Omaha Central High School



National Pacemaker Award Winner

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REGISTER

Cornhusker Award Winner

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EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Hail to the Chief! President Clinton addresses the crowd Dec. 8, while Sen. Bob Kerrey and Senator- elect Ben Nelson look on. It was his first visit to Nebraska, as well as the only state he had not been to during his term.

Clinton speaks at Offutt after visiting Kearney

By Joe Meyer

Six feet.

That is how close some Central students came from shaking hands with President Bill Clinton when he came to Offut Air Force Base Dec. 8.

"I was shellshocked," freshman Nick Delman said. "I was still shaking when I got into the car."

Although he did not get a chance to shake hands with the 42nd president, he was still content.

"Six feet was fine enough," Delman said. "He's [Clinton] done everything right and I wanted to show that I appreciated that."

Sophomore Brian Fahey, president of the Central Student Democrats, was also close to meeting the president. He also said he was about six feet away from the leader of the free world.

"It was overwhelming," he said.

Fahey said the whole experience was an adrenaline rush filled with cheering and amazement.

The crowd was full of excitement as the president was expected to arrive at any time. He was over an hour late coming to the air base because of unexpected stops in Kearney, where he had given a speech earlier that day.

"I'm very excited," Nick Joerz (12) said. "I've been out here for three hours and I want to see the president."

Joerz was helping the White House prepare for the president's visit. He said he was ushering people to their seats, passing out signs and basically helping with the preparation.

"[I'm here] to help the White House and possibly shake hands with the president," Joerz said.

Although he wanted to shake hands with Clinton, Joerz expressed his doubts about that happening before he arrived.

"He's not supposed to [go into the crowd] according to his White House aid," Joerz said. "She said he wasn't going to shake hands."

The president did go into the crowd, though. He spent 20 extra minutes on the tarmac after his speech conversing with his supporters.

Donna Noll, adviser of the Student Democrats, said that she was glad that the president made it to the state.

"I'm a Clinton supporter," she said. "I was very happy to see him in Nebraska."

For the rest of the crowd, they were left listening to Clinton's speech. Before the president said anything else, he opened with a joke.

"One of my critics once said it would be a cold day when

Turn to Clinton, page 5

Report card reflects educational quality

By Sarah Peterson

Nebraska recently released its first report card on the status of education for the 1999-2000 school year, a public information officer for the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) said.

Betty VanDeventer said the report card is its beginning stages, but still provides important information on education in the state.

The report card lists state averages of student achievement in reading and math, student enrollment, ACT scores, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores, student characteristics, graduation rates and graduation follow-ups.

VanDeventer said the State Commissioner of Education, Doug Christensen, announced that he thought the state should receive a grade of an A- or a B+ for the report card.

"...we have good reason to be proud of our schools," Christensen said in the introduction to the report card. "Student achievement levels are high. Graduation rates are high. Our teachers are highly qualified."

According to the report card, Neb. students scored better than students nationwide in reading. Sixty percent of Neb. students in grades 3-4, 7-8 and 10-12 scored above the national average on the 1999-2000 standardized reading test. One-third of Neb. students scored at the highest level, as compared to only 25 percent nationwide.

Neb. students also outscored other students on the national standardized mathematics test, where two-thirds of the students in those grades score above the media. Forty percent scored at the highest level, compared to only 25 percent nationally.

This information, along with that on student enrollment and attendance, came directly from the individual school districts, VanDeventer said. In the 1999-2000 report card, 593 school districts were included.

Information about ACT and NAEP scores came from the testing agencies, VanDeventer said. Nebraska outscored other students from across the nation on both of these tests.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha provided information on Neb. graduates, VanDeventer said.

VanDeventer said the report card was started in a joint effort between the NDE and the Neb. Legislature to grade the quality of Neb.'s schools.

The report card will change in the following years, VanDeventer said.

"Next year, the report card will report district-by-district," VanDeventer said. "It will be called the 'State of the Schools Report.'"

District results vary from those of the overall state, VanDeventer said. This year's results can be viewed at the NDE website at www.nde.state.ne.us.

Results next year will also include a reading standards test and a pilot program in writing. The writing test will test fourth, eighth and 11th graders skills in writing on a prompt this spring.

VanDeventer said aspects of the next years report card are still in the planning process, and thus some details are still uncertain.



