

ID Badges

Administration pushes ID badges once again

OPINION, PAGE 8

American Idol Auditions

Teens from Central and from across the country flood the Quest Center for a chance to become an idol.

REGISTRATION, PAGE 11

Eagle Spirit

Student council lifts students spirits by hosting pep rally

SPORTS, PAGE 19



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the register

Central High School

11 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER



PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Neo Nazis protest illegal immigration outside the Mexican Consulate on Dodge street on Saturday, Sept. 1. As part of their protest, they ripped Mexican flags, shouted derogatory comments while displaying the infamous "Hail Hitler" gesture and proudly wearing the swastika. Contained to one side was a large crowd protesting the National Socialist Movement's message.

Neo Nazis storm city, outrage students

BY ALI HODGE

It was a painful trip back into the past to the times of World War II for the protestors outside the Mexican Consulate Saturday, Sept. 1.

The only difference was the barrage of over two hundred SWAT members completely clad in thick black uniforms, guns and beating sticks ready and a mass casualty triage module. On site were also several members of the Omaha Police Department (OPD), ambulances and fire trucks to ensure additional safety.

Reflective of the circa 1940s Germany were the derogatory racial and sexual slurs flying around, a myriad of proudly displayed swastikas and a large crowd of angry Nazis.

Neo Nazis that is. The Minneapolis-based National Socialist Movement, also referred to as the Neo Nazis and the Nebraska White Revolution rioted outside the Mexican Consulate Saturday to protest illegal immigration in a country they claim belongs to white people.

In a country they claimed belonged to white people all along.

"Our fathers founded this land!" yelled one of protestors. "I stand here in front of the Mexican Consulate! This is supposed to be American soil!"

At this, the crowd recounted in saying the first settlers on American land were the American Indians, not the British. Neo Nazi protestors didn't seem to see it that way.

"We are here to voice our opinions as to who should be living in our country," said J.T. Ready, the Mesa, Arizona coordinator for the NSM. "We don't believe this consulate should be here."

The National Socialist Movement was founded in 1974 by Robert Brannan according to their Web site, www.nsm88.org, and prides its self on preserving America's European heritage and promoting white supremacy.

"Inspired by our Further Adolf Hitler..." read the Web site. "... We co-operate and work with many like minded white nationalist groups and many others which are either neo Nazi or at least, racially aware of our Aryan Heritage."

At 9 o'clock that morning, OPD officials barricaded off Dodge Street from 33rd to 38th Streets.

They also closed down all pedestrian traffic on Dodge and the surrounding area within a two block radius.

After the traffic, vehicles and pedestrians alike, had been redirected to Farnam street, the SWAT team arrived in large MAT city buses to begin their preparation hours before the protestors arrived.

Dressed in full protective armor, they set up their equipment and met together while protestors who came early were being screened and checked thoroughly before being allowed in the designated areas.

Protestors opposing the National Socialist Movement were not allowed to have bags, cameras, pens, sharp jewelry or any other sharp objects except car keys.

Similar to airport screenings, protestors stepped through a metal detector and were additionally searched and patted down.

Once they were in the designated area, they were not allowed to re-enter.



PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Senior Ben Brich and sophomore Chloe Brich stand with fellow protestors yards away from the Neo Nazis. They joined the large crowd in expressing their disgust of the protest outside the Mexican Consulate.

"It was a realization of how much hate is right in front of your face."

Elizabeth Erikson

This was due to the large number of people who were lining up to attend.

Due to the nature of why they were there, some individuals were in a relatively disgruntled to begin with and tried giving the SWAT team officers a hard time going through security.

As a result, all members of the Police Department were on the edge, looking for trouble to occur from both sides of the large argument.

Citizens were not the only thing being searched.

Officers (mainly SWAT team members) conducted a thorough investigation of the surrounding areas including bushes, cars, businesses, and residential front yards, even up in trees looking for planted weapons.

Bill Dropinski, public information officer for the Omaha Police Department said he and his team are doing everything in their power to ensure the safety of the protestors.

Both Omaha citizens and Neo Nazis. He said angry rioters could have hidden guns or heavy objects in surrounding houses or businesses with the intent of causing trouble at the event.

They even took sweeps down the streets picking up even the smallest debris such as rocks, tin, plastic, and glass.

"Our number one goal is to have a peaceful, safe environment," said Dropinski.

As far as the families who lived around the Mexican Consulate, they were advised to stay in their houses for the length of the riot.

If they wanted to leave their residences, they were directed

out by some of the many police officers there.

If they wished to join or even stand outside and watch, they were to be screened like the rest of the protestors.

"We tried to accommodate them as best we could," said Dropinski.

To ensure everyone's safety in attending the protest, which he said everyone had the right to do, even the press had to be screened a few times and were limited to stand in a designated parking lot elevated above Dodge street.

Dropinski said everyone in attendance had the designated area in which they were supposed to remain simply to prevent chaos and ensure safety for all.

"Thank you for your protection, Omaha," mocked one of the Neo Nazis with the megaphone. "But it doesn't look like you'll need it! Your weak!"

Protestors, which turned out to be an extremely diverse crowd including Omaha Indians, blacks, Hispanics and other races, didn't hold back from voicing their feelings.

And also their insults. Whether it was derogatory, religious, angered, confused, they spoke it.

And the National Socialist Movement had a retort of equal forcefulness and hatred.

Both sides criticized the other's views, beliefs, and gladly returned middle fingers, insults, and sexual slurs.

Some protestors displayed signs reading, "You know that 'Love your neighbor as yourself' thing? I meant it. -God."

Some shouted questions of confusion and anger. One protestor sang "Jesus Loves Me" through the entire event.

Continued to 'Nazi' on page 3A

Softball coach arrested on suspicion of DUI

BY ALI HODGE

Physical education teacher Jodi Reeder was arrested Monday on the suspicion of driving under the influence for the fourth time since 2003.

Reeder, who has been Central's varsity softball coach for the last two years after coaching the junior varsity team for two seasons, was unavailable for comment.

In the last few years, she has been arrested for the felony of driving under the influence two times, states the Omaha World Herald.

As evidenced from Omaha police reports, she was sentenced to five days in jail on both incidences, probation, loss of her driver's license and charged with second-offense drunken driving.

This fourth time, she was pulled over for going the wrong way down a one-way street around 15th and Howard Streets. Her blood-alcohol level was .189, which is more than twice the legal limit.

"This was an unfortunate incident and I hope that Ms. Reeder gets the help that she needs," said principal Greg Emmel.

Emmel said the details about what Omaha Public Schools (OPS) will do about Reeder is completely confidential and he has no information about how the investigation and consequences are being handled.

All decisions will be made in the near future by the Human Resource Department of Omaha Public Schools, Emmel said.

Senior spends summer studying at Harvard

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

The summer vacation is usually spent by relaxing, going to the beach, going camping, doing nothing difficult, but everything fun, and yet one Central student, Senior Sarah Ferguson, did the complete opposite of the norm.

An anomaly within the walls of Central, within the borders of America, she studied, and studied, with world-renowned professors and the crème of the crop students at Harvard University this past summer.

The Harvard Summer School: Secondary School Program (SSS) every year looks for mature, academically motivated high school students, who are the most intelligent students in the nation and around the world.

Ferguson was sent an invitation to the summer program from Harvard after the college had learned of her high-standardized testing scores.

"I didn't even plan on going until after I got accepted into the program", she said.

Ferguson said her parents were really excited about it.

"My mom was really nervous, especially since I'm the oldest child," said Ferguson.

She said her friends just teased her about how she was wasting her time during summer.

Counselor Andrus said that summer programs offered by colleges are great opportunities.

"It Oenances their (students') overall perspective", she said.

So, she went for the 8-week program and took Multivariable Calculus (Calculus 3) and Genetics and received college credit from an Ivy League.

The students at Harvard, often characterized as nerdy individuals, according to Ferguson are the complete opposite.

"They're normal students, not nerdy", she said. "There wasn't a lot of competition."

She was in the smaller classes though, with thirty to forty students, while some of the other courses had dozens and dozens of students.

Ferguson liked her calculus professor the best.

"He was very funny", she said. "He was from Switzerland and he would bring in random things like a bubble maker."

Once, he brought rock-climbing materials and climbed the classroom wall.

But, for the material, he squeezed a lot of information into the 8-week period; the information was the equivalent of a first semester Calculus course at Harvard. The class met two days a week for two and a half hour lectures.

The class, Ferguson said, was really different though.

"We didn't have any book, just hand notes", she said. "He would skip over a lot of stuff he said we didn't need to know."

Ferguson's Genetics class was more in a lecture style.

She got to know her Genetics teaching assistant much better than the professor. Ferguson would meet with her during her offices, in extremely informal circumstances.

Inside

College Corner	2A	Exchange student	5A	American Idol	11C
Calendar	2A	Louis Palau	6B	Superbad	12C
Tardy policy	2A	Physical contact	6B	Harry Potter	14C
		Soda	7B	Thomas	18D

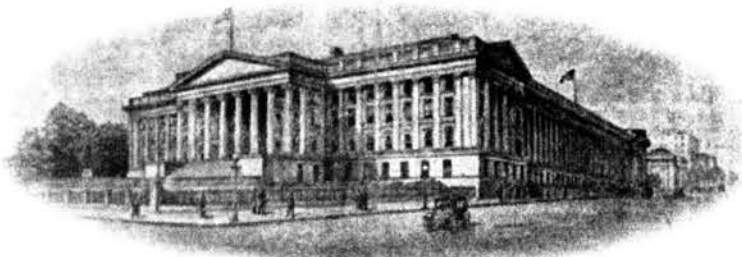
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Promote Tolerance

Students perform play at grade assemblies

PAGE 2A



College Corner

Brigham Southern College

Location: Bringham, Alabama
Type: Private 4 year Liberal Arts college affiliated with United Methodist Church.
Admissions: 57 % of applicants are admitted.
Undergrad enrollment: 1,207 of the student population are undergrads.
Majors offered in: Biology, business, conservation, computer sciences, education, foreign language, history, psychology, theology, social sciences, math and visual/performing arts.
Application dates: No deadline, priority date: January 5

California Institute of Technology

Location: Pasadena, California
Type: Private 4 year university
Admissions: 17 % of applicants are admitted.
Undergrad enrollment: 864 of the student population are undergrads.
Majors offered in: Biology, business, conservation, computer sciences, engineering, English, history, psychology, philosophy and religion, physical science, interdisciplinary, social sciences and math.
Application dates: No deadline, priority date: January 1

University of Florida

Location: Gainesville, Florida
Type: Public 4 year university
Admissions: 48% of applicants are admitted.
Undergrad enrollment: 34,534 of the student population are undergrads.
Majors offered in: Agriculture, biology, business, conservation, computer sciences, engineering, foreign language, history, psychology, philosophy and religion, physical science, interdisciplinary, social sciences, math and visual/performing arts.
Application dates: No deadline, priority date: January 16

School of Visual Arts

Location: New York, New York
Type: Private 4 year visual arts college
Admissions: 69% of applicants are admitted.
Undergrad enrollment: 3,093 of the student population are undergrads.
Majors offered in: Visual and performing arts.
Application dates: No deadline, priority date: January 1

CALENDAR

October

- 1 Omaha Marching Exhibition**
 Bands from across Omaha and surrounding areas will compete with the Central High marching band in the Omaha Marching Exhibition, which will be held for the first time at Seaman Stadium.
- 12 Homecoming Football Game**
 The Homecoming football game will be held at Seaman stadium as Eagles compete against Bellevue West.
- 13 Homecoming Dance**
 The Homecoming dance is always held in Central's gymnasium. Dress is semi-formal. It is from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
- 16 Underclassmen Photos**
 Photographers will photograph underclassmen for Central's yearbook, the O-Book in the dramatorium.
- 19 Seniors and Faculty**
 Faculty and seniors, who have not handed in senior photos to the journalism room, will have their photos taken for the O-Book in the dramatorium.

November

- 1 Fall Musical**
 The fall musical will be held in the auditorium starting at 7 p.m. There is an admission fee.
- 6 Fall Sports Banquet**
 Fall sports banquet will be held in the courtyard.
- 9 Teacher Work Day**
 There will be no school for students.

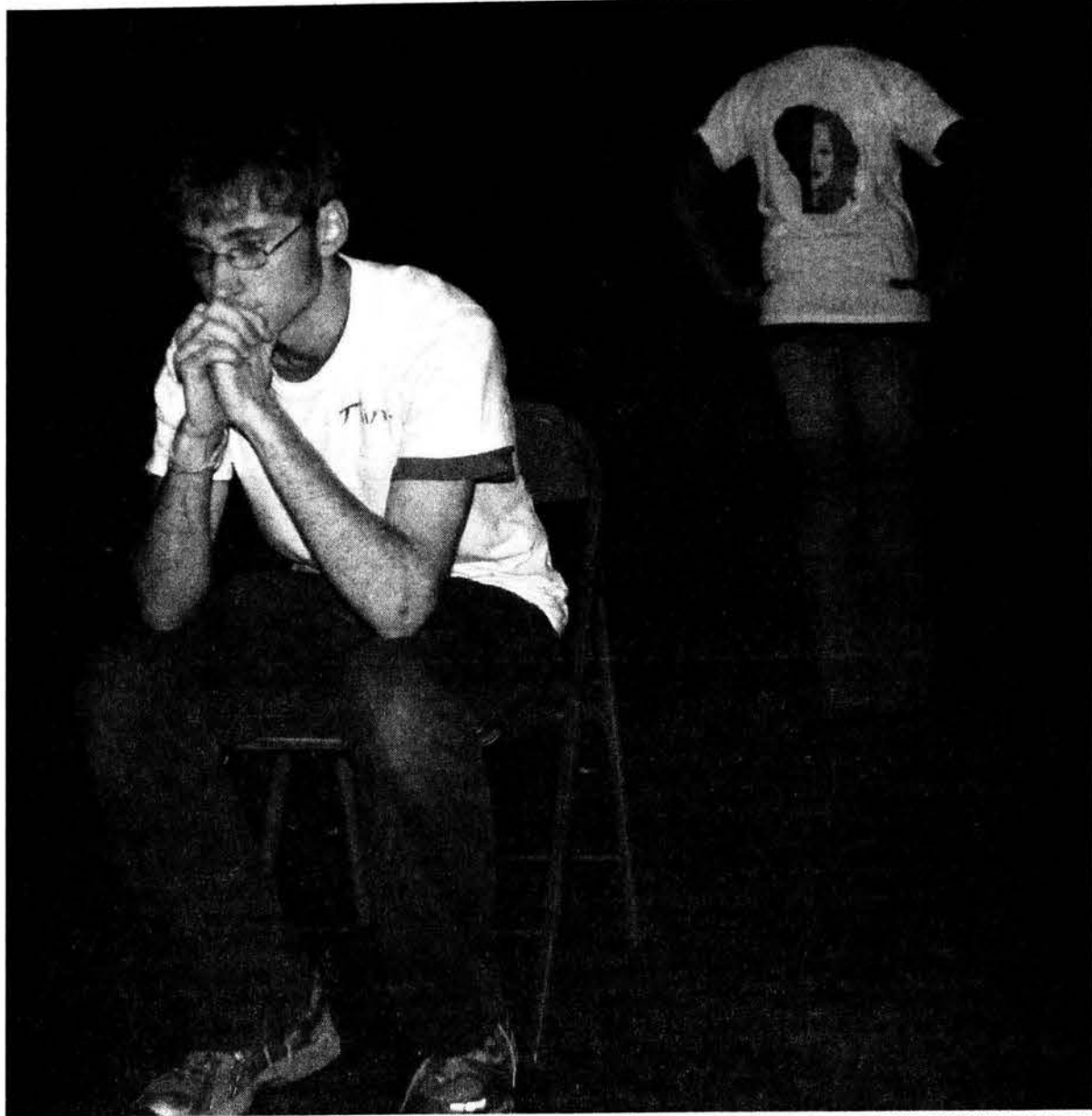


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Senior Phil Lomneth and a group of students prepare to perform their tolerance skit for the freshmen orientation. The skit was against derogatory comments such as the "N" word, "gay," "fag," and "retarded." In the skit, a group of offended students yelled at one another not to use a derogatory word, when in actuality, they were using ones of their own.

Senior skit promotes tolerance

BY PATRICK BREEN

Trying to make a difference does take time and effort.

But as senior Phil Lomneth will tell you, it is worth it.

At the beginning of this school year, all classes watched a presentation performed by some of Central's vocal, supportive and understanding students.

The students performed a skit in which a bunch of students gathered on the stage arguing about whether they should use certain words like "gay, redskin or the n-word." At the end, Lomneth turns and throws a chair in disgust. He then tells the students on stage, and the student body audience that they shouldn't use these terms and words.

Each student on stage picked up pieces of paper with letters that spelled out respect as the curtain closed.

In all four performances, the crowd became loud and laughed during the parts Lomneth expected.

"More people took it as entertainment rather than a message," Lomneth said. "A few understood the point, and it probably changed their perspective."

Senior Rachael Farhat said the skit was great for the students. She thought those who paid attention got the message.

And the message conveyed, was something Lomneth hoped everyone would get.

"The skit had two meanings," Lomneth said. "One was to get the students to realize what they do and what they say affects everyone."

Farhat said the skit was realistic and she had heard those words throughout school, though she knew they were hurtful.

"Don't say anything to hurt anyone," Farhat said. "And everyone deserves respect."

The idea came about when Lomneth was at an Anti-Defamation League meeting. He was tired of students using derogatory statements so he decided to create and perform his own skit.

He started planning the performance a year ago and tried a diversity skit in February and March of last school year.

Lomneth felt those events didn't make much of an impact, however, he didn't let that get him down. In fact, he started coming up with new ideas.

"I told Matt Cronin about it," Lomneth said, and he thought it was a good idea.

The two met to discuss ideas and brainstormed creative ways of grabbing students' attention so they would listen.

"That night after I went home I thought, 'What three things do I want to do?'" Lomneth said.

He worked that night developing his own script and descriptions for the play. After showing the idea to principal Greg Emmel and making some revisions, he was ready to culminate his idea with a play.

With the help of counselor Ron Moore who supplied diverse students, and drama teacher John Gibson who helped direct, the production was practiced and then presented to the students.

Lomneth's goal was for people to at least "try to see it (language) from another perspective."

Tardy policy holds students accountable

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

The warning bell rings and hundreds of students race away from their friends, lockers, and conversations to get to their next class.

Panic ensues until the final bell rings, when most of the tardy students groan in frustration. For years, teachers and administrators have been disgruntled about students showing up late to class, interrupting classes, and doing this regularly.

To curb the number of tardies, administration implemented a new policy at the beginning of the school year.

The new tardy policy was driven by teachers and administrators concerned by the multitude and frequency of tardies some students piled upon their record.

Now, after more than two tardies, students will be punished in various ways. For three to four tardies, the student will get a detention and a call home to parents or the student will have to complete the SOLVE Tardy Form, the student's written solution to punctuality.

For five to six tardies, the student will get a Tardy Referral to their administrator, a Student Success Center (SSC), a Suspension After School (SAS) or a Saturday School Suspension.

Seven to nine tardies warrants the same consequences, or students will have to serve an overnight suspension with a required parent conference.

For ten to twelve tardies, the student can be punished with a suspension outside of school. More than twelve, will result in tardy referrals, suspensions and intervention.

When principal Greg Emmel addressed the new procedures at the monthly Teacher Advisory Committee meeting, the majority of the staff voted in favor of the new policy, which was written by Emmel and the committee.

"Mr. Emmel tweaked the policy during the summer," assistant principal Ed Bennett said.

The new SOLVE Tardy Form requires the tardy student to discover and write down solutions to prevent tardies. This is an effort to involve the students in solving their tardy problem.

Students must, however, take responsibility and acknowledge that they do have a problem and that this problem must be solved with their own participation, not just the teachers or administrators lecturing them

about the importance of showing up to class on time for the sake learning.

In the past, each teacher had their own tardy policy, ranging from both ends of the spectrum of doing nothing at all to sending the students to their administrator every time, even for first offenses.

Rita Ryan, Latin teacher, agrees with the school administration about the new policy.

"I think it's a good idea and it will work," she said. "It is fair to all students. It's definitive, to the point."

So far this school year Ryan has not had any of her two hundred students receive a third tardy, although a couple of them have had two.

When her students are late, Ryan said she tells them how many tardies they have, and then she reads them their consequence, which is posted right next to the door in her room.

Surprisingly, to administrators, many students are reacting well.

Bennett said the students are, for the most part, respecting the new policy.

"Students have been getting to class on time, the halls are clearer," he said. "Once that warning bell rings, they're hustling to class."

Senior Olivia Griffin said she feels that this year's tardy policy is a lot stricter but needed.

"But, it'll benefit all of us because some students will do better in school and have better time management."

So far, Griffin has been tardy to class once compared to last year when she was tardy about ten times throughout the entire school year.

Since the new policy took effect, Griffin said some teachers have become pretty strict with it.

"They'll be like 'Oh my god! You're late!' or they'll be like 'Please, don't be late,'" said Griffin.

She said she knows people who, this year, have been late more than two times, but she feels it's their choice if they don't care about being late to class.

"I can understand if you're late if you're pregnant, but not if you're lazy," she said.

Griffin said a lot of people are saying the new tardy policy is stupid, but she disagrees with them.

According to Bennett, all of the teachers who he has talked to are extremely pleased with the policy.

Only time will tell if the new tardy policy works. So far, according to teachers, students, and administrators alike, it seems to be working.

Band plays in Dundee Parade

MICHELLE RIEGER

The Marching Band was slated to perform in a parade for Dundee Days, an annual festival held in the quaint neighborhood of Dundee, until a police emergency caused a 45 minute delay Saturday, Aug. 25.

Police were called to another location leaving the parade area without barricades and traffic control. Councilmen Jim Suttle and Jim Vokal called more police for street barricades.

Without barricades, designated streets for the parade were not visible. Police were finally able to set things straight and get the parade going.

"The police officers who did were very, very apologetic," said Michael Kozlik, parade chairman.

Out of all the bands he's ever heard Kozlik said Central's one of the best.

Over 120 band members participated in the parade, which welcomed a crowd of over 500 people who waited patiently through the delay.

"They were really nice, very positive and welcoming," said band director Pete Wilger.

New staff parking closer to school

BY ALI HODGE

After the large construction project at Joslyn was underway, Central started one of its own.

The same construction company that paved the museum's new parking lot completed one for Central this past summer.

They resculpted Central's parking lot to make the construction plans easier for both the school and the museum.

Assistant principal Ed Bennett said the plans for the parking lot had been underway for at least three years.

It was pushed on by Joslyn, Bennett said, because the museum would not allow students or staff to park in their parking lot.

Therefore, there was a large shortage of parking.

This project does not make up for that, but in some ways, it helps.

The school had a contract with Joslyn in which they would complete construction in the summer of 2009, however, the project was moved up.

"We ended up paying for it, but it was cheaper," said Bennett.

Former principal, Jerry Bexten had attended planning meetings at Joslyn to discuss school and museum sharing land for the new stadium and Joslyn's new lot.

Now, principal Greg Emmel has been attending the meetings as Central's current principal with the companionship of Bennett on some occasions.

The new parking is mainly for department heads and visitors. Because department heads frequently come and go sometimes with items to haul, Bennett said the situation is appropriate.

As a result of the new parking, some different arrangements were made in the teacher parking lot.

New visitor spaces were added as well as an area for teachers who carpool.

Unfortunately, there has been a slight shortage of parking for general Central staff members.

To make up for this, the school district has helped Central pay for reserved parking underneath the interstate ramp for staff members who did not receive spots.

Although it was not a huge change to Central, Bennett said that it was something that was needed and would hopefully help out those who needed to be closer to the school.

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Freshman overcomes size, joins drumline

BY ARYANNAH CONRAD

When drum line tryouts rolled around there seemed to be a general reaction about freshman Luke Compton's size. Everyone was curious about how or what he was going to play.

"When I saw that he was auditioning for drum line I wasn't sure if I should be concerned or not," said junior Todd Alba, one of the drum line section leaders. "I wasn't sure if he could march with the drum he could play."

Compton was diagnosed with achondroplasia (dwarfism) three months before he was born. Doctors said it was due to a spontaneous mutation of a gene somewhere in his body.

Despite his disability, Compton persists in being involved with music. Though he says he'll play "anything percussion that there is", his favorite instrument is the snare drum.

