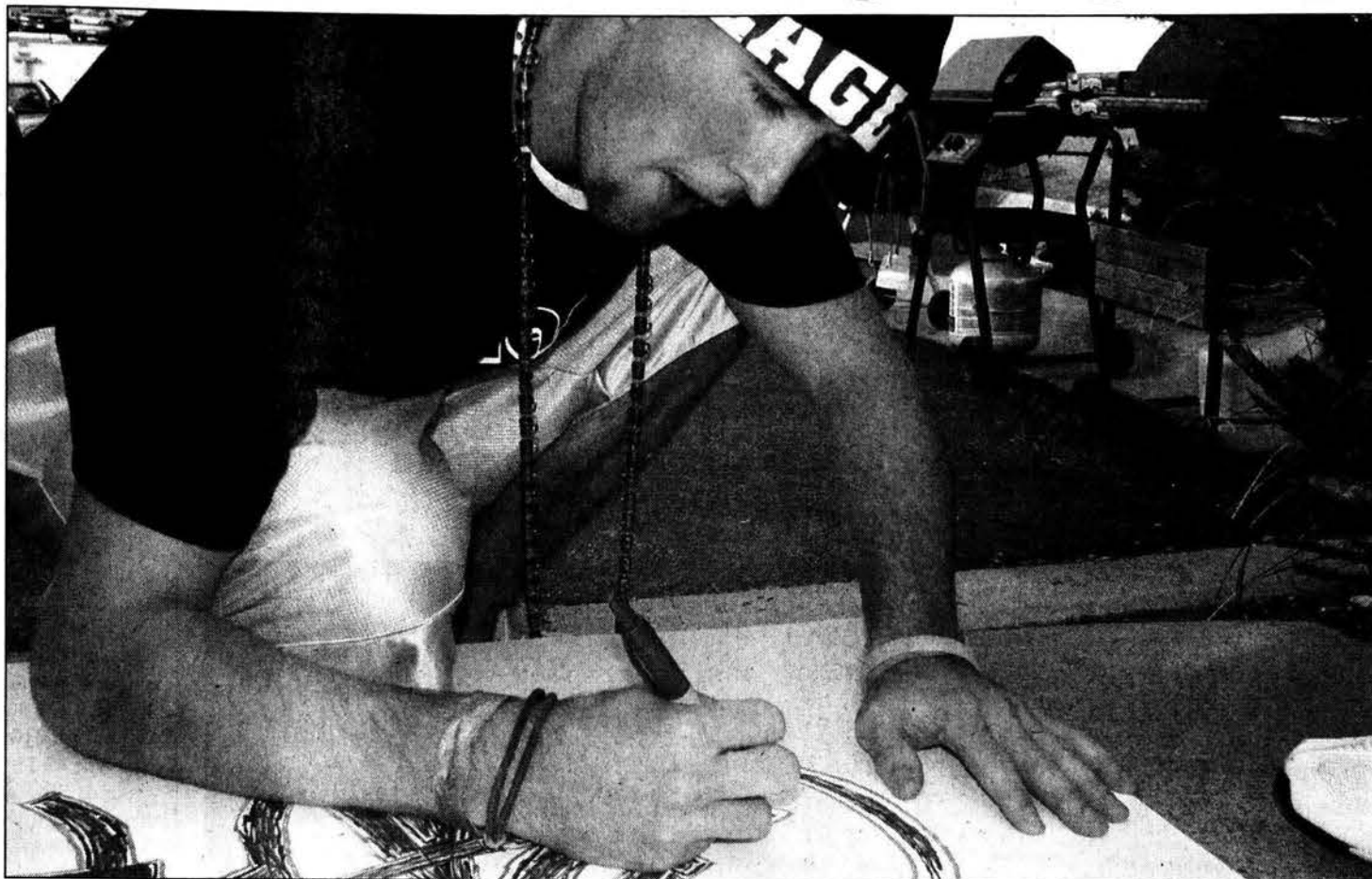
GAMES

The game might not start for a while, but who says you can't get the pigskin flying early?



CAMERA

With all the food, fun and friends, you'll want to remember it for a long time.



Senior Ian Sweaney draws out a 'Grape Crush' sign that was used at the home game against Millard South. The seniors held the tailgating party in the OEA parking lot.

BY PATRICK BREEN

The embers on the grills sparked as the senior tailgate party took place in the OEA parking lot before the home football game.

Senior class officers had been planning the tailgate since the beginning of the year.