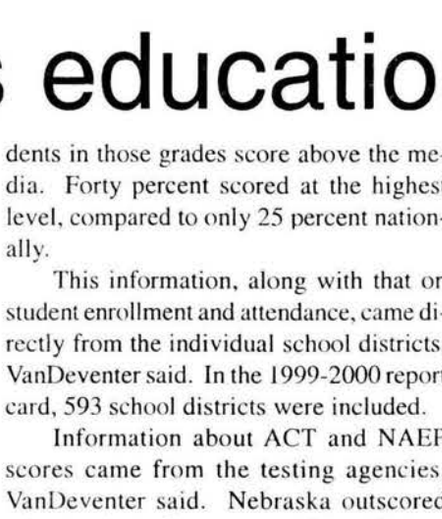
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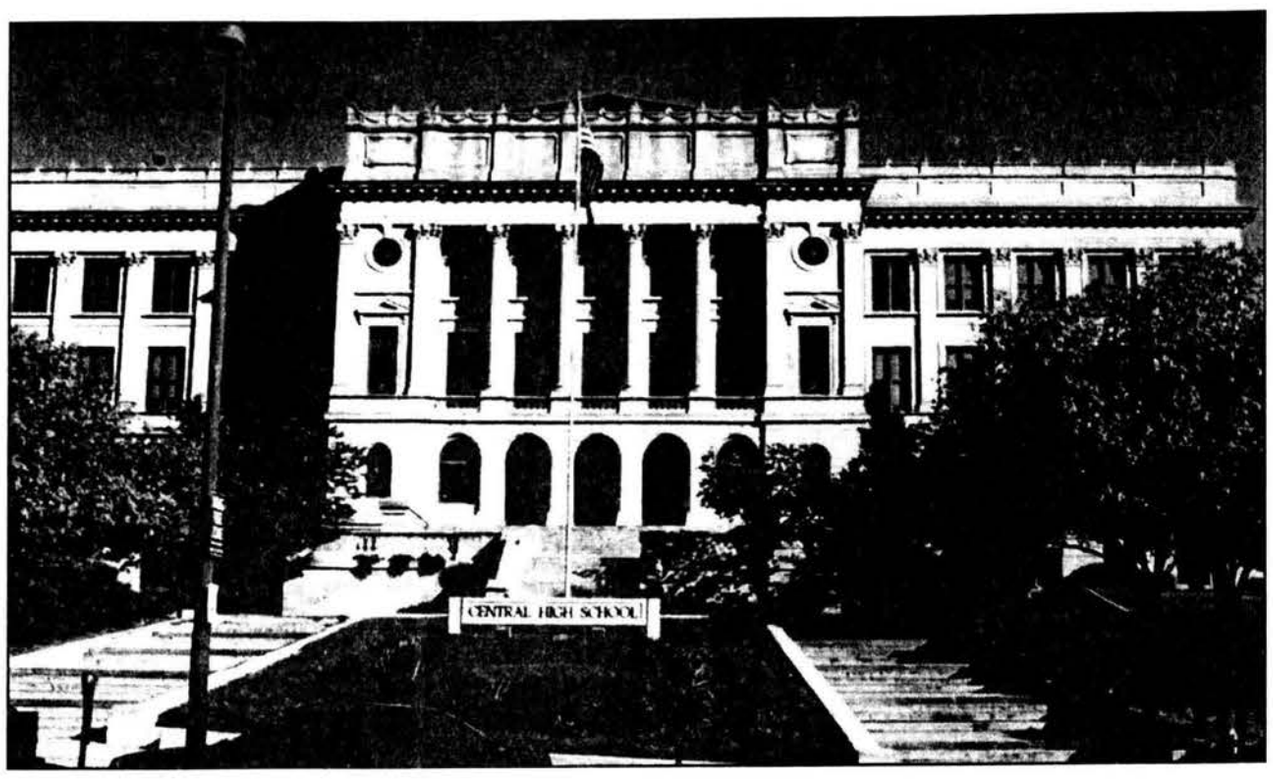
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ABOVE: Current day Central has gone through many changes since its begining days one hundred years ago. Its centennial will be celebrated in April.

Central celebrates centennial

By Matt Wynn

Central turned one hundred years old on Nov. 16, yet the anniversary will not be celebrated until April, the treasurer and administrative secretary for the CHS Alumni Association said.

Terry Price said the centennial was not celebrated in November because the school has a very busy schedule in the fall. But she said she has high expectations for the celebration in April.

"It's events like this that make Central, Central," she said. "All the schools out west don't have this kind of history."

Price said she expects lots of groups to get involved in the centennial celebration, including the jazz band and various choirs.

She also expects the Landmark Organization, a group of people who are generally interested in Omaha and its preservation, to get involved.

"I hope this event will attract more kids to Central that see events like this which show the tradition and how much people care about it," Price said.



Beverly Fellman, the president of the Alumni Association, said that she is planning the celebration for a Sunday afternoon in April.

She said that even though there are Central alumni around the world, most likely only those from the United States will show up for the celebration.

Although she said she does not know any specifics about the celebration at this point, a committee will be meeting from Dec. 11 until the actual date in April.

"Our graduates have gone on to do great things," Fellman said. "Everybody wears that with pride."

Merrilee Miller, the founder and first president of the Alumni Association, said she has many plans for the celebration.

She said a donation from an anonymous family of Central graduates donated enough money to set up a massive show of display cases in the courtyard.