Though unsure of the outcome, he decided trying out for drum line was a must do.

"Walking into tryouts I didn't know what to expect," said Compton, "I was nervous about not knowing anyone but right away people started saying hi so it wasn't as bad."

Compton has been in the percussion line for four years. He joined Omaha Area Youth Orchestra (OAYO) in middle school and fell in love with music.

As one of three freshmen who plays cymbals on the drum line, he enjoys his position as well as all of the members. Luke is one of twenty people on the line.

Everyone has welcomed him with open arms and a willingness to help him however and whenever it is needed.

Junior Nicholas O'Bradovich attended Lewis and Clark Middle School with Compton and believes in his talent for music.

"No one doubted him because not only is he a good musician he is a great member of the drum line," O'Bradovich said.

When it came time for drum camp and band camp Compton was ready. Learning all the music was just the first step. Soon after he had to learn the drills traditionally marched at football games and in competitions.

"It was something new so I was going to have to have to learn quick," said Compton. "I had to learn to take bigger steps cause my legs are shorter than everyone else's."

All of the members of the drum line are proud of the hard work and effort Compton has put forth and they are all anxious for the years to come.

Percussion director Tom Cosby said that working with Compton is no different than working with any other member of the drum line.

"He is like a spider," said junior Kolbey Wallington. "No matter how many times they get knocked down they get up and keep going."

In the future, Compton hopes to become a Music Major and he is pursuing music as much as possible to do that.

Whether playing at home, at drum line practices, with his friends or at OAYO, Compton plans to live a life of music and sees no quitting in his future.

"Of course I will stick with it!" Compton said. "And if I don't my dad will push me to, so I plan on sticking to it."



PHOTOS BY ALI HODGE, LAUREN GREVE/ REGISTER

1. Protestors stand in the designated areas protesting the Neo Nazi riot. Among the protestors were Central students, senior Elizabeth Erikson and senior Ben Brich. 2. The Omaha Police Department stepped it up a notch on security when it came to the riot. They were armed with wooden sticks, bullet-proof vests, plastic hand shields and guns. 3. One of the protestors against illegal immigration proudly holds a sign that reads "White Pride Worldwide." Protestors also spat on the Mexican flags and yelled a variety of derogatory slurs. One of the many flags proudly carried by Neo Nazis during the protest displays the swastika. 5. A protestor with the National Socialist Movement screams insults at the angry crowd.

Neo Nazis protest Mexican Consulate

Continued from 'Nazi' on page 1A

Among those protesting the riot was Central High School senior Elizabeth Erikson who said she and her friends attended the rally because she had heard a lot of publicity about it on the news.

She said they had also had a discussion about it in English class and she decided it sounded as if it was going to be something she would be interested in.

She said she thought it would be interesting to see and more than likely something she wouldn't forget.

"It was a realization of how much hate is right in front of your face," she said. "These are regular people. We pass them everyday."

She and her friends proudly wore shirts they received from a fellow protestor reading "Import Immigrants, Not Ignorance" that were sponsored by www.myspace.com.

Finally, around 2 o'clock that afternoon, after a large crowd of protestors had assembled allowed area, several men, women and children alike, clad in recreations of the traditional Nazi uniform marched to the front of the Mexican Consulate, with right arms raised high.

Three hundred Neo Nazis filed into their marked area, a banner displaying their organization, another bright red banner with a swastika on it and another black banner with "White Pride Worldwide" stretched across it.

They were also pushing for their supporters to vote for John Taylor Rowles for the upcoming presidential election.

Immediately, the shouting rose as if someone had turned up the volume on a large stereo.

To drown out the screaming crowd, a chosen spokesmen, with the aid of a megaphone, told the protestors a story to introduce the organization's argument.

Their story was of a 9-year-old boy who miscommunicated with an illegal immigrant who didn't understand English.

Allegedly, the immigrant was driving on a flat tire and the boy waved him down to warn him of his car's danger. Thinking the boy was insulting him, he got angry.

As a result, he said the immigrant murdered the boy by putting an ax in his head.

Interrupted by shrill laughter and screams from both sides of the protest, they went on to talk about other races.

"The blacks won their social revolution! Great for them! They can have their Black History Day!" they shouted. However, they always brought everything back to white supremacy. "But what about White History Day?"

The Neo Nazis also had some opinions of the war in Iraq to argue.

"How can you fight terrorism if you have open borders with another country?" they asked. "If you want to be a part of this country, pick up an M16 and go to Iraq!"

Finally, they addressed America as a whole.

"It doesn't matter what these pro-diversity scum say! We speak English! If you don't, go home!" one protestor insisted. "The citizens of today are not loyal to their country! You guys are weak! You're nothing! You'll never be nothing!"

Though Erikson said she loves controversy, which is what mostly drew her to the rally, she was shocked by the Neo Nazi's display. She said she certainly had never seen anything like it.

"A part of me wanted to leave," she said. However, she believed that by leaving, she would be showing the Nazis that they won and by not showing, she would be holding her voice on a subject she cared about.

She said that if ever this were to happen again, she wasn't sure if she would advise students to attend.

Senior Ben Brich, who was also in attendance with Erikson, agreed and said that if students attended, they would be feeding into what the Nazis wanted: a reaction and attendance.

Brich felt that students should stand up for what they believe in.

"I'm a peaceful person and I believe in all human rights," he said.

He too was in shock at some of the things done and said at the protest. It wasn't as crazy and large as he said he would have liked to have seen it, but nevertheless, he was amazed.

People claimed the riot was supposed to have been a part of Omaha history being as nothing like this had ever happened in the city before.

"It's cool to be a part of history," Brich said. "But at the same time, this isn't a good thing."

Brich said he thought the Nazi protest was simply promoting hypocrisy, ignorance and spreading hate. Something the world didn't need any more of.

After hearing them in person, he said he associates much more atrocious to the Nazis then he usually did after hearing about them in history class.

However, Erikson and Brich alike said that they were proud to say they went and were grateful for the experience.

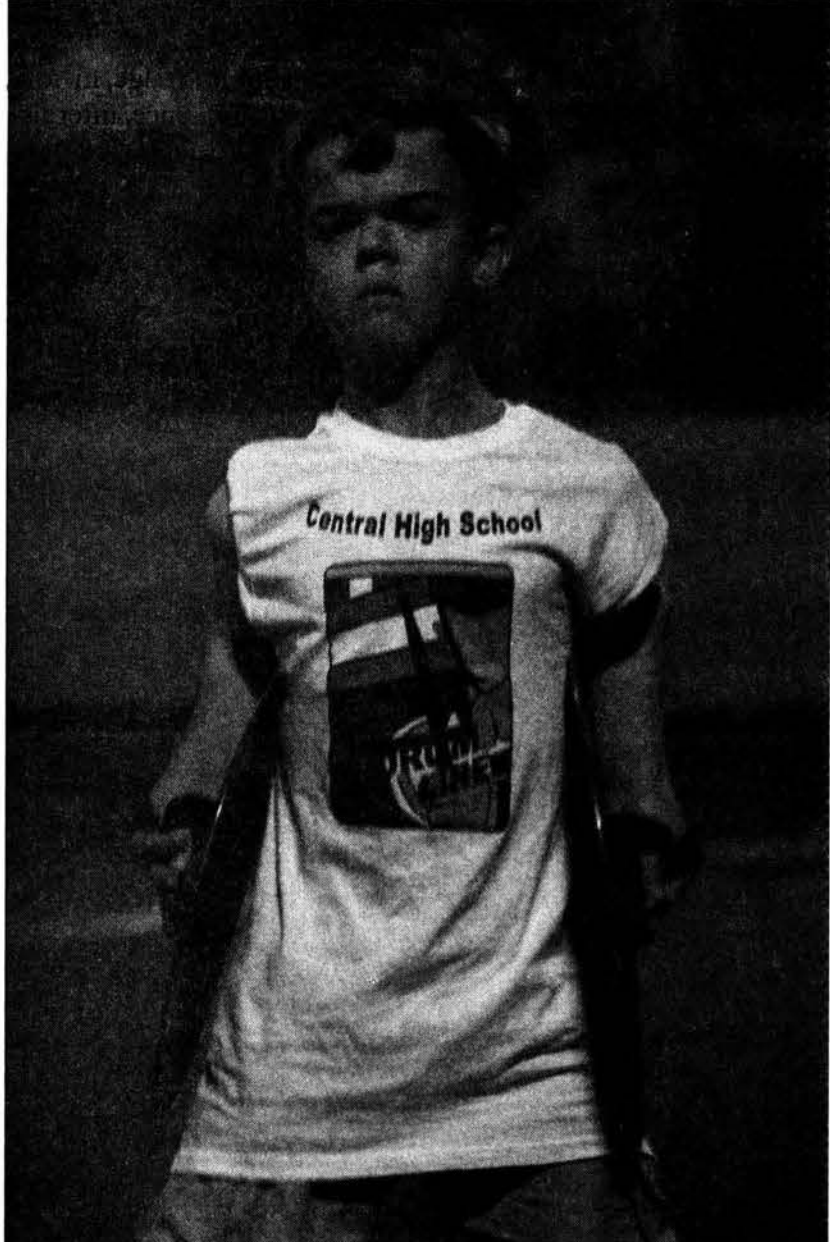


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ YEARBOOK, REGISTER
Freshman Luke Compton performs with the rest of the drumline during the half time performance at Central's first game. Compton said that even though he doesn't play his choice instrument, he still loves the percussion line.

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German exchange student cherishes time in America

BY BRITTNEY MILLER

In an effort to foster diversity and promote foreign relations, Central High School has become home to a new foreign exchange student this year.

Senior Johanna Ruyter arrived in the United States

this past August hoping to learn firsthand the American culture specifically in academia.

Her first impression of America that it was "more open" than other countries.

After receiving information from her teacher about NACEL Open Door Foreign Exchange Program and hearing about from a friend who had been a participant,

she leaped on the opportunity. Fittingly, NACEL is derived from the French word "nacelle" which refers to historical balloon explorers' spirit of adventure and discovery.

Though Ruyter was embarking on her adventure for one whole year to live in a different country with a whole different family, her parents were supportive and excited

about the idea.

"If you want to, do it!" said her mother.

Ruyter found her trip to the states to be relaxed until she made it to her host family's home.

"It's more open here than other countries," she said. "I was not nervous when I was on the plane. But when I was about to arrive at my new families house I got really nervous!"

Ruyter's first impression was that people are very friendly. Johanna's eyes grew large as she said how big the houses, buildings and everything else is here compared to Germany.

Getting the full effect of the American culture was the most exciting part of Ruyter's trip, she said. She found it interesting how close and personal the family members were with one another.

Though Johanna said she misses home, she never gets homesick. Her American mother told her not to call her mother in Germany because hearing her voice would make her miss home and it would be so much harder.

"Yes, I cried a bit at first," she said.

To prevent feeling homesick even more she does not call her friends. Instead, Ruyter communicates with people back home through e-mails.

Being in the foreign exchange program has afforded her opportunities to travel even outside of Nebraska.

Before school started, her family took her to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

Life in America has been a stark contrast to her life in Germany. Back at home, she was released at 1 o'clock from school as junior though seniors were in school until 3 o'clock.

American activities, according to Ruyter, are very similar to those she remembers in Germany. She said at home she liked to hang out with friends, play tennis and soccer and swim.

One part of the American culture, she finds unusual is the wealth of violence especially with guns.

"Guns are not allowed to anyone unless you are the police," Ruyter said.

Gang violence, she said, is not popular where she is from so there is little gang violence.

In Germany, she said there is not as much violence as there is here in the states, as she has recently seen on the news.

Ruyter watches the news often and was in awe at the Omaha coverage recently when two men were both killed in one week.

"I have never seen so many people get killed before," she said.

Taking the positive experiences with the negative is representative of the purpose of the NACEL foreign exchange program.

According to the Web site, NACEL.org, host families are "aware that today's youth need to be world citizens."

For Ruyter, becoming a "world citizen" has been defined as being strong on her own, understanding various cultures and cherishing her rare experience

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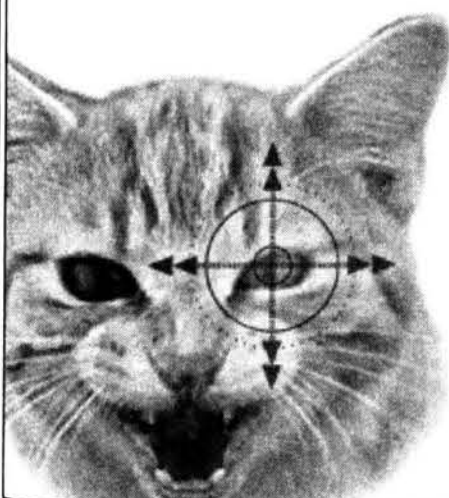
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First Amendment of the United States, ratified Dec. 15, 1791

EDITORIALS



CARTOON BY ANITA HODGE/ REGISTER

School bans physical contact

What warrants a student being suspended? A fight, multiple referrals, maybe even skipping class excessively.

The majority of students and school staff members would have to agree that in all of these cases the students deserved those suspensions. After all, the students must take responsibility for their actions and suffer the consequences, whatever they may be.

But, some schools are going too far with their rules.

A public school in Virginia instituted a new rule that completely befuddles the mind.

"NO PHYSICAL CONTACT."

Simple and concise.

According to this new rule, no one, students nor teachers, may touch anyone in the school. That's no fighting, of course, which is a good thing.

But, it also means no hugs, no high-fives, no slaps on the backs, no hand holding, and no handshakes.

When they said no physical contact, they meant no physical contact.

One of the school's students, a 13-year-old boy, was immediately sent to the principal's office after breaking this rule.

His offense? Slipping his arm around the shoulders of his girlfriend for five seconds during lunch.

School officials claim that the rule is for safety and orderliness in hallways and cafeterias "safe and orderly". They say they want everyone in the building to feel safe and comfortable.

But this rule is counterproductive. The rule does not make people feel safe. Now, students are frightened of

showing any emotion, for fear of being suspended.

Now, in gym class, no one will give a high-five after a good basketball shot. Play productions will lose their masterful effect since the actors will have lost the emotional connection between themselves.

All fear this does is produce emotionless individuals who fear any physical contact. This rule is making a generation of Americans scared to feel.

It is this kind of mind set of this rule's creator, which began the dystopia society of George Orwell's "1984", where any form of attachment was considered anti-Big Brother.

In the extreme case, if this rule continues to be implemented in schools, then George Orwell's world will not be fiction any more. Our society will turn into that society where family will be seen as a disease, where emotions are seen as a weakness, where government is the supreme ruler in all matters.

There are a number of different, more effective ways school can make their school environment safe. There should be a restriction on excessive touching in school, but not just quick contact that is perfectly acceptable and in no way indecent or disruptive. The high-fives, hand holding, handshakes, quick hugs provide students with the emotional contact that every individual needs.

Of course, inappropriate behavior should not be allowed. So, instead of a "No Physical Contact" rule, a "No Fighting" rule and a "No Inappropriate Behavior" rule should exist.

If tyrant rules like the "No Physical Contact" continue

to exist in today's society, then students will not be able to tell the difference between wrong and right. Life does not exist in black and white, but numerous shades of gray and yellow and red and blue and purple and every other imaginable color.

Furthermore, how is it possible that the school officials, and, more importantly, the parents of the students dismiss students' needs for affection? It is impossible to say that these adults want their children to feel nothing but a void. It is impossible to believe that these adults endorsed this idea that would destroy their children's emotional well-being.

This society is by the parents demonstrate how out of tune society is; maybe we have gotten to George Orwell's society filled with fear.

The parents are scared of what they say to the school board; they will not bring their questions or disapproval to them, for fear of the consequences for themselves, but more importantly their children. They do not want to be known as *that family*, the one that is going against the school board.

If the rules that are actually appropriate are implemented and enforced, which in most schools they already are, then there will be nothing to worry about.

The students will grow up to be normal, sane adults, which cannot be said for the adults who either came up with the rule or chose not to defend their children against a bureaucratic school board.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of
the Register staff

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NovaNet abandoned for OPS "Angel"

"Successful learning, any time, any place, at any pace" is NovaNet's motto, but what they don't say is that their NovaNet program can cost anything, more likely the high, expensive end of the spectrum; a bank robbery if anything.

Central High School has used NovaNet for years, in an effort to help students gain credits needed to graduate. But, the problem with NovaNet is their curriculum and their price. The Internet schooling method does not follow Central's curriculum as closely as it should be, so the students taking the various courses are being shortchanged from their education.

Moreover, NovaNet, even though not providing the curriculum that Central wanted, charges extremely high prices.

Thus, in an effort to both increase students' educational opportunity and to cut the cost for Omaha Public Schools (OPS), the school district decided to stop using NovaNet after the end of last year.

Now, students can make up credits with Angel, a similar program to NovaNet, but with

the advantages of following Central's curriculum and cutting the cost tremendously, since the program was created by the school district.

Angel was used last year as well, but it was only in the developing stages, so the school could not get rid of NovaNet completely.

But, now that Central has students in dire need of gaining credits to move on from this school, students can learn more efficiently because Angel teaches so the student can learn at their own pace.

Therefore, the school district did make the right decision when they decided to switch credit recovery programs. Angel is more efficient and less expensive than NovaNet. The students and the school district get the best of both worlds.

Angel may not fix the major problem of students continually failing their regular courses, but at least the new program attempts to teach these students the material needed, so they can walk across that graduation stage at the Civic Auditorium in May along with all their peers.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of
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07-08 Register

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The Register is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), the 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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Senior sees Luis Palau event as propaganda

I CAN RELATE

A column by Max Larson

When considering the large volume of signs sprinkled about Omaha's metropolitan area last summer, it may cause one to question; does a good Omaha Christian worship God or Luis Palau?

Yet, although the signs were posted to support a God-oriented agenda, there was no mention whatsoever of religion on the signs.

That doesn't mean there is a problem with religion or Christianity or religious gatherings. For the most part, Christianity promotes positive morals and leading an upright lifestyle.

The problem lies in the secrecy. Why were the yard signs, billboards, and other assorted advertisements lacking any race of the fact that Luis Palau was sponsoring a religious festival?

In doing so, he turned the festival into a trap. He claimed an innocent music festival and led children and teens, as a shepherd leads his flock, if you will, into a divine sales-pitch.

Palau arrived in America from Argentina a youth, a born-again 12-year-old, and has since built himself to that status of an icon. Write a screenplay and Ebert and Roper would give the guy two thumbs up.

At least the success he has garnered seems to have been earned through hard work, but all this glory does not excuse the fact that he is essentially tricking kids into finding their faith.

Children are supposed to find God, if that is their chosen path in life, through a righteous journey, not through a colorful sign promising good times and music.

His attempt is to reach kids on a playing field familiar to them, which is admirable, and because kids are excited by music and technology. However, what he's doing is little more than talking baby talk.

Finding adherents by any means possible changes a carefully cultivated relationship with God and a deeply self-affirming practice into a battle to gain numbers.

Because that's how people like Luis Palau view the quest to find followers: as a battle.

Perhaps this strikes a personal chord with me because of my past experiences. When I was in junior high school, a large group of my friends attended a winter church retreat called the "Chillout."

Friends and church staff insisted on my attending, assuring me that I wouldn't in any way be made to feel uncomfortable because I hadn't accepted Christ into my life.

While I didn't have "Unbeliever" stamped on my forehead, and I wasn't bombarded with hateful propaganda, I will never forget how lonely I felt when on the last day, after a strongly impassioned speech, all the teens were asked to stand if they accepted Christ.

I shrunk back into a corner, watching a countless number of my peers beam with pride in their faith. I noticed that three others outcasts joined me on the floor, one of whom was determinedly Muslim.

This experience didn't scar me for life. I didn't need therapy. No tears were shed. But I felt betrayed.

That's not the type of feeling Palau should want to project on anyone.

If he is fishing for success, he's using half-truths for bait.

It's not a sin, what the man has done in Omaha, but then again, who am I to decide? Only God can judge Luis Palau.

Senior values time, experiences in London



NOT A STEREOTYPE

A column by Kim Buckley

Ever since reading Lord of the Rings and finding out that J.R.R. Tolkien lived in London, I had become obsessed with the country of England.

It was all I could think about when I was with my relatives. I could not wait until the day I finally went to visit the country where J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis spent their childhood and adult years. I had been so excited when I found out that I could fly to London with my dad this summer.

I imagined visiting places where great playwrights and authors lived. Places where Shakespeare and Dickens would write their most famous works. Just thinking about wandering the streets where these people had walked would be enough to send a shiver down my spine.

I imagined going to the house where Tolkien lived and just standing across from the room where my favorite author wrote his most famous books.

Or standing in the pub in Oxford where a little group called the Inklings met, where C.S. Lewis and Tolkien would share their works, which would become the Chronicles of Narnia and Lord of the Rings, with the other members.

Going to Oxford was the sole reason for my obsession with anything British.

It was only until I did a project for my Web Design class that I found another reason to be obsessed about going to London.

Theatre Land.
In short, the West End. The Broadway of London.

Thanks to one of my friends, I had become obsessed with Broadway and the theater. It was only until finding out that Great Britain had its own Broadway that I realized how exciting this trip to London could be. My excitement for London grew even more at the prospect of walking around in Theatre Land.

It was then I knew that I had to spend at least one day in Theatre Land, just to see all of those glorious theaters. Places where people like Dame Maggie Smith and have performed countless shows.

I knew I was one of the only people crazy enough to wander around the streets just taking photos of theaters.

The only obstacle: My dad. I knew he wouldn't be too wild about wandering the streets of London just to look at theaters.

However, I convinced him that this could be the only chance I got to see some of those theaters. Begrudgingly he agreed to it.

And when I say begrudgingly, I really do mean begrudgingly.

We spent the morning wandering the streets of the West End before getting lunch. After lunch we wandered the streets some more before seeing the matinee showing of "The Mousetrap."

It was only until my dad pointed out that we had to eat dinner, catch the subway and catch two trains that I had to admit that I wouldn't have time to see all of the theaters that I wanted to.

Just seeing some of the familiar names of some of the plays and musicals made me feel like there weren't many differences between the two countries. People in both countries went to the shows, and come out feeling the same emotions.

I had felt the same feeling of connection when my dad and I went to see "Wicked" in London. The people in the audience felt the same awe of amazement when the actress who played Elphaba flew into the air to perform the song "Defying Gravity" and laughed at all of the "Wizard of Oz" jokes like I did.

And it was the coolest thing in the world for me that I was there when "The Lord of the Rings" debuted in the West End.

I didn't go see it, but seeing all of the news coverage about a big musical debut was exciting.

Seeing "The Mousetrap" made me feel as though I had just seen a piece of history, because it's the longest running play in the world.

Seeing all of those theaters was the highlight of my trip to London.

When my dad and I returned home and he saw all of the photos I've taken of the theaters, he groaned and said, "My day in hell."

I bet if I reminded him right now of the experience he would repeat those exact words. However, I believe any amount of grumbling my dad did afterwards was worth seeing all of those theaters.

After all, we did get to see Stonehenge, Victoria and Albert Museum, and other places.

Okay, so maybe I didn't get to go to Oxford like I wanted to, but I did get to see the St. Martins. And that's enough to make me happy.