"It's an annual event for as long as I remember," social studies teacher Scott Wilson said. "They really started planning it since the first week of school."

The tailgate was scheduled to start at 6 p.m. on Friday, but students, like senior class president Mark Arehart, showed up early.

"It's a whole lot of fun," Wilson said. "Fun is the most important thing to bring to a tailgate."

This event was the first of the seniors' events this year and Wilson said it was a great way to start off the year. Over 50 seniors showed up, blasting dance music with their radios, playing football or throwing Frisbees or just talking. The officers planned the seniors' tailgate party, but many seniors helped with the set-up, planning and execution.

The grills were fired up around 6 p.m. and students who had prepaid for the food received their hamburgers and hotdogs shortly thereafter.

Wilson said tailgates are a fun way to bring people together before any game. Finding a way to combine food, friends and fun is always a good thing.

There are plenty of things to think about when designing a tailgate, Wilson said. He said all that is needed are the obvious necessities like food, grills and plates.

However, sometimes things can go wrong. "You always need a backup plan," Wilson said.

One of the grills wouldn't start, but luckily the students had brought extras. The other two grills functioned fine and the food was fine, which student appreciated. Arehart said there weren't that many problems with the tailgate and that it was the best way to start off their last year at Central.

He also said there are some necessities to bring to a tailgate. Activities are needed to bring excitement to a tailgate. Arehart said it is important to bring games, not just food, to the party.

"We played some games, blasted some music and threw the Frisbee around," Arehart said.

Senior Ian Sweaney took the time to draw out a sign for the game, but the effort didn't help the Eagles against Millard South.

PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Teacher places in Chicago marathon

BY KEVIN GIBBS

"It's hard to believe you can get hooked on running 26 miles," social studies teacher Shannon Stenger said. "I got hooked on the marathon."

On Oct. 22, Stenger participated in a marathon in Chicago, Ill. and came in 172nd out of over 40,000 runners.

Stenger said his overall time amounted to 2 hours, 33 minutes and 8 seconds.

The marathon began at 8 a.m. and Stenger took off from the starting gate as more than a social studies teacher.

He was a marathon runner.

The LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon was 26.2 miles, and took an experienced runner to endure.

The marathon started in Grant Park, then wound through 15 Chicago neighborhoods, and passed by dozens of landmarks. The race then concluded back in Grant Park where it had begun.

"I started running in junior high school," Stenger said.

He attended North Bend Central, a school covering grades 7-12. He said his track coach, Fred Lambley, was very inspirational. He said they were more friends than the usual coach/player relationship.

He also continued running through high school and into college.

Then while running at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Stenger's team competed in division II nationals and placed in the top 10. After college, Stenger decided to try running an actual marathon.

He went to the Twin Cities Marathon in October 2002. The distance stretched from Minneapolis to St. Paul, Minn.

"I just wanted to run one for fun," Stenger said, "I only expected to do one."

Now, Stenger has participated in nine marathons.

"I usually try to get in three marathons a year," Stenger said.

The Omaha half-marathon was his most recent accomplishment before Chicago. Stenger came in first place in the half-marathon.

On Sept. 24, he won the half-marathon with a course that was 13.1 miles.

Stenger has been the boys cross-country coach for the last three years as well as the assistant coach of the girls cross-country team. Senior cross-country runner Mark Wilder described his coaching as hands-on.

"He's a good coach," Wilder said. "There are some workouts where he'll come run with us."

Few students, however, have the option to participate in marathons like Stenger, considering the majority of marathons have an age requirement.

Stenger stressed how much training is involved. "It takes lots of months of training," he said.

Stenger was enthusiastic about running more marathons in the future.

Knee injury ends high school career of senior volleyball player

BY ALI HODGE

"I didn't think it was gonna be a big deal," senior Laney Rosenbalm-Penry said.

This summer, she tore her Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) at practice for Central's varsity volleyball team.

It was the next day after the accident an MRI exam told her that her high school sports career was over.

For some athletes, an injury is one of their biggest fears.

Some little thing could go wrong at any time and they're out for the rest of the season or in worst cases, their entire lives.

For players who want to pursue athletics in college, an injury in high school could wreck their chances.

They could lose all opportunities to help their team and in return get hours of physical therapy.

Rosenbalm-Penry said she never wanted to pursue athletics beyond high school, but she still feels bad about not being able to play her senior year.

Injuries can be a result of a poor choice, such as participating in sports while injured. Some injuries are simple accidents, like in the case of Rosenbalm-Penry.

Rosenbalm-Penry said practice was going as usual. The team had completed warm-ups and had moved on to exercises.