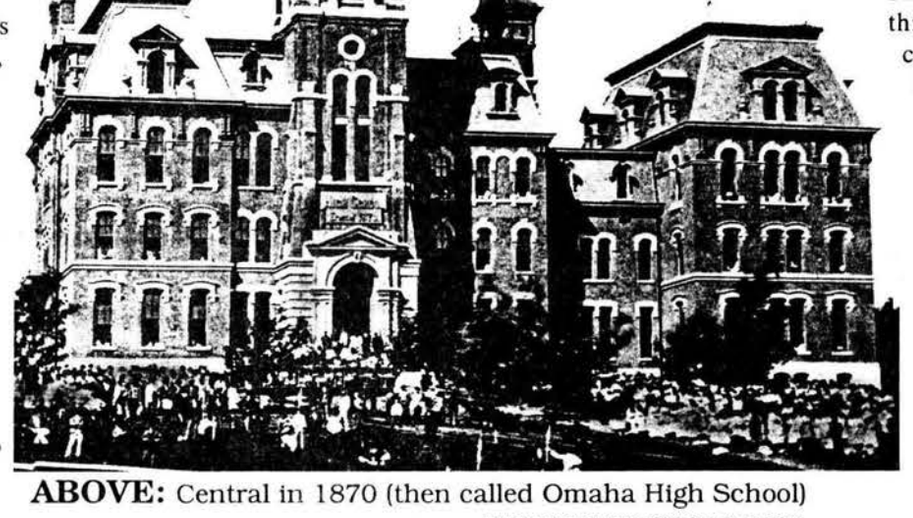
She said the display cases could include a baseball uniform from 1910, photos of hallways now and in the past, old JROTC uniforms and mock-up contents of Central's cornerstone.

Miller said that invitations have been sent out to all former alumni through the alumni's newsletter.

She said that she thinks the celebration will be very exciting.

"It's not just a matter of living long enough, but still being viable," Miller said.

Dr. Gary Thompson said that the celebration will be a boon to the school. He also said this event will give the school a chance to show off its rich history.



ABOVE: Central in 1870 (then called Omaha High School)
PHOTO COURTESY OF O-BOOK

DECA competes for grant for anti-smoking campaign

By Kaitlin Davis

Anti-Smoking campaigns, run by adults do not seem to be working, so Central's Marketing Department wants to give the students a try by applying for a grant to start a student campaign.

Four Central students, Mike Kruger (12), Luke Killian (11), Claire Devney (12) and Brig George (11) were coordinating the proposal for the grant, marketing teacher Harry Gaylor said.

These four students, along with marketing department, teachers Gaylor and Vicki Wiles said, they hope to create the campaign called Project: WHY? They said they hope to encourage students not to smoke, Gaylor said.

"We want to get kids asking themselves, and each other, why," Kruger said.

The students hope to start their campaign in January if the grant is given to Central, Wiles said.

The campaign would start with an anti-smoking festival that would target the middle schools which feed Central, Kruger said.

These middle schools would include King Science Center, Lewis and Clark, and Norris.

The students would try to run a pep rally against smoking, Devney said.

Since most of the students are seniors, the department would like to get most of the campaign completed by the end of this year, Wiles said.

The money for the one million dollar grant is part of the money allotted to Nebraska from the tobacco company settlement.

Each person with a winning proposal will receive a $5,000 scholarship, Gaylor said.

Since Central's population is very diverse the project will be able to affect most of Omaha. Most of the money from the grant will go to advertising, Gaylor said.

The project will gain media by running t.v. ads, newspaper ads and putting up signs Wiles said.

The students are also going to offer discount cards. This way every time students use the card they will think why should they smoke, Wiles said.

Gaylor said the program will be set up to try and convince students not to start smoking as well as provide help for those who smoke and want to quit.

The project plans to offer after-school classes for students that smoke, Wiles said.

"This would involve a change in school policy," she said.

Once students were caught smoking they would be sent to the after school class instead of having Saturday school or detention, Wiles said.

The department should know if they will receive the grant or not in Feb. of 2001.

Central students named to Who's Who Among High School Students

By Matt Wynn

Every year, around 750,000 of the nations best and brightest students are recognized in the prestigious *Who's Who Among High School Students*, the assistant to the publisher of the book said.

Judy Casey said teachers, church officials and leaders of other activities in which the student participates, nominate students.

In the latest edition, 7,850 students from Nebraska were listed, Casey said.

"Every year we contact each of the nation's 24,000 public, private and parochial schools to ask for nominations," Casey said.

In order to be nominated, students must maintain a B or better average and participate in activities both in and out of the school. Only five percent of the nation's 15 million students are listed in the book.

"We are dependent on these organizations to nominate eligible students," Casey said.

Several students from Central were listed in the latest edition of the book. Casey said Natalie Andreasen (10), Jennifer Clausen (10), Alex Dillon (11), Alissa Fitch (12) and Paula Connor (12) were a few of the students included in the book.

Fitch said she ordered the book, but she was disappointed by it when it arrived.

"There are so many people included in the book that it doesn't make you feel special at all," Fitch said.

The book is published in 18 regional volumes, Casey said. Students from Nebraska are listed in the 16th volume, along with students from Colorado, Montana and other states in the region.

The newest edition, the 34th, will be available at certain Omaha libraries which are chosen to receive complementary copies.