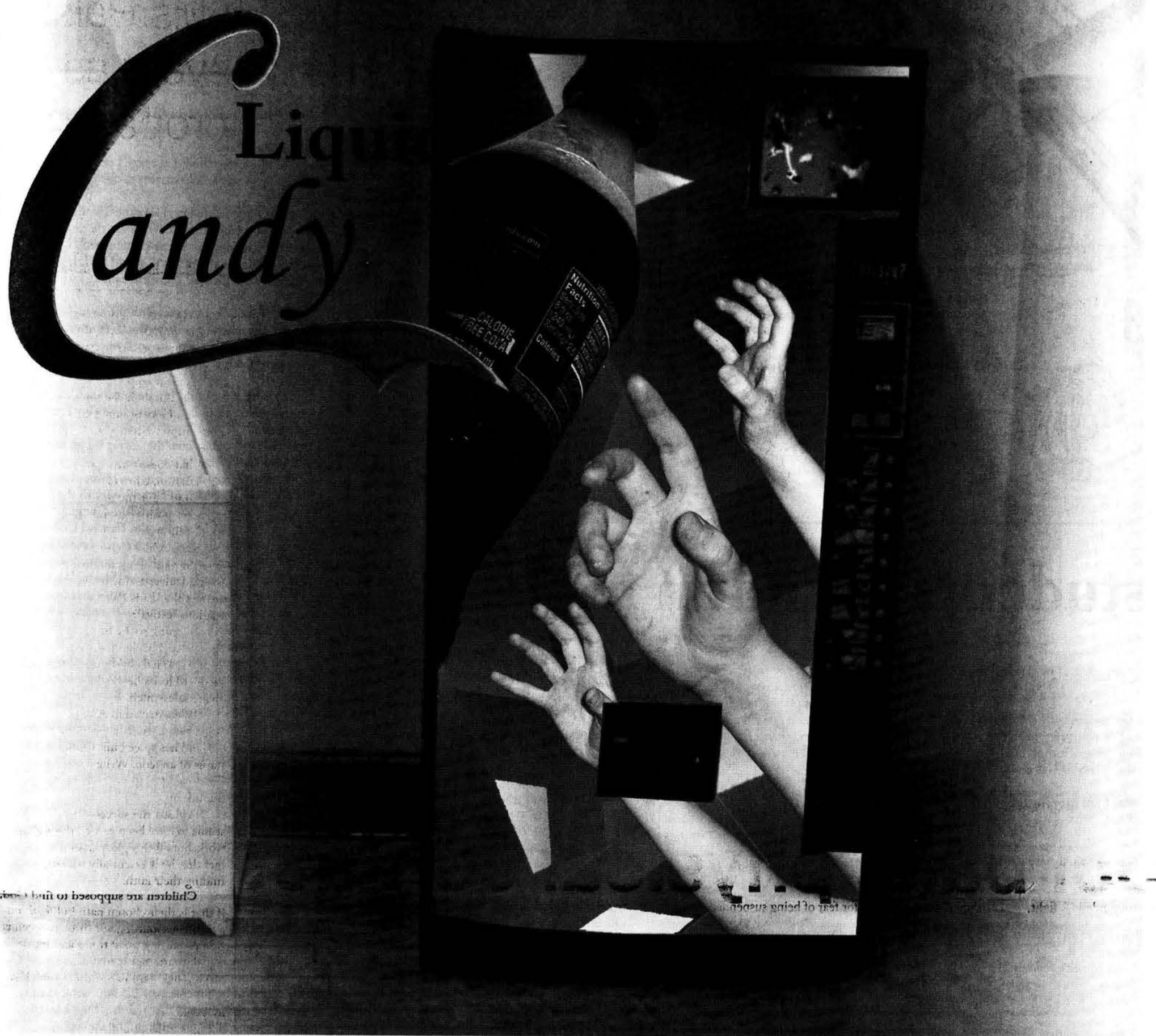


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN GIBBS / REGISTER

Choices should extend to soft drinks

In Central's halls, students file in line in front of the vending machines to get their soda fix of the day, paying already ridiculously high prices for one bottle of soda. But, students make the choice to buy their soda and, more importantly, drink their soda.

Choice is one of the most important liberties in America, which our country and other democracies are based upon. The choice of the people of whom to elect, the choice of the people to do whatever they want to, as long as it does not hurt anyone.

But, in a deal that was agreed upon last year, the nation's largest beverage distributors have agreed to halt nearly all soda sales to public schools, claiming that this will add years and years to the lives of Americans.

Now, instead of regular sodas, students are being forced to choose between drinking water, juice, sports drinks, and diet soda.

Some individuals have been calling regular soda "liquid candy" because of the high amount of sugar it contains, but juice is also high in sugar. Furthermore, diet soda, with their aspartame that can cause genetic mutations, is anything but healthy, especially for teenagers, who are still developing.

Ridding schools of soda will not decrease the obesity rate in teenagers; soda is not the sole problem. Obesity is caused by consuming large portions, rather than the kind of food and drinks people consume.

By now students should be able to make the right decision when it comes to what they eat and drink; they all have had the

health classes. They know what is right, what is healthy, and it is not anyone's job, except the students' parents', to decide how to best

"Students should make their own choices, whether right or wrong because in the end, they will learn what is the right thing to drink and eat and what is not."

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of
the Register staff

maintain their children's health.

Once again, schools have lost sight of how to best help students be healthy. This decision is nothing more than a political move for schools to demonstrate their concern for children's health at a pivotal time when not only parents, but also scientific experts and politicians have taken a firm "moral" stance on health issues relating to children, especially teenagers.

If the school is so worried about the health of the student

population, then why, tell me, is the school still serving the fat-dipped food for lunch? Why are they serving the high sugar-concentrated pastries for breakfast? Why is the school allowing clubs and organizations to sell candy, the ultimate source of sugar?

It's complete hypocrisy.

On one hand, the school is trying to tell their students that they are taking away the soda for the students' benefit, on the other hand, the workers of the school are shoving down skittles and unappetizing food, which reeks of unhealthiness.

Thus, students should make their own choices, whether right or wrong because in the end, they will learn what is the right thing to drink and eat and what is not. And, the only motivation the students will have is to live a long healthy life.

Students should have the right to choose soda and anything else they want to eat or drink whether in or out of school.

Most students are often burdened with the daunting task of homework, sports, and other activities, and need that daily kick of caffeine from a coke or Mountain Dew. Not only this, but students deserve to be trusted by adults to make the right decision. After all, by the time students graduate, most of them will be old enough to be drafted, vote, and get married.

Adults cannot try to shield teenagers from everything, even obesity, or else, our society will soon consist of adults who are completely bemused by any conflict because all of theirs were fixed for them.

Tires screech as they come around the two-lane road at 60 mph. The blue sedan has four occupants who hoped nervously that the other car didn't follow in kind. Unfortunately for them, right on their tail, the Ford Crown Victoria came careening around the corner lights blazing, siren wailing, with "Nebraska State Patrol" plastered across the side.

One of the men in the sedan looked out the back window with shock in his eyes. I pulled the cruiser within three feet of the blue car as it came to the next curve.

While following as closely as possible, I struggled to hold the road and the sedan pulled ahead. After an S-turn it looked like their getting away, but a straightaway opened up and the cruiser charged to full speed to make up the lost distance. The sedan turned sharply at the end of the straightaway. Not thinking clearly, caught up in the adrenalin, I began to turn but froze

up and my cruiser plows off-road, down into a ditch. "We're going off-roading!" said the instructor next to me. I slowed down in the grass. "Get back on the road!" he told me. I pulled the car back onto asphalt and took the final turn, coming to a halt next to the blue sedan as we all got out and someone else got a turn.

I had told myself I wanted to be a police officer, but I couldn't be sure without actually doing what a cop does. At least,

until a few weeks ago when I went to Grand Island to participate in the Junior Law Cadet Program. So much happened in that one week, all expenses paid thanks to the American Legion.

We did everything. They took us on the track and taught us a new way to drive. They also took us on the range and showed us how to fire the same gun they all use, a Glock. Mine was a 22. I fired all thirty rounds into three targets. One of the troopers told me I had done good work, and to be proud of the job I had done by keeping all ten shots within a short radius on each target.

Knowing I was harnessing such the power of such force gave me an added sense of confidence.

With each shot the gun would rock backward in my hands, and at first, I'd usually have to start aiming all over again. The gun would almost escape my grasp, but with the trooper's help, I maintained my hold. Soon, I was able to use muscle memory to bring the gun back to where it had started, resulting in more precise shots.

Few things set in more fear than a vicious raging animal charging at you full speed with every intent to tear into you with all the force it can manage. So it's no surprise that I volunteered myself to be the chew toy for the K-9 unit's demonstration. Mainly I had wanted to prove to myself I could conquer any fear that would

HERE'S THE DEAL

A column by Kevin Gibbs





CARTOON BY ANITA HODGE / REGISTER

Senior feels pressure for good college



THE LAST ONE

A column by Astrika Wilhelm

My entire senior year will be about college applications. Every thought, every sentence, every idea will all relate to my applications.

For those who think I'm crazy, I probably am. So, continuing on, my family stresses the importance of education.

Everything has led to this point. The schools I have attended, the classes that I have taken, the clubs and extracurricular activities I have participated in, even the time spent studying for the SAT, ACT and SAT II. (Yes, I study for them. Why? Because I want to earn an amazingly great score.)

The stress only increases with the thought of my two older siblings who were accepted into the best universities. My brother, Stephen, is a sophomore at Vanderbilt University, which is often nicknamed the Ivy League of the South.

My sister, Stephanie, is a freshman at Columbia University. Not the one in Missouri. The Ivy League Columbia.

I shall never live down the shame if I go to a university less than par with that of my siblings'.

Starting this past June, I began the application process.

For the second year in a row, I went to the East Coast with my father to visit various colleges, ranging from the Catholic University of America to Barnard College to Yale University, slowly deciding which one I wanted to attend.

Coming home, debating which colleges would receive my application, I finally created my 'Master Wall', one of the walls on my room dedicated to college-related papers and in the middle an organized chart of each college's forms and when they are due.

Crazy, I know.

But, filling out the applications are getting so tiresome, especially when the question you are supposed to answer are questions like 'What shape is your dinner table?' or 'Write a note to your future roommate'.

What do these colleges want me to write? Obviously not the truth, or else, for the second question, I would write, "I don't want a roommate and if I did get one I would use some medical excuse to get out of a double room and get my single dorm room."

Essay after essay, the process continues, seeming never to end, especially since I spend so much time making sure each essay matches the college's theme/message.

But, I only have one shot to get into a good college and I'm going to do everything I can to get it right, including major organization.

It's now a common theme in my life.

It does help though to have siblings who did manage to get into those highly selective schools. I learned from their mistakes, and they give me so much advice.

But unfortunately, they have left, which makes the college application process even harder than it already is.

It'll be my mom, my dad and me. They'll be thousands of miles away, and I'll be stuck in Omaha with files up to my ears.

Another tearful (carefully disguised of course) departure will happen again, and I'll reach for that same tweedy-bird shirt to dry my puffy red eyes.

But through it all, I'll still be worried about my applications. About if I messed them up somehow, if my essay topic was not profound enough, if my scores are too mediocre, if I'm too mediocre.

But after doing all these applications thus far has made me realize how much I dislike the ways I have to use to get to the top.

In eight months, though, I'll know what college I'll attend. In one year, I'll be packing for a school in the North East. In less than a year, I will be laughing at what a fool I have been throughout this entire process.

But now, after only a few weeks of school, I know that going to Yale or Harvard is not going to dramatically change my life. I can go to any college and everything will be fine.

It may not be an Ivy League, but it will be a good school.

Heck, maybe I will reject an Ivy. Then, I can join the Facebook group, "Yeah, I rejected the Ivy League, B****", as opposed to the group my sister joined, "I'm in the Ivy League, B****."

But, everything will go back to normal in a few months.

I will not dream about my college applications, I will not visit the counselor's office every week, and I will not stress about what would happen if I didn't get accepted into one of the greatest universities in the country.

In less than a year, though, a similar cycle will come into existence for me, and this future cycle will make me just as crazy as this college application process has made me.

Staff and students abandon ID badges

The expression specifically applies to this. "You can't beat a dead horse." But by this time, the horse is dead, its body decomposing, our bat is broken and maggots are festering in its eyes...

And we're still trying to ride it. The student ID tags were a noble idea. Make the student body safer from having us all wear identification to distinguish us from intruders. But now, after three long years, its time to put them down. Step away and let it rest in its hollow grave of a trash can.

The idea was originally used in other schools, where success was limited. Just to many variables for the students and teachers to handle.

Students would lose or forget them, teachers would not have any temporary ID's to give out. And with 2,400 students, the simple idea should of been too tough to pull off. And it seemed to be.

They didn't work the first year. They didn't work the second. Or the third.

And now the fourth year has started and the continuing struggle to enforce ID's is just killing funds and students' patience.

The administration seems to still hold on to this idea of inevitability. If we just continue to pretend that this is permanent, maybe students will accept it.

Maybe, oh just maybe, the students will forget individuality and rebellion and just happen to place the scratchy lanyard on their necks and definitely above their waist.

But no. Oh no, the students haven't lost their sense of teenage-hood and in fact students are neglecting the ID's more than ever.

Look around the room. How many people are wearing student identification tags? A few? Maybe. You can count them on one hand. Perhaps even one finger.

Is that person, that one solitary person going to make this school safer by wearing his or her student ID. No.

And it's not just the students who have given up on the tags. Some of the teachers no

longer enforce any regulations regarding the tags. Students might just be "fighting the system," to show their rebellion, but teachers? It wouldn't seem they have a reason to be against it or give up.

All around it seems to be failing. The simple solution is spend the same money that is used on student ID's on something that would also make the school safer.

In other schools the idea has worked. In fact, just across the border from Nebraska to Iowa, several schools have successfully implemented the idea, and the students have responded positively to it.

The difference between those schools is the plain and simple fact that Central has 2,400 students and the schools from western Iowa average around 400.

Now, some students and faculty will say the ID tags are working. And they'll present a strong case.

After the implementation of the tags how many child molesters, escaped convicts or robbers sneak into Central and hide amongst the student population? That's right, I'm pretty sure the number we're looking for is zero.

And how many students have been abducted by these criminals? Once again, that's a zero.

But that logic doesn't work. Its like saying, "I have an anti-polar bear magic stick."

Someone says, "But there aren't any polar bears at Central." "I know, it works pretty well."

The system isn't protecting the kids. Its the nature of luck and other protection.

But no matter what people will say about the "idea" tags, the comments will fall on deaf ears and unchangeable minds.

Those who don't study history become history. And that's the plain and simple fact. The administration should study the history of this failure and learn from it.

EDITORIAL The OPINION of the Register staff

Top ten things to do with your school ID

- 1 Line up paraphernalia with it.
- 2 Cover up your photo with your favorite sticker of family guy, swearing to all that you're Peter or Bryan. (Either one is believable.)
- 3 Deck them out with your favorite bling. (i.e. your "High School Musical" sticker you're too ashamed to admit you have.)
- 4 Start a contest to see who has the worst photo (winner must wear ID for the rest of the year. Tragic.)
- 5 Remove it from it's lanyard and use it to unlock doors. One can get into some trouble there. (Right)
- 6 Pretend its a credit card, swipe it at Wal-Mart and cause a scene, screaming that they're discriminating against you.
- 7 Cut it into pieces and throw it at that loud little freshman that sits at the table next to yours at lunch.
- 8 In your homeroom, 'accidentally' shred it in your teacher's paper shredder.
- 9 Exchange your ID with someone else when your teacher isn't looking. Insist that you are: "your friend's name."
- 10 Wear it?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALI HODGE / REGISTER

Mall curfews impose unfair restrictions on teens

There's a new trend in malls these days, but it doesn't have to do with Razer phones or skinny-legged jeans. It has to do with curfews.

These days it's become pretty common for malls across the country to enact a curfew for teenagers without a parent.

For the most part, malls in Omaha haven't put a time ban on teenagers yet, but there is a real chance that it could happen. After all, malls in other states have already enforced a curfew.

At first glance, it is reasonable to enact this new policy. After all, there are irresponsible teenagers out there.

Malls who have banned teenagers after a certain time have reported that business at the mall has gotten better since the new policy was put in place. A mall with a curfew even reported that incidents involving the police have gone down since the curfew.

Supporters of malls banning teenagers at certain times say that there are many teens that hang out in the mall who don't even shop there on weekends and they shouldn't have to fight through crowds of teenagers to do their own shopping.

But what about those who just want to have fun with their friends without breaking the law or having to worry about a curfew? They deserve to be able to shop without a time limit.

If a group of teenagers aren't causing trouble, then they should have the right to go home when they want to, without being forced to.

And what about the rights of teenagers?

Teenagers have the right to hang out in public places without having to worry

about being kicked out at a certain time. Adults wouldn't want to have their rights taken away just because of their age, and neither do teenagers.

It's not just at the malls that teenagers are being banned. There are beaches where there are "kid free" zones. All because of those teenagers who don't behave responsibly.

Teenagers should be worried that their rights are being disrespected in some popular hangout spots.

Especially at selected malls. Teenagers spend a lot of time at the mall. Teen Resource Information reported that in 2003 that an average teenager spent more than three hours a week at one of those shopping temples.

They have a good reason to spend all of that time in one place. After all, malls are fairly safe and they can hang out with their friends. And there's a whole lot of shopping a person can do. And a lot of stores a person can browse through.

Not to mention there are a lot of places to eat at the food court.

It's a good thing for society that teenagers to hang out at the mall because they're not doing something illegal like selling drugs.

For those who don't want to have to fight through crowds of teenagers, remember that teenagers have a right to be in the mall as well as anybody else.

And there are teenagers at the mall who don't hang out in huge groups but with only one or two of their friends. It would be unfair for two friends to not be able to hang out at the mall at a certain time because of some of those bigger groups.

Teenagers are treated differently from adults in the fact that they are thought immature and irresponsible. People should keep in mind that there are people in all

age groups that don't behave politely.

It's not just teenagers. It is unfair to assume that all teenagers are at the mall to cause trouble, or that all teenagers aren't capable of behaving in a mature way.

It's only a small percent of teenagers who cause security problems at malls. However, it is those immature teenagers who are forcing the malls to enact a teenage curfew.

One of the problems with these curfews is they can be unrealistic. Some of the ban take place around 5:00 p.m. or 6:00.

That's way too early for the weekend. After all, what teenager doesn't want to hang out at the mall later on the weekends? A more reasonable curfew would be 9:00 or 10:00 p.m.

And the thing is, not all of the malls have the same curfews. Some of the most extreme curfews take place at 3:00 p.m. Not a lot of schools get out before 2:00. At the very most, teenagers would have only an hour to be in the mall where there are those early curfews.

Yes, there are some reasonable curfews, but there are probably just as many that are unreasonable.

If a teenager is without a parent in the mall, the odds are in favor that the parents trust their child to behave responsibly. And most of the time that teenager will not cause trouble.

The bottom line is, these curfews are unfair for teenagers who have done nothing wrong. It is no wonder that teenagers are complaining.

It should be the parents who decide when their children leave the mall, not officials from the mall.

DANGEROUS SAFETY



CARTOON BY ANITA HODGE/REGISTER

Imagine with me, won't you? You're choking. You sink to your knees, your lungs are burning, your gasping for air and your praying for someone to come along and save your life. And they do. But there is a downside to your glorious rescuer. They're younger than your little sister, a middle schooler. So in the midst of your last moments, you can't help but attempt at a laugh. How could you trust someone who probably hasn't even hit puberty yet to be able to perform CPR in the possibility of you passing out?

Omaha mayor Mike Fehey, fire chief Robert Dahlquist and the medical staff at Morton Middle School said they could be trusted being as 279 of their students walked away with CPR certificates after two weeks of training. The students attended the two week camp to be taught the basics of CPR - two weeks were said to have been intense. How intense, no one is quite sure. It would have to have been intense enough for a twelve year old to actually retain the valuable information.

Nevertheless, Catherine Bettin, Morton's school nurse praises the decision to do this, claiming that they were "very lucky to have been involved in this innovative program."

This group of middle schoolers was the single largest group to accomplish certification at the same time in the state of Nebraska. For that, they were rewarded and praised in a school-wide assembly in which the Mayor spoke at. Whether or not this was the most successful group to earn certification in the state of Nebraska is quite uncertain, however. And whether any of these children will remember anything from this "intense" program once they are faced with the horrifying situation first hand and are watching someone die, that is uncertain as well.

Even though the large group of tweens were taught by certified American Heart Association CPR/

AED instructors, they were still only staff members at the school. Also, the Omaha Fire department provided the needed equipment needed in training these students. As I read the article on the OPS web site about the success of the middle schoolers, my initial thought was not, "Oh! Good for them!" It was more along the lines of "Are you kidding me?" The only thing I could picture when it came to these kids actually performing CPR was them balled up in a corner petrified and crying - everything they learned out the window - as someone lay dying on the floor.

Therefore, one has to be logical and ask: do they really expect these students to use their alleged new found knowledge of CPR?

It may be that we underestimate the power of an eleven year old, but the chances that they would take a serious situation with grace and think clearly is highly unlikely. To be honest, what keeps these students from treating something as serious as this any differently than their education, which is also serious.

When students can't even be trusted to hand in their math assignment, why then should they be trusted to save someone's life?

Students don't wake up and become interested in English or history or biology. Even when they do become interested in it, it usually isn't strong and the interest develops in a lot lengthier time slot than two weeks.

They can't really be expected to be passionate about this like they would the new Halo video game. Now, let's say a student is choking in the lunchroom at Morton Middle school and one of these 279 certified students steps forward and says they can help, is an adult really likely to allow them to do so? And if not, then why train them? And if so, how comfortable would they be? May I remind you that again, this is one of those students who are weeks behind in their Spanish class and has just received another detention for being tardy to school for the twentieth time, say. As valuable as the skill is, it was more than likely an unrealistic request to ask a student to perform

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff

Population has no effect on peoples' intelligence

Rural and urban life are definitely different ways of living. Compare not only the environment (the rural with the few buildings and the multitude of green and animals, and the urban with its skyscrapers and fast-paced commuters with their blackberries and long work hours), but also their education. If looked at, education in both places seem the same. After all, education is the same everywhere. But, a recent federal study produces results that showed rural students perform better in school than their urban peers. But this study proves nothing other than that the average test score is higher in rural communities. This might seem like an enormous problem for urban students, but educators and parents need to realize what an education is all about and how invalid these results truly are.

Rural students make up less than one-third of all of the students in the country. Therefore, since there is such a great disparity in the number of students from each environment, the study does not mean that there are more intelligent individuals who live in small towns than in cities. The rural students all could have scored average with a lower range of scores, which ensured them an average rating. But, the urban students could have had a wider range of scores, ranging from perfect scores to below average. Saying that rural students are better than urban ones would not only be a premature prejudice but also a misinterpretation of data. Furthermore, education is not just about facts. It is also about

experiences and opportunities. The most successful people in society are ones that were not math or science geeks or English prodigies. In urban areas, especially the larger cities of America, students have opportunity after opportunity after opportunity to learn. Actually going into an art museum and seeing Pieter Bruegel's "Children's Games" will broaden that student's artistic perspective than if that same student had just seen it in a book without its full power of majesty. Interning at a major corporation gives the student more life knowledge than students in rural areas who rarely even have the chance of seeing how big business works. But, on the other hand, rural students have the opportunity to experience a major importance for the American economy. The

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Junior thinks tardy policy better last year

Dear Editor,
The way the tardy policy works this year is a little harsh. It should be the same as last year. Students will not be tardy as much if it's back to normal because you will be doing them a favor.
Kevin Thomas (11)

School soda machines should stay

Dear Editor,
I really think they should put the soda machines back because alot of people get thirsty and need things to drink. And its convinient to the students because they can have it with them at all times, so they don't have to wait to go get a drink.
Aime Schmidt (10)

Student thinks teens old enough for soda

Dear Editor,
Why remove the soda machines? I mean, how old are we? We can at least handle a soda machine! I find this utterly ridiculous, they have no reason to go that far and remove our only soda machines.
Devon Silva (9)

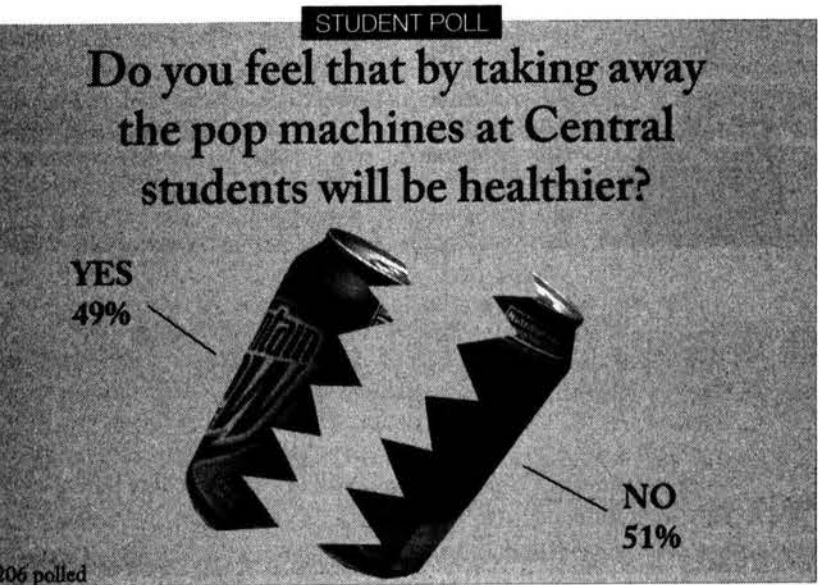
Soda machines valuable resource

Dear Editor,
don't think they should remove soda machines because everyone uses them. If you had a long tiring day or you just got out of gym and it was boiling hot outside, you would want a pop. I know I would. Also some people have dehydration problems and need to drink regularly. You may say drink from the water fountain, but I know as a student here at Central, you don't always get a chance.
Eugene Dunn (9)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED
Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via e-mail to Central.Journalism@ops.org or can be placed in Ms. Parker'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.

