National Pacemaker Award Winner

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the Omaha Central High School

REGISTER

Cornhusker Award Winner

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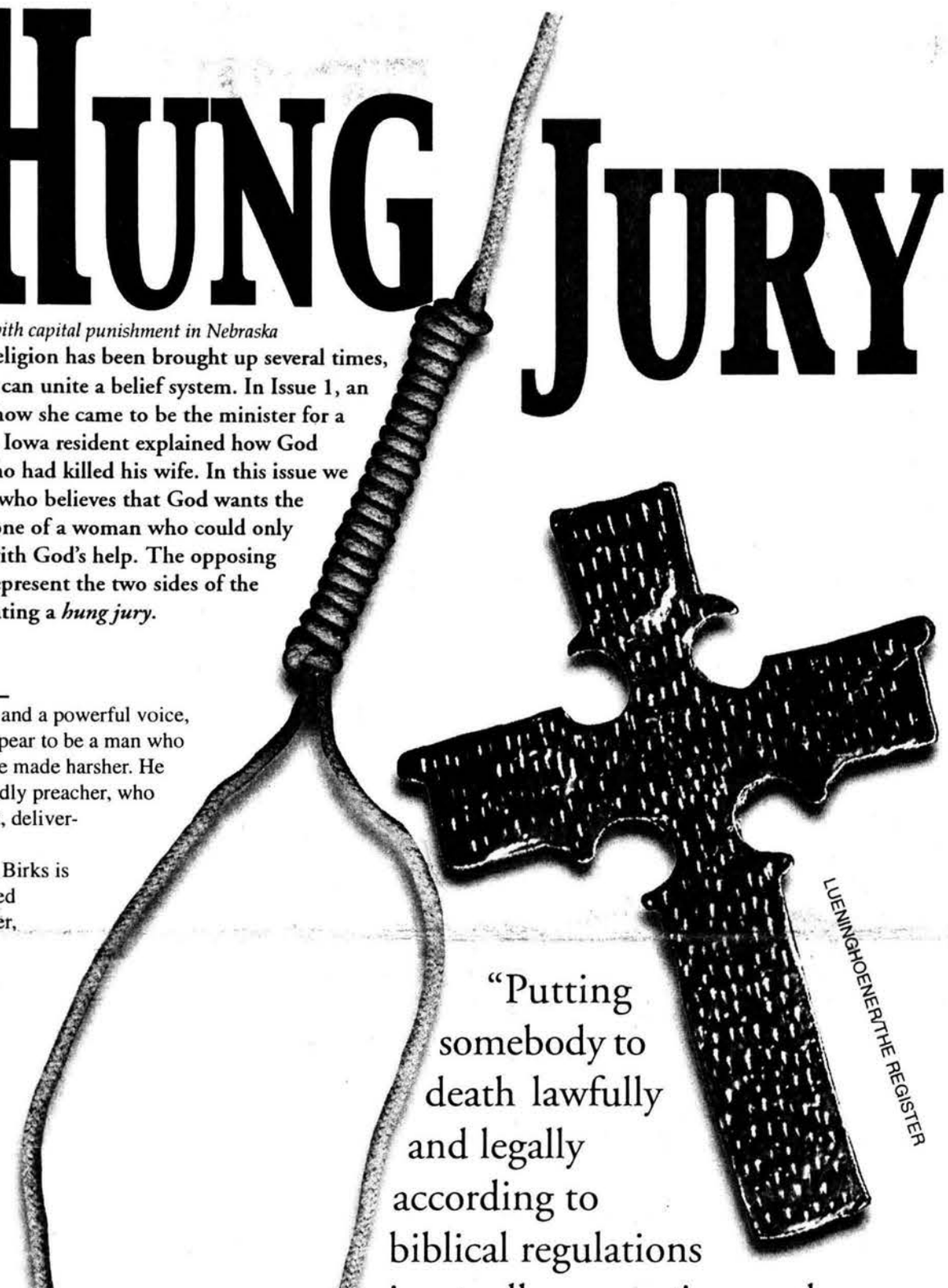


Birks

HUNG JURY

Third in a three-part series dealing with capital punishment in Nebraska

Throughout this series, religion has been brought up several times, showing how capital punishment can unite a belief system. In Issue 1, an Omaha woman told the *Register* how she came to be the minister for a man on death row. In Issue 2, An Iowa resident explained how God helped him to forgive the man who had killed his wife. In this issue we offer two accounts, one of a man who believes that God wants the death penalty to be harsher, and one of a woman who could only forgive her daughter's murderer with God's help. The opposing views in the stories in this issue represent the two sides of the death penalty argument, thus creating a *hung jury*.



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

"Putting somebody to death lawfully and legally according to biblical regulations is actually supporting and lifting up the image of God," -Dr. Kelly Birks

By **Matt Wynn**

With a patient look in his eyes and a powerful voice, Dr. Kelly Nelson Birks does not appear to be a man who believes the death penalty should be made harsher. He much more closely resembles a kindly preacher, who would feel right at home in a pulpit, delivering a sermon.

So it comes as no surprise that Birks is indeed a pastor at Messiah Reformed Church. What is surprising, however, is that he speaks out often on the subject of the Nebraska death penalty, or more specifically, how the current death penalty could be made more severe.

"Putting somebody to death lawfully and legally according to biblical regulations is actually supporting and lifting up the image of God," Birks said.

Birks said that he formed this opinion over the course of his entire life, but he became more and more adamant in his beliefs once he got into college. He developed his beliefs even more while preaching in various denominational churches across the nation.

He said that his views on the death penalty are based strictly in the Bible, which he said is the word of God.

He said that his beliefs regarding the death penalty mostly come from the Old Testament in the Bible, where there is a detailed description of exactly how the judicial system should be run.

"It is my belief that if the court system in the United States would come underneath the purview of God's court system, which is a universal court system, then you would have a whole lot less crime. Crime on this level would go on an immediate sharp decline and our society would be a whole lot healthier," Birks said.

Birks said the reason America has so many problems with homosexuality, kidnapping and crime is because the country does not carry out the word of God.

"If a man with full knowledge and intention puts another man to death, hides and lays in wait for him, kills him, then the Bible says that that man should die. That soul should die," Birks said.

Birks said that everything about the United States judicial system should be changed to match the judicial system outlined in the Bible.

Everything, he said, including the method used for executions.

"Stoning," Birks said, "...the consequences for those actions [adultery and murder] taking place was stoning."

Birks said that there is a very good reason that stoning is the biblically ordained method of execution. He said that the Bible states that in order for there to be an execution for a capital crime, there must be two witnesses.

Those two witnesses would be the first to stone the guilty party.

Birks said that this was done to ensure that the witnesses were telling the truth. Birks said that he thinks this rule was put in place because if a witness knew that he would have to kill the defendant if the defendant was found guilty, then the witness would not want to lie.

And if they did lie, Birks said, they would have to be put to death.

Other reasons a person could be executed by stoning to death would be homosexual behavior, kidnapping, murder, cursing one's mother or father or witchcraft.

"I think that when you have these massive massacres, or wars, or kids pulling guns in schools and dozens of people being killed, I think this is all part of the parcel of the battle of a nation that has dishonored God and has sinned against him. And sin has consequences," Birks said.

Birks said although he believes his views are completely correct, he can definitely see the point of view of those who are opposed to the death penalty.

"I think that I can certainly relate to the folks that are opposed to the death penalty. I can relate to their feeling in this, their sense of, 'How can we put somebody to death? Aren't we doing exactly what this person has done? Doesn't this just reduce us down to that same level?' and I have to say, 'No, you have got to look at the whole picture as God's word brings it across. It all comes down to this: Who has the authority over mankind?"

Turn to Page 3 to look at how religion affected Marietta Jaeger's views on the death penalty.



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTER

MARCHING FOR EQAULITY: Chris Gorga (10), Alex Garcia (12) and Colin Rinaker (10) march in a rally against the passed initiative 416, which denies gay marriage in Nebraska. The rally ran from 24th and Dodge to 42nd and Dodge street.

Students rally against 416

By **Michael Gerhardt**

Before initiative 416 passed, many Central students participated in two rallies around Omaha to protest 416 on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Monday, Nov. 6.

The rally on Nov. 4 began at Central and ralliers marched up Dodge St. to 40th Street and back. The rally on Nov. 6 began at the Crossroads mall at 72 and Dodge St and extended along Dodge to 90 st.

Senior Alex Garcia organized the rally held at Central so he could make his opinions against 416 known.

"[Initiative 416] is a blatant violation of constitutional and civil rights," Garcia said.

Many Central students said they believed their efforts against 416 mattered, even if 416 passed.

Garcia said the youth involvement against 416 showed the next generation would not stand for discrimination.

"Even if it didn't make a difference, it made people think the youth cared about the future. We definitely surprised them," junior Danny Whelan said.

Freshman Shera Baumel said people were very impressed by the teen-age involvement and most people didn't expect as much involvement from teen-agers. Baumel said people assume teen-agers are empty minded simply because they're young.

Baumel said she believed if more high school students could

Turn to 416, page 8

College

Requirements cause OPS to reconsider standards

By **Ally Freeman**

The freshman class of 2005 will have new graduation requirements if the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) approve an increase in math and science requirements.

Jim Harrington, math supervisor for OPS, said he supports the increased standards.

"Two years are not sufficient requirements,"he said. "Even students who struggle need certain math concepts available to them."

He said aside from OPS there are other driving forces in the changes.

Most notably, he said, is the recent surge by colleges and universities to increase standards.

Garland Jarmon, asst. director of admissions at Creighton University, said he thinks boosting math and science requirements is definitely a positive change. Jarmon said additional classes would provide a better basis for college.

He said that Creighton currently requires Algebra 1 and two additional math classes. The classes could include Geometry, or Pre-Calculus, among others. Creighton requires only two years of science, he said. Despite the admissions policy, Jarmon said Creighton encourages its applicants to exceed the requirements.

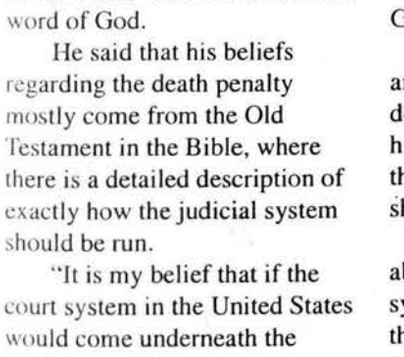
Jarmon said he does not often find students who have not met math and science admission requirements.

"Most students have exceeded our standards," Jarmon said.

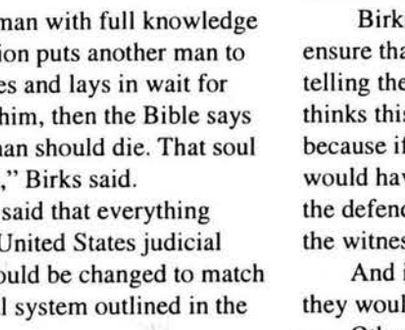
Carmen Varejcka-McGee, asst. director of admissions at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL), said UNL increased its admissions requirements in 1997. She said prior to 1997 UNL had only required two units of math and sciences. Now UNL requires four years of mathematics and three years of sciences, Varejcka-McGee said.

She said they often have students who do not meet the core course requirements because their high schools did not match the

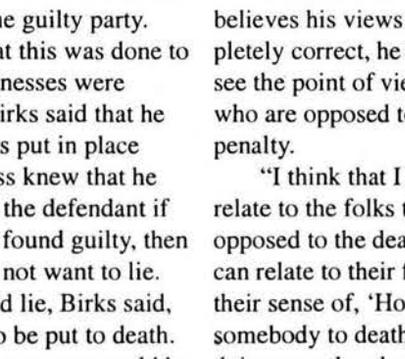
Turn to STANDARDS, page 8



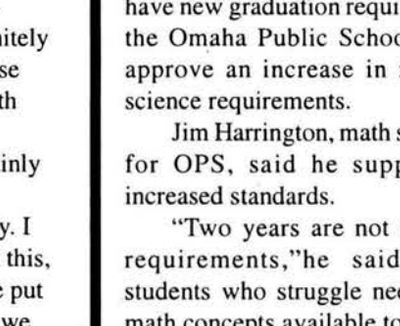
Season ends with loss- **page 16**



Blue October- **page 9**



Election analysis- **page 6**



Post-election coverage- **page 2**

Index

News/Features..... 1,3,8
Politics.....2
In-depth.....4-5
Opinion.....6-7
Entertainment.....9-13
Sports.....14-16

Winners & Losers



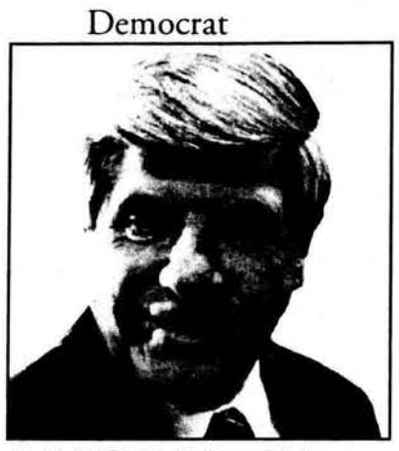
Republican

WON? George Bush
President



Democrat

WON? Al Gore
President



Democrat

WON Ben Nelson
Senate



Republican

LOST Don Stenberg
Senate



Republican

WON Lee Terry
House

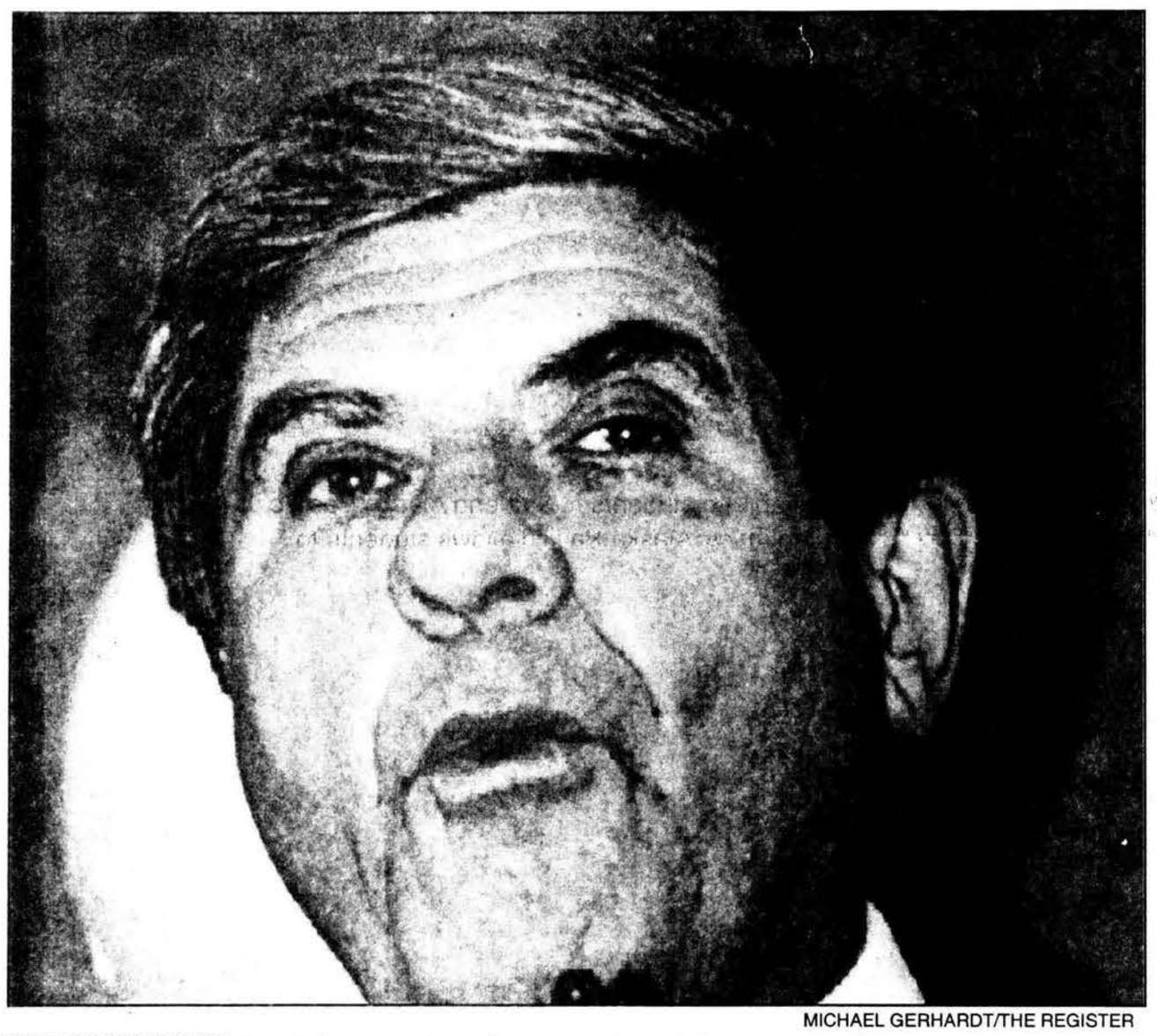


Democrat

LOST Shelley Kiel
House

It was a long, hard night

Nelson wins Senate, Democrats lose House



MICHAEL GERHARDT/THE REGISTER

NELSON WINS Ben Nelson speaks to his supporters at the Democratic victory party at the Holiday Inn at 72nd and Grover streets. Nelson beat Don Stenberg for the Senate seat left by Bob Kerrey.

By Michael Gerhardt and Matt Wynn

The Democrats left the election with few victories in Nebraska, but after the long night, they earned the Senate seat they worked so hard for.

Their supporters crowded around two television sets, anxiously awaiting the latest election results at the Democratic victory party at Holiday Inn on Grover street on Nov. 7.

Some sat with their heads in their hands, some sipped their beer, others simply watched the band.

People from all walks of life came to show their support for their favorite candidates, the Democrats, of course.

Midway through the night, the Democrats were losing their races. Ben Nelson was quickly losing his landslide lead to competitor Don Stenberg, which worried the crowd.

At the same time, Shelley Kiel was losing her chances at a congressional seat to incumbent Lee Terry, and Diane Battiato was on the verge of defeat by incumbent Richard Takechi.

"I don't want to be here," senior Nick Joerz, student democrat president, said. "This is depressing."

Local band Paddy O' Furniture attempted to raise spirits by playing an animated Irish tune and donning their trademark foam hats.