Along with being an honor, a listing in the book can lead to scholarships or aid in admission to selective colleges.

Statistics on students listed in the book are released annually. In the latest edition, the greatest percentage of students, around 37 percent, were juniors. Twenty-seven percent were seniors, another 27 percent were sophomores and only nine percent were freshmen.

The vast majority of students (around two-thirds) were female.

The most common leadership activities included student council and class officers. The major vocational organizations in which students participated were 4-H, the National FFA Organization, DECA and Business Professionals of America. Many also played sports, participated in musical or performing arts groups and were involved in other extracurricular activities.

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College rewards outweigh costs, scholar says

By Sarah Peterson

The daunting price of $35,400 for a year at Harvard, or even the $8,532 for a year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), is enough to scare many families away from the benefits of higher learning.

As these costs continue to rise, more and more people will be frightened away from pursuing a college education.

A recent study conducted by the College Board reported that college tuition and fees in 2000-2001 increased anywhere from 4.4 to 5.2 percent at four-year institutions, and from 3.4 to 7.0 percent at two-year institutions.

At the same time, however, the report stated that $68 billion of financial aid was available to families during the 1999-2000 school, a four percent increase from the previous year.

This information leads Tom Mortenson, a senior scholar at the Center for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington, D.C., to believe no child—except those with extraordinarily low income—should give up a college education due to a lack of money.

"About the only thing more expensive than going to college is not going to college," Mortenson said.

Even with the rising costs of college, Mortenson maintained college is still one of the best investments that a person can make.

He said college is an important investment decision for families, with both benefits and costs involved.

However, he said it would be impossible to get an investment return as large as the one that a person receives from pursuing a college education. A male with a degree from a four-year public university would receive an average $30-35 return for every dollar that he puts forth for his college education.

Mortenson said the Census Bureau reported that a male with a bachelor's degree would earn approximately $900,000 more over a working-lifetime (around 40 years) than a person with a high school diploma. A woman with a bachelor's degree would earn $500,000 to $600,000 more than a woman with a high school diploma. Because these people tend to marry, a college-educated couple would earn around $1.5 million more over a lifetime than a couple with less education.

"When you compare these benefits to the costs, you can definitely tell that it is more expensive not to go to college," Mortenson said.

Besides these financial gains, Mortenson said college-educated people also experience other benefits.

"Adults with a college education live healthier, happier and longer lives," he said.

Mortenson also said the state of Nebraska has maintained a strong record of support in helping students finance college.

"Other states are cutting back funds to provide for healthcare and prisons," Mortenson said.

He said he has been working with UNL, where a 10 percent tuition increase has been debated.

"While many people in eastern Nebraska might be able to afford this increase," Mortenson said, "many of the farmers in the western part of the state would be unable to afford such an increase."

He said that he is against such an increase unless the university creates a financial aid proposal to help lower income families afford the university.

Joan Jurek, a financial aid specialist at the Educational Planning Center in Omaha (a non-profit organization that helps guide students and families through the college process), said she agreed that the cost of college has risen significantly over the past years—far exceeding inflation.

She said the costs of a four-year public institution increased by around 4.4 percent, escalating to an average $8,470. Costs at a private four-year institution increase by around 5.2 percent, the average cost now at around $22,541.

Because of this increase, she said that more people are applying for financial aid. In fact, there was a 6.3 percent increase in the number of students applying for financial aid last year.

Jurek said that the average aid for a full-time student during the 1998-99 school year was around $6,400. The actual aid that a student receives fluctuates depending on the cost of the college and the family's financial circumstances.

Molly Murray, the director of operations at the National Center for College Costs (an organization that conducts consulting and educates families on how to pay for college), said that there has been an increase in the need-based financial aid available to lower- and middle-income families. Her organization helps run an analysis on a family's household circumstances to determine the total that a family should be expected to pay for a child's college education.

"There is definitely more financial aid available to provide better access to a college education," Murray said.

Jurek said that the increase in college costs has made it more difficult for some students to attend college.

However, she also said that there are many scholarships available that students never bother to search for.

"It's just a matter of putting time into looking for the scholarships," Jurek said.

On-site ambulances would improve safety, trainer says

By Chris Aponick

Sarpy County has ambulances at their high school football games but Omaha does not, Central athletic trainer, Jeanee Weiss said.

"We never have had an ambulance at any Omaha Public School (OPS) event except at Bryan High School in Sarpy County who has the volunteer fire department come up," Central's athletic director, Paul Pennington said.

Weiss said she thinks that more schools should also have special access to rescue squads.

"There is a serious need and desire to have ambulances at all of the varsity games"

Jeanee Weiss

"There is a serious need and desire to have ambulances at all of the varsity games," Jeanee Weiss said.

This issue is not a new one Weiss said.

"In years past, the athletic trainers have attempted to go through the process of getting them," Weiss said.

All OPS schools have team doctors at every game.

They make the decision whether to call an ambulance or not.

The general response time for a rescue squad is 15 minutes. Pennington said.