She said during an exercise, she jumped up to block a ball and when she came down, she landed on a teammate's foot and her knee gave out from underneath her.

She said she remembered it hurt a lot. However, she didn't think it was anything serious.

Rosenbalm-Penry said the morning after the accident she discovered she couldn't walk.

Later on that day, after an MRI, she found out she had torn her ACL, a ligament in her knee that regulates how far her leg

can bend.

The doctor assigned Rosenbalm-Penry to physical therapy, crutches, a leg brace and told her she was not allowed to play on the varsity volleyball team her senior year.

Rosenbalm-Penry said she was working very hard on her physical therapy to get it off her mind, if for no other reason.

"The sooner the better," she said. "I'm really trying hard at night. Just trying to work really hard and quick."

Rosenbalm-Penry said she works with exercises that her physical therapist gave her for about an hour every night.

She was given exercises such as crunches, squats and simple leg movements that she has to do in order to keep her muscles moving.

She said right now she can bend her knee at a 98-degree angle; however, she needs to be able to bend it to 145 degrees to get surgery, which is scheduled for some time in the near future.

Rosenbalm-Penry said everyone on the varsity volleyball team is very close. She said everyone is good friends.

"They've all been really supportive," she said.

The day she received her MRI, her teammates and coach called her. She said her teammates felt really bad about the accident and called to see if everything was okay.

She said her coach expressed her sympathies and told her she was still a part of the team.

Rosenbalm-Penry said her teammates got together and spent time with her that weekend. She said she really appreciated it and it made her feel more like a friend rather than just a teammate. She was also glad she could still be involved with the season, even though she could not play.

Varsity volleyball coach Jodi Brown has been coaching volleyball for eleven years. She said she has seen lots of injuries, so she knew what to do.

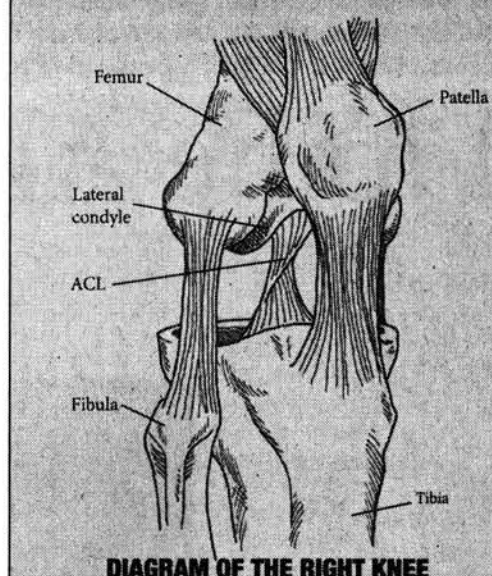
When Rosenbalm-Penry tore her ligament, Brown said

she got ice for her and called a trainer from Central. Brown said in any case it is hard to cope with the loss of a player.

She said the team usually gets pretty frustrated from the loss of their friend and the fact that they have to step up and take over their positions. Brown said the team was getting support and handling the loss of one of the stronger players very well.

She said they were working hard to get better as a team and win.

THE ANTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT



INFORMATION COURTESY OF EMEDICINE.COM

INFOGRAPHIC BY BOB AL-GREENE/THE REGISTER

The Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) is one of four major ligaments in the knee.

The ACL connects from a posterio-lateral (back and outside) part of the femur to an antero-medial (front and inside) part of the tibia.

It passes upward, backward and laterally, and is fixed into the medial and back part of the lateral condyle of the femur.

The most common ACL tear is a midsubstance tear, which usually occurs as the ligaments are transected by the pivoting condyle.

1 in 3000 individuals sustains an ACL injury every year. The injuries are most common in individuals aged 14 to 29 years old, when athletic activity is most frequent.

ACL-related injuries are two to eight times more common in women than men.

"I think they're (injuries) a big disappointment," said Rosenbalm-Penry.

She said since she has been out, some of her friends and fellow teammates have had to step up and cover her positions, and other positions they have not covered before. She said in that way, her injury has served a useful purpose. It has introduced players to new positions, thus making them better players.

"Any time a kid is injured, it will scare the players," Brown said. "They think that they might be injured."