But their music often fell on deaf ears because most people either complained about the music or ignored them and focused on the election.

"Nelson will win," Jack McHale, the legislative coordinator for the National Treasury Union said. "I feel very safe on that."

A graduate student at UNMC Medical Center, LaDon Bean, said it was no surprise that Nelson was in the lead. Bean said Nelson had won all of the senatorial debates by a clear margin and he was surprised when Nelson didn't win against current Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel.

Kiel was quick to show her support and sureness in Nelson.

"Ben Nelson is eminently more qualified than Stenberg," Kiel said.

Others were not quite so sure.

"I hope he wins, it's getting harder and harder for a Democrat to win in Nebraska," Fred McIntyre, a Nelson supporter, said.

Before long, the congressional race had been decided. Kiel had been defeated by a substantial margin by Terry.

After Kiel's concession speech, the crowd trurned its attention to the Senate race, where Stenberg was in the lead by a 3000 vote margin.

Still, Nelson kept his perspective.

"Just earlier, I think it was just after I heard Stenberg was in the lead, I said, 'You know, I'm not having a lot of fun right now. But I remember four years ago having a lot less fun."

But by 1:30 AM, the votes had been tallied and Nelson had come out on top.

Republicans suffer through long night, still lose Senate bid to Democrats

By Joe Meyer

All three Republican candidates for the House won. However, they could not secure the open Senate bid.

At Attorney General Don Stenberg's victory party in the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, everyone knew the night would be long to see the results of the Senate election.

"You are going to need your sleeping bags tonight," Gov. Mike Johanns joked.

Although Don Stenberg, Nebraska's attorney general, eventually lost his race, it was close, just as Johanns predicted it.

"If Stenberg was within 7 to 8 thousand votes, he's always in it," Johanns said during the night.

The overall approach at the party was to stay close in the eastern part of the state and gain support from the west later in the night.

"If he stays three or four points going out west, he can pull it out," Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad said.

Nebraska GOP Chairman Chuck Sigerson agreed.

"All we need to do is keep it close in eastern Nebraska and we will win out west," Sigerson said during his introduction of the candidate.

Coming into the night, the attorney general was never favored in any poll. In fact, before the primaries, polls projected Stenberg losing to former governor, Ben Nelson, by more than 30 points.

This fact did not discourage the crowd that was present to support Stenberg. Many area politicians pointed to exit polls that were pointing in favor of Stenberg.

"We are very optimistic," Sigerson said before the night began. "We are going to win tonight."

Many people compared Stenberg to incumbent Sen. Chuck Hagel when he was elected four years ago.

"I remember a guy named Chuck Hagel," Johanns said. "He never led in any poll, but he won by 14 points."

It seemed like the tide was turning around 11 p.m.

With 48 percent of the counties tabulated at 10:30, Stenberg was more than 3,000 votes behind Nelson.

Then, at 10:50, the crowd erupted when they saw that their candidate had pulled ahead with a 3,000-vote lead of his own.

The Republicans could not contain themselves.

"I think that former Gov. Ben Nelson has that déjà vu feeling in the pit of his stomach right now," Doug Bereuter, Nebraska's newly re-elected first district Congressman said.

"I want to thank you for sending me a Republican colleague," Sen. Chuck Hagel said to the crowd of supporters.

Stenberg's success never held up.

In the early hours of the morning, after all the votes were counted, Nelson emerged with a 12,000-vote win.

Even after the final results were in, Stenberg never conceded the election.

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Woman shares story of forgiveness, daughters death

By Matt Wynn

When Susie Jaeger was abducted, molested and brutally killed, her mother said she was afraid that grief and rage might consume her. But instead of letting that happen, Marietta Jaeger Lane turned to God and chose a different path.

Or so she said during a speech she gave at the annual dinner for Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty on Nov 11.

Marietta said her family went on a vacation to Montana in 1973 from their home in Michigan. She said they planned to go on a month-long hiking and camping trip through the forests of the state.

Marietta said that about a week after school ended, they left on what she called her, "dream vacation."

The family had been vacationing for a few days when they decided to camp near Three Rivers, Mont. They were planning to stay there for the night, and then move on the next morning.

"My lips just skimmed across her [Susie's] cheek as I kissed her goodnight. And she said, 'Oh no momma, not like that!' And she climbed out of her sleeping bag and she crawled across her sister and she got right in front of me," Marietta said, "And she threw her arms around me and gave me a big, big kiss right smack on my lips. And she said, 'There momma, That's the way it should be!"

Marietta said she now praises God for that memory, as that was the last time she saw her daughter alive.

Marietta recalled discovering that Susie's disappearance in the middle of the night. A hole had been cut in the tent right next to where she was sleeping and the two stuffed animals that Susie slept with every night were lying on the grass next to the tent.

"There was no sign of Susie and it was clear something terrible had happened," she said.

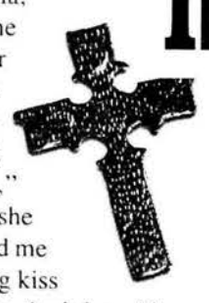
Marietta said her family and she immediately picked up flashlights and started searching all over the campground for Susie.

Finding nothing, Marietta said she then went into the nearest town and got the town marshal. The marshal must have known it was out of his league, Marietta said, because he called in the sheriffs department and the FBI.

The next day an intensive search was started.

"There was just all of this activity going on," Marietta said, "And all we could do is sit at this picnic table. And watch and wait. And wonder and wait. And wait and wait and wait."

But the searches continued. People stood fingertip to fingertip and combed the fields in search of Susie's body. Possible suspects were being questioned. Still nothing turned up.



HUNG JURY

"Finally, a day came that just pushed me right to the edge," Marietta said, "People in planes who had volunteered their time and were searching for Susie all over that land. ...Boats were dragging the river. And the boats would go a little ways and then they'd stop and pull up the net, check the contents. And every time the boat would stop, my heart would stop. Because I was terrified that they were going to pull up Susie."

That night, Marietta said to her husband, "Even if we get Susie back and she's okay, if I see that guy, I could kill him."

Right after she said that to her husband. Marietta said she heard a voice say loud and clear, "But that's not how I want you to feel."

She said that she now believes this was God speaking to her.

Marietta said she fought that voice for almost the entire night. But every time she would convince herself that she hated Susie's abductor, the voice would come back.

Marietta said she remembers spending most of the night thinking it over. She would have to be strong. She needed herself to be. Her family needed her to be. And Susie would need her to be, when Susie came back home.

Almost one year after Susie's disappearance, a reporter from Montana interviewed Marietta at her home in Michigan. In his story, he quoted Marietta as saying, "I'd give anything for the opportunity to talk to the kidnapper myself."

By accident, the story was in the paper a day before the anniversary of Susie's disappearance. Marietta said that she thinks the kidnapper took this as a challenge, because that night, exactly one-year after he had taken Susie, he called Marietta.

They talked for almost an hour. Marietta explained to him that she had forgiven him. She still wanted Susie back, but what she really wanted was to know how he could help him.

"At that moment, he broke down, and he wept, and he wept. And he said, 'I wish you could remove this burden from me,'" Marietta said.

By chance, Marietta said she had remembered to turn on the tape recorder attached to her phone before talking to the man, and during the conversation he had let his guard down so much that he gave enough information for the FBI to identify him.

The man's name was David Meirhoffer, and he lived in Montana only three miles away from where the Jaegers had camped

Turn to Jaeger, page 8

Junior's Israel trip postponed for safety reasons

By Ally Freeman

Reoccurring problems in the Middle East have hit close to home for one Central student.

Timika Scott was scheduled to leave on a trip for Israel sponsored by the American Israel Friendship League (AIFL) in mid-November, but the departure date has been delayed three months because of safety issues.

Scott said she was disappointed on learning the trip was postponed.

"I was getting really anxious and so much preparation had gone into it," Scott said.

Although she was not concerned with the safety factor, she understands the decision was made for their personal protection.

Jan Gleason, a personnel administrator in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) is in charge of coordinating the program for OPS. She said that the sponsoring organization in New York made the decision to wait until February to send the students. She said they will not send students when there is any possibility of danger.

"The students safety is the foremost concern for everyone," Gleason said.

Scott first heard about the trip in her American Government class last year. She thought it would be a once in a lifetime opportunity and felt she had a good chance in being selected.

To apply, each student had to complete an application, write an essay, submit teacher recommendations and go through an interview. Each OPS high school could select two individuals to be interviewed.

Gleason said the interview committee was looking for students who wanted to learn more about the Middle East, had good communication skills and were ready to share their experiences upon returning home.

"We are truly looking for young ambassadors," she said.

Gleason said the national program invites between 70 and 80 students from across the country to participate.

Scott said she was honored at being chosen and given the opportunity to travel to Israel a country she knew little about. Scott said three other students from the Omaha Public Schools were selected as well.

"I was so excited, it was like a dream," Scott said.

In preparation for the trip, Scott and the other participants have been taking classes every Sunday since August. She said they study things such as the history, background and culture of Israel.

While in Israel she will stay with two host families. Scott said the schedule primarily includes touring, but they will go to school for one day to experience the differences between school in the United States and Israel. She said she is not concerned about the problems the language barriers will present.

Scott said it is the first time she has traveled abroad and hopes to return to Omaha with a new perspective on the world.

"I hope to come back and be able to spread the knowledge I have gained about Israel to the rest of the community," she said.

COLLEGE CORNER

University of Idaho
Location: Moscow, Idaho
Admission: 92 percent accepted
Enrollment: 11,500
Average class size: 18
Housing: Dormitories, apartments along with fraternaties and sororities.
Academics: The University of Idaho has 154 undergraduate majors to specialize in. The Enginerring progam at the university was top ranked by the Fundamental Engineering Exam. Also, the university allows students to enter a five year architecture study, which they graduate from with a masters degree.
Average test scores: 960-1200 SAT, 20-26 ACT
Tuition: $12,476
Interesting facts: Linoel Hampton Jazz Festival, sponsored by the university, has been ranked as the best jazz festival in the world.

University of Nevada: Reno
Location: Reno, Nevada
Admission: 86 percent accepted
Enrollment: 6,045
Average class size: N/A
Housing: Dormitories, apartments, fraternaties and sororities avaliable.
Academics: The University of Nevada:Reno offers students the chance to double major, become exchange students, study abroad and study in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program.
Average test score: 910-1160 SAT, 19-25 ACT
Tuition: $13,124
Interesting facts: The University of Nevada: Reno only requires standardized test scores for placement, not for admission. The University of Nevada: Reno does not accept AP credit hours completed in high school.

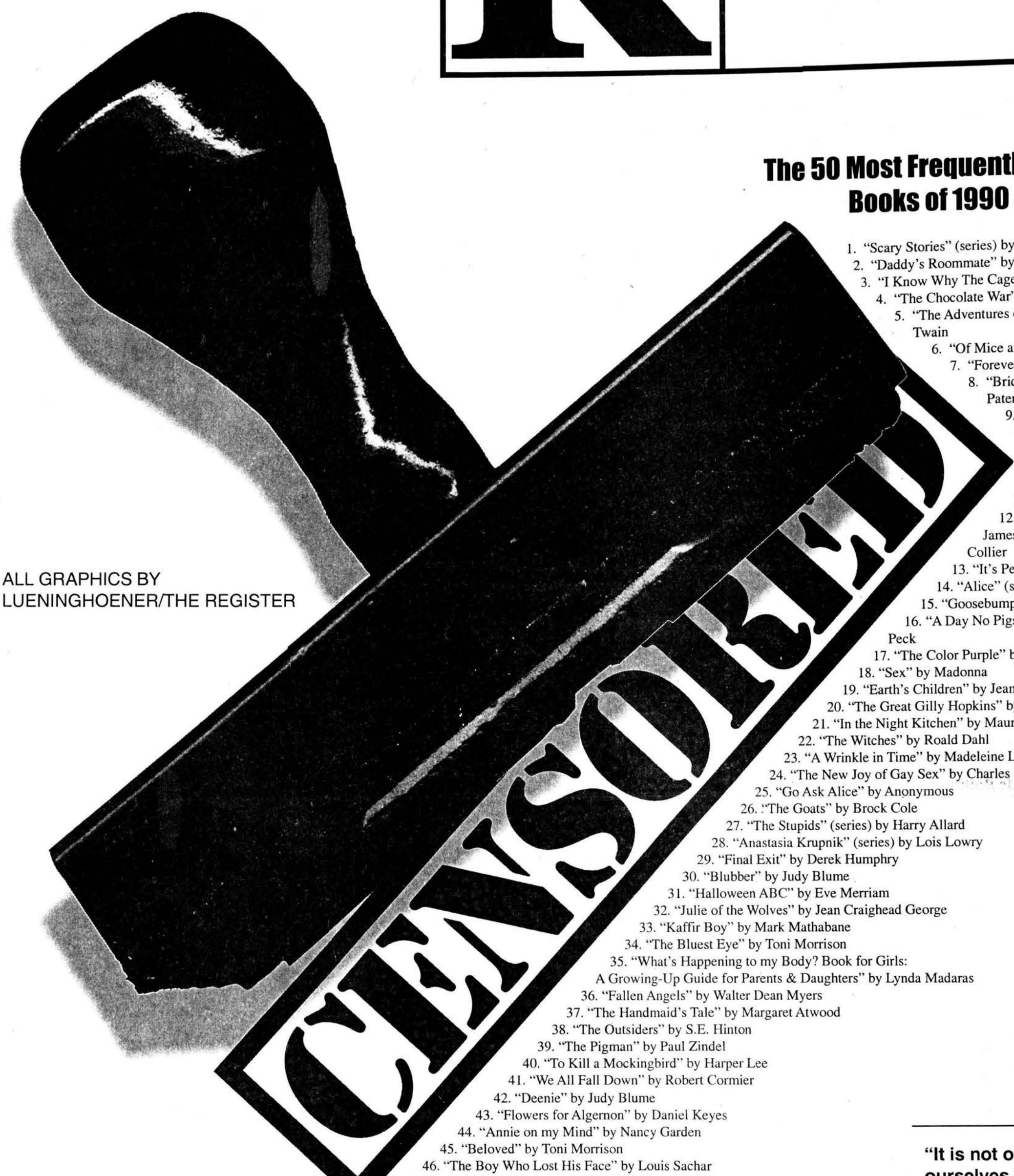
Alaska Pacific University
Location: Anchorage, Alaska
Admission: N/A
Enrollment: 182
Average class size: N/A
Housing: Dormitories and apartment services are available to students that attend Alaska Pacifiic.
Academics: Alaska Pacific allows students to double major, exchange students, independent studies and internships. The university also offers a weekend college program.
Average test score: 850-1180 SAT, 18-26 ACT
Tuition: $13,120
Interesting facts: Alaska Pacific is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. One hundred percent of entering freshman receive financial aid of some form. Interview needed before acception canbe completed.

Source: *The College Handbook*, 35th Edition, 1998

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Hc

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Like a virgin

Like a sailor

Like a drunke sailor

Every p

"Did you eve one say, 'That w er be banned b ligh read it and it very damaging to

ry Jac

"It is not our business to inve ourselves but only to be clear main outlines to be followed b in making their stories and the li d which they must not be allowe

Plato, The R 85 B.C

Provocative clothing condemned by OPS, principal says

By Danielle Rollins

The clothing that students are allowed to wear to school should be censored according to policy and personal decency, Dr. Thompson said.

Thompson said that while school policy and procedure enforce th e dress code, it comes from common sense as well.

Clothing that promotes gangs and violence or distracts students will not be allowed in school, he said.

Sophomore Bob Clary said that clothing is a statement on the part of the individual, and the school should not limit the student's right to wear what he wants.

"Clothing is a form of expression," Clary said.

Clary said he thinks that the students should be allowed to wear what they feel expresses their personality.

He said that he uses his clothing to express the kind of person that he wants people to see.

Junior Michael Heller said that there are some places that explicit and provocative clothing is inappropriate.

"I think that school is a learning environment," Heller said. "[It is] not a place for lewd clothing."

According to the student handbook and standard OPS policy, the development of good judgement in personal appearance should be a cooperative effort between the school and home.

Policy states that personal appearance should contribute to a good learning experience and that it should not negatively influence the nature of the school.

Wearing hair in curlers or under hats is not considered proper attire, nor are the printed wording or pictures that advertise or promote alcohol, drugs or sex.

Clary said that the school thinks he wears clothing that is too diverse. He said that they say he stands out too much.

"The school doesn't want me here," Clary said. "They say [that] I am too much of a distraction."

Senior Jennifer Stober said that some people may develop certain impressions of others based on the type of clothing that they wear.

Although this may be true, by restricting the types of clothing students are allowed to wear at school, the school is going against the students' first amendment rights, she said.

"If you [the schools] are not letting them [the students] wear what they want to wear, you are not letting them be who they want to be." Stober said.

Some schools have decided that, to avoid this type of issue, school uniforms are a good alternative, Thompson said.

He said that he approves of the schools turning to uniforms to prevent many of these problems.

Junior Jennifyr Gunn said that the school does not allow its students to express themselves as individuals by allowing them to dress as they want.

She said that the school system should allow its students to express themselves the way that they want.

Gunn also said that the way the school enforces its rules on appropriate dress is not fair to all of the students.

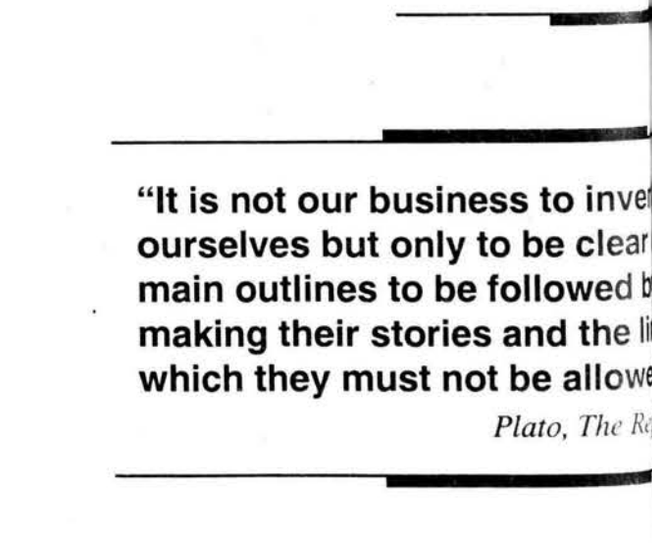
While certain individuals get away with wearing diverse clothing, others get in trouble, she said.