"Everyone of the stadiums are also extremely close to a hospital. Emmanuel Hospital is close to Northwest and Burke, Central is close to UNMC," Pennington said.

Despite this, the ambulances could speed up the trip to the hospital. There are many options for how to provide this service, Weiss said

"The ambulances would be provided by the city or the volunteer fire departments," Weiss said.

The trainers all have been talking to the athletic directors about getting them, she said.

"The athletic directors have discussed it. They may approach the city or county," Weiss said.

OPS had an athletic directors' meeting at the end of September with the director of physical education, Dr. Glenn Mitchell to discuss this and some other topics, Pennington said.

"He wrote a letter to the fire department chief asking if it would be possible to have rescue squad come while on duty to each of the sites' of our games. If they get called away for a different emergency they would go ahead and go but otherwise be there for the two and a half hours of the game," Pennington said.

He said the response so far has not been that good. One concern is the amount of involvement required.

"The real concern is where does it stop. By that, I mean how are you going to say that a varsity game is more important than a reserve game, freshman game or a junior-varsity game," Pennington said.

It would be great to have ambulances at all of the games but it is not realistic, Weiss said. Pennington agrees with her he said.

"It might be feasible to do varsity games only but it is not feasible to have an ambulance at every level at all times," Pennington said.

The lower-level games are extremely different compared to varsity games Pennington said.

"At our JV and freshmen games there is not even a doctor there. There is a trainer there. The trainer has a cell phone and is able to call a rescue squad," Pennington said.

This ambulance supply problem is also what makes Douglas County and Omaha not want to provide this service, he said.

The proposals for ambulances always get negative reactions from the City Council, Weiss said.

"They are unwilling to supply that many ambulances off-site," Weiss said.

However, getting ambulances will be possible if the district supports it, Weiss said.

"It is all a matter of OPS pushing the issue," Weiss said.

Even if the ambulances are there they can still get called away to another emergency. Also there are not enough incidences to justify the ambulances being present at the games, Pennington said.

"You do not want a negative situation to happen to a student at any school event but realistically there have not been a significant number of problems for an ambulance on-site to be necessary," Pennington said.

Weiss said that the positives greatly outweigh the negatives.

"Any instant that it could get a student to the hospital faster could save a life and lessen trauma to the body," Weiss said.

COLLEGE CORNER

University of California-Santa Cruz
Location: Santa Cruz, California
Admission: 79 percent of applicants accepted
Average test scores: 1020-1250 SAT, 20-26 ACT
Enrollment: 9960
Housing: Coed dorms, female dorms, male dorms and apartments
Academics: This university is one of the UC systems' smallest campuses, giving students increased personal attention from professors.
Tuition (out of state): $13,933
Interesting facts: A unique feature is the optional grading system, which encourages freshman success and a learning-centered perspective on the academic career of each student.

Cornell University
Location: Ithaca, New York
Admission: 34 percent of applicants accepted
Enrollment: 13,442
Housing: Coed dorms, female dorms, male dorms, apartments, fraternity/sorority housing and cooperative housing
Academics: Cornell's classes are tough and students carry extremely heavy workloads. Some students complain they have little time to do anything but study.
Average test scores: 1260-1450 SAT
Tuition: N/A
Interesting facts: Cornell's blend of Ivy League private divisions and state-funded public divisions creates a diverse student body. Almost one-quarter of the students are minorities.

University of Denver
Location: Denver, Colorado
Admission: 84 percent accepted
Average Test Scores: 1020-1240 SAT, 22-27 ACT
Enrollment: 3648
Housing: N/A
Academics: The university has a complete set of core curriculum that each student more complete prior to graduation. Required courses are centered on the basic humanities, social science and natural science fundamentals.
Tuition: 18,936
Interesting facts: Most students here love skiing and outdoor recreation. Denver's near proximity to the ski slopes give students a major distraction-yet the average student here puts in over three hours of study a day.

Kalamazoo College
Location: Kalamazoo, Michigan
Admission: 88 percent accepted
Average Test Scores: 1270-1390 SAT, 26-30 ACT
Enrollment: 1357
Housing: coed dorms
Academics: The college offers challenging academics in a small, personalized atmosphere. They have an eleven-week academic quarter which means classes get intense quickly.
Tuition: $19,188
Interesting facts: Kalamazoo offers the K Plan, allowing for an unparalleled amount of foreign travel and study by all interested students. Over eighty percent of students go abroad during their four years here.

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RELIGION

This is an In-depth series that deals with religion and religious practices that are not widely known. The following stories were written in order to inform the reader of religions that they may not come in contact with on a daily basis. .



Pentagram



Chalice



Cross



Star of David



Choose the Right

In (Fill in the Blank) We Trust

By Danielle Rollins

The following story deals with four very different religions. Many students are affiliated with the stereotypes that accompany these religions, yet they do not know the basics of how the religions help their followers to grow spiritually and emotionally.

Mormon-The Church of Latter-day Saints

The Mormon religion, a denomination of Christianity, believes that prophets, or people who talk to God, help to guide them throughout daily life, Elder Green, a 20-year-old missionary from St. George, Utah said.