Healthy options should replace soda

Dear Editor,
I think soda machines should be removed because they promote unhealthy decisions! I think in place should be healthy choices, like flavored water and juices.
Jessica Hawthorne (10)



First days of school steady for freshman

Dear Editor,
Since I'm a freshman, my first day was with all the little people, so it was easy. It was boring, but easy. Then the next day, the official first day, was a whole other story. Adding 2,000 more people to the mix really made a difference. It was still good though.
Chase Erickson (9)

School main source of soda for student

Dear Editor,
I don't want them to take the soda machines out. This is the only place I ever get to drink pop so I think a lot of people would be mad if they got that taken away from them.
Cody Dvorak (9)

Junior sees constant failure for ID's

Dear Editor,
The ID badges haven't been working very well for the past two years, and I don't really expect them to this year. Most people refuse to wear them, and don't care about the privileges they lose. I personally think they just get in the way and cause more problems than they solve.
Kristin Wipfler (11)

Reasoning to rid school of soda

Dear Editor,
I believe the removal of the soda machines is a great idea. Studies have shown that when students don't drink pop, they are more attentive and entergetic. Plus, pop slows down metabolism and is unhealthy. Also students won't waste money.
Hannah Niebaum (11)

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Where will your ID badge be in 2 weeks?

At home on my dresser, because I just forget about it."
Cydney Dorsey (11)

It would be on the floor, because I don't like wearing it. In 2 weeks it will be gone."
Shaunice Parker (10)

Hanging on the wall in my room."
Justin Dowell (12)

Either at home or in my backpack."
Alyssa Hangman (10)

Teens try new sport despite risks



CARTOON BY ANITA HODGE/ REGISTER

Does getting hit in the head repeatedly sound like fun for you?

Apparently, it does for some people.

The latest to be added to the list of teenage stupidity is a sport called helmet boxing, also known as "locker boxing."

In this "sport" teenagers actually try to knock other teenagers unconscious simply by hitting the opponent's head.

As hard as possible.

Repeatedly.

Whichever boxer becomes unconscious first, steps out of bounds, loses the helmet or gives up is the loser.

Because these matches aren't held in front of adults, there's no telling how many teenagers participate in this sport. However, it's becoming more and more popular with teenagers, which is a cause for concern.

Besides being stupid, this is a very dangerous thing to do. This game could lead to permanent brain damage as well as other injuries.

What's worse is that it's a friend who is giving their friend those injuries.

Helmet boxing has been considered by some doctors almost the same thing as regular boxing, which has been declared unsafe for children to do. It doesn't make sense why teenagers are deliberately risking their safety for a few minutes of "fun."

People don't see teenagers boxing on television in professional matches, so they shouldn't be doing it in secret.

At least in professional boxing there are referees who are there to control the situation should it get out of control.

Who is going to keep the situation from getting out of control when it's only a bunch of teenagers?

Parents?

Other teenagers?

A professional referee paid to keep an eye on the kids?

No, none of those choices seem very likely.

After all, a referee would probably cost a lot of money, parents probably wouldn't want their child helmet boxing and teenagers are the ones throwing all of the punches.

And let's face it, it only takes one punch, and someone could end up with a serious concussion or another head injury.

Or even worse, in a coma or dead.

All of which could ruin a person's life.

As further proof of the immaturity of the helmet boxers, a lot of these helmet boxing matches make their way onto YouTube, where millions of viewers can watch.

Sad.

Even though teenagers who do helmet boxing are protected by helmets, it still doesn't guarantee a

person's safety.

After all, enough punches to the head can cause a person to go blind.

No wonder doctors are concerned about possible damage to the brain at a time when the brain is still growing.

Why do teenagers do it anyway?

Because it'll make them seem tough in front of their friends if they win?

So they can be all over the internet and get their fifteen minutes of fame?

Those reasons are pathetic.

It may be fun for those who want to be a professional boxer, but it doesn't excuse the irresponsibility of not being supervised by a coach who knows what he or she is doing.

It says something about American culture when teenagers do such a violent, stupid and dangerous thing for fun.

All of the violence associated with helmet boxing is unnecessary.

What kind of an example does

set for younger kids?

People as young as 13 years old have participated in helmet boxing matches.

And younger kids probably see the matches on YouTube and are influenced to actually try it out for themselves when they're older.

Helmet boxing ranks right up there with the choking game in terms of danger and stupidity.

Both games have the potential to very deadly, but teenagers do them anyway.

These teenagers can actually break the bones of their body by doing helmet boxing.

With one strong punch a person could break a nose or something. One of the players reported having to get stitches in his chin.

Having to get stitches is a total waste of money, especially when it could have been avoided in the first place by not helmet boxing.

Do teenagers actually get a kick out of trying to knock a living person unconscious?

Apparently so.

Apparently they need to fight to have fun with their friends. Going to the mall or the arcade is doing it anymore for teenagers.

It looks as if more teenagers are resorting to actual violence for fun instead of the violence in video games. At least in video games living human beings are not being harmed.

Parents need to be more aware of helmet boxing and discourage this type of behavior.

The teenagers who helmet box need to grow up and stop endangering themselves and their friends.

Is the hospital bill really worth the victory? Teenagers need to realize the dangers that come with helmet boxing and stop doing it. They are only encouraging the thought that all teenagers are irresponsible.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the Register staff

Students should support local non-commercial theater

Omaha has been making recent efforts to edge its foot in the door of the indie world, and some of these efforts have been making an impact. An example of this impact would be the new Filmstreams movie theater, a project worthy of funding.

Everything about it pulses with a typical "independent" vibe: the theater itself is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, it was built right next to Slowdown, the new Saddle Creek venue, and it is currently working in partnership with Saddle Creek.

It plays contemporary independents, foreign films, and documentaries as well as aged classics, a program that has attracted attention from the likes of Alexander Payne, the up-and-coming Omaha director who gave a presentation at the theater's opening.

This was obviously a positive step forward in Omaha's cultural development. Omahans can sometimes be ignorant to the amount of creativity and artful conception that can go into a movie.

Most only have access to titles like "Beerfest" and "Saw II," movies that offer mindless entertainment, with little depth or ingenuity in the making. Perhaps they

attend an occasional Dundee Theater screening, but Filmstreams is home to two screens and, thus, another source of outreach.

And, if anything, it adds to the quality of the downtown area.

It lies only a few blocks out of the Old Market, and it is widening the scope of available nighttime attractions.

It makes for the first film screen downtown in years.

As a theater displaying films not commonly appreciated or even heard of by the general public, the theater obviously lacks the funding of a typical venue.

How many people from this generation know the story behind the career of Hal Ashby, whose film is currently playing?

It is to be expected that people won't line up around the block to see William Burroughs' "Naked Lunch" on the silver screen, especially when they could rent it instead, in the comfort of their own home, and for less money.

Since only one screen is designed to play new movies and the other is for old ones, that means one screen is subject to the drawback of paying a movie also on

DVD, and the other isn't marketable to a large audience.

That's why anyone with the slightest intention of seeing a movie at Filmstreams should seriously consider becoming a member. In order to keep this cultural asset a part of the community, funding is required.

If questioning the benefits, don't just consider the films being played. Filmstreams has many ambitious plans to provide outreach programs,

It hosts forums, question and answer sessions with professionals, lectures and film appreciation and education for teenagers. This is the real attraction, the part that makes it stand out from any other theater, even the Dundee.

Not that it will ever overshadow or run Dundee to the ground. As a nonprofit it will have enough trouble keeping itself afloat.

That's why it shouldn't be ignored. Anyone interested needs to purchase a membership, or take some step to allow this project to continue.

It is a theater reaching out to teens, attempting to turn them into better people. Perhaps this could be what might motivate even more Alexander Payne's to emerge from Omaha.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the Register staff

Junior values, regrets choices made everyday

"Would you be the god parent?"

Choices are presented to you everyday.

From the moment you wake up, you have the almost impossible decisions to make. What to eat for breakfast? Wearing pants or shorts?

But sometimes choices present a much bigger dilemma.

Like that which effects everyone's lives.

Recently, one of my friends called me up, just like any other time. Greeting me cordially, with a laugh and quick talk about sports. But then, he told me words which will be implanted into my memory forever. I still hear the burning words every time I think of him.

"I'm going to be a father."

I don't remember my initial thought, or even if I had any. My voice had been lost in a sea of confusion. He continued in his excited manner, asking...

"Would you be the godparent?"

Once again, I can't recall my first reaction, but I remember fading off the road, before coming to my senses and pulling over to the side.

"What?"

I had been friends with him since I was old enough to remember my friends. We were the best of pals for the longest time.

We had gotten into and out of trouble, leaving only glimpses of hilarity in our rear view mirrors.

And now, he had gotten a girl pregnant.

I remembered being kids. I remembered playing 'Pokemon' in his backyard. And kickball. I was terrible, probably the most unathletic person in the neighborhood.

And he was good. Like really good, always a captain.

And I remembered how every time, no matter who else was on the field he would pick me first.

Always first. I didn't think of it at the time, but he would pick me because of our friendship. He would pick our friendship over winning.

And once again. He picked me again. But this time to be the godparent of his child.

I choked back my words. He was too young to be a father. I too young to be a godparent.

He asked me again.

My mind wandered back to our childhood. Back to our youthful folly. Everyday after school I would head over to his house.

We would play almost anything, and sometimes nothing. That's what was great. No matter whether we played sports or video games or just talked, it was always fun.

He was one of the nicest kids you'd ever meet, always agreeing with you on any subject.

He was my best friend. I said it to myself several times.

But why would he do this?

I felt anger rise in my throat, before I caught it and choked it down. He was just 18, barely old enough to buy cigarettes or die for his country.

And now...

And now he was going to bring a child into this world.

The automobiles whizzed past my stuck car and I thought through everything that brought us to this point.

The question still hung in the air like a balloon refusing to except its fate of

making its final resting place on the ground.

He couldn't be a father. He didn't have a job.

He still lived with his parents in the basement, playing video games and talking to his new girlfriend over the phone.

A syringe had been shoved into my chest, past the arteries and straight into my heart. The hole left me hurt and I was breathing heavily.

The seconds pause felt like a lifetime and I felt my heart give as I said the words I needed to.

"No."

Then, the syringe retracted my heart. I felt a great emptiness fill in its void. I waited on no breath for his reply.

The brief word was followed by another awkward pause. I mouthed the words I'm sorry, but neither breathe nor voice came from my mouth.

"Oh... Okay," he said.

The hole in my heart deepened. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, I thought.

There was short common talk afterwards, but I knew it hurt.

It hurt both of us.

I had known him my entire life, but now, I would know him no more. When I hung up, I turned my blinker on and entered back into traffic. Forever leaving him on the 24th Street exit.

All those times. At that time, every moment and moment of our friendship had been lost. My mouth was dry, my eyes were moist, and my sadness cast its cloud over that day.

We haven't talked since, and I don't think he'll ever call again.

We are all presented with choices everyday. Some will change your life. Make sure you choose correctly.

I wish I had.



FAKING A SMILE

A column by Patrick Breen

Harry Potter
The Harry Potter phenomena ends with a bang with the release of the final book
ARTS, PAGES 14-15

"Daddy Day Camp"
"Daddy Day Camp" fails to impress audiences and be original
ARTS, PAGE 13



registration

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11 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Becoming An Idol

Teens from around the country flocked to the Qwest Center to audition for American Idol.

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Thousands of people lined up at the Qwest Convention Center, stretching the line of people to the back of the building and then some, all to register to audition in front of "American Idol" judges on Aug. 10.

Senior producer Patrick Lynn said around 7,000 people showed up Aug. 10 to audition for the show in Omaha, receiving about 30 seconds to sing for judges.

One of the reasons why Omaha was picked as one of the seven audition sites was because it was dead center in the country, Lynn said. Besides Omaha, auditions took place in San Diego, Dallas, Atlanta, Miami, Charleston and Philadelphia.

Lynn said last season it was decided that they would pick somewhere smaller and Omaha was one of the places suggested.

While deciding on the city as a site, the Idol team visited different places in Omaha to see what the city had to offer, including the Old Market, Lynn said.

Qwest Public Relations Manager Rebecca Kleeman said that a friend of Lynn's who made the movie "Omaha," was part of his decision to bring the show to the city.

The American Idol crew came twice for site visits and took a look at the building. She said they did a walk through, where they walked around the arena, the convention center and outside the building before making their choice.

Kleeman said the Qwest Center benefited from hosting the American Idol auditions because it gave the building great exposure. She said when the American Idol crew comes back, it'll be on national television. She said the city of Omaha benefited because local people were able to try out and hotels were able to be booked from people traveling across the country to Omaha.

Teenager Kayla Cargiulo and her mother, Jennifer Kufalk, were one of those traveling across the states to audition. They drove from Milwaukee, Wis. arriving in Omaha on Tuesday night and only got two hours of sleep before going to the Qwest Center at 4 a.m. They then waited four hours to register.

Cargiulo said she has been singing since the third grade in both church and school choirs.

"Ever since I was little it (singing) was something I liked to do," she said.

Her mother said her daughter has always been sparkly, and people have told her she was talented. She said Cargiulo has secured solos in church that only adults have received.

She said her daughter begged her to take her to audition for American Idol, and this was the year Cargiulo reached the age of sixteen, the age requirement to audition.

Among contestants was Central Alumnus John Green, who graduated in 2006. Since starting to sing for fun in junior high school, he said he's had to mentally and vocally prepare himself. The day before auditions he practiced by singing in the bathroom.

He was nervous about auditioning because he said was not used to singing in front of other people.

Cargiulo's plan to have a singing a career is one of the reasons why she said she wanted to audition for American Idol.

"It's something I've aspired to do," she said.

She wasn't sure about auditioning in another city in case she didn't make it passed the first round. She said if she felt she did a good job auditioning and got turned down she would do it if she thought it was worth doing.

Kufalk said she "was scared to death" before the auditions and had butterflies the night before. She said she believed that she was more nervous than her daughter.

A career in entertainment is a goal for Green as well. He said auditioning for American Idol was important to him because he wants to get on television. If he was turned down he continue on to audition in other cities.

"It's my goal to get on television," he said.

American Idol plans to be back sometime in September or October when people chosen in the first round will audition for Randy, Simon and Paula. Lynn said the team will then return to Los Angeles in October and start editing until the contestants go to Hollywood.

Lynn thought auditions for American Idol appealed to teenagers because he said people see themselves on their show so they would come and try out for the next season. He said that was one of the good

things about the show.

"We all have this really good feeling," Lynn said.

The people at the Qwest Center saw a few tears, but they also saw excitement, Kleeman said.

"We saw both sides of the spectrum," she said.

Lynn said teenagers were made aware of American Idol tryouts through the website americanidol.com. He said on the website they could get audition information, and everything starts there.

Kleeman said for security, it was a combination of American Idol security as well as internal security provided by the Qwest Center. The Omaha Police Department also helped out with security during registration and auditions.

She said as far as operations went, everything went smoothly and there were no problems. She said everything was well-run on the American Idol side and they knew exactly how to set the auditions up and how to organize people to move people through smoothly.

"They knew what they needed to do," Kleeman said.

She said that the arena and convention center was able to hold approximately 27,000 people. Kleeman said the auditions was not the biggest event held at the Qwest Center and that the Berkshire Hathaway stockholder meetings filled both the convention center and the arena.

Continued to Idol on page 12C

Band prepares for more competitive season

BY ALI HODGE

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Every day for a week this summer the students of the marching band gathered for a necessary 101 in marching and also received individual help in sectionals.

All over the summer when other students were hanging by the pool.

7:15 a.m. on school days.

Band students are filing out on the field for their regular early morning practice. Tired, cold and slightly unwilling some of the time, they start to rehearse.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday nights.

The musicians march on the field, perfecting their music and form as their peers are at home watching television and doing homework.

5:00 p.m.

Again, they gather together Friday night for either a football game or a competition. Many students don't even go home most Friday nights being as their rehearsals are so demanding.

Why so much practice?

The band as a whole has decided to be more competitive and active for the upcoming marching season.

Why more competitive?

Simple.

The marching band, along with their directors, think the band is more than capable and want to compete.

Last year the Central High marching band marched at events such as the Omaha Marching Invitational just in exhibition, which means they were only there to perform.

But at the end of last season, the band expressed that they would like to be there for real.

For competition.

They expressed their feelings in a poll that was taken up.

The survey was taken up at the end of the 2007 marching season and had on it questions asking the students anything from whether or not they would like to compete more or travel more often to what they thought of mid-week rehearsals.

Band director Pete Wilger still has those results hanging in his office and refers to them every time he schedules an event or practice.

He truly has tried to take his students' requests to heart.

Wilger said that according to the results of the poll, 80% of the musicians wanted to be more active as a band.

As a result, Wilger has stepped it up a notch and pushed the band to their limits.

Limits of potential that is.

"The band overall has been positive," said Wilger. "And they seem to be, in my opinion, a positive bunch."

The band this year will be involved in all of the events they were involved in last year and a few more.

Some of which are the Omaha Marching Invitational, the Omaha Marching Exhibition, which will be held at Central this year, and smaller things such as Dundee Days Parade.

The way Wilger had his band preparing is by putting together sectionals and practices weeks before school started. They also have zero hour practices before their first hour band class, and practices for two hours every Tuesday night.

He said he realizes the students work very hard and he knows they put in a lot of work, but he thinks they are doing really well and have a lot of potential.

"So far it's going really well," he said. "We have a positive start to our year. I'm very optimistic."

Sophomore Bridget Monson, a flute player in the marching band, said the preparation schedule is harder than people realize.

She said it really takes a lot out of you to march consistently for two and a half hours. All of which is done without a break.

She said that it may look easy from the stands, but it takes a vast amount of concentration to do it right.

"I think we have a lot of capability," said Monson. "We work really hard and I think it's paying off."

Monson said as hard as the band works, it usually all comes together for games and performances, which will be really good when they get to actual competitions.

"Most of the band is very capable except for the few that don't go to Tuesday night practices. If they miss one practice, they miss a lot because we work at a really fast pace."

Monson said competitions are so much more difficult than just performing at games.

They're actually nerve wrecking.

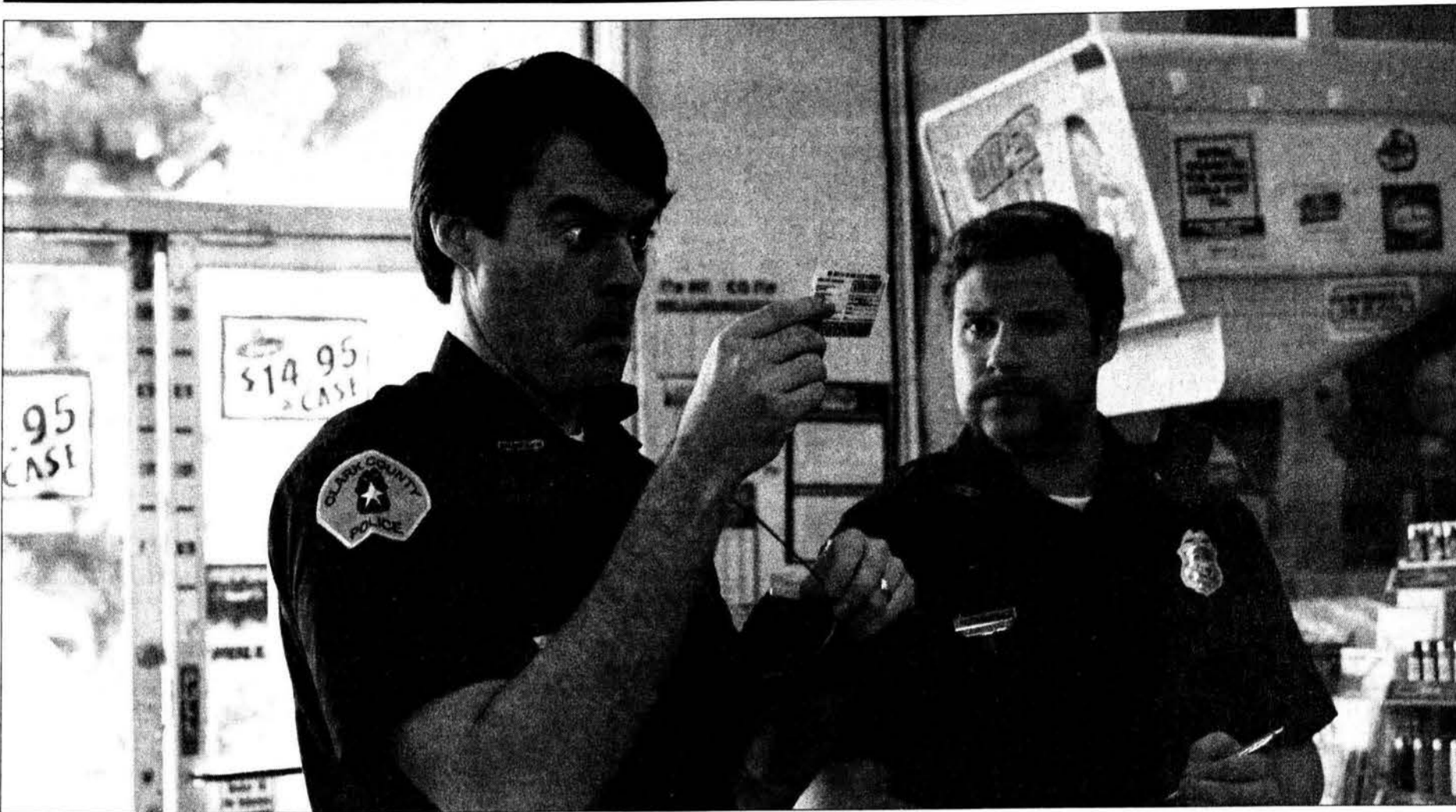
Unlike games, judges and audiences are actually watching them and listening to the music. Not only that, but there are judges on the field watching your form and your pulse.

Or in other words, watching how well you march together and how in-step you are.

Overall, she said she loves being competitive with the band because it boosts their reputation.

Such as at Dundee Days Parade, she said. They think the Central High School marching band is the best in the district, which may not be the truth, but is flattering just the same.

"It gives our band a good, active reputation," she said. "Which is good for both us and the school."



MIRAMAX

Two cops, played by Bill Hader and Seth Rogen, check the fake ID card of one of the teenagers. Fogell, also known as McLovin, used the ID to buy some alcohol for his friends, who want to impress some girls. While most of the humor was inappropriate, it had the audience laughing.

Students try out for "Idol"

Continued from IDOL on page 11C

Junior Allen Bentley made his way to the arena to be a contestant for the show and hoped for a promising audition. "I thought it (the audition) would be a great experience," he said.

Bentley said to vocally and mentally prepare, he looked into the mirror for about two months straight. He said it helped because it gave him confidence in his posture and singing. He also videotaped himself singing about 10 times as well.

He had participated in Omaha Heartland's Idol competition and came in second place. He said it helped him prepare for the the American Idol audition because it was the first time he sang his audition song in front of a crowd.

"I'm really into music," he said.

For his audition Bentley sang the song "To Make You Feel My Love" by Garth Brooks for the judges. He said he chose that song because it was different.

Although he didn't make it past the second round, he plans to audition every year he could in the future because it was a good learning experience. He said he learned from the audition how to prepare for next year and how the audition process went. He found it was helpful for other auditions.

Before auditions he was pretty nervous because he knew how hard it would be to make it to the next round.

He said he went to the Qwest Center at 11 p.m. on Aug. 7 to register to audition and stayed until 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. on Aug. 8.

Bentley said he got in to audition on Aug. 10 after two or three hours of getting into the Qwest Center. During that time the producers got ready for the auditions and there was a group song that was sung.

"The whole arena was packed," Bentley said.