"I understand them having restrictions," Gunn said, "but they do not enforce it [the restrictions] for everyone, only for certain people."

Some students feel that the restrictions are important to uphold the learning environment. Heller, said that when he comes to school he does not want to see people wearing inappropriate clothing.

"When I am at school, I want to think about school, not sex," Heller said.

Do Central nts



Students who get into R-rated movies without being carded.

RICTED
bizarre restrictions on your life?

Book censorship ignores the first amendment

By Jenny Nelson

Banning books is illegal and it goes against the first amendment, Central's librarian said.

Kristel Mayberry said she has been working in Central's library for six years, and during that time she has only received two complaints about the books. The OPS library system gets money to buy books from the taxpayer's pocket.

Mayberry said that the Omaha Public School District (OPS) has a list of "Not Recommended" books. School librarians are not permitted to purchase books on this list for their collections.

"It is illegal to ban any material from being in a library, though," she said.

Terrie Saunders, head of the English Department, said that as a public institution, Central has a certain responsibility to the community to make sure what it makes available to kids is keeping with society's values.

Mayberry said that since the act of banning books is technically illegal, banned books are referred to as "challenged" books, although it means pretty much the same thing. Each individual library deals with people challenging its books.

A person challenges a book when he finds it inappropriate for whatever reason by presenting it to the librarian. If "the powers that be" find it unsuitable as well, the book will be taken out of that library's collection, she said.

The list of Top 10 Banned Books consists of the ten books most often brought to a library to be challenged, Mayberry said.

Beverley Becker, the associate director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association (ALA), said that so far, the "Harry Potter" series by J.K. Rowling is the most frequently challenged book this year.

Becker said that her department receives complaints from people about books. Then, they take this information for statistics and compile it into a database. The books that have been challenged the most throughout the calendar year are what make up the list of Top 10 Banned Books, but it is only an estimate, she said.

She said that her job is to educate libraries and the public about banned books and the right to free speech and press.

The group of individuals that challenge books most often is parents, disputing schools and school libraries, Becker said. Books that are challenged generally offend people by going against their faith and their morals, and they are usually powerful and controversial.

Mayberry is also a member of the 7-12 Materials Review Committee. The group meets seven times at the TAC building throughout the school year to decide what library materials are inappropriate and should be put on the "Not Recommended" list.

She said that a book is not easily put on OPS's "Not Recommended" list, although the list is quite long. At least two members of the committee read a new book (they do not review older books) to determine whether or not it is offensive or unfit to be in school libraries, in their opinions. Then they all take a vote. There are anywhere from 15 to 25 people on this committee, she said.

She said that each librarian practices censorship by what one allows in one's collection.

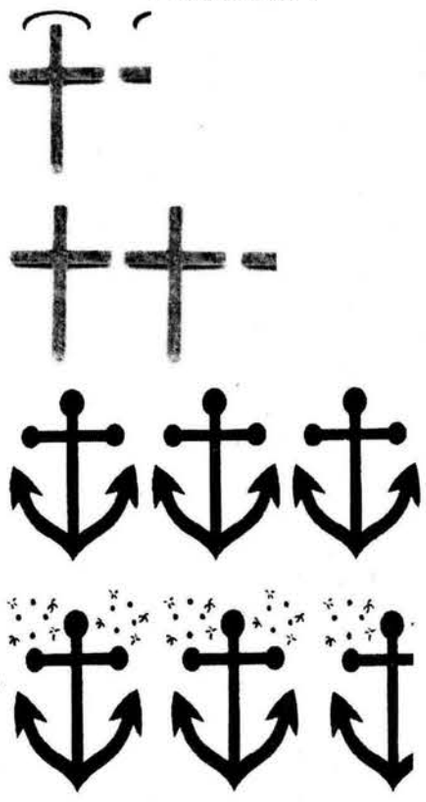
Mayberry said that she thinks that Central's library has what students are asking for.

Junior Tammy Steele said that she could understand why some books would be banned. She said she does not think children should read books if they are inappropriate.

However, Steele said she thinks it is wrong to ban books because they are acts of expression. She believes that if a potential reader thinks he might be offended by reading a book, he just shouldn't read it, she said.

"People [authors] do that for a career," Steele said. "How are they going to earn a living if their book is banned?"

How do Central students swear?



All graphs 300 students polled

very picture 10%

Society limits music's freedom

By Danielle Rollins

Alanis Morrisette, Meridith Brooks, Blink 182, Fiona Apple, Marilyn Manson, Eminem...all of these very different artists and bands have one thing in common: their music contains explicit and offensive lyrics.

Freshman Lauren Beals said that the music restrictions do not accomplish much. She said that the censorship of certain language does not prevent people from understanding what the lyrics were originally.

"It is not like we don't know what the words are anyway," she said.

Music and Assistant Program Director for Sweet 98, J.J. Morgan said that the radio stations must control what is played on air. Certain words or phrases are not going to be heard on certain stations.

"You know that you are not going to hear that certain word that rhymes with duck, that's for sure," he said. "That stuff will not see the light of day."

Rick Galusha, Vice President of Homer's Music, said that the act of restricting certain music actually makes the demand for that music higher.

"As soon as you tell someone that they cannot have something it becomes desirable," Galusha said. "It is an absolutely fool proof marketing plan."

Galusha said that issues on the restriction of music concern ethics. He said that trying to enforce ethics into a community does not do much good.

"You can pass laws on morality, but it is not going to affect the society," Galusha said. "In the end we [the people] get the society that we want."

Galusha said he thinks that the restrictions do not even concern the American public. He said that he thinks some people bring it up simply to get a rise out of others.

"This is an emotional issue that people bring up to push other people's buttons," he said.

Homer's sells music that others may find offensive, Galusha said. He said that they do have parental advisory stickers on some of the music, but a lot of the censoring is done by the employees who work there.

"We try to use reasonably good judgement on what we will and will not sell," Galusha said. "At this point I do not think that there is anything that the guys behind the counter are restricting."

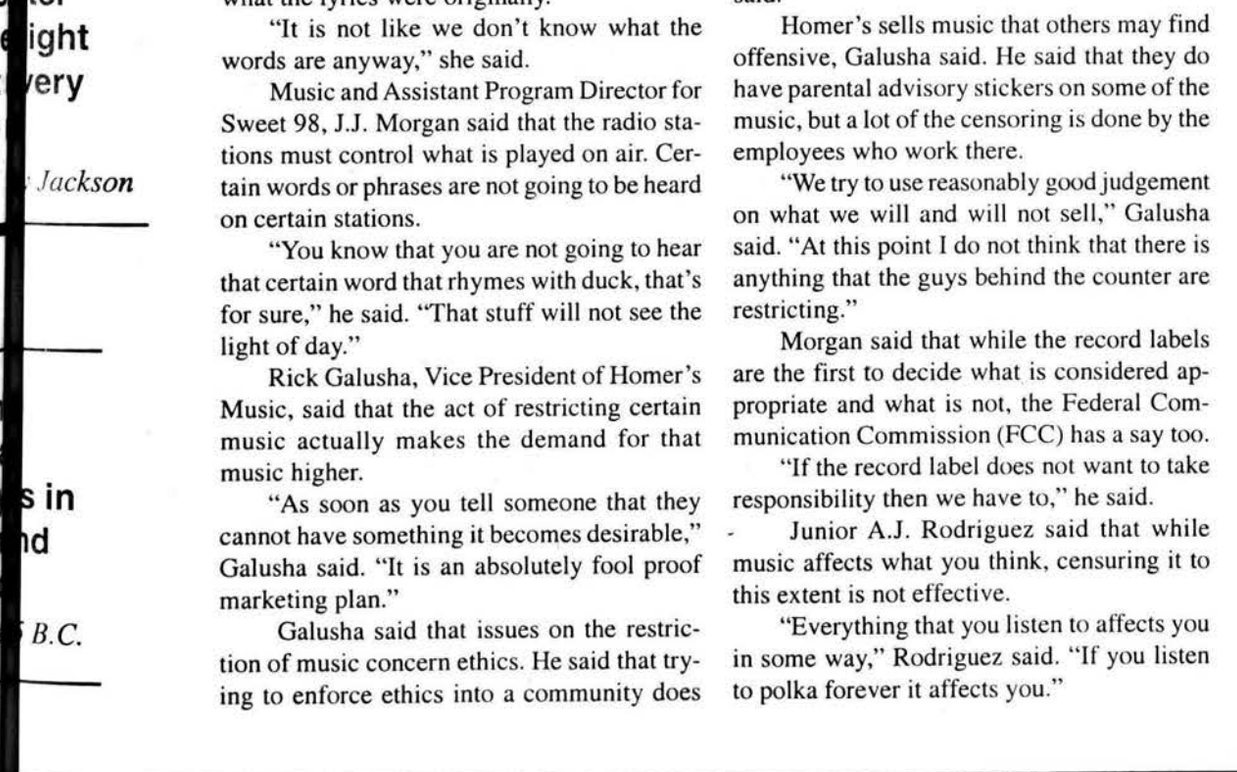
Morgan said that while the record labels are the first to decide what is considered appropriate and what is not, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has a say too.

"If the record label does not want to take responsibility then we have to," he said.

Junior A.J. Rodriguez said that while music affects what you think, censuring it to this extent is not effective.

"Everything that you listen to affects you in some way," Rodriguez said. "If you listen to polka forever it affects you."

nts take restrictions seriously?

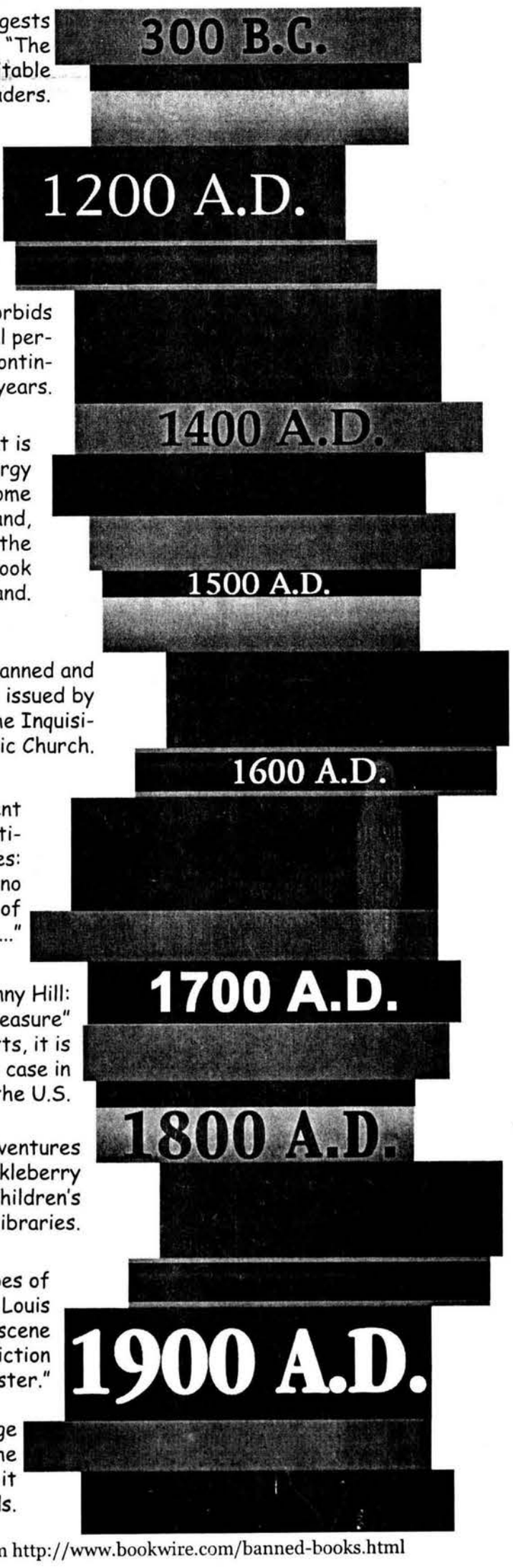


ose parents allow them to ic with explicit lyrics.

Students who buy explicit music without parental permission.

'They were the best of books, they were the worst of books...'

BANNED BOOKS THROUGH TIME



387 B.C. Plato suggests that "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" are not suitable for immature readers.

1244 In Paris, the Talmud is burned for blasphemy and immorality. This is the first official burning of Hebrew books by Christians.

1476 The English Crown forbids all printing, except by Royal permission. This pre-licensing continues for nearly 200 years.

1521-1526 The New Testament is violently opposed by the English clergy and has to be printed at Cologne. Some 6000 copies are smuggled into England, where they are publicly burned by the church. This is the first printed book to be banned in England.

1559 The first list of banned and recommended books is issued by the Congregation of the Inquisition Roman Catholic Church.

1791 The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, is passed. It states: "Congress shall make no law...abriging the freedom of speech, or of the press..."

1821 John Cleland's "Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure" is banned in Massachusetts, it is the first known obscenity case in the U.S.

1905 Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn" is taken out of the children's section in libraries.

1939 John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" is burned by the St. Louis Public Library for its "obscene language" and "unfavorable depiction of a former minister."

1978 The American Heritage Dictionary is banned from the Eldon, Missouri library because it contains 39 "objectionable" words.

Information from http://www.bookwire.com/banned-books.html

Editorials

"*Congress* shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 17

ELECTION 2000 WRAP UP

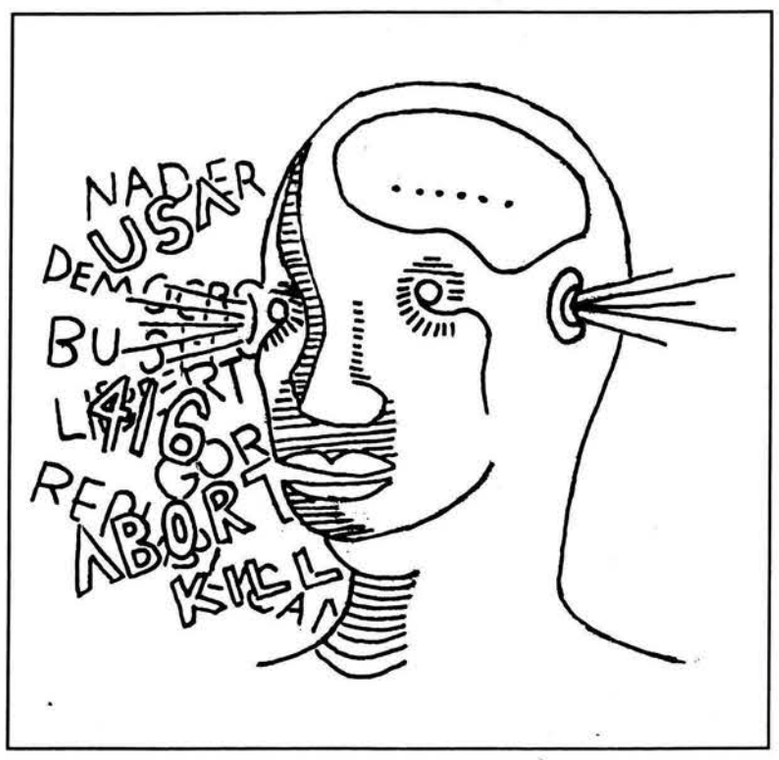
Educational Vouchers

Voters in two states defeated measures that would establish educational vouchers to give federal money to try to promote private school attendance. This performance is fitting; vouchers and competition are not the answers to improving public education.

Two independent initiatives, one in Michigan and one in California, failed miserably in both states. If passed, the California initiative would have given every child $4,000 to attend a private school.

The failure of these measures was in the best interest of the educational system. If they had passed, students and teachers would have been taken out of public schools, crushing the school's hope of improvement.

Dr. Gary Thompson
Principal
Matt Deabler
Adviser
Matt Wynn
Opinion Page Editor



Ralph Nader

Ralph Nader's strategy failed. He wanted to gather a five-percent popular vote to give his party federal funding in 2004, while not taking key votes from Al Gore.

He ended up only receiving two percent of the votes and hindering Gore's effectiveness in key states Oregon, Wisconsin and Florida.

After George W. Bush recovers from the election, he should buy Mr. Nader a steak.

Gender-Neutrality

A proposed amendment to the Nebraska constitution that would have directed the secretary of state to change the words "he" to "he or she" did not pass on Nov. 7. This was a critical setback in the quest for Nebraska to become more politically correct.

There is no reason why this measure should have been rejected. This amendment was simply a statement to satisfy people who were not confident in the state's gender neutrality.

Initiative 416

Ballots in three Nebraskan counties contained a typographical error that said "a marriage between a man and a women" instead of "a marriage between a man and a woman". So Nebraska prohibited gays from having unions, but supported polygamy.

Supporters of the amendment claimed that the mistakes in Gage, Lincoln and Madison counties would not affect the voting of Nebraskans. Obviously it did not, because the iniatitive passed with more than 70 percent support.

Nebraska Polls

Because of a high voter turnout, many polling places in Nebraska were not capable of handling voting demand. The fact that registered voters were turned away because of lack of ballots is a disgrace to this nation.

When polling places were supposed to close, voters had to get into lines. This was not because they showed up late, it was because the voting places simply did not prepare for the rush. More than 200 people were locked out of their precincts.

Senate Race

Don Stenberg proved why preliminary polls don't work.

Stenberg was projected as far away as 30 points, but he inched back in to under 20 points in early November. Come election day, the attorney general led for a little over a half of an hour, and he only lost by only two percent.

The exit polls were wrong too. The moral of the story: do not assume anything will happen on election day.

Election 2000

One thing is for sure about the 2000 election. It certainly did not follow the traditional rules. The Republicans failed to sweep Nebraska, giving Ben Nelson a place in the Senate, and a prosperous economy did not equal a shoo-in for the incumbent vice president. Nothing went the way it was supposed to and the American people still don't know who the next president is. What happened?

Politicians overlook younger generations

EDITORIAL
The Opinion of the *Register*

Many reasons have been suggested for why young people are the least likely to vote , but the real reason is that the benefits of voting are not expressed to the nation's youth. This fact can be blamed on many things.

First, many of the younger generation who are able to vote do not even go through the registration process.

Of course, in the United States, if someone does not register to vote, then they cannot vote.

Teenagers have no excuse for not registering to vote. Registration can be done at the courthouse, post office, Department of Motor Vehicles or even school.

In fact, the League of Women Voters has even come into the courtyard to register prospective high school voters many times.

The lack of registration for younger voters is purely because of lack of interest. If a student does not feel connected to the governmental system, then they do not even take the first step in voting.