Mormons believe in three separate personages of flesh and blood as opposed to the traditionally believed trinity.

Another characteristic of the Mormon Church that makes it different from other denominations of Christianity is the teaching of "The Book of Mormon" along with the Bible.

"[The Book of Mormon] is like the Bible only from the United States instead of Jerusalem," Green said

The Book of Mormon, like the Bible, talks a lot about faith. The Mormon religion believes that any person who has not accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ will not be allowed into Heaven.

"Everyone will have the opportunity to accept or to deny Christ," Green said

Green said that it is suggested that men of The Church of Latter-day Saints go on a 'mission' for 24 months when they are 19, and that women of the church go on a mission for 18 months when are 21.

Jacob Cornish, sophomore, said that he follows the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because he has studied and trusts what the religion teaches.

"I believe in [what] it [the Mormon religion] teaches," Cornish said.

Green said that the prophet Gordon B. Hinckley called him to be a missionary in the Nebraska Omaha area. Green said that missionaries submit applications to a prophet and the prophet then tells them to which area they have been called to after praying to God about it.

The Church of Latter-day Saints also teaches that there are three separate kingdoms of heaven, and that believers will be received into each kingdom according to their faith and the good works that they do on earth. In the highest kingdom, a believer is said to become 'like God,' Green said.

Wicca

Wicca, or Witchcraft as it is also known, has a specific set of beliefs, making it as much of a religion as any more common ones, Jo Frost of the Church and School of Wicca in West Virginia said.

Wicca does not follow beliefs that are set in a book, as opposed to such religions as Christianity and Judaism. They do however use The Book of Shadows, a fancy name for a book that is very similar to a journal.

Frost said that many followers of Wicca use their religion as an outlet for their individuality.

Witches today try to follow the Wiccan Rede, which reads, "If it harm none, do as you will," Frost said. While Witches do not believe in any specific God, they do worship what they call The Ultimate Deity, which they say is unknowable.

Wiccan covens are similar to churches or synagogues, she said, in that it they are groups of people coming together to worship. There is no set building in which to meet, weather permitting, members of the coven meet outdoors to hold their rituals, she said.

She also said that a well-established coven gives everyone a chance for leadership. They try to be as democratic as possible. Titles of leaders include High Priests or Priestesses and Flamens or Flamencas.

Wiccans believe in the belief of reincarnation, first made popular by the Hindu and Buddhist religions, Frost said. They believe that there is not an unlimited supply of souls to populate the earth, so they come back to earth to learn. She said that lessons must be learned during a lifetime, and if a soul does not pass, it has to repeat that lesson in the next life.

Frost said that people in general have a hard time with the word "witch."

Although Witches do practice magic, it is not like one sees on TV, she said.

"People take a smidgen of reality and turn it into something huge," Frost said.

Reform Judaism

Reform Judaism is based on knowledge rather than belief, Stephanie Grossman, a Youth Group Leader for the Temple of Israel said.

The religion focuses mainly on mankind's decisions and discoveries based on the Torah and teachings of Rabbis.

Grossman said that while Christianity, and all denominations thereof, focus on a belief the divinity of Jesus Christ, Jewish people believe in one God as the ruler of the Universe.

She said there are five beliefs of what happens after death that are commonly accepted among the Jewish faith. The belief that the body and spirit both will die and the belief in an afterlife are among these.

Other denominations of Judaism include Orthodox, Reconstruction and Jewish Renewal. Grossman said.

"In Reform Judaism, you have a lot of choices about what to believe," Grossman said, describing the religion that she herself affiliates with. "We are not the most liberal of them, but we are pretty liberal," She said.

Senior Shayna Denny said that she is a Reform Jew and attends Temple of Israel as well. She said that allowing people can decide what to believe helps them to become more educated.

"That is what I like about Reform Judaism," Denny said, "It gives you a choice."

She said that among the holidays of the Jewish religion that are considered High Holy Days, are Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur, the day of atonement and asking for God's forgiveness.

Another important event in the Jewish religion is the Bar/Batmitzvah, which Jewish children experience in the 6th or 7th grade. In this ceremony, the children of the church are officially considered that their elders do, Grossman said.

She said that many people see Judaism as heredity. The Germans introduced this, She said.

"People tend to believe that Judaism is a race and it is a religion," Grossman said

Unitarian

In the Unitarian religion, boundaries, opposing beliefs and sexuality do not prevent the followers of the belief system from worshiping together, Rev. Dick Benner said.