Around 800 people auditioned before he did and about eight people got through to the next round.

Bentley said there were 20 to 25 tables in the arena set up and groups of four people went in to audition separately at one time.

Though he originally wasn't going to audition, people told him he should because it would be a good learning experience. He said he thought it would be fun to talk to new people while he was waiting in line as well.

He was planning on taking a trip to audition in the show and was happy when he found out he was able to audition in Omaha. Bentley said having the auditions in Omaha saved him money because he wasn't traveling.

"I was very excited when I found out it was coming to Omaha," Bentley said.

He felt it was a long shot of making it to the second round, but he said he knew it was going to be a tough competition so he wasn't too disappointed. He was, however, sad for the people around him who didn't make it.

"I felt worse for them than I did myself," Bentley said. He was especially disappointed for many people who were 28, the audition cut-off age. He said since he was 16 he would have another 12 years to audition.

Though he didn't not make it to the next round, his parents told him he did a good job and he should go for next year.

Non-stop humor makes film succeed

BY PATRICK BREEN

"Superbad" The funniest movie of the summer. Yes. Period. End of review. What else needs to be said?

Oh, okay, if one has to know more, indulge in the rest of the review. But be forewarned that this review is filled with suggestive themes and will be rated 'hilarious' for your reading pleasure.

"Superbad" was a simple story of two best friends trying to get laid before splitting their separate ways and heading off to college.

Ah, beautiful. And by simple, I mean outrageously mischievous and funny. "What's up, gangstas."

The opening scene basically sets up the whole movie, in which one might want an inhaler to provide brief oxygen in between the loud guffaws.

Seth (Jonah Hill) and Evan (Michael Cera) have been friends for all three and a half years at high school. They were two normal guys, just trying to survive high school for one more year.

That's when the audience met Fogell, or more commonly known as McLovin, who told his friends he is picking up a fake I.D. Perfect for buying alcohol.

And the basis for the whole movie was set in cement. And alcohol.

Seth, the more sexually explicit of the two had a crush on the same girl since middle school, Jules. And just by the coincidence of her partner being gone in a home-ec, Seth got to bake with her, and leave with a grand plan of bringing alcohol and getting laid. Simplicity

perfect.

Evan, on the other hand just wanted to be better friends with his crush since grade school, Becca. And the party left the perfect opportunity for both to meet their goals.

Except there is a problem. Fogell brought his fake ID, but the name was left with something missing. I can't quite come to the conclusion, but...

Ah, yes, a first name. McLovin is born.

Probably one of the most beloved characters in the movie and at the same time one of the most essential and realistic.

His role adds a different type of geek that is not always portrayed. The "gangsta geek".

The relationships built between McLovin and the cops, Seth Rogen and Bill Hader, kept some of the most interesting dialogue still alive in the minds of the audience.

The quest for the much needed alcohol left the audience holding their gut from the overzealous roars that the movie provided.

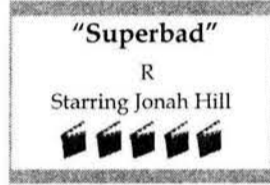
Most of the jokes were too inappropriate for anyone to ever put down on paper, and in fact, too inappropriate for most movies. The rating was a prompt 'R', but listed everything available from sexual content to violence.

The plot ended just like any other Seth Rogen movie, with tons of laughs and a somewhat sentimental close.

Well, less on the sentimental and more on the outrageously funny.

If one hasn't seen this movie, they should. And if one already has, they should do the

country a favor and invite someone who hasn't seen it. This movie defines our generation.



Beautiful scenery, script offers artistic story of author's life

BY ALI HODGE

It is certainly amazing how an author puts their life story within the pages of their work. And then it is just as amazing to see both of them born again on the big screen.

"Becoming Jane," which beautifully depicted the life of the legendary and independent author Jane Austen was almost identical to her well known love novel, "Pride and Prejudice."

The famous story line was obviously fashioned after this woman's own romance: loathing turned to love.

The movie opened to reveal to the audience the most beautiful Irish country side, misted over in the light rain. On the far side of the highlands, through the bright green, royal trees sat an old, stone country house where most of the story takes place.

This was perhaps the most captivating part of the entire film being that the view of the Irish countryside, as unusual as it is, was the most beautiful thing ever.

The audience first saw Jane, played by Anne Hathaway, through her rain-spattered bedroom window. She had her hands buried in her hair and her eyes scanning the parchment before her.

Writing played a huge part in the creation of this magnificent story from the very beginning, seeing as Jane's true art was in her words.

And because her talent lay in what she wrote, it was almost a certain fact that the script was to be artistic as well. Be sure to bring a dictionary.

The audience defiantly had to listen carefully to understand what the characters were saying, however, when one could understand, they were able to see that most of it was very witty, passionate, and at many times funny.

And the eighteenth century, thick British accents made the romance of the movie only that much better.

For a while the storyline followed the daily life of the Austen family, which was an accurate and humorous depiction of eighteenth century Irish country life. They were happy and close as a family, but also clearly poor and in deep financial trouble.

After the Austens it switched to following a funny, tumultuous young lawyer, Tom Lefloy played by James McAvoy. In the short five minutes that the audience saw his life, he boxed, gambled, drank an excessive amount of liquor and kissed a myriad of women.

There was clearly a big contrast between Jane and Lefloy.

The difference in the two individuals was quite funny. But it also was the classic first sign that they will be the two to fall madly in love in the end.

When Lefloy got in trouble with his uncle, he was sentenced to live with his distant family in the country, the Austens.

Upon his arrival, Jane read an essay she has written for her sister in front of the entire family and was highly offended when he fell asleep.

This set the tension between the two that followed them a good deal through the movie. However, Jane proved herself to be a highly intelligent and independent woman and Lefloy turned out to be a kind and surprisingly passionate character and the two fall in love.

Anne Hathaway certainly has some work to do if she wants to top herself after this film because her acting was amazing. And they could not have picked a better actor than James McAvoy to play the part of Lefloy.

Other extremely talented actresses who appeared in the film was Maggie Smith, who played the role of a self-righteous wealthy Irish woman, and Julie Walters, who played the role of poor, hard working, good intentional Ms. Austen.

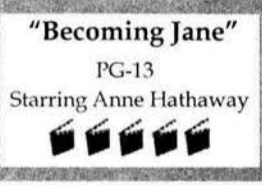
The slightly star-studded cast mixed with the beautiful landscape of the ever-rainy Irish highlands created an atmosphere of calm, quiet, simple living with a rogue problem facing the main character.

The obligation of marriage.

And one thing that gave the greatest edge to the film was that the weather was never sunny. Throughout the entire film it was either cloudy or slightly raining. But instead of feeling depressed, it made the film calm and beautiful.

Overall, the movie was in no way surprising. It did not make the hearts of the audience accelerate.

Much like the work of Jane Austen herself, it was simply a calm, slow paced, artistic love story.



MIRAMAX

Lefloy, played by James McAvoy, bids Austen, played by Anne Hathaway good night. It was one of the few solitary moments the two had as a couple.

Senior shows dance skills through Broadway connection

BY WYNTER DAVIS

"If I could professional dance I would," said senior Grace Gillespie. "It would be a lot of fun. But it's also discouraging, being put up against the best. Thinking they're really good wishing I could do that."

Gillespie is a member of the Central High Pom Squad and lives and breathes dance everyday of the week.

Gillespie has a very tiring day. She wakes up and goes to Pom practice in the morning at 6:45 a.m. She then goes to scheduled classes and gets early release. She works until dance practice held at The Broadway Connection (TBC) to practice some routines and techniques. She gets home around 9 or 10 o'clock when she can finally squeeze in her homework.

Most teenagers have weekends to relax or go hangout, but Gillespie spends her weekends going to dance practices or performing recitals.

"I think a lot of my friends know that I am serious about dance just because I don't get to hang out on weekends," she said. "Many people don't know how much time we put in though."

Gillespie has been dancing ever since she was two years old and has been the TBC studio for four years.

"I've known since I was little that I wanted to dance," Gillespie said. "Learning to love it, which is why I switched over to TBC. It's a different environment and different style of learning."

Since joining the studio she has increased her knowledge of various types of dance and music.

"I've learned so much with my company," Gillespie said. I know a lot of styles of dancing ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and tap, lyrical, almost anything modern and temporary. But my favorite is hip-hop and jazz."

She doesn't really make up any dance moves or routines for the game and pep rally performances.

"I don't really help with the routines; Erin and Bailey do that," she said. "We use some moves from other dances we learned in the past or we use some from when my studio went to New York."

She said this was her first time being on Pom Squad and after the Creighton camp a lot of the girls bonded together and started to know each other a little more and acted like a team.

Though certain performances tend to unnerve her, Gillespie said that she calms down by finding the fun in it.

"Usually I get nervous, not at my dance classes or performing on stage, more at football or basketball games, but it's a lot of fun being in the spotlight," she said.

Being with TBC she has gotten a lot of opportunities to travel and even got to work with famous choreographers.

"This choreographer who is good friends with Sue the director asked if Lauri e Ann Gibson if she could teach our class in New York," she said referring to the choreographer from MTV's Making the Band. "Since the woman was running the

show, she asked. But it was a long wait almost a year before she got back with us"

Though Gibson only taught one class, Gillespie said the best part of her teaching style was her energy and drive. Other celebrity choreographers taught classes she attended.

"But Wade Robinson, Bryan Cox and Dave Scott taught the rest of the classes. He did movies like Stomp the Yard and Step Up."

She continues to dance as said she puts passion into what she does. When she graduates she wants to pursue dancing.

She does recall times when she was less graceful then she would have liked. She said once she performed "Beauty and the Beast" at the Rose. While doing kick lines she fell right on stage. She said no one noticed so it was still fun.

"Hopefully, if I'm that good I will be able to dance full time," Gillespie said. "It doesn't even have to be in a music video; more on the stages in theater. Hopefully I will be someone worth mentioning. We will see how it turns out."

Pom squad advisor Jane Luethege said she thinks Gillespie can do whatever she wants in dance if she puts her mind to it.

Ideally, Gillespie wants to go to school in New York at the Broadway Center. To reach that goal, she will participate in The Pulse, a cutting-edge dance training, facilitated by Gibson and other sought after choreographers next summer. She hopes to be presented with more opportunities to succeed and grow.

"She started out has a good dancer but she is getting better as the year goes by," Luethege said.



SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

Charles Hinton and Dale, along with the campers, watch as the toilet building blows up due to a buildup of gas. Things went horribly wrong during the camp, but none of the jokes really made the audience laugh. All of jokes have appeared in other movies with greater success than this movie.

Comedy offers no laughs for audience

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Take a movie starring Eddie Murphy, throw in some rowdy kids, a mean villain, a day care for toddlers and some jokes involving bodily functions and you get "Daddy Day Care."

"Make it a sequel starring Cuba Gooding, throw in some rowdy kids, a mean villain, a day camp for kids and some jokes involving bodily functions and you get Daddy Day Camp."

Daddy Day Care wasn't that good of a movie. However, it was redeemable in the fact that Eddie Murphy was able to convincingly play a dad who loves his son. That coupled with the cuteness of Khamani Griffin as the son helped Daddy Day Care rake in over \$100 million at the box office.

Daddy Day Camp was even worse. The movie relied on the same jokes as its prequel for laughs. The jokes weren't really successful in the first movie and it sure as heck wasn't successful in this one.

The younger kids in the audience might enjoy some of the body humor, but I overheard one of the kids say, "That's gross," at one point, which shows even for kids there is a limit to how many jokes can be made about farts in a movie.

Other jokes involved vomit in a tent, poison ivy and the bathroom cabin blowing up because of a gas problem. And, oh yes, a skunk that stinks up the entire camp. What every outdoors comedy always needs.

One would believe that after the vomit incident the joke couldn't get any worse than they already have.

In two words: it did. In fact, Daddy Day Camp had more disgusting body humor than its predecessor. For instance, one of the campers fills a water balloon with pee before hitting a Camp Canola kid who was cheating.

The jokes were old and tired and have been done before. The movie just didn't seem funny. The audience just seemed to sit through the entire movie. Not a lot of people laughed at anything.

Just like the first movie, the plot was predictable. In Daddy Day Camp, Charles Hinton, played by Gooding, was reluctant to take his son to camp because of bad summer camp memories. In an attempt to give his son Ben the camp experience he never had, he took his son to the camp he went to, Camp Driftwood.

The only catch? Camp Driftwood was run-down and in need of a lot of renovation. Not helping Camp Driftwood was the rival camp, Camp Canola, which attracted campers because of their paintball equipment, dirt vehicles and a lake where they can go water skiing.

Definitely more appealing than a broken down camp. In an effort to save the camp, Hinton and his pal Phil Ryerson, played by Paul Rae, bought the camp and got it running again.

Of course they're left on their own when the previous camp owner bailed on them for a much-needed vacation.

The rest of the movie was the campers, the ones that remain at the camp, being whipped into shape for a competition against Camp Canola by Hinton's father, who happened to be in the Marines.

The acting in the movie was fairly decent, but most of the performances were forgettable. None of the kids make a lasting impression due to the fact that not a lot of them grew during the movie.

The kid who made the biggest impression was Spencir Bridges, who played Hinton's kid, Ben. Bridges made for a charming seven year old who just wanted to prove himself.

Gooding did the best he could acting wise, but not a lot can be done when half the time he is called on to look horrified as another misfortune befell the camp. However, Gooding was able to pull off a decent performance despite the material.

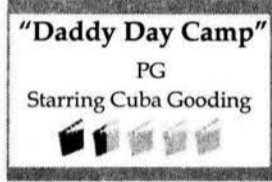
Lochlyn Munro made a good impression as Lance Warner, the childhood rival of Hinton and owner of Camp Canola. Munro played Warner as a guy who goes over the top in whatever he does. It worked because the character he played was a guy who had a big ego.

Richard Gant, who played Hinton's father was another standout. He perfectly played the gruff Marine who inspired the kids to do their best and win the competition.

Both Rae and Josh McLerran were reduced to comic relief. They were mostly there to provide laughs as the kids pull pranks on them in the beginning.

Tamala Jones and Brian Doyle-Murray made brief appearances as Hinton's wife and the previous owner of Camp Driftwood, but added nothing to the story.

However, the acting was unable to make up for the lack of plot and the unfunny jokes. If you want to see a funny movie that kids can watch, rent Shrek. Don't waste your time or money on Daddy Day Camp.



Writing Ala Cart offers peaceful place for students to write

BY BRITTNEY MILLER

Everyday English teacher Deron Larson, offers his help in the bottom of the courtyard called the Writing Ala Cart.

Christmas lights that read Writing Ala Cart, a small cart, posters and a stand with a variety of poems and work from students decorate Larson's work space.

The program provides students intimate and individualized help with a writing during times that are sometimes more convenient than after 2:50 p.m.

"It will help out a lot of seniors because he offers help during day periods instead of coming after school," Senior Carlos Kilgore said.

It's very convenient for students to go get help during the day during their study halls or when they have early outs.

Susie Buffet, Central Alumnus, coined the idea of a writing cart. At first, it was called "Writing Lab."

Soon students became confused and thought the writing lab was the computer lab, which led to the name officially changing to Writing Ala Cart.

Teachers were paid daily to give up one period during their day to help students with English. Slowly, the money that Central had to use on the Writing Ala Cart needs ran out so teachers were no longer being paid.

Larson, along with English teacher Jane Luthege, counselor Christina Heckman and English teacher Sue Oles came together to volunteer their assistance to students who needed extra help during their plan periods.

"I try to keep it alive," said Larson. Later on, a Central parent, volunteered Mrs. Goergon to help with creative writing classes and even the writing cart.

Though she doesn't work at Central anymore, she is currently taking classes to be a teacher.

Heckman, who had previously taught English, said she wishes that all students would go get help from Writing Ala Cart.

She said she thought Writing Ala Cart was helpful because so many people can get personal one on one time with a teacher who can better their English grade.

Many students don't get help from Writing Ala Cart because they may not know about it or may not have enough time in the day.

"If they really go then they will really benefit," Heckman said.

After noticing the conflict with some student's schedules, Larson said Writing Ala Cart could be improved by having a volunteer that could be there every hour during the day because everyone has different study hall hours.

Larson noticed that working with Writing Ala Cart has helped him as well.

"I'm better prepared to teach," he said. He sits in the lower courtyard daily for Writing Ala Cart because he said he enjoys the students' creativity and helping them out.

Clothing and textiles class teaches valuable lesson of self-sufficiency

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

Though clothes are basic essentials worn everyday by most people, there is a fine art in learning the process of making them.

The clothing and textiles class offered at Central is teaching the basic knowledge a future fashion designer would need to know.

Clothing and textiles teacher Linda Milliken said it was a good class to take for people who want a career in the fashion industry. There are two levels of the class offered, a basic 1-2 class and a more advanced 3-4 class.

"1-2 is based on the fundamentals of sewing by hand and with the machine," Milliken said.

Junior Haleigh Tomasek took the 1-2 class her sophomore year and is now currently enrolled in the 3-4 class. She said that the 1-2 class was helpful because she learned a lot of new things that were required to move ahead onto bigger projects.

During the entirety of the year, the students became skilled at sewing and designing patterns and eventually created a collared shirt from fabric and patterns.

"The 3-4 class offers a much bolder and more difficult range of products considering they are more experienced," Milliken said.

Students in 3-4 are more knowledgeable on the subject of fashion and sewing and have more responsibility and freedom.

"The projects in 3-4 are bigger and more descriptive," Tomasek said. "The process is much longer and the details and designs are much more complex."

Students begin the year with an old shirt or fabric and create something new from something old. They will then end the year by making a step-by-step quilt.

"Most take the class to become more knowledgeable with sewing, which helps further their interest in other aspects of fashion," Milliken said.

Another class taught by Milliken is Cadfashion, based on the Cad program, which features more technology.

"It is different from clothing and textiles because students in Cadfashion learn more about computer design and the processes of sketching and detail," Milliken said.

Junior Susan Freeman took the class because she was interested in fashion and thought about involving it in her future career.

"I like how different and creative the class is," Freeman said. She said she is interested in the business aspect of the fashion world and thought it would be good to know how clothes were created.

The class is not only a beginning in Cad, but also in the different styles of fashion. It deals with more modern concepts and teaches you about famous designers and their works.

A program called Instant Designer is used and it works like a basic Cad program with an extra "fashion section" involving different color, texture and pattern options.

"It is a very simple program to learn and much easier than an actual sewing machine," Freeman said.

The project portion of the class is much different than that of Clothing and Textiles. These projects are done electronically and are more complex.

"The projects usually are themed," Freeman said. "For one assignment we had to create a whole line of designs for a wedding party including the bride, the groom, the bridesmaids, everything."

A plus to being in Cadfashion is that at the end, every student will build a portfolio of what they have created throughout the year.

The clothing and textile classes offer something different and hands-on which many students can find entertaining and worth learning.

Art teacher uses summer to try out new techniques

MICHELLE RIEGER

She started out as an English teacher, but made the transition from that subject to Art. This is Kathryn Schroeder's second year teaching at the school.

Previous to teaching at Central, Schroeder taught English lessons in Japan for a total of three months. She taught near the major cities: Hon shu, Kamaku, Hiroka, and Hiroshima.

She said that she wasn't too fond of teaching because of the setting.

"I wanted to be in more of a classroom setting," Schroeder said.

The setting she was teaching in before was inside people's homes. She said that it was more of a lesson type teaching, not a classroom setting.

She decided she didn't want to continue teaching English because she wasn't trained to do that. This year she started her second year teaching art and pottery at Central.

Over the summer, towards the end of July and beginning of August, Schroeder and her friend John Martelle did a workshop here at Central. Art department head Margaret Quinn and the custodians were very helpful in letting Schroeder and Martelle use the Central art equipment.

They experimented with different glazes and pottery. She tried the same experiment at the end of last year with her Art 1-2 students, but it didn't turn out the way she wanted it to.

Martelle has two firing kilns at his home in Blair, NE. The Japanese anagama style kiln uses only wood.

The result of putting clay into this one is a smooth, glazed, and shiny surface.

The second kind, a salt kiln, uses wood and also. Then sprinkling salt over it gives the product an orange peel-like texture.

When Martelle and Schroeder experimented at Central they used terra cig. This is short for the term terra cigitatta. It's a glaze made out of clay to paint on the surface of pottery before putting it into the kiln.

Terra cigitatta in Latin translates to 'sealed earth'. This makes sense because it's made out of clay dug up from the ground. They also used glaze from the bottle, also known as low-fire glazes.

She said the clay dug up from the ground had the best results. The process was a long one.

"Basically we just took a bucket of clay then added the proper weight of water. We also added deflocculates, which make the heavy things sink to the bottom. And the super fine particles stay floating at the top of the water. And then all the super fine particles were siphoned off with a rubber hose. And that's the glaze," Schroeder said.

She said she doesn't plan on having the students experiment with the glaze this year.

Junior Tami Fuller takes beginning pottery in Ms. Schroeder's class. If a student wants to take pottery they have to take a regular art class first.

Fuller was in Mrs. Simmons regular art class last year. Towards the end of the year last year Fuller and the rest of her classmates were able to work a little bit with pottery to prepare for the actual pottery class.

Right now Schroeder's beginning classes are making clay stamps with their initials protruding from the flat surface.

So instead of carving their initials in their pottery everytime, they can just stamp them into the artwork.

Fuller is planning on taking advanced pottery next year. She is looking forward to experimenting with the new glazes.

"I like the different colors and the different textures from the glaze. It makes it feel really, really soft," Fuller said.

She cannot wait to use the big wheel to make her pottery. They will start being able to use this in advanced pottery.

Right now Schroeder's beginning classes get to use a quarter pound of clay. Later on in the year they will get to work with one pound of clay. Knives, cutting wire and canvases.

Senior Megan Kreigler, is taking advanced pottery this year. Last year she took beginning pottery with Mrs. Simmons.

"I like being able to create ideas on something as a form as opposed to doing it again on paper," Kreigler said.

Advanced pottery classes will be able to work more on the wheel.

In class this year, Kreigler said she hopes to be able to apply the simple things she learned last year and make them into more creative and interesting pieces.



SCHROEDER

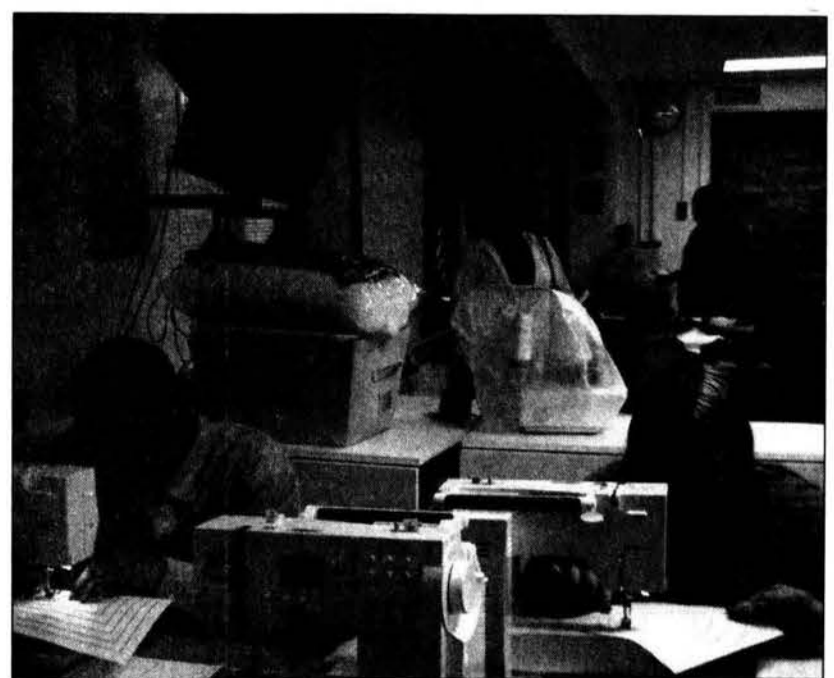


PHOTO BY ANGELICA GENOVESI/ REGISTER Senior Terrelle Mayhue and Freshman Amanda Youtsey sew paper patterns for practice for future projects.

THE SUMMER OF HARRY POTTER

Harry Potter fans eagerly awaited the summer of 2007. With the fifth movie and the last book coming out within weeks of each other, teenagers flocked to the movie theater and bookstores

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Ever since Harry Potter mania hit the world, no other book has been anticipated as the latest, and the last, book of the series.