Overall, voting has been seen as a young person's activity as much as wearing liederhosen and buying hearing aids.

Teenagers do not understand the benefits of voting and feel that their vote does not matter. Because of these reasons, they simply do not care to register.

The ideal situation is that all eligible voters would become registered to vote. Whether they are going to vote or not, prospective voters should still register, so that they have that opportunity come election time.

Another reason that students do not vote is because they do not have a strong interest in the American political structure.

Granted, the average high school senior does not think about politics as much as he does about his grades, dating or his job, but students still consider the issues.

But if teenage voters do think about the issues, even a little bit, why do they not take the small amount of time it would take to vote when they are given the chance?

The answer is that no one takes teenagers, and their votes seriously. Politicians do not care if they vote and do not expect them to vote.

When analyzing voter turnout, it is seen that the majority of voters are very fickle. The average citizen votes when they think their vote matters, such as during a time of war or maybe an economic depression.

During times of prosperity like today, most citizens do not vote because they do not desire any change from the current way that things are being run.

A candidate wishes to get as much support as possible on election day. Because, of this, he needs to make himself look attractive to many different people.

For example, one day George W. Bush embraces the National Rifle Association to support his pro second amendment stance. A few days later Bush became extremely defensive when political commentators compared him to Charlton Heston, the radical group's president.

Politicians manipulate their views to try to gain support from more people, but no one has ever attempted to gain the support of the younger generations.

The third party candidates might be the best at gathering youthful support. Younger voters seem to like their stances on education, drugs and other issues.

When the main issues in politics are social security, prescription drug plans and the reduction of the national debt, it is extremely optimistic to expect teenagers to show up and vote.

This is why many people say that teens seek other reasons to vote for a candidate. Some of these motives include their families' political preferences and the candidates' personality.

If candidates took more time to address issues that are important to the new voters, maybe they would vote on election day.

Until then, teenagers, and other people that are not familiar with voting, will continue to express their right not to vote.

Letters, E-mails and Faxes

Skateboarders deserve more

When people think of skaters, they probably think of troublemakers, vandalists or other generally bad kids.

People seem to have it in their heads that we ruin property, that we wax down stairs, ledges and handrails in order to destroy them.

This is simply not true. All we are trying to do is fund something that everyone takes for granted and make it useful again.

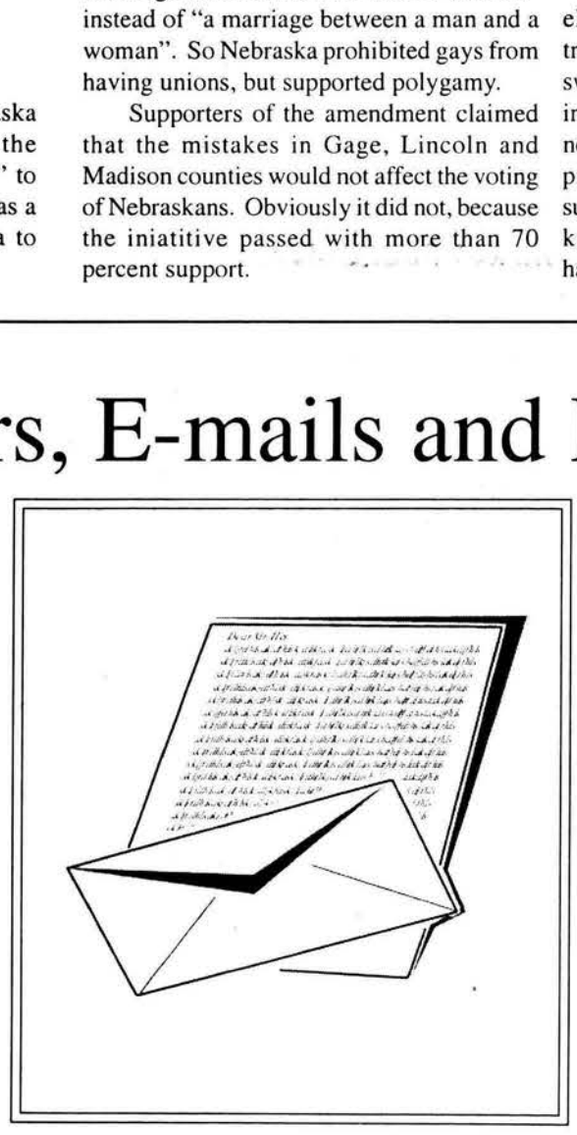
Why teachers, students, and others think of skaters as such negative people is beyond me.

Cars ruin roads so badly that major street sonstruction has to be done in order to fix the damage.We wax stuff up and skate on grounds we find suitable, which usually happen to be out of other people's way.

'Sure," you might be thinking, "but cars are practically required for transportation. Usually it's worth the extra cash."

We try to skate only places that we are allowed to skateboard on. If we are told to leave a place we are skating at we promptly do so. If there is a place that we are not supposed to be skating at, we won't hassle, we won't argue and we will leave as soon as we are told.

We try to find places that we are welcomed and permitted to skate, and just because there is a skatepark doesn't mean it is the ideal place for people to do the sport.



There is a variety of turf to skate in Omaha. Ideally, we would like to be able to explore those different spots and have fun with different experiences.

Besides, if people would rather not have us skating certain areas, a simple, "No Skateboarding" sign would suffice. At the very least, they could warn us before they call the cops.

Next time you see cops or whoever taking our skateboards away, just think; We spent $110 or more on that little piece of wood with some wheels on it. That is better than spending the same amount on marijuana, or even heroin.

People should support a positive sport like skateboarding rather than stomping all over our fun.

Dave Crane, 9

Population causes concern

Even though I am a senior and I will be out of school soon I am still concerned about the rising school population.

I was told that Central can only hold 2,000 people. I have also heard that there are 2,500 people in the building this year. That is ridiculous.

The population contributes to the heat, often times making it hot even when it is freezing cold outside.

My Latin classroomis very small and there is not a single empty chair in the room. Since I have that class last hour, it is extremely hot.

Perhaps a practical solution to this problem would be to cap the enrollment off at the maximum capacity.

Maybe if the school had a climate control system that would be specific to each classroom, overpopulation would not be such a large problem.

Sara Beedle, 12

'Offensive' ad pulled from television spot

EDITORIAL
The Opinion of the *Register*

Three American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) affiliates in Nebraska refused to air an anti-416 advertisement, saying that they came to the decision because the commercial used the image of a swastika.

This is nothing but a pathetic attempt to cover up those stations' prejudice against homosexuals. There was no real reason to refuse to air the commercial.

The thirty-second spot starts by quoting the state motto, "Equality before the law."

As the swirling image of the Nazi symbol becomes increasingly clear towards the end of the commercial, a voice says, "Things like 416 have happened before. Let's make sure they don't happen in Nebraska."

Whoever it was that wrote this advertisement was correct in every way. In the 1930s, the Nazis in Germany began implementing a slew of ordinances against people of certain races, and homosexuals.

Some of the first rules they implemented limited the rights of Jews to marry. Within a few years those initial prejudices against certain people had evolved into what is now known as the Holocaust.

The way that the swastika was used in this advertisement was completely justified. No station should have had any complaints about running this commercial.

But a press release from KETV, one of the stations that did not run the ad, said, "The manner in which this image was used may be perceived as offensive by some viewers or personally defame proponents of Initiative 416."

The only thing that could have been done to make this statement seem any more ignorant would have been to add vulgarity.

The very point of the advertisement was to defame proponents of 416, and while doing so, the initiative itself. Apparently, the commercial worked to well.

Various political parties have used this kind of smear campaign in ads before, and stations played those commercials without comment.

Initiative 416 should have been buried beneath a pile of "Against" votes. Maybe if stations like KETV had chosen to run the commercial, such a hope might have become a reality.

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Opinion

Television shows give blasphemy, foolishness a welcome home

Being the socialite that I am, I had no plans last Friday night and decided to stay home and catch up on my channel surfing. I was almost looking forward to a night of frying my own brain cells. However the stupidity of humanity once again ruined my good time.



I am so disgusted by is on television these days that I would rather do my homework than turn on the tube. Since when does America's favorite past time consist of programs such as "Jerry Springer" and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

And these are the popular shows. It frightens me to think of the programs that get bad ratings.

But who wouldn't love a television show that consists of people humiliating themselves on national television? Who wouldn't relish in the many comedic and intellectual values of such quality programming as "Survivor" and "The Real World?"

I understand that among teenagers "The Real World" is a fairly popular show. What with all the yelling, hair pulling and name-calling I can understand why.

But the show is based on real life correct?

And it just follows around a bunch of normal people as they deal with life right? Now correct me if I am wrong, but does this not sound like the most boring show ever?

You are just watching normal people do normal everyday things! What on earth is entertaining about that? Maybe instead of sitting in front of the television all day watching other people live their lives you should go out and live yours!



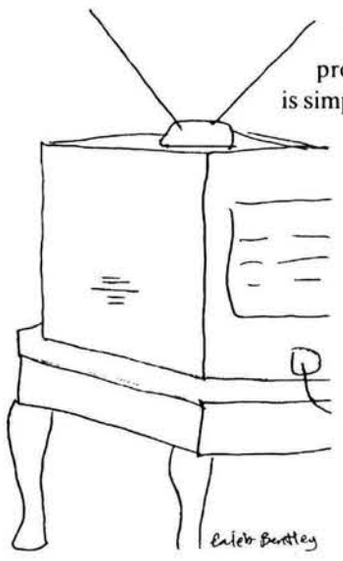
However on the other hand we have shows like "Survivor," a show that wowed millions by so accurately depicting life in the wilderness.

This is of course assuming that in the real wilderness you get a trunk full of money and a new car if you survive,

And no one even noticed that winning had absolutely nothing to do with surviving. In fact there was virtually no chance that anyone on the island wouldn't survive, unless of course the network wanted to somehow fit a funeral episode in as the season's finale

This new idea of basing television shows off of real life, while corny, is a little better than what we are used to.

It is refreshing to see shows that actually have some sort of relevance to people's lives as opposed to stuff like "Dawson's Creek," "Felicity" and basically anything else that they show on the WB network anymore.



The new programming is simply an entire line up of 90210 wannabes, only now, instead of sex and drinking, the characters have to deal with bad grades and mean parents.

Not that this is a bad thing.

With all new pathetic programs gracing our television screens, we may find that there will be changes in the life that we all know and love.

Like, for instance, maybe someone somewhere will decide to read a book instead of staring blankly at a television screen.

Or, perhaps little children will go outside and play again. Ha! Not likely.

What I assure you will happen is this, America will go on watching its pointless miserable programming and eventually turn into the mindless drones that so many of us have already become.

All original intelligent thoughts will become extinct and the population will stare blank eyed at a world devoid of all human emotion, thought and hope.

Our society will grow into...What the?...is it 8:00 already? Gotta go, I don't want to miss "Who Wants to be a Millionaire!"

Top ten signs you are a TV junkie

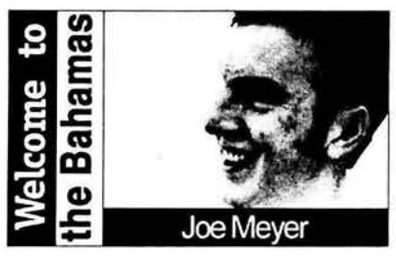
1)You eagerly await the new Fox special, "When Jimmy Carter Attacks."
2) You refer to the characters on "Friends" as though they are your own.
3) You refuse to leave the house on Wednesday nights for fear of missing "Dawson's Creek."
4) You have favorite commercials and are excited when they come on.
5) You keep your "Saved By the Bell" video collection in a fire proof box.
6) You cook dinner with Paul and Annabelle.
7) You unwillingly await the special platinum edition army tank to go with the tin soldiers you ordered from the home shopping network in what you can only call "a fit of passion" (one you've started...)
8) You can't tell "The Real World" from the real world.
9) You best friend is the remote. His name is Fredd.
10) You know the theme song to "Swamp Fox"

Politics parallel pennant race

I was looking forward to a vacation from the presidential election coverage that plagued the news stations every night. Being an avid baseball fan, I wanted to watch to the World Series in peace.

I was surprised when the Mets and the Yankees looked more like presidential candidates then Bush and Gore did.

The World Series quickly became one of the most heated battles in New York's history. The Yankee victory rivaled the accomplishments at Albany and Saratoga.



The nation focused its attention on the Yankees and the Mets, just like they had with the presidential election previously this year.

The Subway Series vied for the attention of Americans. It was the battle between the two teams from New York.

But we also had a Texas governor and a vice president duking it out in one of the closest elections in this century.

The Yankees have been saturated in fame ever since their creation and the Mets have only recently become respectable.

And with the election, the contrasts were the same. Bush is from Texas and Gore is from Tennessee. Bush has loads of money, while Gore has an extremely prosperous economy from his vice presidency with Bill Clinton.

In the fall classic, the Yankees got out to a great start. They won the first two games at their home stadium, while the Mets tried to find their composure and prove they deserved a chance at a national title.

Bush shot out in like fashion. He gained a big lead on Gore and left the vice president grasping for straws.

Then, the Mets tried to make a run. They won the third game, but quickly lost whatever momentum they had gained by losing the last two games, along with the series. The same happened to Gore. At one point, he was expected to ride the Clinton economy into a presidency of his own, but this never worked out for him.

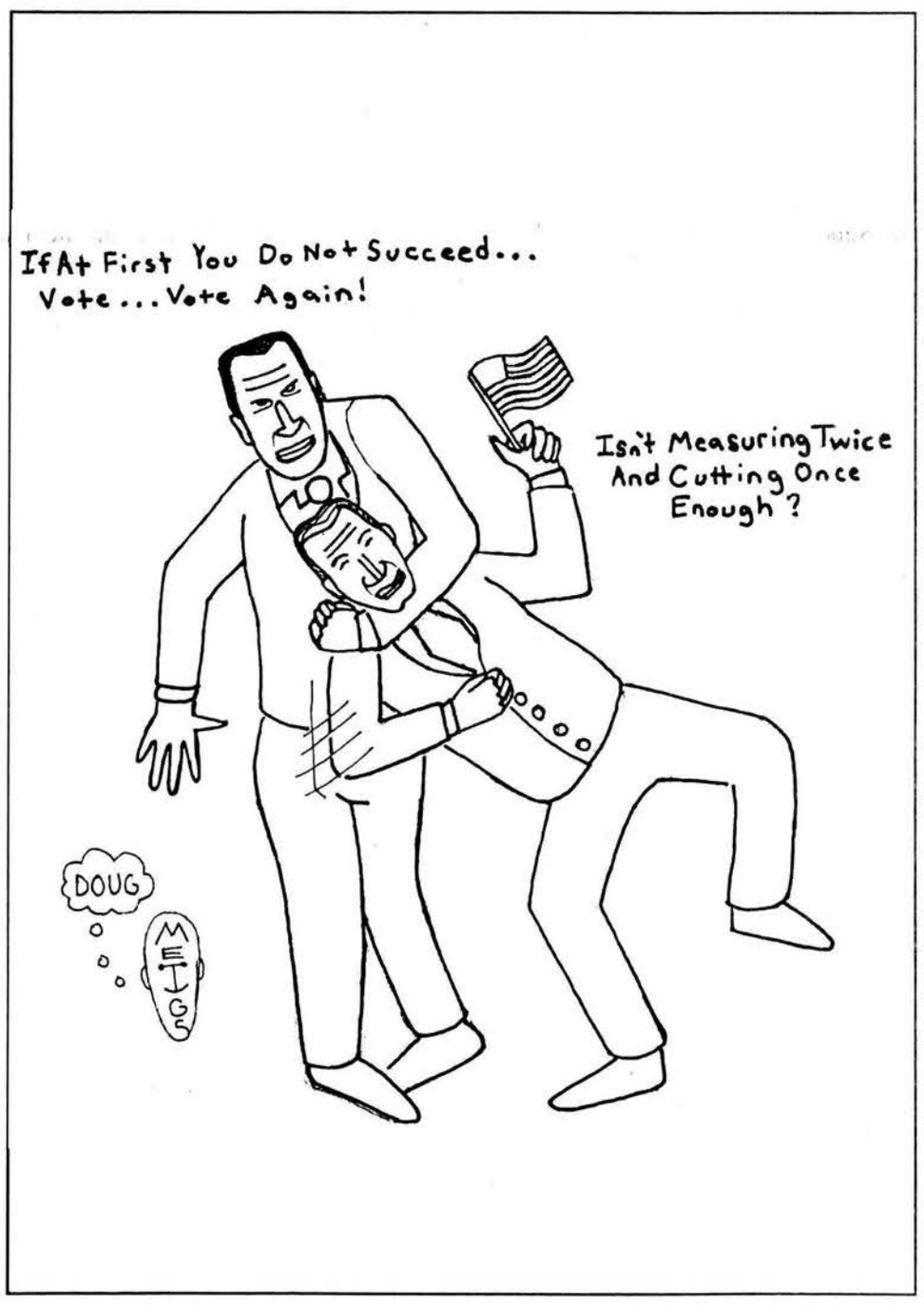
Yankees fans are like Republicans. They hate anything that is not the Yankees. Worst of all, Yankee fans cannot stand Mets fans.

Contrary, Mets fans are the typical baseball fans. They are the working class of baseball lovers, just like the Democrats. They take the subway to the game and do not have an intimidating history.

While the Democrats were busy pushing for a higher minimum wage and more universal tax cuts in the Capitol, the Mets were in New York demonstrating that a team can play in a World Series without a huge payroll full of superstars.

In this baseball allusion, the Yankees are like most Republicans. They have loads of tradition and resources, and everyone expects them to be in the thick of things down the end in October and November. The Democrats are thought to be just a simple little stream that the mighty Republicans need to cross.

Watching the World Series allowed for a little break in the political debates and discussions, but, in another way, it did not.

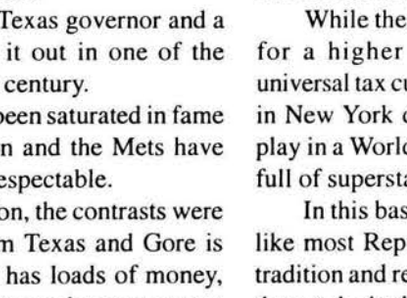


Nebraska casts votes; bigotry, prejudice come out on top

So it passed.

Initiative 416 passed. The biggest display of intolerance and hypocrisy in Nebraska actually passed.