Benner, a reverend for The First Unitarian Church, said that there are seven principles that a follower of the Unitarian Church must believe in. They are as follows:

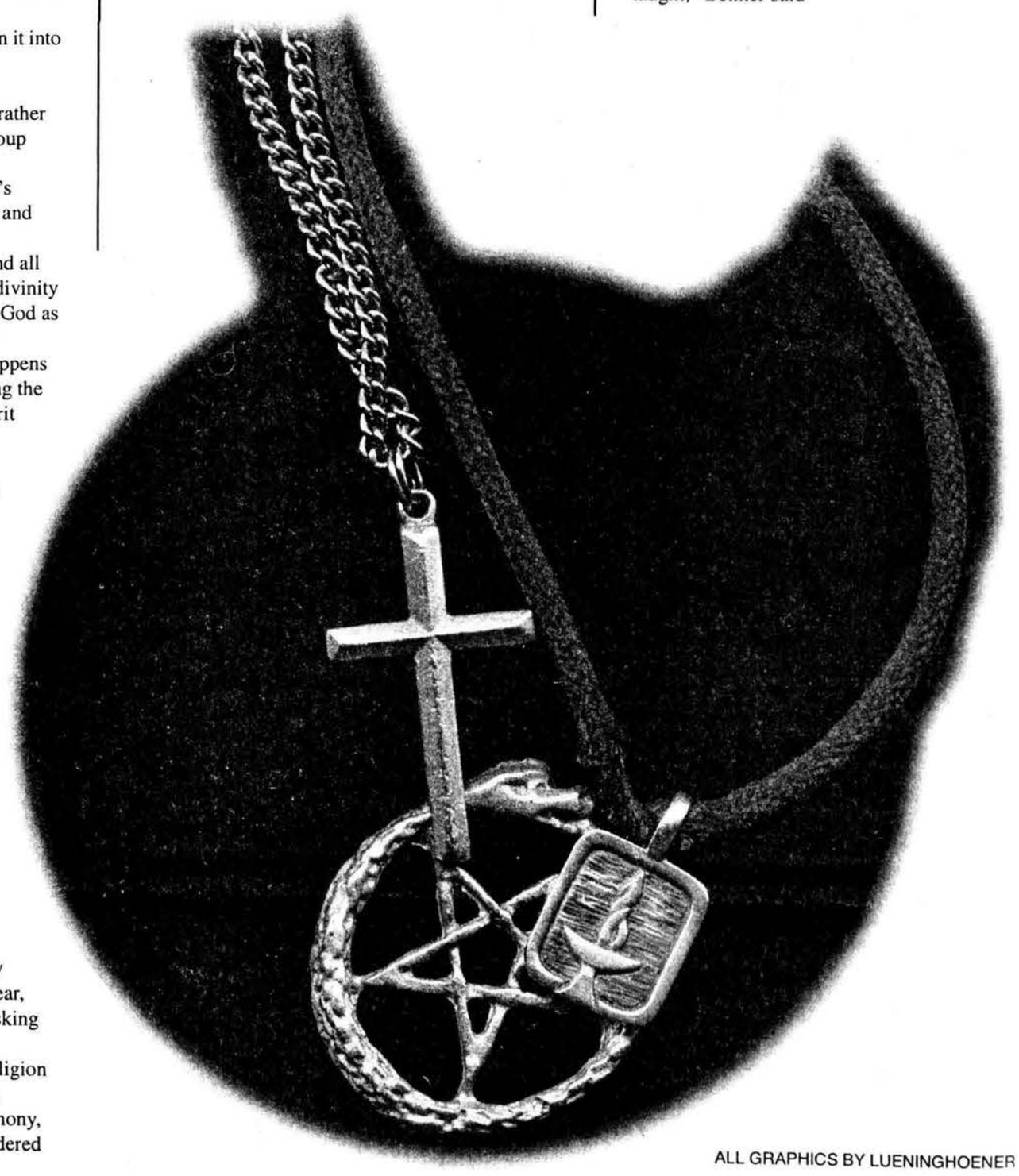
- Belief in the inherent worth and dignity of others
- Belief in justice and equality
- Acceptance of one another
- Encouragement of spiritual growth and free and responsive search for truth and meaning
- Right of conscience and use of democratic process
- Goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- Respect for interdependent web of all existence.

Since there is not a particular belief system that the Unitarians follow other than the need for spiritual growth, the sermons may differ from those of other churches, Benner said.

The Unitarian religion was contrived from New England congregationalism in the early 1800s. The American Unitarian Association was founded in Omaha in 1869.

Benner said that there are nearly 260 members at his Church and around 900 to 1,000 in the city. Among the members that affiliate with the Unitarian religion, many consider themselves humanists, atheists or agnostic. Some of the members of the church come from other organized religions such as Buddhism and Christianity as well.

"Many of us have experienced other religions and could not accept what we were taught," Benner said



ALL GRAPHICS BY LUENINGHOENER

Prison Ministries help bring inmates closer to God, Chaplain said

By Danielle Rollins

New attempts at evangelism are being made through Prison Ministry, sending chaplains to county jails and prisons in order to present the gospel to the inmates, Rick Sweenie the Regional Director of the Good News Jail and Prison Ministries said.

Sweenie said that he spent time in jail on several accounts for drug related problems. While spending time in the Pottawatamie County Jail, he accepted Christ into his life and became a Christian, he said.

"The whole time I was there [the jail] no one [evangelists] ever came by," he said.

Sweenie said that during his time in jail he knew that there was something missing from his life, but God did not seem to be the answer.