Fans eagerly awaited for July 21, 2007 to arrive and bookstores around the country had signs that counted down the days until the book came out.

Before the book even came out, there were rumors to who would die, and what the actual events in the book would be. Fake spoilers were even posted on the Internet and there was a rumor that the last word in the book would be "scar."

The biggest rumor of all was whether author J.K. Rowling would kill off her beloved main character. Thousands of people would speculate on message boards and forums whether Harry Potter would live at the end of the last book.

With all of the hype surrounding the novel before the release, one had to wonder if it would live up to such high expectations.

Believe it or not, Rowling has met every hope and expectation for the novel, possibly making it the best one in the whole series. At any rate, it's more than able to stand as part of the series as well as a novel on its own.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows followed the Seventh Year wizard as he went with his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger to continue his quest to defeat the villain, Lord Voldemort. To do that, they needed to destroy the Horcruxes, magical items that contained pieces of the Dark Lord's soul.

However, that quest proved challenging due to the fact that the Wizarding world was effectively under the control of the dark Lord and his Death Eaters. The trio had to deal with staying hidden from his followers, jealousy, and discovering where the Horcruxes were.

The book thrived on uncovering every last major secret in the Harry Potter world, making the book even more satisfying to readers. As each secret was uncovered, one wanted Harry to uncover other secrets and find the answer to his destiny.

Rowling still kept her characters realistic, and more importantly, relatable. Besides the war, her characters still struggled with romantic relationships, feelings of inadequacy and death. Rowling even put in marriage trouble for two of them, something adults could relate to.

The mood of the book was dark, but that only fit the atmosphere of the dark times in the Wizarding world. Occasionally there would be a touching moment in the middle of all the challenges.

The most touching moment of the book was when Harry visited the tombstones of his parents. Rowling wrote it in a way that Harry handled the moment with dignity. The words in that chapter made it seem as if the whole Wizarding world was quiet, and all the troubles were distant.

But the touching moments didn't last long and it was back to the reality of the situation. There was always the feeling that war was coming, which added to the tense atmosphere in the book and made the reader wonder who will survive the war.

This was a book that even adults can enjoy. They could relate to some of the adult characters, especially the way the adults were worried about the safety of their children. One of Rowling's greatest strengths as a writer is the ability to make both adults and children relate to her characters.

Rowling even managed to end the novel in a way that there won't be many requests for an eighth book by readers.

Of course the book isn't perfect.

The book tended to drag a little while Harry was at the Burrow for a wedding, his many times in the forest and a lot of action didn't really take place until the final battle on the Hogwarts ground. There were

some deaths in the book that some readers will be unhappy with and there are still minor questions that won't be answered.

However, Rowling tied up all of the major loose ends. After seven long years, the question of who will win, Harry or Voldemort, was finally answered at long last.

Without a doubt, Harry Potter fans will be more than pleased with the last Harry Potter book. The book was more than satisfying, and one didn't want to put the book down until it was finished. The book had its readers hanging onto every word.

In the seventh book, it is easy to see why Rowling has captured the hearts and imagination of fans. She took ordinary items and items and made them magical.

Rowling has created a magical world, and it has finally come to an end with the last book.

However, the boy wizard and Hogwarts will forever live in the hearts of millions of fans.

COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

Author: J.K. Rowling



Harry Potter appeals to all generations through storyline

BY KIM BUCKLEY

On July 20, Harry Potter fans eagerly awaited the moment they had been waiting for ever since the first book came out. The moment when the last Harry Potter book went on sale.

Border's bookseller Lauren Pickle said over a thousand people were in the bookstore for the midnight party and to get their copy of the seventh book.

She said there were so many people that they couldn't be heard over the regular speakers so they had the biggest staff member stand on a counter and shout.

Pickle said the first person showed up at Borders at 4:30 a.m. and when she got their at 8:30, there was already a long line. She said there were people who stayed at Borders from the time the store opened to the time they got their books.

Senior Renee Wilder was one of those teenagers who attended the midnight Harry Potter party July 20.

"I was anxious to find out what happened," she said.

Wilder said she also attended a Harry Potter midnight party when the sixth book came out.

Pickle said before the party began they had to check reservations, make sure that there was going to be enough books for the people and some extra ones, and check the paper and computer logs.

She said they needed to get colored wristbands in the morning because people were already coming to the store. Pickle said a lot of people wanted to get their copy of the book first so they came early to get the wristbands and came back in the

evening. She said it helped the flow of traffic safer and it was more convenient for the customers.

Pickle said the store sold a lot of copies of the last Harry Potter book.

"More than you'll ever believe," she said.

Pickle said the store was able to distribute the books in only an hour and a half. Senior Brittani Avery said she hasn't had any interest in reading the book series.

"Personally it's more of a religious thing," she said.

Avery said she has never read the books or seen the movies based off of the series.

Wilder has been a Harry Potter fan since the fifth or sixth grade. She said she read the first book and she thought it was exciting. She wanted to find out more about it and got into the series.

Wilder said the plot was really fun, but wasn't just a story for children.

"It's just the story and it's a story anybody can enjoy," she said.

Wilder said she liked how the story line was not so complex people couldn't understand it, but it was mature enough that older people can like it.

Pickle said she thought that Harry Potter was so successful because people need heroes and the fact that he was an underdog and human as well. She said he was a person people could cheer for.

"Magic doesn't hurt either," she said.

Wilder said the book series for anybody and she has talked to people at church about the book.

Pickle said Borders sells the books to everyone from six years old to people in their 40s and 50s. She said it appeals to everyone, not a specific age group.

"I think it really stands the generations," she said.

Wilder said the best part of the book series after the first one had a secrecy clause, but believes this was the biggest one.

"I don't expect anything like this anytime soon," she said.

Wilder said the majority of the book series is the whole adventure and all of the characters Harry Potter meets on the way.

Wilder said her favorite character is Ginny Weasley.

"She's my favorite character because even though she's younger and a little smaller, she's still very powerful," she said.

Wilder said only a handful of her friends are fans of the book series.

Avery said a majority of her friends are interested in Harry Potter. She said she has never argued with her friends about the book series.

"I just say I'm not interested and leave it at that," she said.

Wilder said her parents weren't worried about her reading the book series because they know it's just a story and that she knows it's just a story.

Pickle said the store continues to sell each one of the books routinely. She said the sixth Harry Potter book is being reprinted all over the country in paperback because of the demand.

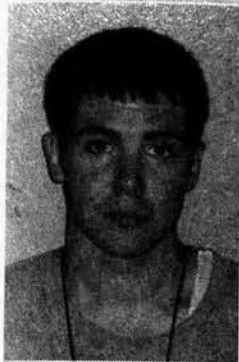
She said in her personal opinion that the books much popular than the movies, though the movies are popular as well.

"There is nothing like the books," Pickle said.

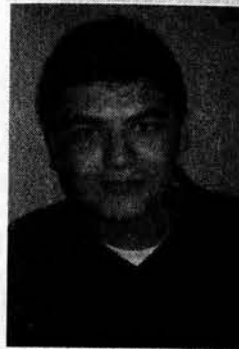


REGISTER YOUR OPINION

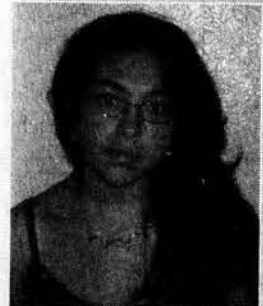
Why do you think Harry Potter had become such a phenomenon?



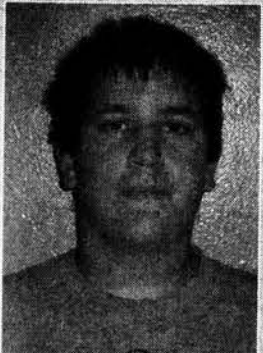
"Because it's crazy and very imaginative." Anthony Rushing (12)



"(There are) So many books and movies about it." Noel Jimenez (12)



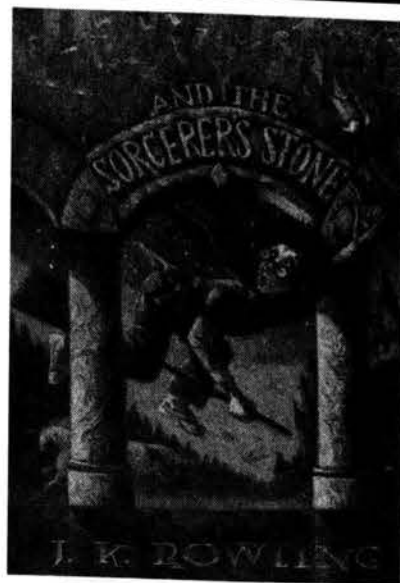
"It gives older kids an excuse to be younger kids. I think some of the situations we can relate to." Briana Armendariz (12)



"Personally, I just didn't get interested in the books." Neal Schmitt (11)



"I think Harry Potter is so popular because they like the idea of being in another world to get away from all the stress." Jami Rice (10)



"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" Author: J.K. Rowling

BY ALI HODGE

It's where it all began. In this novel, author J.K. Rowling introduced the world to the "Boy Who Lived" and whose name would eventually become one of the most famous names not only in the wizarding world, but in reality as well.

Harry Potter, an icon for young and adult readers alike, would over the next few years become one of the most beloved teen novels in history, placing J.K. Rowling's name on the same list as James Patterson, Jodi Picoult, Nora Roberts and Stephen King.

But success had to start somewhere. And indeed it all began with Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, the first installment in the epic Harry Potter series.

Potter's journey simply began as any normal 11 year old boy's would: recounting his life living with his terrible aunt and uncle on Private Drive.

After finding out he was a wizard, Potter enrolled in the school that would over the years become a focal point of the story and his home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

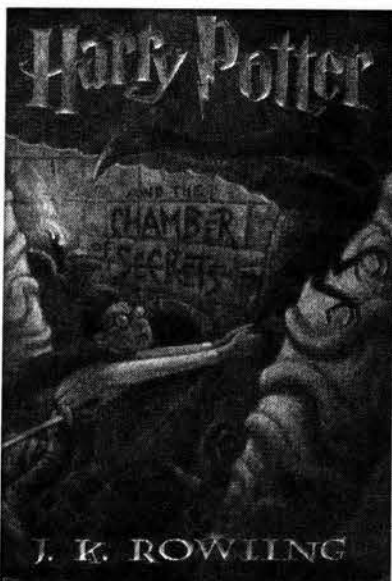
But when the safety of him and those around him is threatened by a stone hidden deep under the school and a malicious wizard who will stop at nothing to take it, Harry sets out to protect the Sorcerer's Stone.

Unlike the forthcoming six books, this one includes innocence and cheerfulness as well as sadness and confusion that is completely pure.

The most breathtaking aspect of the novel is her ability to paint a picture that is completely unique.

Within the first few pages, Rowling presents unanswered questions, a plot, strong characters, humor and mind-gripping mystery.

With this, she throws the reader into a story that has many many different twist and turns, both good and bad, and with strength, started one of the most captivating stories of all time.



"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" Author: J.K. Rowling

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

It's one of the greatest series of books that is so popular today. It has become an obsession.

The first book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," was

indeed a success. The second novel, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," was just as successful, however, it's the worst one in the entire series.

Before jumping to any conclusions, the reader must realize what 'worst' means when it is employed to describe a Harry Potter book.

All of the books are great-it's that simple. They are a work of wonder. When used, the word 'worst' just means it may not be a work of wonder, but it is still an amazing work of fiction.

The plot is simple, too simple, and too overused.

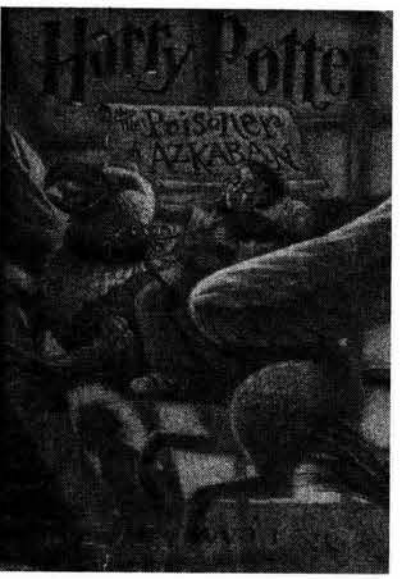
Harry learned about a hidden chamber within Hogwarts, that was hundreds of years old, built when the school was just founded by Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, and Ravenclaw. Throughout most of Harry's second year, Harry and his two best friends, Hermione and Ron, discovered secrets about the school and the horrible killing that their favorite teacher at Hogwarts was allegedly involved in. The secrets and deceptions all led to their discovery of the infamous Chamber of Secrets, one of the most controversial topics in Hogwarts.

There wouldn't be a problem with this plot if it didn't mirror the first book's plot in so many ways; that cannot be a coincidence.

Fortunately, all of the other books have unique plots so the reader will not be able to deduce the outcome of the novel, or basically read the same story over and over again.

Only one thing seemed to be of vital importance to the plot.

Despite any weakness, it still entranced the reader.



"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" Author: J.K. Rowling

BY ALI HODGE

The tension is slowly building. Things are getting harder for Harry Potter as he enters his third year at Hogwarts.

There is an escaped convict from the magical prison, Azkaban set on taking Potter's life.

The plot of Potter's journey thickened when he was forced to find out the truth about how his parents were killed, the ever mind-blowing details about his odd power as a wizard, and the truth about the murderous prisoner of Azkaban, Sirius Black.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban was one of the most emotional books in the series, and the one in which that rare occasion where something good happens to Harry.

In this book, Harry was constantly tugged between the emotions of fear, sorrow, confusion, anger and hatred. As well as the soul draining feeling of... well.... getting his soul drained as dementors were introduced into the story.

Of all the books in the series, this book had the least amount to do with the fight against He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, but rather has a lot to do with Harry's family life and emotions.

The book starts out with Harry escaping the Dursley household and catching the night bus to London. But not before laying his eyes upon the giant black dog that would turn out to be the focal point of the book.

As he is finally reunited with friends, he learns about the sinister prisoner, Sirius Black, a retired Death Eater set out on revenge.

As he comes to an age where he

starts to miss and regret the death of his parents, these feelings of loss and sadness seem to take over and become the general mood for the entire book.

It is only at the end where a little light is shown for Harry.



"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" Author: J.K. Rowling

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

The middle of Harry's story came upon the world as a shock at first, but then as a coveted gift.

The plot development increased tenfold, introducing not only the usual new students at Hogwarts, but also the other wizard communities outside of the United Kingdom.

Throughout the entire novel, the reader, alongside Harry, learned so much more about the various wizards and witches in the world.

The ending was another great aspect of the book. Throughout the book, Harry, as a fourteen year old adolescent, started to grow up.

Just as the readers were growing up, so was Harry; more mature emotions were played out before the readers' eyes.

Harry faced the ultimate devastation that few people ever faced, death and murder.

It was the first time that the reader witnesses a death, and it is the first time that Harry witnessed a death.

This was a turning point in Harry's life, in the reader's life, and in the series' life.

No idealistic happily-ever-after-for-everyone thoughts would exist. People will betray, people will suffer, and people will die.

There was more maturity and development in the writing style of the author. The fourth book made a huge jump in the number of pages that were written. From the third one being barely an inch thick to the fourth being several inches thick is quite the accomplishment. Rowling took more care in the details in the fourth book; she took more care in everything, bolder.

The release of this book was the start of the Harry Potter midnight parties around the world.

Readers were able to care more about the characters because of the in-depth look at Harry's life in this book.



"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" Author: J.K. Rowling

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

With the production of the fifth movie just a few months ago, many people, especially Harry Potter diehard

fans, have read (or reread) the fifth book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

The largest book in the entire series, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," had Harry, for the first time in his life, viewed by the Ministry of Magic and the majority of the wizard population as evil.

The new defense against the dark arts professor, Umbridge, represented the Wizard government and its views.

The government was willing to do everything in its power to calm the masses when Harry boldly announced to the world that Voldemort is back.

The government, was viewed by the readers as a corrupt establishment, that needed to be fixed.

Furthermore, the fifth book showed the Order of the Phoenix and its work, reflecting the work done years ago by a generation that battled Voldemort and his followers, offering proof that somebody will always stand up for what's right.

This book also gave a deeper perspective about the government, especially the various departments, specifically the Department of Mysteries, where a pivotal battle occurs.

One of the best in the series, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is still being read over and over again by devoted fans.



"Harry Potter and Half-Blood Prince" Author: J.K. Rowling

KIM BUCKLEY

For the sixth Harry Potter book, millions of people flocked to bookstores at midnight to get their hands on the book as quickly as possible.

Those dedicated fans were not disappointed with the sixth installment of the Harry Potter series.

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" started off with the Minister of Magic, Cornelius Fudge, being kicked out of office and then meeting with the British Prime Minister. Then the Headmaster, Albus Dumbledore, came to pick up Harry for another year at Hogwarts.

This book had its share of twists, turns and mysteries, which had readers hanging on to every word.

The biggest change though was Rowling detracted from the humor seen in the previous books. Instead, Rowling dealt with darker things, adding to the suspense in the book, and the series.

The book did have its faults. It tended to drag a little in the middle and sometimes got off track for a bit. However, for the most part, Rowling managed to keep to the main plot of the story.

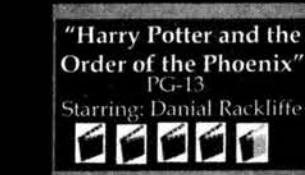
Rowling's writing didn't improve much, but her imagination had gotten stronger. There were new characters including the new teacher at Hogwarts, Horace Slughorn. It's the strength of J.K. Rowling's imagination that the book thrives off of, and appeals to readers.

And her imagination is more than abundant in this book. Horcruxes were introduced, which involves the concepts of splitting of souls. Rowling will have a hard time imagining grander things than that.

One of the main triumphs of the sixth book was it effectively set up the events for the next book. There were still a lot of questions that haven't been answered.

It left off on a little bit of a cliffhanger, making sure that Harry Potter fans will want to read the seventh book.

ALL BOOK COVERS COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC



BY ALI HODGE

Well, for all the diehard fans who were hoping to go to see the latest Harry Potter movie and get the usual magical, fun, humorous and heart racing adventure, they had another thing coming for them.

Instead of magic, it had dark magic.

Instead of fun, it had deep emotion.

Instead of humor, it had horror.

And instead of heart-racing, it was heart-wrenching.

Harry Potter, the boy we've all grown to know, love and feel sorry for certainly is not a little boy any longer.

Quite unlike the previous movies, this installment into the Harry Potter series introduced evil and chaos into the storyline; an element that would remain dominant through to the very end.

The movie started with a beautiful showcase of the director, David Yates's talent for filmography.

Having never had the honor of directing a Harry Potter movie, though it seems so many have had, he certainly made his debut a big one.

The color was beautifully defined, the music was haunting, the technique was brilliant and the graphics were, as usual, stunning.

Harry, played by Daniel Radcliffe, was immediately attacked by rogue dementors and was thrown into a complicated, confusing situation from the start.

Why did they come? Who sent them? The Dark Lord? Oh yeah, he's back. Now what do we do?

New characters were introduced into the story as well, such as the hysterical and captivating Dolores Umbridge played by the obviously talented Imelda Staunton.

Another new jewel to the screen was the eerie, humorous and wise far beyond her years Luna Lovegood, played by Evanna Lynch.

Both characters added so much to the movie that without them, it could hardly stand up to the other Potter movies.

The message in this edition of the series was stronger than any of the others: Everyone has both good and evil inside of them. What's important is which side we choose to be on.

A message that Harry found difficult and frightening to confront.

However, he learned to appreciate his friends and with their help, he found he could get through the tough patches, which is practically his entire life.

The acting in this movie shown even brighter than it did in the past.

The three young heroes of the movie, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grant continued to evolve as talented actors and their success was magnificently displayed in this film.

It may have had something to do with the new release of the final book, but audiences seemed to soak in the script and details of the movie as if they knew that they would matter.

Even though the ending is far from surprising for 99.9 percent of the audience, the ending still had hearts racing and tears welling.

As the audience expected it would, the story ended openly, leaving much room for more movies.

Despite the personal growth and victory that the movie ended with, the last words, "He doesn't have anything worth fighting for," rang in the audiences' ears and made them realize that there was far more to the story and that the story of Harry Potter was far from over.

Junior feels popular book series gives teens opportunity to read

What's the craziest and dorkiest thing I have ever done? Huh. I don't even have to think twice.

Attending the midnight party premier of the final beloved Harry Potter book. Not too long ago, at midnight, I was seated at a small table in the cafe of Barnes and Noble, drinking my coffee which they had cleverly named something festive for the occasion, and watched as hundreds of people poured in through the doors of the small bookstore. All awaiting one thing: the end of a book series that, whether one agrees or not, was one of the most amazing achievements in modern literature.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." I've always been a fan of the books. How could I not have been? I'm a huge fan of literature in general.

I read the first one about a year after it came out. I was about seven. I remember distinctly how I used to lay on the floor of my grandmother's bedroom and flip slowly through the pages. (I couldn't read all that well yet.) Don't poke fun, I was seven. And as a seven year old, I looked up to Harry Potter.

I had never been to a midnight party for the new releases of the books. I had never really wanted to, to tell you the truth, but I supposed that this was the last time I would ever get the chance, so I went.

I called up some friends, and by the end, our party consisted of three people and myself.

Two friends really loved the series as much as I did. One refuses to pick up a book and thought all of this was pretty stupid. Nevertheless, she didn't want to be at home while we were out, so she tugged along.

So me, my other bookworm friends, and my one friend who being there was inconsistent to her general character, all drove to the nearest Barnes and Noble.

It was quite unlike anything I had ever seen to be honest. And I have seen some pretty crazy things in my life.

First of all, it was a fight to get in the door. There were over six hundred people stuffed into this small bookstore I knew so well, yet I was stuffed. I had never seen this many people in a bookstore before. It made me think for a moment that quite possibly the entire world wasn't illiterate.

Second of all, they were almost all dressed in the craziest renditions of the characters. This also made me smile. Not only were they reading, but they were capable to understand the general concept of the book!

Okay, now I'm just being mean. In all honesty, I was very happy to see everyone in Omaha come together like this. The world come together like this for that matter since I knew that every bookstore in the country was doing the same thing.

And what made it crazy? Because let's be honest. The world comes together for a myriad of different things. Has anyone ever watched to FIFA World Soccer Tournament?



REBIRTH A column by Ali Hodge

Over the Net

Dive. Dive again. Get-up and dive once more. That's the life of a volleyball player. But past the bruises and aches there lies a hard earned sisterhood. Players trying to pull their weight so their team can succeed. And when that perfect bump is made, and the kill is finished, your team comes out on top. And your hard work has paid off.

Eagles look to dig for tough wins

BY PATRICK BREEN

Volleyball is a sport often overlooked, but those who look past it will miss the physicality, grace and power of the team sport.

From the graceful dives to the over-powering spikes, the game of volleyball leaves an exciting adrenaline rushing in the veins of the fans and athletes.

And right now, the Eagles are playing to the top of their game.

Pre-season polls ranked Central's volleyball team as number 10 in the state, and the players think they can achieve better rankings.

"We'll stay in the top ten," senior Monica Brown said.

And the coaches seem to believe the same.

"I have high expectations for this team," head coach Jodi Brown said.

Expectations won't mean anything if the team doesn't perform, but so far, they're at their best. The tough games in front of them don't seem to be in their minds.

The Eagles volleyball team has a good start to the season, and the seasoned leadership looks to lead the team to the State Tournament.

"They have a strong chance of being a state qualifying team," Jodi Brown said.

The lady Eagles started the season with two opening wins against the Burke Bulldogs and the Omaha North Vikings, but lost to the number three ranked Millard North.

Losing to another top ten team doesn't discourage the hungry Eagles, it just makes the practices tougher.

In the practices the team works on everything from passing to spikes or kills. And the players lay out to dig for balls almost every play.

The whole practice conditions the teams for tough games down the road.

And there will be plenty of tough games down the road.

Coach Brown said the team plays around 30 to 35 games a year depending on the different tournaments.

The length of the season is long but provides the lady Eagles with plenty of opportunities to show their strength.

The team sees returning seniors out of Monica Brown, Stephanie Hines, Maya Doghman, Jennifer Grant and Kate Humphreys.