All the psychotic religious lemmings and brainwashed right wing fanatics out there can smile and go on with their ignorant ways, knowing that "marriages" in Nebraska are protected from the insidious homosexual agenda.



I can't, no matter how hard I try, understand the basis for this hateful initiative. No marriages were ever destroyed by a man and another man loving each other. No marriages were ever destroyed by two married people of the same sex.

The only thing this initiative defended was the antiquated idea of what a marriage was 200 years ago.

This wouldn't stop domestic abuse. This wouldn't lower divorce rates. This wouldn't stop infidelity. No marriage is defended. Don't fool yourself.

People can say that it was good to decide it in Nebraska, instead of having the national government choose for us. This kind of argument is not valid in any way.

The Mormon Church and the Catholic Church had both been pumping loads of money to get 416 passed, not the Nebraska Mormon Church or Nebraska Catholic Church. Dollars came from all over the nation, not just Nebraska.

It wasn't a Nebraska issue at all.

Besides that, Gay Marriages are already illegal in Nebraska. So defeating 416 wouldn't have done anything, it simply would have kept the homophobic status quo.

A vote against 416 wasn't a pro gay marriage vote. This was a very common misconception with disastrous results.

Although it wasn't the entire issue, the religious portion of this debate is definitely the most irritating to me.

Those who say this is what God would have intended are only using the bible to fit their own means. Matthew 22:29 (The Golden Rule) says "...Love your neighbor as yourself."

So, how would you lemmings out there like it if the government told you your marriages were wrong and your entire lifestyle was immoral? I'm pretty sure you wouldn't.

It works both ways folks. If you want to assault me with that line from Leviticus, that's fine. It's still hypocrisy, plain and simple. You can preach at me all you would like, but remember that in that book you're thumping, there's always something that can be thumped back.

At the very least, it's not really any of your business to interpret the will of God and what it likes and dislikes, but that's an entirely different subject.

Many of us knew about the unintended consequences of this initiative.

Those of us who didn't will see them shortly. They didn't see the consequences when voting to keep the plague homosexuals from rupturing the sacred institution of marriage and brain washing their correct children.

Businesses, farms, homes and everything else will feel the backlash of this horrible initiative.

I'm surprised that good ol' Fred Phelps (Wackjob priest from Topeka Kansas who appears outside homosexuals funerals and homes holding signs with such loving Christian messages as "God hates fags.") didn't have more of a hand in this entire situation.

Finally, to those of you who could vote and didn't, you might have made the difference that was needed to defeat this initiative. The youth vote could have easily helped swing this election, or at least helped curb the landslide.

Register your opinion

What do you think about the new six traits of writing adopted by the school district this year?



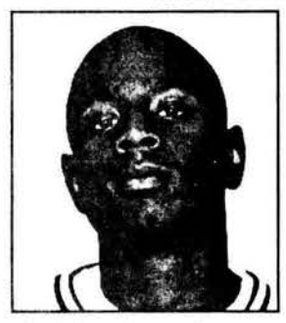
"It helps the teachers grade more consistently."

Jessica MacDonald, 11



"They don't help me and they are useless."

Alexs Berzins, 12



"I don't like them because we learned it a long time ago in English."

Michael Hughes, 11



"I think that somebody should write the way they want and not have standards."

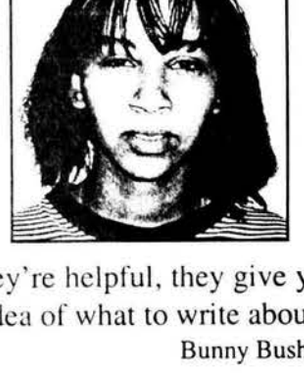
Sarah Cavanaugh, 9

"They're helpful, they give you an idea of what to write about."

Bunny Bush, 10

"People should not change their writing for the traits."

Ashly Ahlf, 11



"I don't like them because it takes too much time and they're worth too many points."

Lynette Johnson, 12

OPS proposes increased graduation requirements

From STANDARDS, page 1

university's standards. Varejcka-McGee said that in instances such as these each case is reviewed individually to ensure they will be able to excel at college. Students who have not met requirements are often deferred until the classes can be completed.

She said the higher requirements have been a positive change for UNL.

"Since UNL has increased the admissions standards, we have seen a rise in the retention rate and more successful students," Varejcka-McGee said.

She said she believes the change would be commendable for OPS.

"If OPSincreased requirements they would see the same results we have," she said.

In addition, Varejcka-McGee said she believes requiring additional math and science classes would better prepare students for college.

Harrington said more OPS students are taking at least three years of math than ever before, mostly because of college admission standards.

Another important factor in the proposal are state education standards, Harrington said. He said the state is telling all the districts in Nebraska that

Senior Nicole Heafey said she sees no reason for the increased requirements. She said there is no point of students taking excessive math and science classes if they are not considering a career field, which requires those skills.

"Students would rather spend their time doing things that will help in their future plans," Heafey said.

Heafey also expressed concern that the additional class requirements will increase the dropout rate in OPS high schools.

"By adding to the difficulty of students' course loads, more will find the possibilities of graduating hopeless," she said.

Heafey added that under the current requirements, most students exceed the graduation standards anyway.

Woman finds God, forgives daughter's murderer

From JAEGER, page 3

Before the police moved in on Meirhoffer, though, Marietta said that she made them promise that he would get life without parole, instead of the death penalty. The FBI agreed.

David Meirhoffer was arrested in Montana the next day.

Marietta said immediately the FBI started sending evidence from Meirhoffer's home to forensics labs. The labs found a small piece of a young female's spine in the rubble.

When he learned what they had found, Meirhoffer confessed to the murder of Susie, as well as those of an eighteen-year-old girl and two local boys.

He was put in a cell and given breakfast. Four hours later, Meirhoffer was dead. His breakfast came with a towel, and Marietta said he was short enough and clever enough to find a way to hang himself with it.

Overcome with grief, Marietta visited Meirhoffer's mother.

Together we were able to grieve as mothers who had lost their children," Marietta said.

She said that she and Meirhoffer's mother are good friends today and continue to visit each other often. She also said that she owes her happiness now to God and the forgiveness he put in her heart 27 year ago.

"Forgiveness is hard work," Marietta said, "It takes daily diligence, discipline and a whole lot of God."

Ukrainian teachers visit Central

By Ally Freeman

Sometimes it is to the advantage of a teacher to become the student and go back to school, or at least that is what several teachers recently believed.

Ten teachers from Ukraine recently visited Central to learn about America's educational system through the Partners in Education exchange program, Social Studies Department Head Carol Hipp said.

All of the teachers were from Poltava, a city in the central part of Ukraine, she said. The teachers came to the central part of the United States to discover the country.

The teachers came to learn about civic education in the United States, Hipp said.

Most were teachers of English in Ukraine, but some were principals or taught other subjects that may have had something to do with America.

"The teachers were impressed with what they saw," Hipp said. "They thought that the classes were well run."

She said that the teachers have asked to have an ongoing relationship with Central, and she has letters from Ukrainian students who wish to have American pen pals.

The teachers also left Central with many parting gifts. These included a Ukrainian flag, the flag of their school, Ukrainian painted eggs and Ukrainian magazines.

According to information provided by Partners in Education, the teachers were interested in learning about such varied subjects as extracurricular activities, civic consciousness, the so-called "American Dream," parental involvement and health education.

Lyudmyla Klymenko, a vice-principal and teacher of United States studies and English, said that the teaching styles in Ukraine are very similar to those used in the United States.

She said she really only noticed a few major differences in the teaching styles.

"Ukraine has national standards in education that the United States does not have," Klymenko said. "Also, our country [Ukraine] does not have separate schools for the different grade levels."

Nadja Martchenko, an American literature and history teacher from the small town of Myrgorod in Ukraine, said that she will use much of what she has learned when she returns to teaching at her home school in Ukraine.

"Teachers here make students work more independently and individually," she said.

Junior Chapin Sellin said that the Ukrainian teachers observed her Advanced Placement American History class.

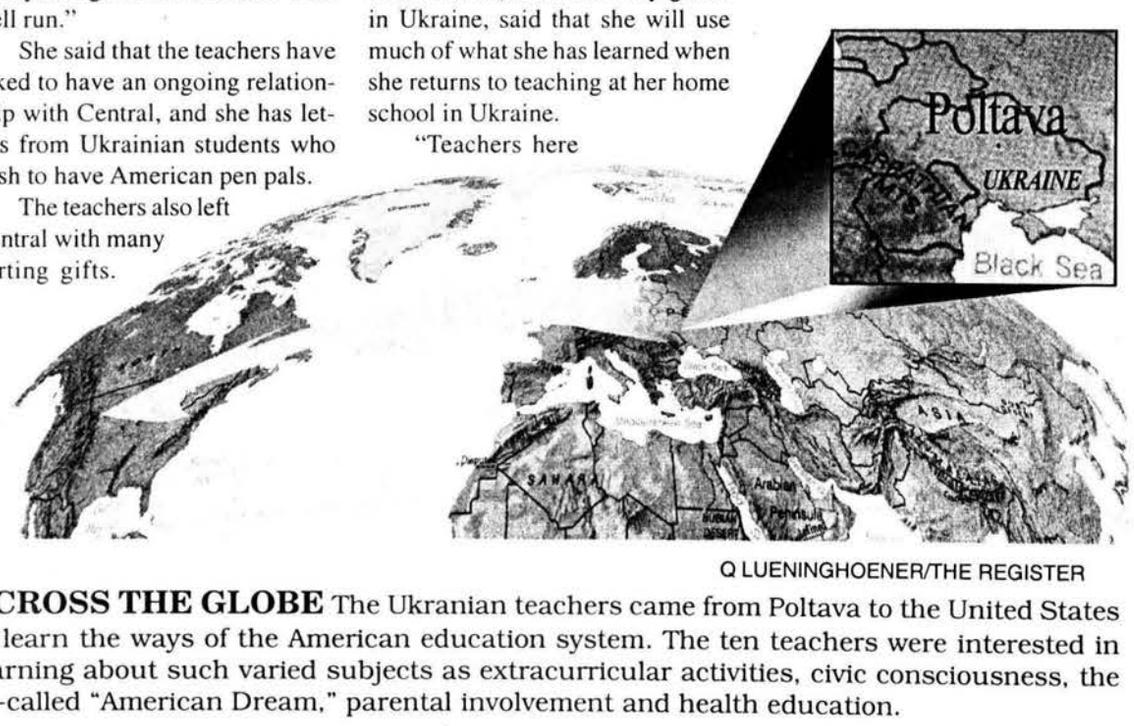
"They wanted to understand our culture, but I didn't see the purpose of them just observing the classes," Sellin said. "I don't think that they understood a lot by just observing."

Senior Bridget Blazek said that the teachers visited her Advanced Placement European History class.

She agreed that there was not enough interaction between the visiting teachers and the students.

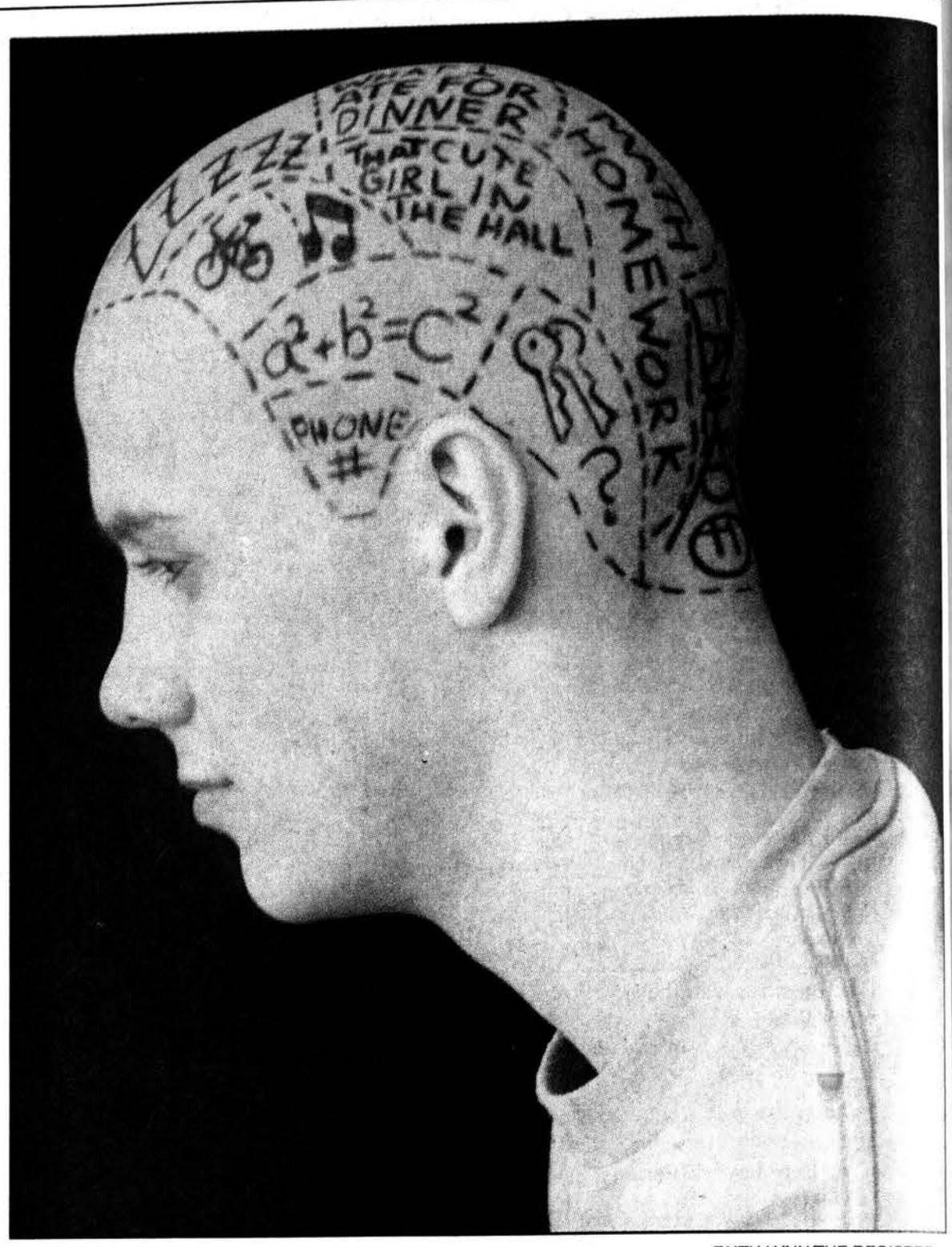
"I don't think it was very beneficial for the teachers," Blazek said. "There should have been more one-on-one interaction between the Ukrainian teachers and the students."

The other teachers who visited were Natalya Smoylenko, Lyubov Androssenko, Natalia Krat, Sergiy Prihodko, Vasyl Dmytrenko, Anatoli Lebed, Oleksander Voitenko and Tetyana Karpenko.



Q LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

ACROSS THE GLOBE The Ukranian teachers came from Poltava to the United States to learn the ways of the American education system. The ten teachers were interested in learning about such varied subjects as extracurricular activities, civic consciousness, the so-called "American Dream," parental involvement and health education.



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

A LOOK INSIDE This photo illustration shows the many facets of the memory that may be affected by drug use. People who use drugs experience short-term memory loss causing them to forget things like test grades, where they put their keys and other important things.

Drug use can cause damage to memory, pediatrician says

By Kaitlin Davis

Before he was a student at Central, Brian Meehan tried his first drugs. During the next few years he went on to try many other types of drugs. Now, four months after quitting, Meehan said he is paying for every bad decision he made.

"They made me trade on my friends, they made me steal, fight and even call the cops on myself," said a former drug addict.

Former Central student Brian Meehan said that he has been off of drugs for almost four months now, but the drugs still affect him.

Meehan said that he has used drugs such as nicotine, marijuana, LSD, cocaine, crank (methamphetamines), heroin and alcohol. He said that these drugs had many negative affects on his body and that he tried rehab but it did not work for him.

"Rehab is good for some people, but you have to want to quit," Meehan said.

Meehan said that crank was his worst drug, because it was very addictive and made him do things that he had never thought of doing.

He said that often crank would cause him to suffer from severe insomnia, which is a disorder that does not allow the sufferer to sleep.

" I hadn't slept for a month," Meehan said. "It (crank) leads to nowhere."

He said that crank caused him to call the police on himself and he was arrested. It also caused him to sleep under a bridge.

"It caused me to have a false sense of reality," Meehan said.

Meehan said that he only used heroin twice, but that was enough. He said that he had a horrible experience with the drug.

Heroin is a type of relaxant, Dr. Amy Lacroix, a pediatrician at the University of Nebraska Medical Center said, it will numb nerves so that the user does not feel pain. Morphine is a close relative to heroin, but unlike heroin it is safe enough to use on patients.

Meehan said that heroin caused him to have severe diarrhea and to throw up. He said the veins in his arms became extremely inflamed after usage.

He said that the drug that affected his brain the most was LSD. He said that he experienced hallucinations .

Meehan said that he saw and heard things that weren't there. He said that it gave him a very false sense of reality and got him arrested.

"They (drugs) have ruined my record," he said.

Meehan said that because of his drug usage he has lost numerous jobs and gained a horrible work ethic.

Lacroix said that drugs can cause Amotivational Syndrome, which causes the user to have depression and laziness. The disorder makes the user lethargic in the sense that they do not feel like they want to do things.

She said that many drugs can cause short term memory loss and it can cause in some extreme cases long term memory loss.

Drugs such as LSD can cause flash backs and the user may lose memory and control over their bodily functions for long periods of time, she said.

Lacroix said that even some of the teenagers she sees in her profession are already experiencing flash backs.

Central students protest Initiative 416, defense of marriage amendment



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTER

ONE OF THE CROWD Andrew Sullivan marches with Central students in front of the school on Dodge Street.

From 416, page 1

vote, the initiative would not have passed in the first place.

Freshman Pearl Boyd said she thought more students were more involved in the protests than adults.

Omaha was against 416, Boyd said, but the reason 416 passed was the small farms in rural Nebraska where the initiative was misunderstood.

"No state can be called free when they pass an amendment like this [416]."

Catie Drahota, 10

Andrew Sullivan, chairman of the Nebraska Libertarian party, said 416 was not a constitutional amendment and needlessly defines things. Sullivan compared defining marriage to defining a red light.

Everyone knows what a red light is, Sullivan said, so writing it down would be pointless.