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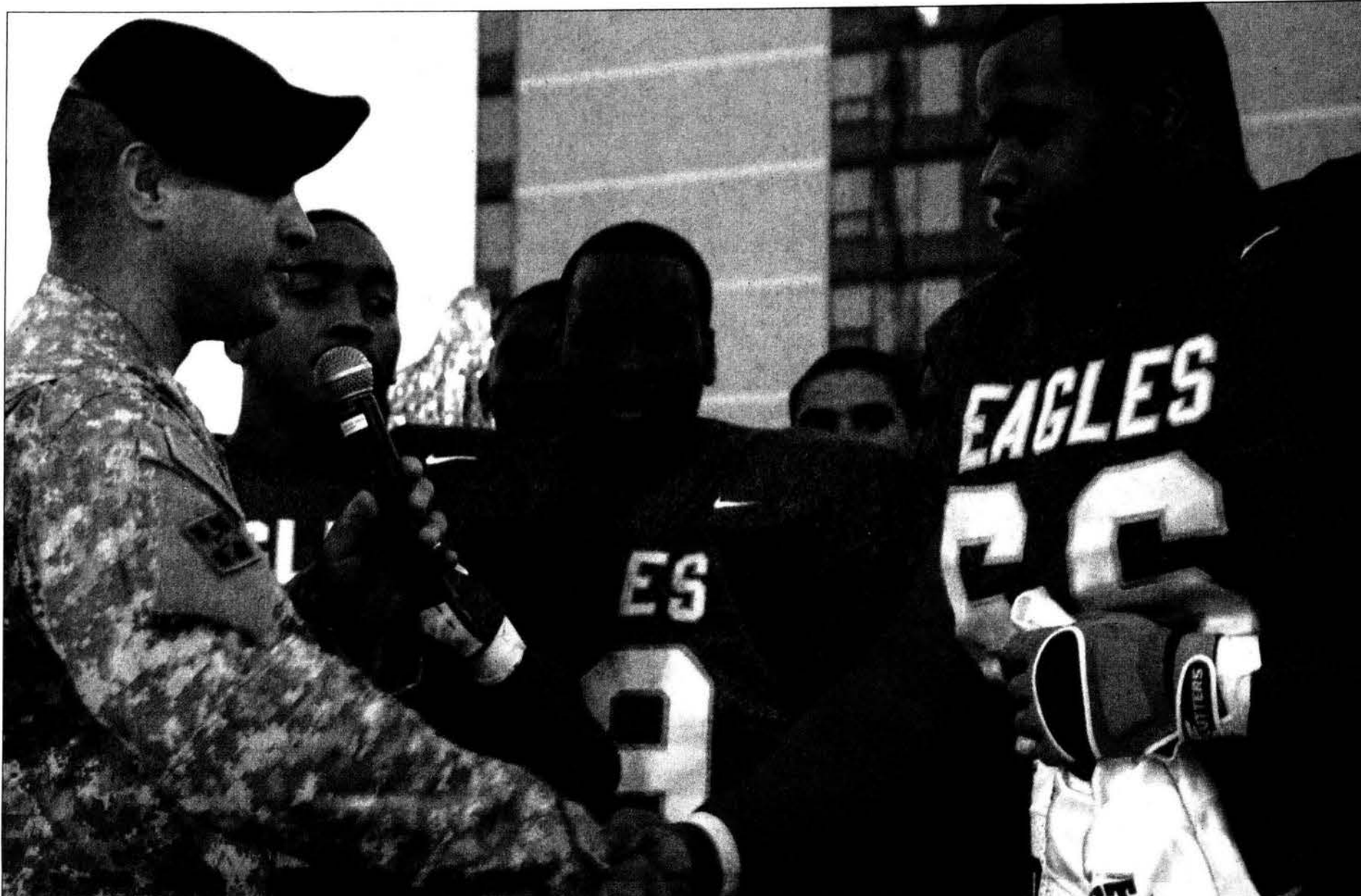
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GOLDEN GUNN

The Eagles' star offensive guard is named to the 2007 U.S. Army All-American football team, and will be one of two Nebraskans to play in the January game



PHOTOS BY PAT O'MALLEY/REGISTER

Senior Harland Gunn receives his Army All-American Jersey. At the Homecoming football game, Gunn was presented with his jersey, walked across the field as a Homecoming king candidate and racked up five solo tackles against Omaha South. At 6'3 and 315 pounds, Gunn has already accepted a full-ride scholarship to play offensive line at the University of Miami. (Below Right) Gunn laughs as the Eagles put in their second-string offense in the victory over Omaha South.

Senior excited to be All-American

BY PAT O'MALLEY

Senior Harland Gunn will be joining many other extraordinary student athletes at the Alamo Dome for the 7th annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas.