But some of the most important facts about the seniors, aren't their stats (although those can be pretty impressive anyway), but the fact that their entire varsity team is friends.

"We (the team) did the challenge at Gifford Park," Jodi Brown said, "and they did really well."

The players play well on the court and off.

"We get along real well," Monica Brown said. "Everyone loves to hang with each other."

The team practices everyday after school in the gym.

They practice everything from digs to kills and in between.

At their practice, one will see the players diving every which way as balls are dropped over the net. They'll jump to get there, and if they don't.

Well, they have to get up and try again. And again.

Volleyball is a game of discipline and technique. From the way one sets, bumps and spikes to the hand one uses to hit the ball while diving.

But the hard determination of the drills will pay-off in the end.

The team looks to several key features to bring home a state qualification, and each one is important as the next. But probably the most important is something the team already has.

Chemistry has always been said to be important to championship teams. And each of the players have it with each other.

Taking senior Stephanie Hines for example.

"She's really supportive," coach Brown said, "it doesn't matter whether she gets a spike or another person does. She cheers for them really loud."



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER
Sophomore Kimberly Lueders tries to block a ball at practice.

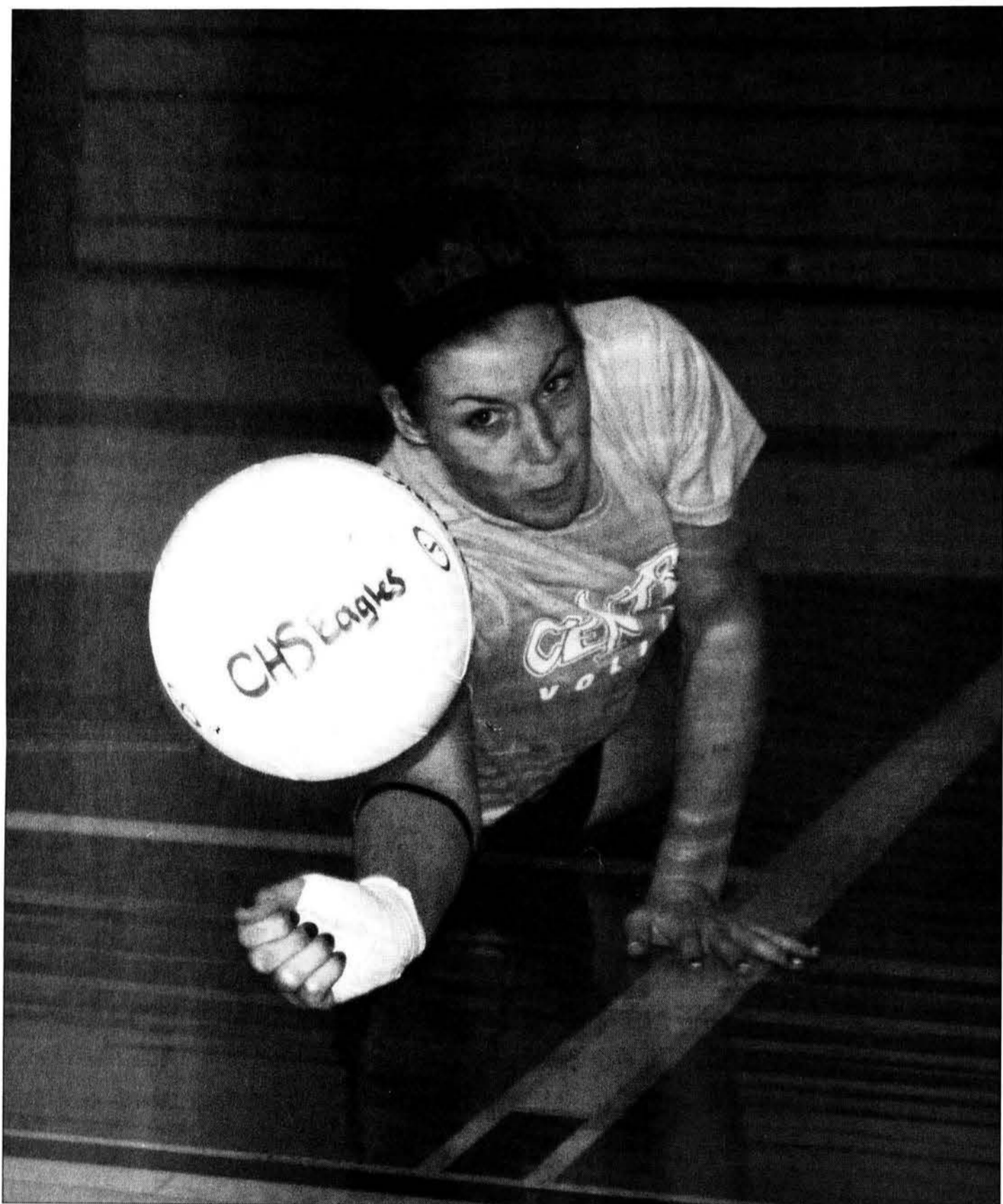


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Senior Monica Brown dives for a ball in a weekday practice. The point of the drill was to get the players to hit the ball with their left hand when on the inside. Brown is one of the several returning varsity members hoping to lead the team to State.

Senior earns scholarship to play Div. I

BY MAX LARSON

Senior Kate Humphreys did not know when she joined her first volleyball team in the seventh grade where it would take her.

"She came in pretty raw," Brown said. "She didn't have a lot of volleyball skills."

But Brown said she had the quickness, arm swing and jumping abilities to become a strong player.

She has since taken those abilities, developed them, and now has earned herself a ticket to enjoying a full-ride college scholarship.

Next school year she will be suiting up to play at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, a school with a Division I program.

She said she contacted the school via e-mail, and they sent scouts to a tournament in Denver she was playing in.

She said, judging by the results, she must have played well to earn the all-expenses paid scholarship.

"It makes me feel good," she said, "My parents don't have to pay for college."

Practice for Humphreys' new team will begin in the middle of next summer.

Her background in competitive sports includes varsity basketball, track, and volleyball.

She has played varsity in each her freshman year, and continued with all but basketball, which she left during her sophomore year.

The fact she did not receive scholarships in these sports does not mean she was not talented at them; she has never missed a state track meet and she won second in the state 100-meter hurdles her sophomore year.

She said, out of the three sports, volleyball is definitely her favorite.

"I like the competitiveness," she said. "I like being on the team."

She said when she first began playing volleyball she wasn't as serious, and slowly through high school and club teams she has put more work into it, which has apparently paid off.

Varsity volleyball coach Jodi Brown said that, although at first she didn't have much experience, Humphreys has shown a lot of growth during her four years in the program.

She now demonstrates leadership in her performance as a talented addition to the team.

"She's turned into being an excellent volleyball player," Brown said.

Humphreys plays the position of outside hitter. She said her job is to spike the ball in the front row, hitting from the left side.

She said she will definitely bring some of her experiences from high school with

her to the next level.

"I've learned to be a team player, that everybody has a place on the team," she said.

Even though volleyball is her sport of choice, the college offer took her somewhat by surprise.

"I am excited," she said. "It just sort of happened. I didn't see myself going to college for volleyball."

She said other people are excited for her as well, that many people she knows have asked her about her scholarship.

She said although the school is not number one in volleyball, it still has a respectable reputation.

"They're not one of the top teams, but they compete," she said.

She said that a draw of the university beyond volleyball is its location.

"It's in Kansas City," she said. "And it's right next to the plaza. That's all a good thing."

She doesn't plan to play volleyball beyond college, she said, especially since the opportunities in volleyball are limited.

"I think I want to play it in college and just be done," she said.

She said Nebraska is a major hotspot of volleyball popularity. Some people here, she said are exposed to a biased view when considering the global acceptance of the sport.

"Pro teams aren't popular," she said.

Her idea is to use volleyball more as a tool to further her education at a minimal cost. She said her plan is to major in liberal arts.

"I want to pursue an occupation," she said.

Though she has done so in track and field, Humphreys has never gone to the state tournament.

She has won personal honors for the sport, including All-City Second Team and an All-State Honorable Mention, not including this year.

She said this year's team has as strong a chance of going to state of any team she has been on in her four years.

Brown agreed that the team could go to state, resting upon a fair amount of experience.

She said this year's team has been ranked among the top ten, and has been so deservedly.

Humphreys said the team is also ranked number seven in the wildcard standings, meaning if the wildcard is achieved, the team gets an automatic slot in the state tournament.

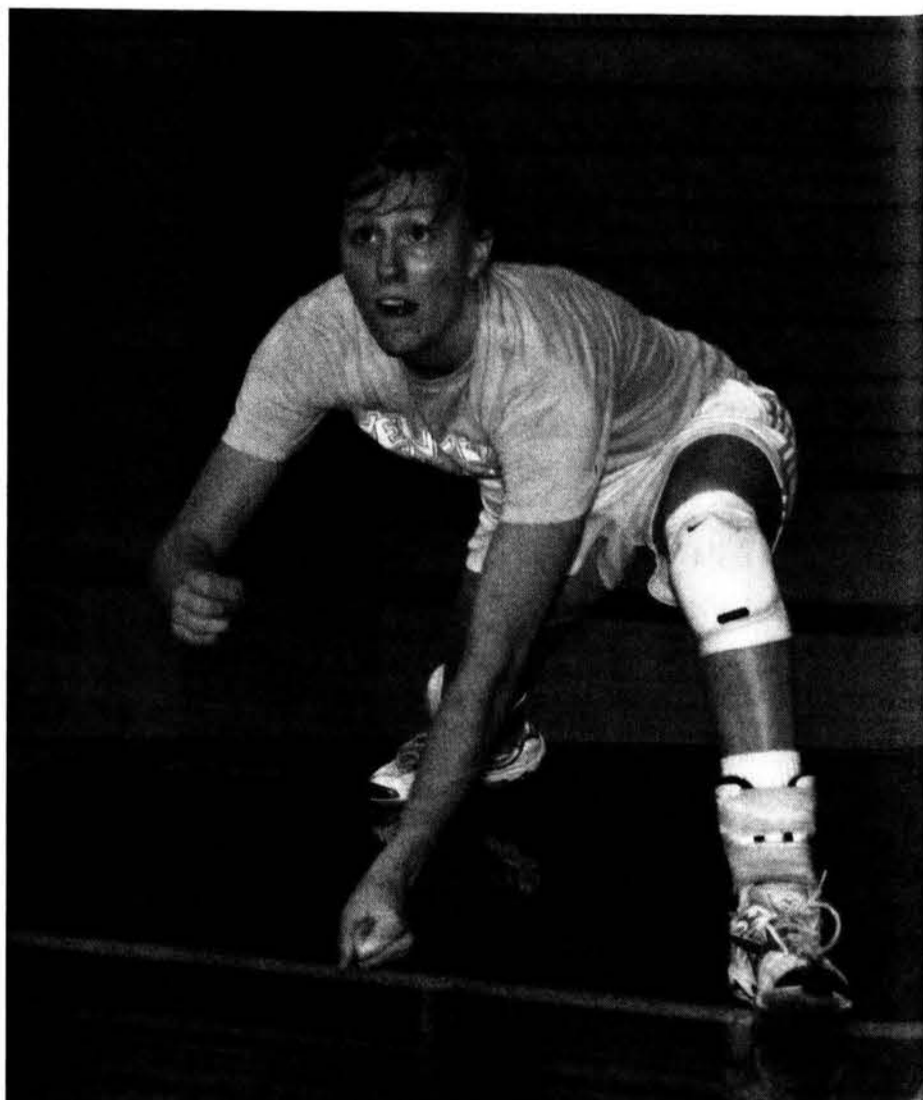


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER
Senior Kate Humphreys lays out for a dig in an after school practice. Dedication and hard work have earned Humphreys a scholarship to University of Missouri in Kansas City.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Senior Elvis Servellon has played paintball for eight years. His career competitively playing started just a year back, but already he is seeing early success. 'E-3', his team placed first in a three person tournament held at Metro Paintball. He said that his oldest brother Vlad got both him and his other older brother alumni Erik. Erik and Elvis both play for 'E-3' and their other competitive team "Dead Reckoning."

Senior wins paintball tourney

BY PATRICK BREEN

They travel at 290 feet per second. And upon impact they explode and instantly draw a player pain and anger.
"It hurts," senior paintball player Elvis Servellon said. "It feels like getting hit with a circular belt."
Luckily, the pain passes after about ten seconds.
"And then you have this awesome bruise," Servellon said.
Elvis knows the sport of paintball.
He works at Ker'splat in charge of safety and referring games. And more importantly, he is a part of E-3.

"E-3 originally started with Erik, Elvis and Eric," he said. "And although the members changed, we still kept the name."
On Sept. 8th E-3 which contains Elvis and his older brother Erik won their first tournament. They had played about five tournaments into the season, but this was their first win.
The tournament was a three person tournament, but teams were allowed to have four on a roster, to allow for some rest. The players on E-3 would alternate every game.
Servellon said that the tournament was tough, although the team did cruise through the first round. The tournament was hosted as a double round-robin, and they performed well in the preliminaries.

"We won all 11 games in the first round," he said, "but we followed with 10 in the second."
Those wins had the team confident, but nothing was an easy win.
"I would say each team had a chance," Servellon said. "We had some teams give us a run for our money."
The games weren't a walkover for the team, in fact the team nearly being eliminated in the semi-finals.
"One game we actually got hit real early," he said. "And Anthony Fink was down one (player) to two."
But never fear, as Fink game through in the clutch and proceeded to eliminate both of the foes remaining players.
Servellon, along with senior Daniel Baker are the front-men for E-3. Their job, Elvis said, was to get half way down the field as fast as they can to bring an advantage to their team.
"(When the adreline kicks in) your performing at 110 percent," Servellon said. "You want to be the fastest player out there."
E-3 has one more tournament left in this year, but Elvis said that isn't his only team. He also plays for "Dead Reckoning."
And that team will play in six national tournaments. Servellon said he was excited about heading to the bigger tournaments. Both him and his brother will play.
"They'll be five players on the team," Servellon said. "But seven will be on the roster."
The larger number of players will make the tournaments shorter not longer. Players will be shooting non-stop.
Servellon got his start from his oldest brother Vlad. One day, Vlad, Erik and Elvis decided to go out and play some paintball. Elvis and Erik hadn't played before, but did well and loved it.

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Both have been playing ever since.
For those that don't know the sport of paintball, the games are fast.
"Usually games don't last more than five minutes," Servellon said.
Players are protected by airbunkers, which are plastic filled with air that provide limited protection from the opposing team.
The fields are 50 yards by about 30 yards and Servellon said that the size of the field causes the game to go faster.
Another key element of the game is the simple fact of the equipment. And its price.
Servellon's entire setup was around 1,000 dollars. He said players can get a whole set-up for about 200 dollars, but the difference would be noticeable.
"Your gear is important," Servellon said. "You get more protection from pricier equipment. I encourage all levels of players to come out and play at Ker'splat," Servellon said.

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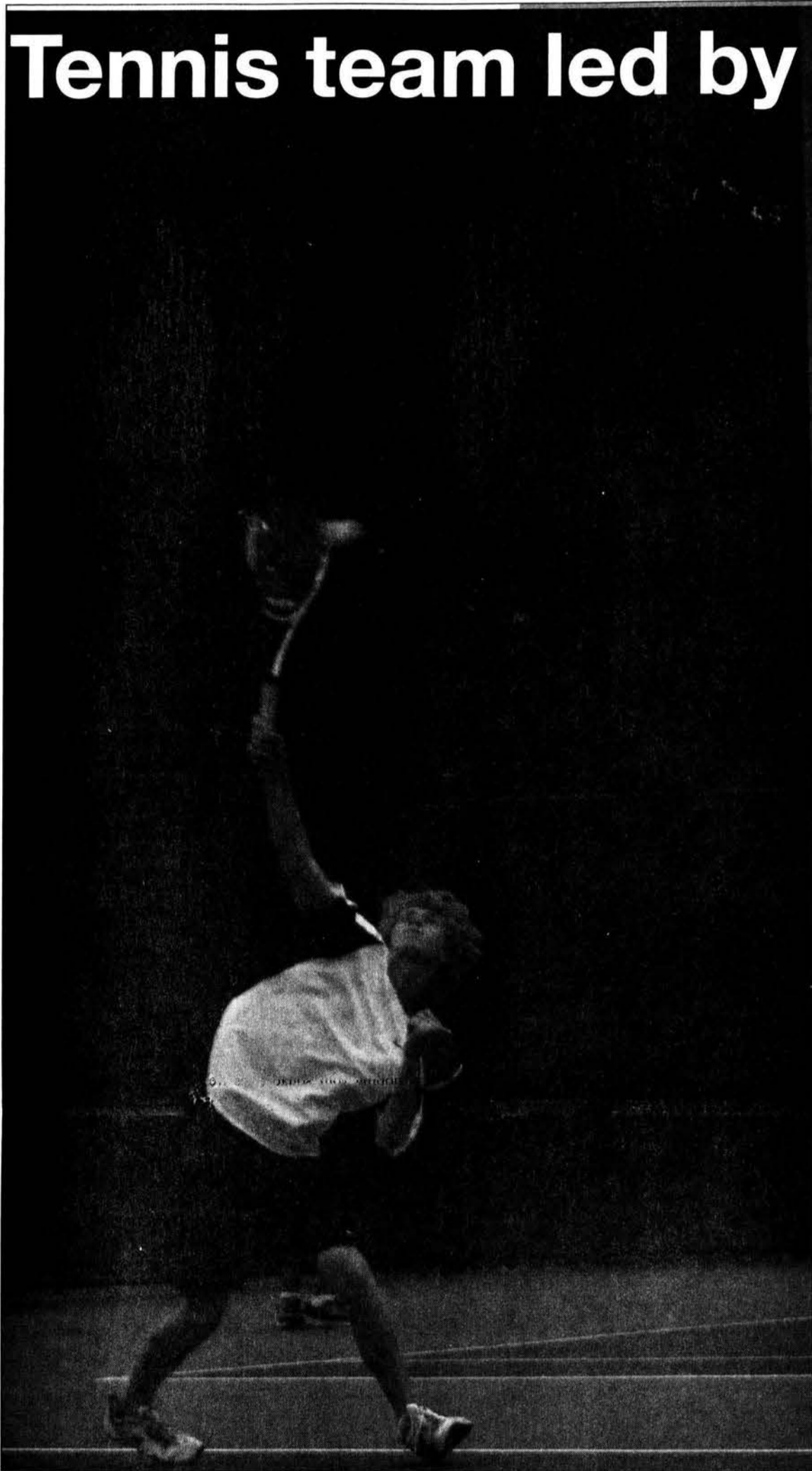
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Hitting it Hard

Coming into the national spotlight more often than ever before the sport of tennis is finding its way to the mainstream media. And at Central two brothers, multiple returning veteran members, a large array of talent to choose from, and a "winner take all mentality," the Eagles are well prepared to challenge the heavy-weight contenders.

Tennis team led by experience and talent

BY PATRICK BREEN



A strong overhand serve doesn't win matches. A great lob, or precision spin won't take home a State title. The key to a win is a complete game. When you're able to combine physical skill with mental agility, a player will find holes and ways to beat their opponent. Something the varsity tennis team knows.

"An older team has consistency, knowledge of other teams. They know the style," coach Bob Tucker said.

The team only has one returning senior, Ben Thomas, but will also see good play from the younger experienced players like junior Mike Walsh, John Lloyd and Zach Clark. Rounding out the top six will be the youngest players, freshman Isaac Thomas and sophomore Cole Peterson.

Even Peterson played varsity last year, and the team has overall strength in different areas. Isaac Thomas, the only one not returning still looks to make a major impact as a freshman, and as a sixth man.

The team practices everyday and the improvements seen over the season will hopefully make a larger impact when preparing for the state tournament.

With five returning players, the team has experience. None of the players made it past the first round of State, but the possibility of taking some wins home this year isn't far off.

"Our goal is improve," Tucker said. "We want to make it to the second round."

Qualifying for state isn't the hard part, Thomas said, its placing a good seed so you can get a first round "easy" win.

Players are seeded at the beginning of the tournament and the number one seed plays the lowest seed. The higher the seed the better chance of a win in the first and second rounds. Once past the first two rounds, the State clinches to the top players, and people will see the State's best.

Central doesn't have a player ranked in the top ten and the team isn't either, but rankings don't matter when the tournament comes around.

Ben said that if the team wanted to rig the system and make it past the first round they could do a few things. First the team would have to play its best players only against teams that they could beat, causing a perfect record.

Then when they reached State, they would have to be seeded high and play weaker opponents.

"It would get you to the second round," Ben said, "but then you would face some really good talent anyway."

The team doesn't plan for any easy wins, as in tournaments they face powerhouses like Creighton Prep, Westside and Millard North. All three have more than two returning talented seniors.

To prepare for these teams, the players and coaches are using different styles and challenges to get ready.

"We just have to practice as hard as we possibly can," said Tucker.

In years past, the Eagles have seen some success, but haven't won a State tennis title since 1985.

To return, the team will have to practice hard and play harder when hitting the court. But the depth and knowledge of the team seems to have the players and coaches in a positive mood.

Once the state tournament rolls around, the teams top talent hope to give the Eagles tennis team some upset magic.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

(Above) Junior Michael Walsh crushes an overhand return in practice. Michael is one of the returning varsity starters hoping to place well enough in tournaments to secure a good seed at State. (Right) Walsh excited by a win, pumps his fist as he rounds the turn in a king-of-the-hill style game.

Varsity tennis brothers: teammates on court, friends off

BY PATRICK BREEN

Two brothers on varsity tennis bring more than blood talent to the table. They also seem to keep the team loose and the atmosphere. Senior Ben Thomas and freshman Isaac Thomas take the number two and six spots respectively on the Eagles tennis team, but off the court their quirky antics make a better story.

Ben: "Say something, Ike."
 Ike (to me): "What do you want me to say?"
 Ben: "He wants you to say something from the heart."
 Ike: Silent pause. "I don't know."
 Ben: "The entire school is going to read this, well at least the literate half."
 They both chuckle, and Ike stammers for a moment and once again repeats that he doesn't know what to say.
 Ben, playing with the tennis ball laughs loudly at his brothers silence.
 Asking Ike what is his best attribute to the team is, he responds about his youth. And his brother agrees poking some fun at his younger sibling.
 "He's a freshman," Ben said. "So he has time to develop. (chuckling)"
 Wondering why the two funny-guys joined tennis rather than a comedy club, I ask them.
 Ike, once again, doesn't really answer but flashes a bright smile. Ben though, has the true meaning.



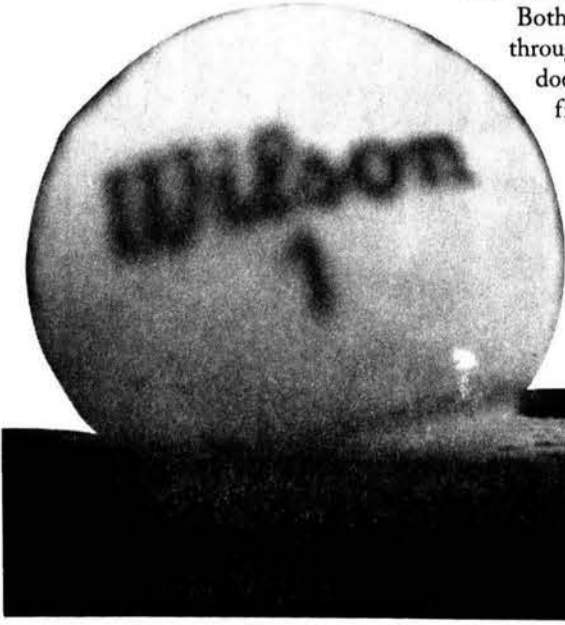
PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER
 Senior Ben Thomas (left) and freshman brother Isaac Thomas (right) are on the same team on the court, but go head-to-head off it.

on.
 "He's so slow," Ben said. "You're (addressing Ike) running for balls, but your basically falling slowly. You have to improve on that."