Many students also felt that 416 passed because of the Republican/Conservative atmosphere in Nebraska.

"The republican platform was homophobic, religious and bible thumping. They picked and chose what they want to from the bible and ignored everything else," senior Christian Hoegar said.

Whelan agreed and said the amendment was written out of hate and would eventually lead to a series of "gay Jim crow laws."

He said the amendment was based purely on traditional Christian values.

On the contrary, junior Eric Jacob said 416 was a moral issue and the main thing people were worried about was teenagers being confused about the subject of same sex relationships.

Students found it hard to decide whether 416 represented the opinions of Nebraska or the opinions of the United States as a whole.

Whelan said Nebraska is a center for homophobia, but Nebraska is also not the first state to pass anti-gay legislation, nor will it be the last.

Gay marriages are in dispute everywhere, Whelan said.

"You can tell it's Nebraska. This wouldn't happen in New York or New Orleans," Boyd said.

Jacob said 416 was written by a person from out of state (Guyla Mills), so the initiative might match the opinions of many peopl throughout the country.

One of the biggest arguments after 416 is what will happen when it meets the supreme court.

Whelan said when 416 gets to the supreme court, it will be ruled unconstitutional and the wording will be changed. Garcia said after a long and costly court battle, 416 will be repealed.

"It won't get shot down... it might be changed," Jacob said.



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTE

STANDING IN THE STORM Cat Drahota braved the elements to stand up f what she believes in.

A&E

Inside:

Page 10

311's Nick Hexum talks about success

Page 11

Creed plays to sold out crowd

Page 12

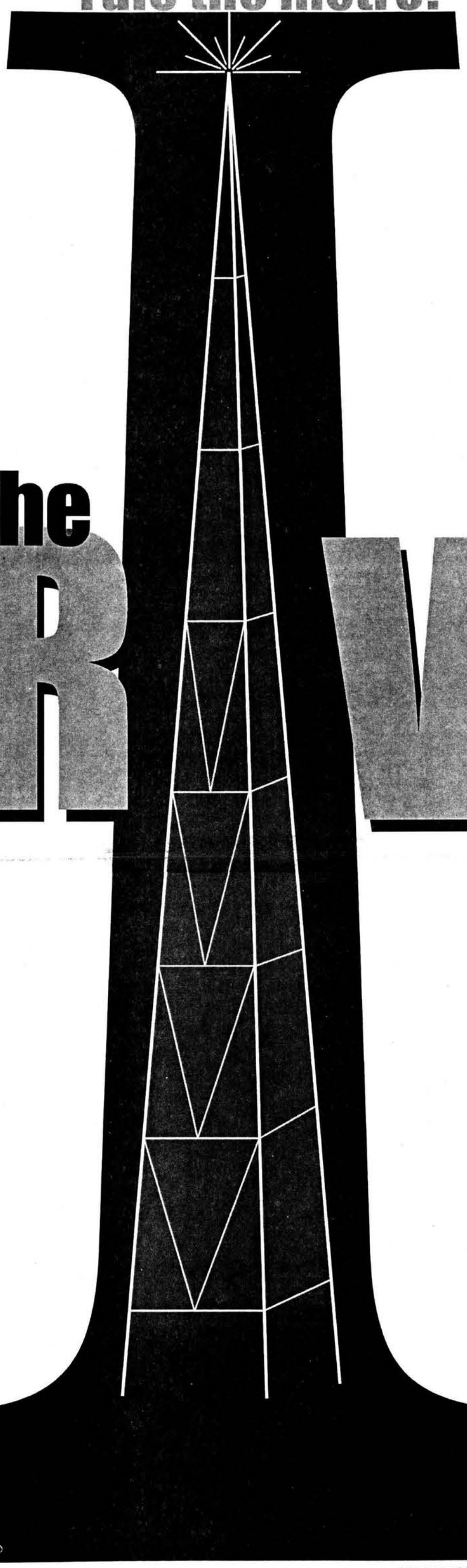
Students perform in 'Once Upon a Mattress'

Page 13

Clever rocks Omaha scene

Calendar

If 89.7 signs off, will corporate rock rule the metro?



will the RIVER run dry?

LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

By Layne Gabriel

101.9 the Edge went off the air years ago. Now 89.7 the River may be doing the same.

Executive Director Vicki Jacoba said that the River has received sale offers before, but this one, which she thinks to be $3 to $6 million, may take The River off the air for good.

Jacoba said that since the River is a public owned radio station and has a non-commercial format, a public hearing was necessary before any action toward a sale takes place.

The hearing was held on Nov. 2 and the turnout was high.

"We believe that well over 1,000 showed up," she said.

Radio student Tony Brown said that although he did not speak at the hearing, he was glad that listeners spoke up against the potential sale.

"I was really impressed with the sheer numbers that showed up," Brown said.

Jacoba said the River is unique to the Omaha metro area for many reasons.

Radio professionals work alongside students of Iowa Western Community College to create the programming and run the station.

She said the River plays a lot of local music and that since the River is not corporately owned, it can play songs that may not be considered a hit.

Jacoba said it gives students a lot of opportunities and helps the college raise money.

Jacoba said she thinks that the River may be put up for bids. Since so many people spoke about the community at the hearing, she said she thinks that the board of trustees may not sell.

The board of trustees will decide today whether the River will be put on the market.

Brown said that he thinks the sale will not go

Turn to RIVER, page 10

Local band Blue October praises the River for exposure to Omaha fans

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

Following Blue October's migration from Texas to Omaha, the band has received the following it deserves.

Lead singer Justin Furstenfeld said that Blue October came to Omaha from Houston because of the radio station, 89.7 FM the River. The band has fans here in Omaha, as opposed to their hometown.

"Omaha is the only city who cares about us and who plays our songs." Furstenfeld said. "The River played our music before anyone else did. Texas is just a friend to us. It's something to sink our heels into."

Furstenfeld chose to name the band Blue October because the month of October was very dispirited for him.

"It was just a bad month, everything happened wrongly in there," Furstenfeld said, "I don't want to go into it right now."

Furstenfeld has struggled with depression for most of his life. Five years ago, he fought to turn his life around in October.

The band members have known each other since high school. The drummer, tuba player and percussionist for the band is Furstenfeld's brother, Jeremy, who had never played or touched the drums before.

Matt Novesky plays acoustic and electric guitars, bass and background vocals. Ryan Delahoussaye plays mandolin, violin and sings background vocals. Brant Coulter plays guitar and E-bow. Furstenfeld

Turn to BLUE OCTOBER, page 10



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

STILL LEARNING Jeremy Furstenfeld never played drums until he joined Blue October.

River creates controversy

From RIVER, page 9

through.

"If the River is shut down, it won't happen until I graduate, but I'll feel really sorry for the students behind me," he said.

Brown said that many students came to Iowa Western Community College because they had the opportunity to work for a 100,000 watt radio station with professionals.

Brown said that he learned of the potential sale at about six weeks ago.

"I don't see a sale happening, I really don't," he said.

Brown said that he was glad to see so many members of the "slacker generation" attending the hearing. He said it is a good chance for fans to see civics in action and to make an impact.

Junior Mike Rager said that the River plays good mood music and is a way for people to vent.

"I think [the sale] sucks, period. First they got the Edge, now they're trying to take this one," he said.

Jacoba said the final decision will not be made for quite some time and that the River will most likely remain on the air for another three to nine months regardless of the decision. If the River is sold, the frequency will most likely not play the same format of music and other stations will not pick up the slack, she said.

"We just want to thank everyone that got involved. Your say has impact. This is an opportunity to have it count," Brown said.

Blue October presents music to fans through River and concert

From BLUE OCTOBER, page 9

sings and plays guitar.

The members of Blue October describe the music in vague terms.

"It's moody, but I guess that if you have to categorize it," Furstenfeld said,""our music would get its own category: art rock."

Furstenfeld has been writing lyrics for Blue October's songs since the band started. He also wrote lyrics in his former band, Harvest.



I'M BLUE: Matt Novesky of Blue October relaxes while playing at the Ranch Bowl.

EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Furstenfeld said he writes songs about hospitalization, prescription drugs and heartbreaks. Bands such as the Smiths, the Cure and Papa Roach inspired his music as well.

Blue October's current CD, which came out last Aug., called "Consent to Treatment" is a CD filled with disturbing lyrics for some people and heart-wrenching phrases for others.

In the song "James," Blue October's current single, Furstenfeld sings about the end of a relationship.

Furstenfeld explained that he had the idea of calling the CD "Consent to Treatment" because if one goes to a psychiatrist's office, the person fills out consent to treatment forms.

Furstenfeld said he has had to fill out many treatment forms during his lifetime.

The band hopes to become popular nationally and sell millions of records, Furstenfeld and Delahoussaye said in unison.

311 singer discusses Omaha, California and making it big

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

Former Omaha band 311 is making it big in California.

Nick Hexum, vocalist, Chad Sexton, drummer, and Tim Mahoney, guitarist, SA Martinez, vocalist and P-Nut, bassist all grew up in Omaha.

Mahoney decided on his music career in fourth grade, when he picked up the trombone for the school band.

Hexum played in two bands during his sophomore and junior years of high school. Starting in 1986, he was playing in Omaha bands as well.

Sexton had always loved music and had always hoped that music would be in his career.

He decided after his first year in college that he wanted to move to California and concentrate on making music.

"We all grew up in musical families so that probably got us interested in music at a very early age," Hexum said, "but we really got started playing in school and local bands. Chad and I played in the [Westside] High School Jazz Band before we played together in 311. We also played in different cover local bands and stuff."

Although 311 has been around since 1991, the band has played three years before, in Omaha as the Fish Hippos. P-Nut, Sexton and the original guitarist of 311 all played in the band.

Hexum said 311 came to be the band's name because bassist P-Nut and friends got in trouble for skinny-dipping at night in a public pool. 311 is the police code for indecent exposure.

311 released its first album, "Music" in 1993, and then began to tour immediately afterwards to support the album.

The tour was held back briefly because of a fire that had burned their RV and sound equipment.

So far 311 has had to cancel only one show because of the fire and were touring again after their fans donated sound equipment.

The band's music is described as sounding "electric-rock." Its fan-base grew swiftly as more and more people were getting drawn to the band's rare sounds, endless energy and mighty performances.

The band's popularity fired up in 1996 when they released the single, "Down."

The new single took over the charts for over a year after the release of the self-titled album, "311." The song, "All Mixed Up" was second on the Billboard Modern Rock Radio Chart.

"I'm generally inspired to write songs about my own life," Hexum said, "But not every song you hear is autobiographical. I just try to write about human experience."

The band's six albums are a fine example of Hexum's lyrical styles. Two of the albums, "Music" released in 1993 and "Grassroots" released in 1994 have reached a certified Gold. Its self-titled album, "311" released in 1995 reached certified Triple Platinum. "Transistor" was certified Platinum after the 1997 release.

In 1998, 311 released two more albums: "Live" and "Omaha Sessions," which is an album of compilations of selected tracks from The band's early independent releases, all recorded between the years of 1988 and 1991.

311 has gotten a certified Platinum for its videography for "Enlarged to Show Detail" by Capricorn Video in 1996.

311 does not seem to have forgotten its Omaha roots, although it hit the big time after the move to Los Angeles.

"We just had a local Omaha band called Clever play with us in Omaha they're a great band," Hexum said. "Also, Grasshopper Takeover played with us some shows."



COURTESY OF CAPRICORN RECORDS

STILL HERE The band 311 started in Omaha, but hit the bigtime when they made a move to Los Angeles, Cal. Some of the members have known each other since junior high.

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Clever rocks Omaha's local scene

By Layne Gabriel

Local band Clever has been getting a lot of attention from fans.

[The following] is the fun part," singer Bruce Coddington said.

Clever formed in Nov. of 1997 and played its first show on New Year's Eve of that year.

The first incarnation of the band consisted of Coddington, guitarists Kevin Thomas and Paul Moerke, bassist Clint Thomas and drummer Paul Weaklend.

Marriage and family caused Moerke, C. Thomas and Weaklend to leave the band, with the current lineup being Coddington, K. Thomas, Zach Wagner on bass and Ben Maxwell on drums.

"We're the coolest we've ever been," Coddington said.

Coddington said that working in a band is a hard life, since the band spends most of its time in a van and playing shows.

"You don't make any money doing this," he said, but added that it was worth it and that he enjoys what he does.

K. Thomas said that he enjoys the music business and everyone that he has met is interesting.

Coddington said instead of the band members getting paid with the money they earn, the money goes to gas for driving to shows that are a substantial distance away.

Clever recently released its second album and have been playing shows all over the midwest.

We've slowed down quite a bit, we've been playing at least one show a month," K. Thomas said.

K. Thomas said the band plays lots of shows in college towns and in Omaha. He said that most of the band's shows are populated by a younger crowd.

We've always counted on Omaha for the past year and a half," Coddington said.

Although the band has played shows all over Omaha, K. Thomas said he prefers the Sokol upstairs, while Coddington prefers the Ranch Bowl.

"We play at the Ranch Bowl a lot," K. Thomas said.

Clever has recieved exposure throughout the Omaha area through local radio stations that have picked up its songs.

The first single that was played was "Bother to Ask" which made it in a top 5 spot in local radio.

The band's most recent release, "M39" put the song "Swallow" into rotation on 89.7 the River.

Coddington and K. Thomas said they draw their influences from many types of music.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CLEVER

K. Thomas cites his influences as The Police and Helmet while Coddington has been influenced by artists he has worked with.

Coddington said he received much of his knowledge from Nick Hexum and Chad Sexton of 311 and Gwen Stefani of No Doubt while he was on tour with them with his former band, Blue Moon Ghetto.

Coddington said he listens to many different types of music.

"I'm a product of the radio," he said, but also disclosed, "I'm a huge Justin Timberlake [of N*Sync] fan."

Although Clever migrated to St. Louis for a while, it seems the band is happy to return to its home turf.

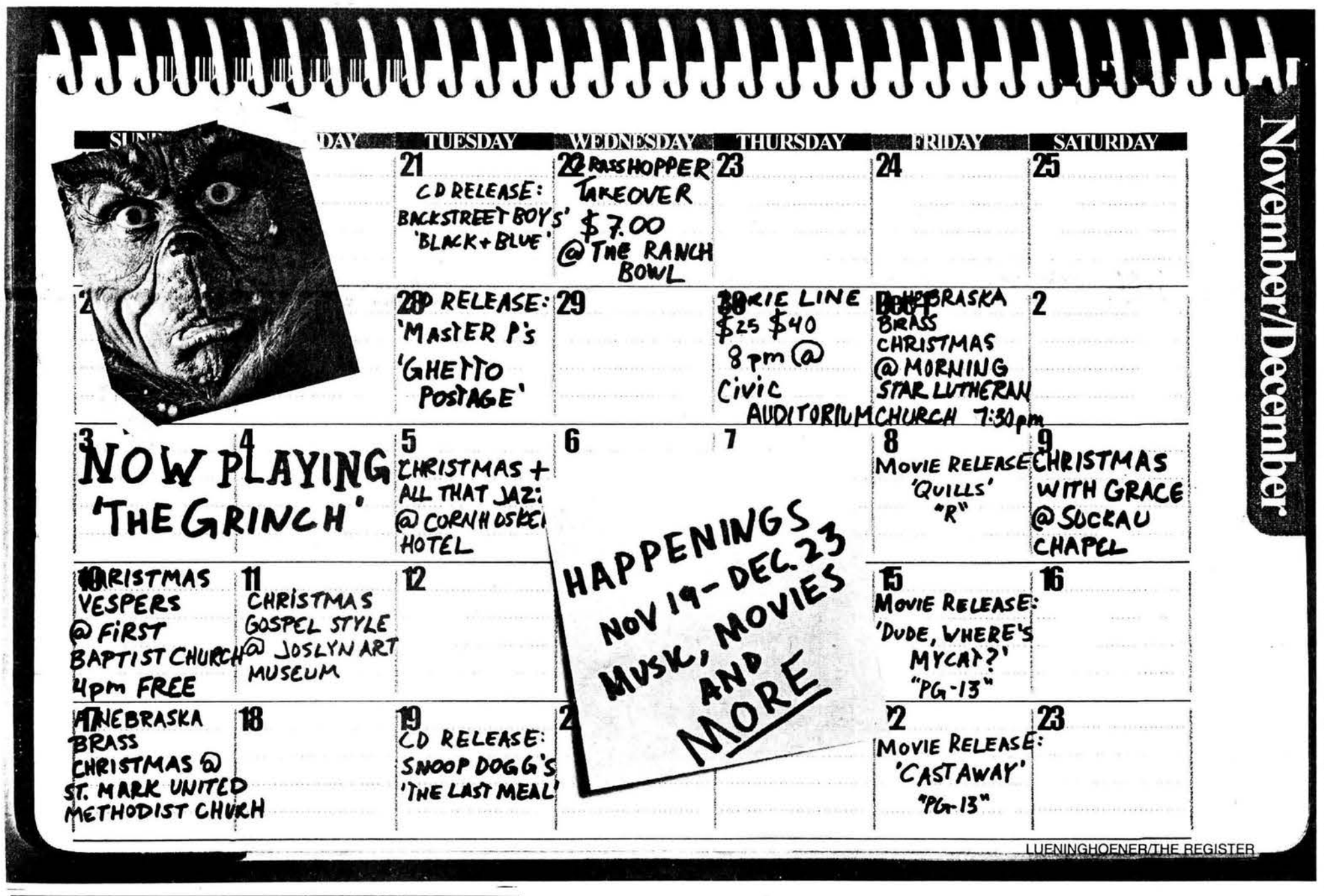
"The crowd here in town is definitely very supportive," K. Thomas said.

Clever has played shows with the Urge, 2 Skinny J's, Kid Rock, POD and most recently, 311.

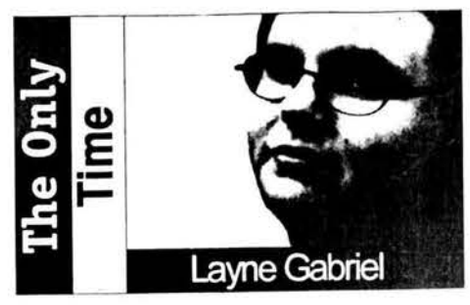
K. Thomas said that if someone was interested in the band, it would be best to start off listening to albums and then going to shows.

The band has talked about record deals K. Thomas said, but as for now, the band is going with the flow.