The All-American bowl is an East vs. West game that will be aired on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007 at 12 p.m. on NBC.

North High School's Niles Paul and Gunn will be the only students from Nebraska to play in the game.

Gunn said he was excited to be able to play in the game. "I get to represent my school and Nebraska," he said.

He said he was excited to be playing with the best of the best.

"Playing on TV is what I'm looking forward to," Gunn said.

Garrett Shea, director of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, said he was excited to see Gunn represent his school.

"He is that much further above any other center at the high school level we've seen," Shea said.

He said Gunn was chosen because of his approach to being a student athlete, his quickness, his agility and his size.

Shea said recruiting players like Gunn for the center position was difficult because most did not fit the position, but

he fit the position perfectly.

Gunn said when he heard last year he could be nominated, he started working out harder.

He said head coach Jay Ball told him he was nominated after the first game of the season.

He said his teammates got very excited about it.

"I think he deserves it," senior Dustin Ziesel said.

Ziesel said he thought Gunn could play in the game since the first time he met him.

He said he would probably be watching the game with the rest of his teammates.

Shea said there was a long recruiting process that took place prior to his selection.

"We really rely on our scouting committee," Shea said.

He said he assembles a selection committee which travels all around the country. He said Scout.com monitors high school athletes.

He said in June a list of 400 nominees was contacted and

80 students made it to play in the bowl game.

While in Texas, Gunn will have the opportunity to participate in a series of Army leadership and teamwork sessions, NFL athlete seminars, study sessions, goal setting and achieving workshops.

Each All-American athlete was encouraged to bring his head coach along and attend the U.S. Army National Coaches Clinic.

Shea said this was the sixth All-American Bowl game being held in San Antonio.

He said the first year it was held at a small high school football field in Dallas,

Texas and only 6,000 people attended.

He said last year there were approximately 32,000 people in attendance at the Alamo Dome.

He said the athletes really enjoy playing in such a big arena.

"The players absolutely love it," he said.

Shea said the Army will continue to host the event because it was a great opportunity to bring young athletes together.



Eagles run over South's defense

BY PATRICK BREEN

The 1-2 punch was established to win the Homecoming game, but 1 and 2 weren't the only numbers to bring in big plays for the Eagles' crushing offense in the win over Omaha South.

No. 1 Ramel Thompson busted a long run for a touchdown. No. 2 Ronnell Grixby didn't want to be outdone so he put up two touchdowns. And No. 3 Terrell Mayhue spun off several defenders to get his long touchdown run. Fullback No. 30 Brandon Bradford also found his way into the end zone twice on short runs.

The 42-21 win over the South Packers was built on the ground. The game started slow, and the Packers' offense looked like it was poised to start off the game with a score until the Grape Crush forced a fumble.

The turnover put the Eagles in South's territory. Junior running back Grixby found a small hole in the defense and ran through for an 8-yard gain.

The Packers' defense forced a fumble after a reception brought the Eagles inside the 20-yard line. The ball was recovered by South's senior Paul Kuta.

Both teams struggled to produce a steady offense, and the first quarter finished 0-0.

The second quarter started with a good sign for the Eagles. The Packers were called for illegal procedure and quarterback Kuta was forced to scramble and throw incompletions.

The Eagles took the next possession and drove deep into Patriot territory, but short completions brought confidence in the complete offense. Once again, inside the 20-yard line, the Packers were able to force a turnover.

The following drive the Eagles wouldn't make the same mistake. Grixby flew inside and picked up a quick 20-yard touchdown run made the score 7-0.

The Central defense held South from gaining a run larger than 10 yards until Kuta fled the pocket and scrambled all the way for a long 50-yard touchdown run that evened the game at 7-7.

The Eagles took control of the ball and started driving till South forced a short fourth down.

Coach Ball elected to go for the punt. The snap was low and hit the ground before reaching punter Grixby's feet. He picked up the ball and scrambled around, looking like he was going to pass.

But then Grixby saw a hole in the defense and took the ball past the first down marker. With 1:30 left in the half, Central had the ball inside the Packers' 30-yard line.

Junior Bradford took a carry up the middle for a few yards. Grixby followed with another first down.

He then met two Packer defenders, pushing both into the end zone for his second rushing touchdown of the game.

At the half the score showed 14-7, but neither team was ready to put down their weapons.

After short runs, in which senior All-American Harland Gunn wrapped up the Packer tailback twice, South took to the air.

The ball was tipped and hung slightly in the air before safety Grixby came down with the ball one-handed. The interception left the Eagles in great scoring position.