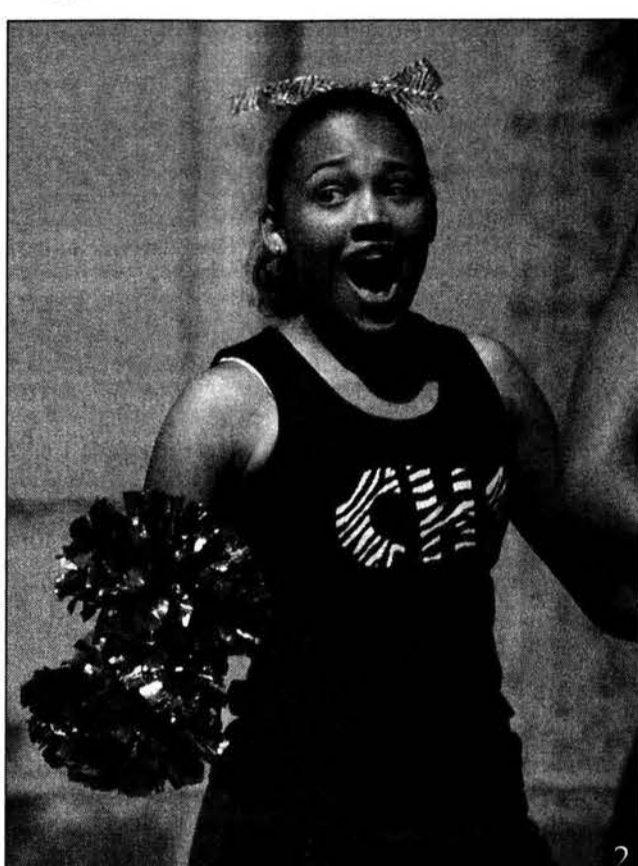
Ike: "I'm going to!"
 The players are more brothers than teammates, and more friends than brothers. They both have been playing tennis from a young age seeing major improvement as the years progress.
 Their mother, Susan Mayberger said that having them both play the same sport on the same team was beneficial.
 "Ben can help by giving rides to practice and tournaments," Mayberger said, "and they can practice and play together."
 The funny comments from each player seem to define their personality, but not their skill.
 Ben has been playing varsity for almost two years and believes the experience helps both him and his brother in the way he can pass down his experience and knowledge.
 Ike appreciates the help and said that his older brother has learned much from his past years on the tennis team.
 The two varsity players might not have ever even played for the sport without the help from an inner-city tennis organization and Chris Foster. Foster helps kids become involved in tennis for free. The two are place a lot of their success and involvement in tennis with Foster.
 "Without him," Ben said, "we wouldn't have started."
 Some of the other foundation in tennis is seen through their mother. She plays tennis and said that she liked to watch her sons play on the same team.
 "When you go to a match," she said, "you have two of them to watch."
 On Sept. 8, Ben placed third in a varsity tournament beating the field and adding some confidence to his own abilities.

Ike hasn't placed in a tournament yet, but seems confident that as his game continues to improve, he will play better and better in tournaments. Ben joins other varsity starters like junior Michael Walsh with placing in tournaments for the Eagles team. None of the players are competing to make it to state, but are looking for better seeds.
 "Everyone makes State," Ben said, "but you hope to make it to the second round."
 Ike is looking to improve and hopes to be better than his brother by his senior year. The two practice with the team and each other to get ready for tournaments.
 Coach Bob Tucker said that Ben's experience and leadership should help the team. Next year, Ben will leave and Ike will be on his own for the team.
 How does he feel about this? Well just ask Ike.
 Ike: "I don't know. What? I don't know?"
 Ben: "He'll struggle."
 They both laugh. But until that day comes, the two plan to help bring some brotherly humor and wins home for the Central tennis team.

"The women," Ben said.
 Both laugh hardily and almost through half an hour, my article doesn't have a basis of facts from either player.
 Hoping to turn them away from their comedy antics, I ask what does Ben bring to the team, specifically prefacing it with a "in all seriousness, Ike."
 "Well...." Ike said, "He brings experience and..."
 Ben: (Coughing) "Team leadership. Captain."
 Flipping the question on its head I ask Ben what Ike needs to improve



Pep rally shows Eagle talent



PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

1. JV cheerleaders get the crowd loud at the first pep rally of the year. 2. Senior activities coordinator Will Robbins yells into the mic to get the spectators pumped for the announcements of the teams.

BY PATRICK BREEN

A glorious bright sunny day. The rays of sun fell on the field like a spotlight sent down from the skies. Weather- check.

The stands were packed, from side to side with students. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors sat in the stands free from ninth hour. Fans- check.

And the final piece of the puzzle would be filled in with a loud senior and some rowdy sports teams. Senior Will Robbins- check. Teams- check.

And the checklist was complete for another start of a seasonal Pep rally.

With multiple seasons off and running, Central celebrated a start to another illustrious year.

The Pep Rally was held Aug. 30th at the Eagles football stadium. Students got out of their ninth period class to go to the assembly.

Most students enjoyed getting out of their last period class, and the players of the Fall sports got to take the field in order to present their talents and games.

"I thought it was pretty sweet," senior class officer Will Robbins said.

Robbins is the activities coordinator for the senior class and he said although their wasn't as much enthusiasm as he wanted, the kids still showed up and cheered for the people they knew.

"It (the crowd) was decent," Robbins said. "I think the fact the Pep rally was not on the day of the game, and a lot of people get out early, was why it wasn't (as loud as he expected)."

In years past the Pep rallies were hosted on the day of the first

game. This year though, the placement fall the day before, and most seemed to think that it wasn't as good as an idea.

But most didn't find it a bad idea to have it during school. And during ninth hour was probably the most opportune time of the day.

The Pep rally showcased many different Central athletes. The volleyball team featured its many varsity seniors and its upcoming games.

And then, the women's golf squad followed by the cross-country, and as always, ended with the football team.

The football team showed its many seniors and its success on the field. Pom squad and cheerleaders took the field and received the most cheers and reaction out of the crowd.

The solid start for all the teams this year show the talent that Central supports on the field.

One of the points of the rally was to give credit to the seniors who don't see much in their respective sports.

It gave the audience a chance to cheer on their friends and Eagle family. And announcing those teams, once again the loudest and possibly the hairiest of the senior class.

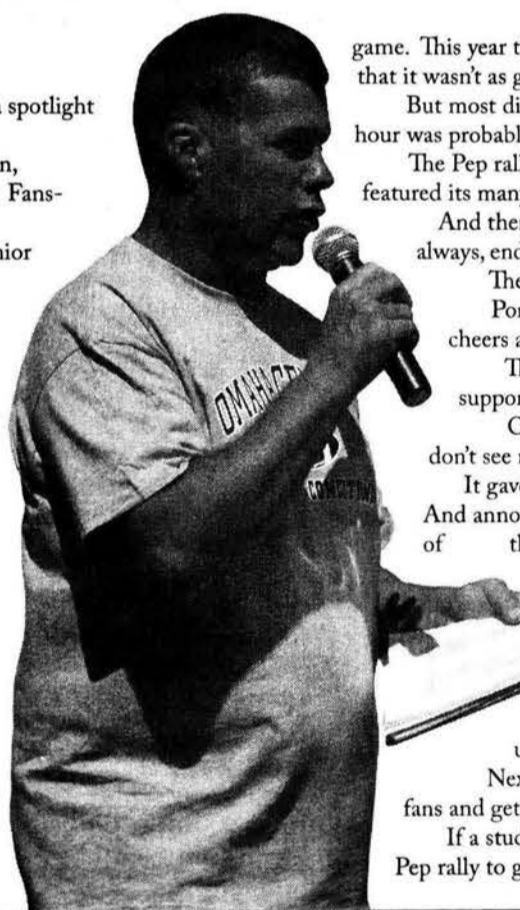
"I was just trying to be enthusiastic," Robbins said.

The players on the field waved casually to their friends and there weren't any major problems.

All the senior class officers joined Robbins on the field. The hope was to show the seniors and the underclassmen who the leaders of the school year would be.

Next year the mic will be passed to someone else to try to hype up the fans and get the school loud for another powerful year of sports.

If a student missed out on the first one, don't worry, there will be a spring Pep rally to get one ready for the next season of sports.



Math teacher instructs martial arts

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Over the summer Central High math teacher, Michelle Vulgamott got married to her husband who she met in martial arts class.

They have been together for two years. She has just started her second year of teaching algebra and math essentials at Central.

Her mom used to teach math at Northwest Missouri State. She would go to classes with her mom and just picked up on math very easily.

Vulgamott started taking martial arts classes four and a half years ago at Duval's Academy of Martial Arts in Maryville, Missouri. Now she goes down there once a week on Tuesdays for her lessons.

The kind of martial arts she specifically takes is called Hapkido. It is pronounced "hop-key-doe". This type of martial arts originated in Korea. "Hap" in Hapkido translates into 'harmony' or 'together'. "Ki" means 'power' and "do" means "the way".

The challenge and the fact that it's very physical are the reasons that Vulgamott enjoys this particular activity.

She now has a second-degree black belt. There are several degrees of black belts.

Vulgamott was always active in school activities and sports in high school. Once she entered college there were no sports offered. From word of mouth she found out about Hapkido.

Vulgamott is now giving Hapkido lessons at Central High. This is not an official Central High club. They are held in the aerobics room. Anyone can join and one does not have to attend Central High.

Anyone ages ten to adult can join. So far they have three members: seniors Kevin Gibbs and Renee Wilder and freshman Roscoe Bryant. The fee is 25 dollars a month. A uniform is needed to participate.

They cost 35 dollars if they are bought from Mrs. Vulgamott. The lessons are held once a week on Fridays at 6pm.

"There are a total of seven academies that are all apart of the American Institute of Modern Hapkido Instruction", explains Vulgamott.

About one to two tournaments are held each year in Omaha and Kansas City. Vulgamott adds, "And martial arts schools from all over the Midwest compete in them."

Wilder has been involved in martial arts and Tae Kwan Doe for seven years now. She said, "I think it's fun, it's a great thing to learn." Although she has been taking martial arts she just took up Hapkido in the summer. Gibbs referred her to the Hapkido lessons held at Central by Vulgamott.

She started taking Tae Kwan Doe at AV Sorenson Library in the recreation center downstairs. These lessons are associated with the American School of Karate and Judo. Although they are associated with each other, Wilder, has two different instructors for each class.

Wilder also takes classes at the American School of Karate and Judo on 156th and Maple.

She devotes four to five hours a week to martial arts. The lessons at AV Sorenson Library and the American School of Karate and Judo are 1 hour long. She attends them three to four times a week. The Hapkido lessons at Central are from six to 8:30pm.

Wilder has a brown belt in Tae Kwan Doe. She will be testing for a black belt in October. In Hapkido she has a yellow belt.

"It gives you discipline, self-control and respect. It also helps you defend yourself", adds Wilder. "I've always had a love for the martial arts." She takes Tae Kwan Doe lessons all year round. She plans on taking Hapkido lessons all year round also. Wilder does not play any other sports officially, but does like to

keep active. Hapkido can benefit many of the students at Central High. It will help their self-esteem, discipline, respect for others, and confidence.

Like any other sport it can also be a benefit to your health. It reduces stress and tension, increases muscle and bone strength, and improves balance, cardio, circulation, and flexibility.



Vulgamott

Junior: pom squad harder than thought



A column by Wynter Davis

Sweat and more sweat that's how I feel when I am at Pom practice and I know that people would question the skills and endurance we have to face everyday.

I want to scream when people think that my job is easy. Try being at Pom practice for four hours doing a whole ten eight count routine straight back to back.

Then we will see how comfortable you are in my position. The moves, the motions, and the stamina you have to put in. Your heart beating out of your chest and your trying to go the extra distance to succeed.

Every dance we learn, remembering all the steps and counts that go along with it. My mind racing with arm movements, leg movements and counting too.

When your dancing you try to let it flow but in reality everyone is counting in their heads ok.

5...6...7...8.

Or having to stretch until your muscles want to give out because they can't take it anymore. Yeah we sit in a circle all day and do gym stretches.

Not really it's a different ball game. Just alone stretching routines are no joke. We sit around and stretch for at least fifteen minutes or more.

Getting your body into a perfect position not letting your hips out. Always remembering to breath and exile. And always pointing your toes.

That's the main rule your toes better be pointed or everything will break loose.

And good luck if your not in tone with your body and can't flex has much.

If anything dancing is just has hard. We may look prissy and wear ribbons in our hair but it's a dog it dog world at camp.

Try getting up about six maybe six fifteen, going to camp and learning your four routines, having them down packed and every motion sharp and your face smiling, then dancing in front of the entire camp.

Going to lunch eating and coming right back to practicing your routines. It's all fun and games until your hoping your squad does well some everyone can get blue ribbons and earning a spirit stick. Yes a spirit stick like in the movies. But with no cheesy urban legend behind it.

We sat up all night trying to remember and learn the routines. Some seniors even had to learn an extra routine and make up their own eight count for all stars. Which took a lot of time for some of them.

All stars are just another part in the program where seniors compete to earn a medal. To show superiority and creativity.

We try all the time to do a routines full out so when it comes time to actually do the performance were not patting like a dog right afterwards, or killing over until you get the two dollar bottle of water in your system.

So yes I think that anything dances like or cheerleading should be considered sports like.

No we don't run up and down the court all day or tackle each other on a play. And we don't smack each other's butt after a good game.

I am not saying any sport is easy yes I couldn't take a hit in football so don't dock me when I say dancing is not that easy.

Try having to dance and shake in front of the whole entire student body. I know it doesn't compare to having stands of people shouting your name and booing at the competition but it's a start.

Or even learn a five eight counts in one day and only have three days to practice. If anyone can pull that off successfully then I will gladly give you a round of applause.

I have many friends who try to mock my dance moves jokingly.

Say you guys do this and all of that with your arms. I laugh because it's just not that simple.

It doesn't bother me that much I know it comes with the territory.

It's not like I am seating here complaining that my nail is broke and I have to get a new coat, I am an athlete also.

Try being a member of the Pom Squad and an athlete. You get respect but only because you're a good athlete and people don't care what you do as long as you come to practice on time everyday.

But I'm asked a thousand and one questions. Then everyone wants to see me do something a dance or jumps. I laugh at some of the things they ask me to do.

But this being my first year on Pom year it's not that hard dealing with Volleyball.

Even though it's very gross when you just get down doing a routine full out when it's five minutes to the bell and I have to run up into the girls locker room to get changed.

Your hairs not right and then you have to walk all the way upstairs to class on time. I rush so I can see my friends before the bell rings.

The one major roll that separates us from the real players from dancers is we have control over what happens in a performance and we can practice. If someone messes up in a dance they can go right back and fix it.

But with sports it's not that simple you can be the best player in the metro have a full ride to college and have an off game.

Yes you can practice to make it better but it's not a possibility that it won't happen again. No one ever has a perfect game and that's the hard part about sports expect the unexpected.

It's like when I go up for a spike. I breath deeply let my mind focus on the ball. Make sure that I don't take my eyes off the ball. I go up strong and reach high then smack the ball with my hand only to realize that the ball is clear cross court.

With dance it's more of a feeling rather than emotion. Your arms moving to the beat your legs flowing into the melody. Having your body on the right counts.

Emotion is there but you better feel something first. But if you still feel that sports can never relate to dancing come and watch next half time.

Junior's memory of basketball exciting, fun



MY SIDE OF THE STORY
A column by Brittney Miller

At the age of seven, my step dad thought it would be fun to teach me how to play basketball. Now, I wasn't a "Tom-Boy" type girl.

I was rather "Girly-Girl". I always had long braids with bows in my hair. I'd choose skirts over pants, with flowers was a must have!

So the first time I tried to shoot a basket, I air balled and barley even reached the rim.

And when I tried to bounce the ball, it just bounced and rolled away.

I was very quick to give up also. My mind drifted away after ten minutes as I thought about playing with barbies and swinging on the swing set.

My step dad, Ray soon gave up on me.

He figured he would put me in a YMCA basketball league and have someone else teach me. That way I could even play with other kids.

The only thing was that I was on a all boys basketball team.

How did he expect me to play on a team with boys when I didn't even play with boys at recess?

Inside, I was nervous, my heart was pounding. They could all dribble up and down the court, shoot baskets and cross people over.

I was scared.

As the practices went on though, and we finally had our first basketball game, I grew competitive. I actually wanted to play and beat their kids.

And when I seen another girl on a all boys team, I had to beat her, because she was my competition. I was going to be the best girl in the league.

When my little brother Lorenzo was old enough to play, we would play together from sunrise to sunset! It was what we lived for; Basketball.

The Butler-Gast YMCA became my second home. My stepdad got a job there, so I'd wake up, eat breakfast and practice.

I became very determined to play daily to better my skills. Like people always say, practice makes perfect!

I still remember the days playing at the YMCA with friends who are still in my life today. The very first time I met Josh Jones, I played him one on one at the YMCA.

And one of my very best friends Jasmy Flowers played with me in the tournaments.

Friendships were made from playing this game I grew to love.

I never really turned into a "Tom-Boy." I was always the same girl who was fixing her hair to look cute before a game.

Years and years went by, and I continued to play. I played with various teams through out elementary and junior high.

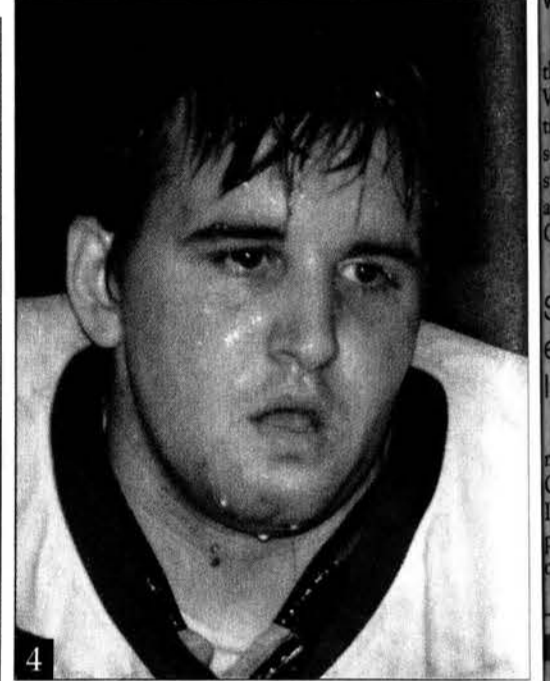
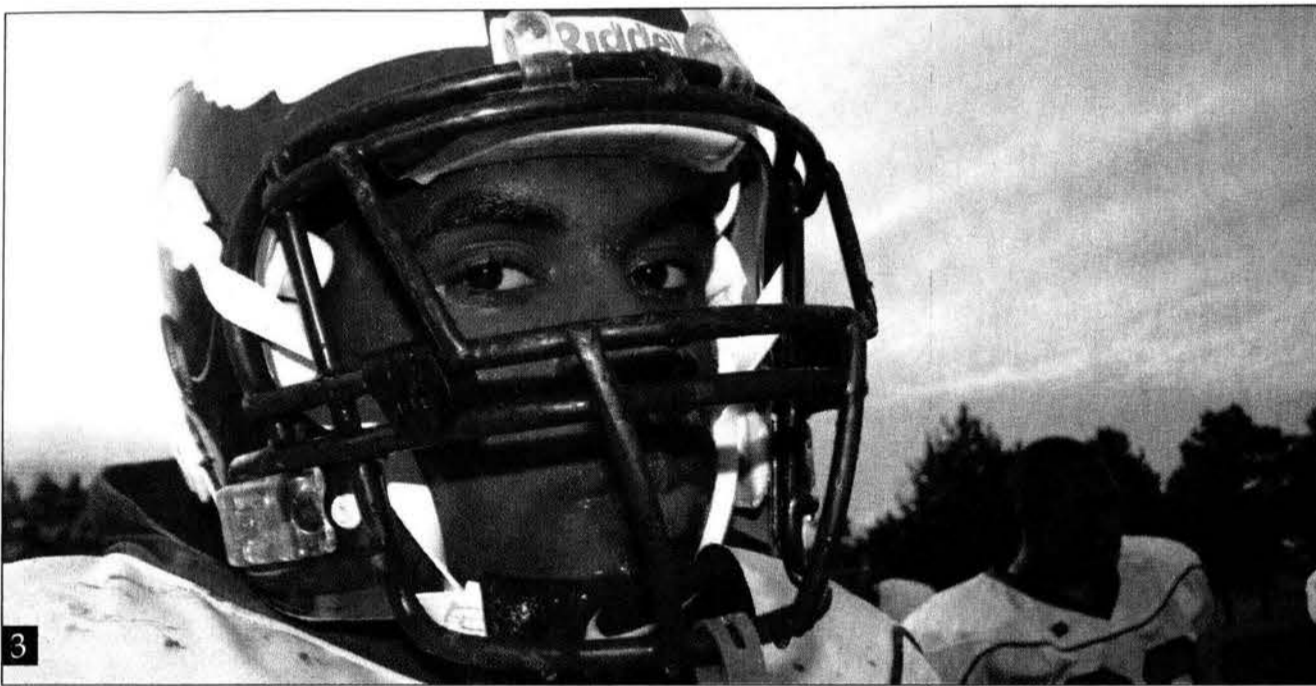
I don't play basketball anymore. Mainly because my main focus is on school. Maybe it was just a temporary phase.

I still love to watch basketball and maybe shoot a couple hoops every once in a while.

But basketball is a game you have to absolutely love to play it.

It takes a lot of time and dedication. I've cried a lot a tears to play.

Scraped my knees up hundreds of times and even fought to get my fouls called.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

1) Senior Ronnell Grixby stiff arms a Crieghton Prep linebacker in the second game of the season, helping the Eagles win at home, 28-14. 2) Running past the outside end, Senior quarterback Chris Griffin heads for daylight and a first down. The drive lead to an Eagles touchdown. 3) Senior Jordan Nauden takes a breather on the sidelines in the second half of the North game. 4) After a long fought game, senior offensive guard Sam Kincaid takes a quick breather. The offensive line gave large holes for senior halfback Ronnell Grixby to run for two touchdowns.

Eagles soar over first foes

BY PATRICK BREEN

Ranked no. 5. Oh, the sweet taste of victory. Or to be more precise, three victories. Three opening season wins leave the Eagles with sweet taste of victory. Something they hadn't done for quite awhile. The Vikings did everything they could to win the opener. Except fumble. Three times. In key situations. And the Eagles defense took advantage and pulled out a close win 21-19 over their rival, the Omaha North Vikings. And Creighton Prep couldn't do anything to stop the Grape Crush, being crushed into a demoralizing 28-14 second loss of the season. And in the third game, the Eagles' seniors Shane and Shaun Prater ran past and over the Benson Bunnies, leading the team to a 36-14 win. The end results leave the Eagles in a prime position to be in the best shape of the division and possibly State in years. The goal, head coach Jay Ball said, is to be State Champions. After only five wins last year, the team is looking for a much stronger showing. "If we only win five (games) this year," Ball said, "we'll be really disappointed." The three wins are leaving the Eagles with confidence heading into the Bryan Bears game. "Well, first of all, hard work breads confidence," Ball said. "Get a couple of wins over two good teams and we are confident." Looking for redemption from last seasons first round state loss, the Eagles are off at a running pace. But something that might slow them down, might not be a single team, but the

district as a whole. Both Millard South and Millard West are in Central's district, and the team needs to win the district to make it to State. "Our whole district is tough," Ball said. The Eagles will play five teams in their own district, and four games outside of it. The team is taking one game at a time. In district games the team needs to play well and challenge teams to keep a high rating and win the district. The teams success stems from its experience. With seniors scattered all over the offense and defense, the players play the game with great technique and knowledge. Quarterback Chris Griffin, runningback Ronnell Grixby, and wideouts Shane and Shaun Prater, are just some of the players returning and receiving collegiate scholarships. "Those four players have been playing for at least three years," Ball said, "and some have even won a State Title (for Basketball). When they step on the field, they know their the best athletes out there." Each of them have made a major impact this season on both ends of the ball. The team will look to continue their winning habits against next foe, the Bryan Bears. And following the Bears the schedule could get a lot tougher, so the Eagles prepare. And hope that their hard preparation will bring wins. With all the talent, with all the skill, the team still needs to improve, said Ball. "We're going to need to improve on our techniques and fundamentals," Ball said. The tightening of the screws should leave the Eagles in a great place for the rest of the season and a shot at the State Title.

Eagles o-line in demonstration

Some of the most important players on the field don't usually get the credit they deserve, but with out these hog-mollies up-front, the running back wouldn't leave the backfield.

The agile offensive line pulls the guard and creates a lane against North. The numbers represent the number of players contained by the offensive line.

Hole in the defense



PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK BREEN, REGISTER