"I want to make $100 million, but I'll settle for having a good time and touring around," Coddington said.



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER



Concert-goer demands a little more r-e-s-p-e-c-t

The next person that steps on my foot is going to get kicked in the head.

Sadly, this has become my motto at concerts.

I am sick of people disrespecting their fellow concert-goers, so it's time for me to play Miss Manners and tell you the basic etiquette of going to concerts.

Many people in high school are unable to drink at concerts. This is a good thing. When you reach 21, keep it that way.

Mostly everyone hates being surrounded by a bunch of drunk people stumbling all over themselves in an attempt to act civil.

And then there's the problem with people spilling their drinks. As if it's not gross enough that they are cavorting around like complete idiots, they always end up running into the most innocent person and spilling beer all over them.

Smoking bugs me just as much. I could care less if you want to smoke your cigarette, just watch out where you hold it. Nobody wants to get burned.

As for your friend Mary Jane: leave her at home.

For the love of all that is sacred, stay in one place through the whole show.

Bathroom breaks are understandable, but all that pushing and shoving through the crowd is unnecessary.

Watch where you walk. I hate it when my foot gets stepped on 40 times during one set.

If, heaven forbid, you accidentally push someone, excuse yourself. Do not just go on your merry way, you moron.

Yes, it is cute that you want to help the short girls in the audience see, but do not put them on your shoulders. It just obstructs everyone else's view.

If you are going to a concert because the lead singer of the band is cute (believe me, I have seen that numerous times), do not go. Do not disgust me with your "He/she's so cute," statements.

Go to appreciate the music and the artist for what they do, not to obsess over how hot the band looks in leather pants. But, of course, if you like the music and appreciate them, one or two statements about appearance are permissible.

It is also really nice if people would follow the rules. Do not take photos if cameras are not allowed. It is as simple as that. It is not a calculus assignment.

Mosh all you want. Go crowd-surfing. Enjoy yourself, but there is no place for freak dancing. None.

Please do not make out with your partner of choice during a concert. Save it for home.

And the last and most obnoxiously disgusting vile thing, if you are gross and sweaty, and for some odd reason you feel the need to remove your shirt, do NOT rub your nasty, foul, obscene, raunchy icky perspiration on me.

Following these simple requests would help any concert be much more enjoyable for everyone there.

If nobody else appreciates it, at least I will.

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Basketball skills guide former Eagle to KSU

By Troy Schulte

Adjusting to the differences between junior college basketball and playing on the Division I level has proved difficult for a former Central basketball star.

Galen Morrison, who graduated from Central and played his last game for the Eagles in 1997, went to Iowa Western Community College after high school because his grades did not meet Division I standards.

During his time at Iowa Western, Morrison said that he made an attempt to improve and develop every aspect of his game.

After his two years at Iowa Western, Morrison was recruited heavily by Division I schools with successful basketball programs like, Texas, Hawaii, Providence, Illinois St., Bradley, as well as the school he chose, Kansas State.

"I do not even know why I chose Kansas State," Morrison said. "It was just a place I could play and start quickly."

He said that junior college was another level of high school.

On the Division I level, a player has to be able to play team basketball and play well on defense, rather than just focusing on individual accomplishments, he said.

"Up here [on the Division I level] you can not win on individual talent." Morrison said.

Morrison arrived at Kansas State, prior to last season, and was put into the starting lineup immediately; a move that he said was not surprising to him.

However, he had a momentary setback. After a couple of bad games to start the season, he was put on the bench.

In order to regain his starting spot, Morrison had to work hard and show the coaches his potential.

By the time the Big XII conference season started he was back in the starting lineup in time for its Jan. 8 game against Nebraska.

In that game Morrison scored a career high 27 points, including seven three-pointers in the Kansas State victory.

"It was just one of those games where I had a hot hand and could not miss a shot," Morrison said.

Against St. Louis Morrison partially tore his medial crucial ligament, but still played through the pain.

Then, which was even worse, he suffered a bulging disc in the lower part of his back. He said those injuries made the odds of him playing pro ball very low.

"I would have liked to play overseas, but I can not now," Morrison said, "I would not even take the opportunity if it came along."

Then prior to its game against Missouri, Morrison was suspended for the final six games of the season after an argument with a coach.

"It was just a coach who I really did not get along with to well," Morrison said. "He told me that maybe this was not the best place for me to play."

After a very dismal 9-19 record (just 2-14 in conference play) coach Tom Asbury was fired after his fifth season at Kansas State.

Going into the 2000-2001 season, despite little success last year, Morrison said that new head coach Jim Wooldridge would put the Wildcats back on the winning track.

The Wildcat's goal this year is to hopefully win 20 games and make it to the postseason.

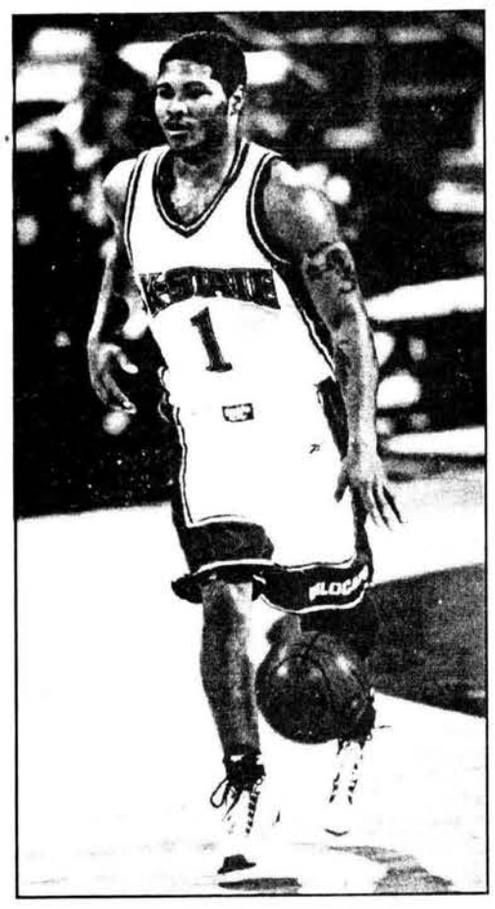


PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER AIKEN

WILDCAT Galen Morrison moved from Central to Kansas State University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM DEACON

HANGING ON: Central student Eric Rafferty hangs on while climbing in Montana. Rafferty has been rockclimbing for the past two years.

Mountains beckon Central rock climbers

By Seumas McMorris

While participating in his first rock climbing competition, a Central junior dislocated his knee and was unable to continue.

Eric Rafferty competes in rock climbing with friend Adam Deacon, also a Central junior.

Rafferty first began rock climbing with his cousin from Alaska two years ago. This is his first year for rock climbing actively. He kept with it because he loved the workout, Rafferty said.

"Its a lot of fun," Rafferty said.

Besides the necessary equipment for rockclimbing, such as shoes, rope and a belay device, there are some necessary skills for it, Rafferty said.

A good upper body and strong forearms are some of the qualities necessary to become a rock climber, he said.

Rafferty said he believes very strongly that rock climbing is a sport. The national teams and competition are some reasons that Rafferty feels so strongly. It differs from other sports in that not as many people do it and a person can compete by himself without a team, Rafferty said.

"It' s pretty uncommon," Rafferty said.

Rafferty has only competed in one competition in Boulder, Colo. but plans to do more as soon as his knee allows him to do so. Rafferty still placed third out of fourteen.

He said he believes that he is past the beginner level and is already on the intermediate level.

Rafferty sparked Deacon's interest in rockclimbing. Deacon continued because of the thrill it gave him.

"There is nothing like it," Deacon said.

Deacon has now been rockclimbing for ten months. He has rockclimbed in Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota.

The Blue Mountains in South Dakota and Minnesota are the best places to go that is close to Omaha, Deacon said.

Deacon said that he has been learning from Rafferty and hopes to be at his skill level soon.

"[Rafferty] is one of the best in Omaha," Deacon said.

Bruce Saxton from the University of Nebraska at Omaha Adventure Store teaches a class in rock climbing.

He has been rockclimbing for eight years and doing it professionally for four.

Physical fitness and experience over time on the rock is what separates the classes in rock climbing.

"Climbing as much as you can is the most important way to become a good rock climber," Saxton said.

Contrary to what some believe, luck does not have much to do with rock climbing, he said.

A person has to be in a good mental state of control to be a good rock climber, Saxton said.

Coaches show sportsmanship, intensity

By Troy Schulte

With the aggressivness of coaches growing in America, Central athletics director Paul Pennington said that he does not see aggressivness in the coaches at Central.

"I am not in every locker room or halftime, so I can not say that none of them do it," Pennington said.

But, he said this year there have been no complaints or incidents that he has heard about where a coach has showed aggressive behavior towards his players.

"There was an incident [years ago]," Pennington said, "where a coach told me he slipped and used profanity in front of his players."

That coach later apologized to his players and was told by Pennington that he did not want that going on He said if a Central coach was ever accused of such behavior that he would first have to find out if it was true and explained to them that that would not be going on.

"I think I owe it to the coach to find out the truth, if it was true I would explain to them that if it happened again they would no longer be coaching here," Pennington said.

Even though sportsmanship is emphasized at Central, sometimes giving that extra effort is needed to be a successful coach, he said.

"There is nothing wrong with a string of meanness," Pennington said. "As long as it stays within the rules of the game."

Freshman basketball coach Josh Montzingo said that coaches do not need to be aggressive to get their players attention. They do, however, need to be rather intense.

"I do not think that aggressive is the right word for me," Montzingo said. "Intense is more like it."

Pennington said he agrees that there is a level of intensity that a player as well as a coach must reach in order to win.

"It keeps kids on their toes and keeps their heads in [the game]," Montzingo said. "But after I yell, I go up to them put my arm around them and tell them what their mistake was."

Anytime a player gets scolded or criticized, he takes it personally, which could cause problems between a player and a coach, Pennington said.

"Some players do [take it personally] when they are first getting to know me, but they learn that they I yell when I care and yelling is not my only approach," Montzingo said.

Just like at Central, Pennington does not see this issue as a problem in other Omaha area athletic problems.

"I think that it is the same here as anywhere else," Pennington said, "but I do not know how much is emphasized on the issue."

Both Pennington and Montzingo said they agree that professional and collegiate coaches deserve all the negative attention they receive for their over aggressiveness.

Coaches of all levels should not take out their frustration on other people and deserve any attention they get, Pennington said.

Southeast looks promising for state playoffs

The Opinion of the *Register* Sports Staff 11/16/00*

Both Creighton Prep and Lincoln Southeast paved their roads to the state title game by playing undefeated throughout the whole season.

However, Southeast's superior defense should give them the upper hand during the game.

Southeast has outscored its opponents this year by a two-to-one margin.

This shows dominance on both sides of the ball.

If Prep is to win the state title, its first concern should be to make sure it makes little positives on every play.

The team that wins this game will have to have complete control of the clock.

This will require a special attention to not turning over the ball, and running plays that take up several more seconds than they would if the same distance was covered with a pass.

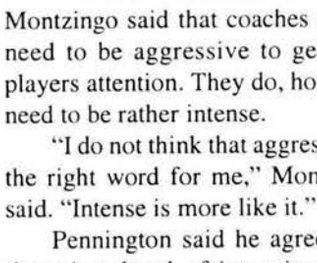
It seems that Southeast will win the game because it is much better at controlling the clock, and its strengths are finely tuned to beat Creighton Prep's weaknesses.

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TRAINER'S CORNER



Concussion can be prevented

What is a concussion?

A concussion is a bruise to the brain and surrounding tissues. Concussions can vary in degrees or "grades" from one to five, one being the least dangerous and five meaning death. Each grade is characterized by signs and symptoms that may be present, but keep in mind that each occurrence is unique and may have characteristics of one or more grades.

What procedures do you go through when you are trying to determine the seriousness of concussions?

When determining if an individual has suffered a concussion, often the first questions asked are related to loss of consciousness and loss of memory. "What was the last thing you remember?" "Do you remember being struck?" "What day is it today?" "Where are you?"

After those questions are answered, I then try to determine other signs and symptoms the individual is experiencing. This is often completed by simply talking to the athlete and asking questions. From the interview and examination of the individual, the grade or degree can often be determined. Once the grade is determined, care is decided. Care may include: refraining from further competition, supervision by parent for changes in status, being sent to the hospital for x-rays, being seen by a physician.

Do you think that concussions have become more frequent in the past couple of years?

In fact, as technology and understanding of injuries to the brain has increased, concussions have occurred less. Equipment is improving and able to protect the head and brain much better, resulting in the numbers of concussions decreasing. In addition, the education available to the general public about the hazards and precautions needed for concussions has increased .

Can concussions have long-term effects?

The risk of long-term effects is greatly reduced if the concussions are of a lower grade, and if they are recognized early and cared for properly. There are risks of long-term effects if the concussion is not treated properly, not given sufficient time to heal prior to returning to competition or if they are suffered repeatedly. Long-term effects may include loss of memory, mild to severe retardation, loss of function in parts of the body, or death.

What is the best protection against concussions?

The best protection is education, being aware of the signs and symptoms of concussions and knowing how concussions occur. This includes wearing proper equipment, using proper technique during your sport (how you tackle for instance), and coaches and teammates becoming familiar with warning signs of a concussion.

Freshman's bat sparks softball team's season

By Chris Aponick

The varsity softball team's top scorer this year still has three years left at Central, the team's assistant coach said.

Scott Wilson, the assistant softball coach, said that Ashley Wilds, freshman, joined the team after the year started and then played varsity for the rest of the season. She went on to lead the team in hitting RBIs and she was second in doubles and third in batting average in state.

"I was the fourth batter at the start of the year and finished as the leadoff hitter," Wilds said.

Not without good reason. Her coaches noticed something special about Wilds right at the season's start.

"She was extremely good from day one," Wilson said. "She also has a lot of other physical attributes that boosted the team."

Wilds credits her swinging style to her summer softball coach.

"We basically ran through different hitting stations and worked with having her hands explode through the ball. We ran through several different drills in the winter," her summer softball coach, Joseph Nagrete, said.

This summer Wilds gained valuable experience playing for a team called Omaha Finesse. The team also had two other Central players, Kate Muldoon, sophomore, and Emily Muskin, freshman, Nagrete said.

"She had not had a lot of team experience before this year," he said.

The team made it all the way to the American Fast-pitch Association Nationals in its first year and placed 28th. Wilds was nominated All-American Honorable Mention for this year.

"I let her do her own thing and made adjustments as she went," Nagrete said. "We did several repetitions."

Nagrete said that Wilds is a gifted athlete for many reasons.

"She is graced with great hand-to-eye coordination," Negrete said. "She is also extremely coachable."

The Central coaches have welcomed the chance to let Wilds do her own thing, Nagrete said.

"The coaches told me to not worry about striking out," she said. "I was told to concentrate on just hitting the ball and not being nervous."

Wilds said that her success was able to give confidence to the other players.

"I think my batting average helped others get pumped," she said. "They could count on me getting on base."

"A .452 batting average as a freshman is a tough act to follow," Wilson said. "When you start off that good there is some fear because people tend to look at anything less as a letdown."

The two coaches said they both see room for improvement.

"Her natural athleticism has carried her this far," Nagrete said. "She should be able to build on that."

"She could improve if she cuts down on strikeouts and becomes a more vocal leader," Wilson said.

As for this year, Wilson said Wilds could win some postseason awards.

"I have to keep playing and have a good attitude," she said.



WARMING UP Freshman Ashley Wilds warms up her throwing arm on a cold day. She led her team in several offensive categories this year, including batting average with a .452 average. This batting average placed her at third in the state.

Soccer experience helps football kicker succeed

By Seumas McMorris

Years of soccer experience helped the Eagles new kicker, Aleks Berzins, throughout the season.

Berzins' parents placed him into soccer early on at the age of thirteen while they were still living in Colorado.

He said that his older brother played soccer and that kept him motivated.

Berzins did not play competition soccer until he reached the age of ten.

However, he said that he did not really get serious about the sport until the age of twelve or thirteen.

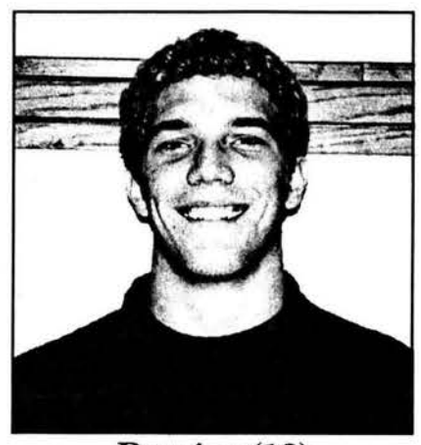
"Its just one of the sports that you love," Berzins said.

Berzins has been playing for a soccer team called the Arsenal Crush in the U.S.A. league for the past five years.

His team has placed 7th in the league out of a hundred plus teams.

The team makes him travel a lot to places like Kansas City, Des Moines and Tampa.

Berzins team, Arsenal Crush, has won Nebraska State cup and was the Premier League Champions for the past three years in a row.



Berzins (12)

Berzins is also on Central's varsity soccer team where he will be team captain this year.

He was recognized for his academics and skills in soccer by being invited to the all-star tournament in Honolulu, Hawaii. Only a few people are selected, head coach Tim Herbert said.

Herbert said that his invitation to Hawaii is one of the reasons he expects so much out of Berzins in the upcoming season. He has been a reliable players this year.

Berzins started scoring goals at the end of the season last year and is expected to be one of the top scorers on the team this year, Herbert said.

"[Berzins] has stepped forward in playing, training and conditioning," Herbert said. "Berzins plays bigger than he is and knows the game very well."

He said that Berzins is following the footsteps of the four kickers that came before him.

Head football coach Joe McMenamin said he agrees.

He said that recruiting from the soccer team has helped to solve the kicker problem that has been troubling them for years.

Berzins is following kickers from years past such as Luke Denney, Jason Galaska and Andrew Ludwig.

McMenamin said that he has done a respectable job with extra points and is currently tied for number one in punting and has really helped in field position.

"He is possibly the best punter in Central history," McMenamin said.

McMenamin said that Berzins always wants to do better and no one wants it more than him.

But he is also quick to point out that there is a difference between going over it in practice and actually doing it during games when the pressure is on.

The recruiting began during the spring with just a conversation.

Berzins said he would do it but did not arrive until the second week of practice, McMenamin said.

He said he was going to kick for the football team but decided not to when he took a second look at what he would have to do.