After an 8-yard run by junior quarterback Chris Griffin, fullback Bradford became the featured back.

Inside the 10-yard line, Bradford ran three times pushing the ball into the end zone. The lead was extended to 21-7.

South had a quick possession ending in another punt and junior Terrell Mayhue took advantage of field position running for a touchdown and increasing the lead to 28-7.

After another three downs and out, the senior tailback Ramel Thompson broke a tackle inside and rolled outside.

His speed was seen as he rolled through Packers' defense. The score stood 35-7 after his long touchdown.

A crushing defense stopped the South offense again.

Central got the ball and with less than 2:04 the team ran a reverse outside for a big 15-yard run. The time expired, heading into the fourth quarter the Eagles would be inside the 20-yard line again.

More runs pushed the ball to the goal line and Bradford powered in another touchdown run to bring Central to 42-21.

A high-powered offense propelled the team to the victory, but didn't help them overcome an early deficit to Lincoln Northeast in the State Playoffs.

Junior finds modern trend of athletic steroid use disappointing

Run. Jump. Hit. Slide. Throw. Swim. Now, do all of that faster, harder and better. Bloody needles plunging deep into the biceps of America's youth aren't going to help the common good of man.

Fear the drugs. They take these innocent high school athletes and turn them into powerful automated machines. And these programmable robots have only one goal.

Be the best, at any cost.

Steroids are just another quick escalator in life, when people should be taking the stairs to their success.

Sports have always been competitive, but in this day and age, a person has to be the best. Not third. Not second. Just first.

Human Growth Hormone (HGH) is a common undetectable drug that many retired pro athletes have confessed to using.

Steroids like HGH do help athletes become stronger or recover more quickly, but have hefty medical drawbacks.

Steroid use has grown into an epidemic, influencing the players and student athletes to bulk up.

Initially, the drugs could cause the person to experience excessive anger and rapid mood swings.

The quick anger is called "roid rage" and often can lead to violence.

An after effect of the drugs is depression. After an anger swing, some athletes said they felt a deep sorrow for no apparent reason.

Other times, athletes just experience the depression.

A reality illustrated by the unfortunate story of a young high school athlete who deeply wanted to start on the varsity football team.

Every year he had played JV football, and in his senior year he finally was going to have the chance of playing starting linebacker. But a transferred student filled the open spot and the coaches told him he would have to greatly improve to beat the other player out.

So, he started using steroids. He began showing signs of improvement, but the hidden side effect took its hold.

The student spiraled into a deep depression and his parents noticed the change in his personality.

A few weeks later the student hanged himself in his own room.

That is the reality of steroids. They will make you physically stronger, but mentally weaker.

Don't look past the other side effects.

The drugs affect athletes physically, too. The drugs allow for more muscle mass to be built, but can shrink the testicles and create extra, unused amounts of testosterone.

The added stress, some scientists say, can eventually cause the body to physically break down in the latter years of the athlete's life.

One of the largest muscles in your body isn't that gigantic bicep or pectoralis major, but your heart. And this extra stress put on the body can wear it out. Heart attacks are another probable outcome of this foreign agent you inject.

One moment, blood is gushing through your veins and the next moment, your cramped hand is grasping for your heart just hoping you can stay alive those last few seconds to say good-bye. Sounds great.

What ever happened to the idea "winning isn't everything?"

Sports are supposed to be about the love of the game. They are

supposed to be about having fun and what it's like to be on the field, or court, or course to make the big play.

These drugs shouldn't be used to help a player get to the level of play he wants to achieve. But that isn't what sports and coaches are pushing today.

"Just win" is the direct approach.

And that drive to be the best is pushing some players to take drastic steps to stay in shape, recover faster and be the best they can be. Or at least the best the science can make them be.

When Babe Ruth first set the home-run record with 60 home runs, no one ever questioned whether he was juicing up in the dugout.

When Wilt Chamberlain put up a record 100 points, no one thought that he might be sticking a needle into his vein so that he could put up another 100 the next game.

When Bart Star laid out running backs every day of his last season, no one wondered if blood wasn't the only thing running through his body.

But nowadays as soon as a pop fly travels into the stands or an NFL running back recovers from a major injury, the first thing that comes into everyone's mind is enhancement drugs. Over the years, sports have grown from an innocent love of the game to a harsh drug-induced reality of how the sports are competitive.

To get to the highest level, high school students should work hard and feel the anguish of that work to appreciate where they got.



FAKING A SMILE
A Column by Patrick Breen