There was some encouragement from the players on the football team when Berzins decided not to do it, he said.

"It was a type of recruitment," Berzins said.

There have been games where he has had some regrets, but no one feels it more than me, Berzins said.

Berzins contributes all he can and him scoring can be the factor in winning the game.

He said that his family and true friends support him 100 percent.

"No matter what the situation, a kicker is viewed as single, always isolated from true play. The kicker's job is his and his alone. If he does great he is treated as a hero, if not, there will be hell to pay." Berzins said.

Two cross-country runners qualify for state competition

By Troy Schulte

While the 93 state qualifiers took off at the 2000 state track meet on Oct. 20 in Kearney, Neb., only two runners from Central qualified to make the field.

Chris Gorga and Ryan Shaw, both sophomores, were Central's only participants, head coach Tim Shipman said.

"In a junior and senior dominated sport, it is unusual but not unheard of." Shipman said of Central's only two runners at state.

What is even more uncommon, Shipman said, is that last year freshman Gorga was the only person in the state to finish in the top ten.

It was not surprising to Shipman that Gorga qualified after winning districts a couple weeks before.

He said he was surprised and happy for Shaw when he learned that he finished ninth and qualified to go to state for the first time.

"Ryan was on the proverbial bubble," Shipman said of Shaw's chances at qualifying, "I thought he had an outside chance."

Shaw said he was also surprised. He said that it was a year-long goal that he did not think he would achieve.

"Ryan, I thought, had a real learning experience," Shipman said. "In the future I think he will do better."

Shaw finished in the lower-half of the field, placing 58th.

He finished with a time of 18:07.8.

"I thought I did pretty well, it was one of my better times," Shaw said," but I think I could have done better."

Gorga, on the other hand, placed about where he should have in the top ten, Shipman said.

"If the race would have shaped out differently he might have placed a couple sports higher," Shipman said," that's just how the race goes sometimes."

Shipman said that the only runners who beat Gorga where older guys who beat him last year and a freshman from Benson who just ran the lights out.

Even though Central's participants ran well, both Shipman and Shaw where disappointed that only two runners qualified.

"I am disappointed because we had a good group of seniors who ran well for four years." Shipman said.

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WRESTLING
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JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS
11/30 Marian

SPORTS

November 21, 2000

Inside

Softball Team's Freshman Sensation Page 15
Football and Soccer's Shared Star Page 15
Anger Management and Coaching Page 16
Manhattan, KS- Central Connection Page 16
Trainer's Corner and Concussions Page 16

Next Week

VARSITY GIRLS
12/2 BellevueEast
VARSITY BOYS
12/2 Bellevue East
SWIMMING
12/5 at Westside

Charging the Mound



Troy Schulte

Nebraska, Oklahoma renew rivalry

Rivalries.

Those are what put college football up on a pedestal above every other sport in the country.

Sure the NFL has its divisional rivalries like, Washington vs. Dallas or Pittsburgh vs. Cleveland. But these rivalries could never beat Florida vs. Florida St., Michigan vs. Ohio St. or Nebraska vs. Oklahoma.

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma, those words remind every man, woman and child of the epic battles between Tom Osborne and Barry Switzer during the 1970s and 1980s.

They remind old time Husker fans of names like Johnny Rodgers, Turner Gill and Mike Rozier, and old time Sooner fans of Jack Mildren, Billy Simms and Keith Jackson.

They make die-hard fans flashback to games from 1971, 1978 and 1987. The 1971 game, which was dubbed the "Game of the Century" was an instant classic with NU winning 35-31, on Johhny Rodgers' spectacular punt return for a touchdown in the first quarter.

The1978 game was one of the most memorable moments in Nebraska football history with Osborne beating Switzer for the first time, when OU running back Billy Simms fumbled inside the 10-yard line to give NU the17-14 win.

The game in 1987 was dubbed the "Game of the Century II" and OU shut down the one of the most dangerous offenses in the country winning 17-7, spoiling NU's chance at a national title on its way to winning its own.

Then after the 1988 season, Switzer resigned following NCAA investigations and Oklahoma has not been the same since.

Prior to the 1999 season Oklahoma hired a new athletics director and decided to actually try and compete in football again.

OU officials hired a young, fiery defensive coordinator from Florida, named Bob Stoops.

Stoops has all the makings to be hated by Cornhusker fans everywhere.

He played college football at Iowa and coached under Bill Snyder at Kansas State and Steve Spurrier at Florida before moving to Oklahoma.

As soon has he arrived in Norman he began building his team by luring coaches from schools all over the country, including Kansas State.

Combine a great young coaching staff with an even better recruiting class, highlighted by Heisman Trophy candidate Josh Heupel, and you get an Oklahoma team that finished 1999 with a trip to the Liberty Bowl and a winning record for the first time since 1993.

The thing about rivalries is that they do not work unless both teams are successful and no one team dominates the series.

That is why Nebraska vs. Colorado does not work. The Buffs have not beaten NU in over a decade, so now we have to sit and suffer through NU vs. CU on the Friday after Thanksgiving when everyone knows it does not belong there.

That is also why the Sooner vs. Husker game meant nothing in the 1990s. For ten years Nebraska dominated the series and up until Oct. 28, every red-blood Husker fan (even though they would never admit it) was relieved that they had someone to root against again.

The only thing that keeps Husker fans going is the hope that they can get another shot at the Sooners in the Big XII championship game on Dec. 9. This will hopefully be the game of the "this" century and will set the stage for the new NU vs. OU rivalry.

Historic season ends in Lincoln

By Chris Aponick

Central's volleyball team made the first of what could be many trips to the state volleyball tournament in Lincoln this year, head coach Jodi Dierks said.

Despite losing to state runner-up, Lincoln Southeast, the team gained a wealth of experience for next season's team, which will return several starters, she said.

"Next season should be successful because several underclassmen played key roles and starting roles (this year)," Dierks said

Central's success this year can be contributed to the team's unified growth. The team has continually played better this year, she said.

"They ended up playing more as a team instead of as six individuals," Dierks said.

Central was the only team with a winning record going into the district tournament. Norfolk, Burke and Millard South are in the same district as Central.

The team beat Millard South and Burke this year and it performed better than Norfolk in tournament.

"At districts, all the teams start over. So, we needed to go out and try to play our best," Dierks said.

After winning their district, several of the players said they were very optimistic about state and humbled by the prestige of making it into the tournament.

"I have never had this high of an honor in sports before," Holly Greenamyre said. "It shows the hard work of this team and of teams from years past."

Junior Natalie Lubbert said going to state was good recognition for the team.

"Getting to state is quite an accomplishment," Dierks said. "Girls' volleyball has been a high school sport at Central for 30 years and to make it to state for the first time is a good feeling." .

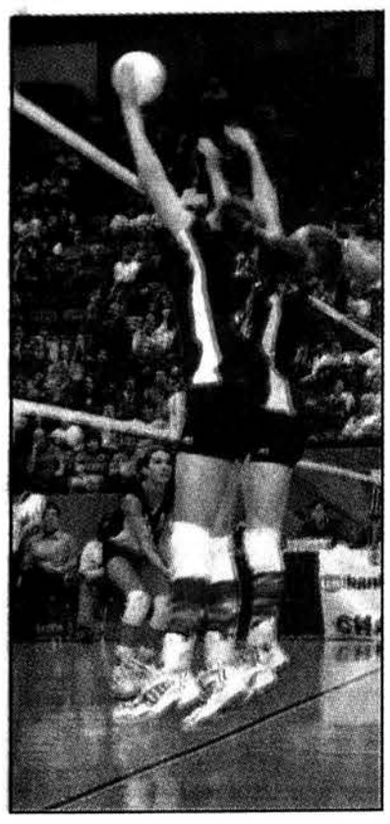
Sophomore Robyn Sorensen said that being on the first Central volleyball team to make it to state will be a good memory.

"It shows how hard we have worked and also shows that we can play with anybody," junior Angela Capellupo said.

Before the game many team members said they felt that they were ready for their opening game against Southeast.

Sorensen said that she knew if they played well they would prove that they could play in the state tournament.

This is great for anybody who has been with Central volleyball because many people have worked hard for, Dierks said.



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTER

TWIN TOWERS Robyn Sorensen(10) and Natalie Lubbert(11) jump up to block the ball from being returned by Lincoln Southeast

Dierks said she spent some time, during the week leading into the tournament, working on getting the team mentally prepared.

"I spent the week trying to get them focused on what it is like to play in the state tournament. They have never watched state volleyball much less play," Dierks said.

Dierks said that she also stressed that the team could compete at the state title level.

On the day of the game, Dierks said that the team seemed to be more excited than nervous.

There was not a lot of pressure on Central because Southeast was picked to win.

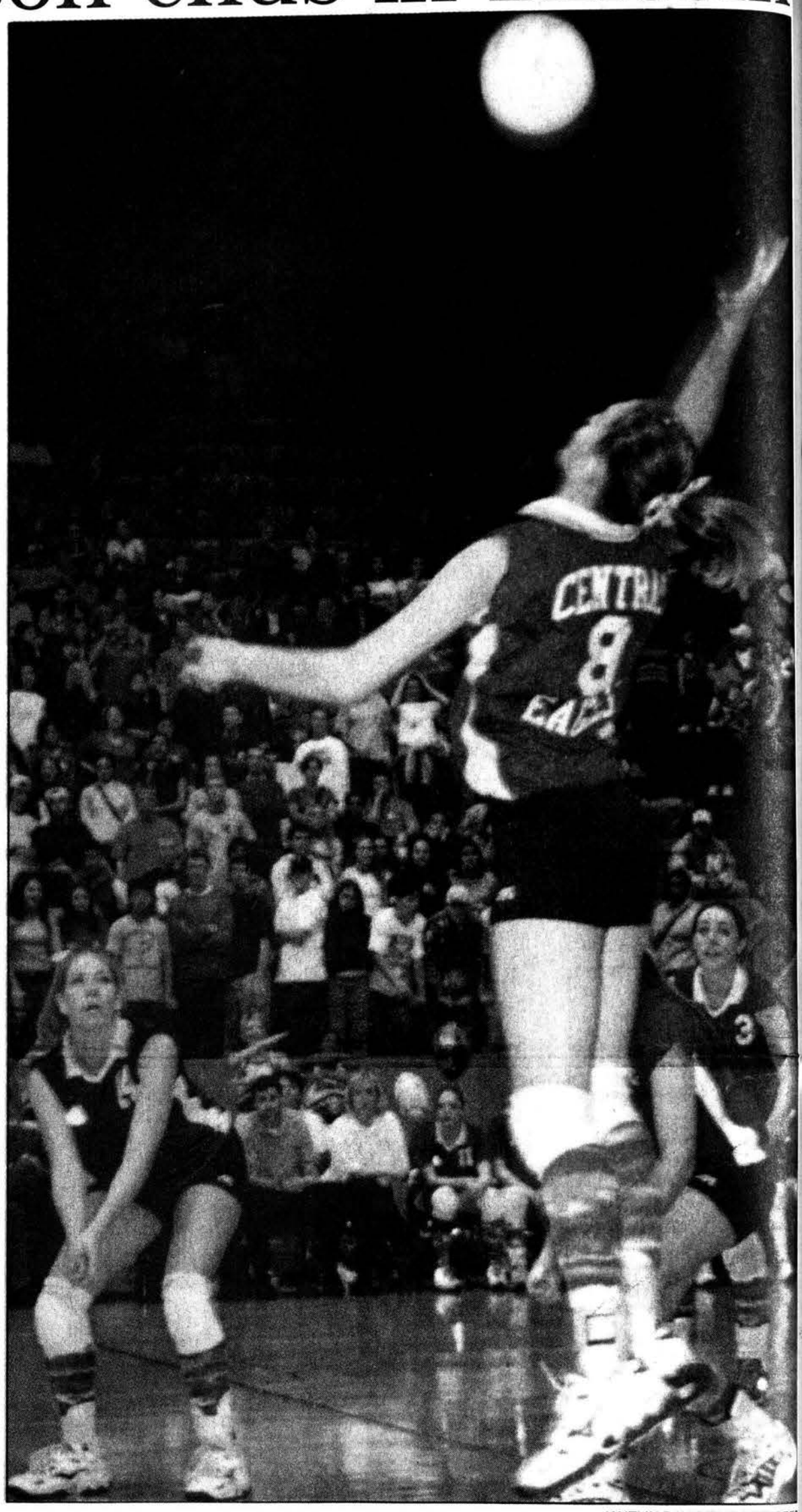
However, they lost to Lincoln Southeast, in two matches, 15-9 and 15-7.

Dierks said that the team did prove that it deserved to be at state by its performance.

"Southeast had to work for every point and so did we," Dierks said. "Of course, they were a little nervous and there were some serving errors. However, those will happen and the team dealt with them fine."

Central has had three winning seasons for volleyball. These winning seasons have all come in the past three years, Dierks said.

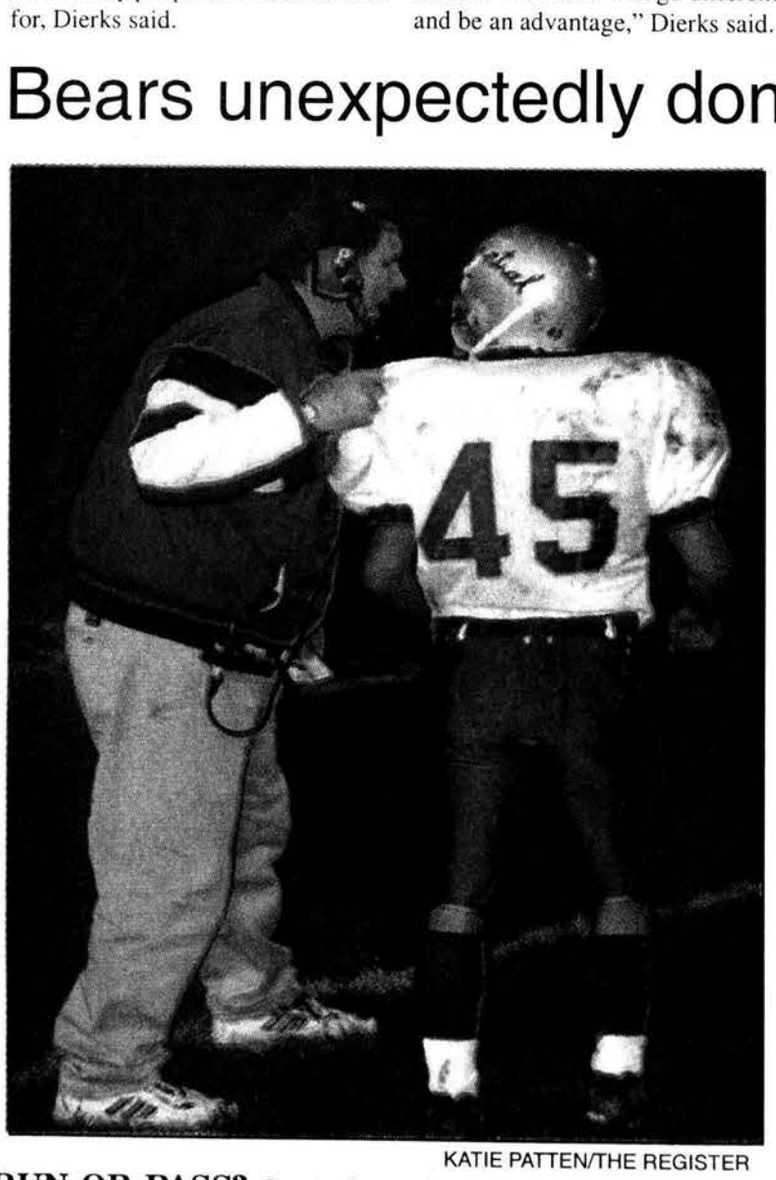
"This experience is a building step for next year," Dierks said. "The fact that we have several returning starters will make a huge difference and be an advantage," Dierks said.



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTER

REACHING UP Sarah Cleveland(12) and Michele Lubbert(11) look on as Holly Greenamyre(11) jumps to fire the ball back towards the Lincoln Southeast side.

Bears unexpectedly dominate Eagles in state playoff shut-out



KATIE PATTEN/THE REGISTER

RUN OR PASS? Central coach, Joe McMenamin sends Clifton Gintz (12) into Central's playoff game with the next play. Central finished the season with a 4-6 record.

By Joe Meyer

"I know they're going to be a powerhouse next year," Tim Bond, Bryan head football coach said.

The Bears ended the Eagles' 2000-2001 season with a 0-31 win on Nov. 1 at Bryan stadium in the first round of the state playoffs.

"Not in my wildest dreams did I believe we could shut Central out," Bond said.

Joe McMenamin, Central's head football coach, was also surprised at the outcome of the game.

"I would have never dreamt in a million years that we would play that poorly," he said.

Coach Bond said that forced turnovers and excellent special teams led to the win.

McMenamin said the field was another factor to his team's loss.

"The field was just saturated," he said. "It seemed like the sprinklers had been turned on."

McMenamin said that the five turnovers committed by the Eagles were devastating, especially the three committed in the last five minutes of the first half.

The Eagles had their first turnover when fullback Clifton Gintz fumbled the ball on the second play of the game. That led to a 34-yard field goal that gave the Bears the lead.

Then, in the second quarter, the Eagles seemed to be driving for a possible touchdown. When they were around the 15-yard line, George Davis threw an interception to Adams.

After the Central defense held the Bears and forced a punt, it got the ball back with 2:29 left in the half. On the first play in the series, Davis threw a lateral to David Horne, which he dropped. Bryan recovered the ball on the 37-yard line.

Mike Meyer, who ended up with 190 rushing yards and three touchdowns, ran the ball in for the last score of the half after the Eagles dropped their third fumble of the half. The Bears took a 0-17 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter, both teams were held scoreless, but the Central offense looked worse than Bryan's did, McMenamin said.

"It looked like they dominated both sides of the line," McMenamin said.

After the game, Bond gave a lot of credit to Meyer for his efforts. He came in after the Bear's star fullback. Joe Kwasniewski, who averaged over 100-yards a game, was hurt in the first quarter.

"Mike's really matured as a runner," Bond said. "He did not have a single carry last year."

Coach McMenamin also praised Meyer. He said that the Eagles did not see him in their first matchup of the season and he had improved a lot since then.



KATIE PATTEN/THE REGISTER

AGONY During a tough game against Bryan, junior Marlon Carter lies down on the sidelines to regain his strength.