"I was looking for a way out of the lifestyle I had, but I didn't want to go to God," Sweenie said.

He said that after he realized that what was missing from his life was a personal relationship with God, he wanted to accept Jesus Christ to become his personal savior.

"I had to trust Christ," he said. "I knew the only way to God was through Jesus Christ."

After being released from jail, Sweenie said that he wanted to make a difference. He became a volunteer for the Good News Jail and Ministry program.

"I didn't consider myself an evangelist or a preacher or anything," he said.

He said that after seven years of volunteer work, he felt that God wanted him to become involved in the ministries of the Good News program.

The Good News program places chaplains in county jails and prisons throughout the world, Sweenie said. Right now the program is growing quickly in the United States and spreading into foreign countries as well.

The program is designed to place the chaplain inside the jails as a staff member, he said.

The chaplain is given an office, and is expected to come in during regular office hours, though the hours are a bit more flexible then other jobs.

One of the chaplain's main goals is to present the gospel to the inmates at the county jail or prison. Some of the other jobs included are counseling, bible preaching, praying and recruiting volunteers. The chaplain is to be available for counceling and prayer at any hour of the day.

The chaplain is given a beeper and put on call 24 hours a day, he said.

Sweenie said that the inmates at the county jails generally receive the gospel well.

He said that the inmates react as anyone anywhere else, they accept it or they don't.

"If they are going to accept it [the gospel] we want them to be real and put their faith in Jesus Christ," Sweenie said. "They are in trouble right now and they're looking for answers."

He said that Bob Potter started the Nebraska chapter 23 years ago. Potter started with a small group of evangelists who made a lot of small attempts at ministry before joining the Good news program.

Now Nebraska has three chaplains and a fourth will soon be added, Sweenie said.

The ministry has added a Life Learning program. This program helps the inmates to learn how to behave once they are allowed back into society, he said.

In the Life Learning program, cell block volunteers are set aside to teach the inmates about family, addictions, finances and how to deal with life, he said.

Sweenie said the program lasts 90 days and once completed the inmates "graduate."

"Once you graduate you go to other parts of the jail and put into practice what you learn," Sweenie said, explaining how the Life Learning program benefits the rest of the jail.

Student recieves ROTC honors

By Ally Freeman

One Central senior recently received an award for her accomplishments in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

Han han Li was presented with the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Achievement. The award is given to students based on their academic performance throughout high school, extracurricular activities and performance in ROTC.

Li said she was chosen by her ROTC instructor to apply for the honor. Both Li and senior Brian Vencalek were submitted as applicants from Central.

The application process began around April last year, Li said. She said it required very little on her part. She said her only obligations were to send in a resume and her high school transcript. Her instructor also wrote a letter of recommendation, Li said.



Li (12)

Li said 26 cadets were chosen from around the country for the national award. She said she thought she had a good chance at receiving the award.

"I was extremely happy when I got it," Li said.

Li said she was notified over the summer. Two other students from the Omaha Public School district were selected as well. They were the only three to be chosen in the fourth region.

Li said it was an honor to receive this national award, a distinction only 26 cadets throughout the country achieve.

An award ceremony was held at the TAC building for her and the other two OPS officers in August. She was given a medal to signify the achievement.

Li said has been involved in ROTC at Central for four years. She is currently Captain, the highest rank available. She said she will probably continue her involvement in ROTC at college.

"It [ROTC] has taught me leadership, discipline and respect," Li said.

She said ROTC takes considerable time and dedication. Li said outside of ROTC class she additionally spends time volunteering and participating in courtesy patrol.

"This [the award] is a nice achievement for all of my hard work in ROTC," Li said.

Central students react to presidential election

By Michael Gerhardt

With this year's election drama reaching its peak, Central students have mixed feelings about the election process and recounts in Florida.

"I think it's [the election drama] the result of such a close election," Carol Krejci, social studies teacher said.

Krejci said another cause was the voting machines in Florida, some of which had a seven to eight percent error. Krejci said in elections with much higher difference in the number of votes, these percentage points might not have mattered, but with some counties have a .3 percentage point difference, these points might make a big difference.

Students had different thoughts on the Florida recounts.

"I think if it [the ballot] wasn't punched, it shouldn't count," Jason Rumbaugh, senior, said.

Rumbaugh said the recount should not have been started and the way it has being done is wrong.

Freshman Catie Drahota said the way to fix the election problems was to hold a new election. Who ever wins this election would be president, she said.

"I think that's the only way we can find out who won," Drahota said.

Krejci said this method would not work, since it would require a constitutional amendment to issue a re-vote.

"There is absolutely no precedent on this kind of case," Krejci said.

Regardless, she said she believes the problems will bring positive changes in the long run. In Wisconsin, Krejci said, punch card votes have already been banned.

Drahota said the election process has been drawn out too long and the problems should have been sorted out within the first few days. Drahota said a nation as powerful as the United States needs a president.

Senior Dominique Johnson said the recount process is biased, since Florida Secretary of State Kathrine Harris is a registered Republican in a state that usually votes democratically for president. Harris has vehemently fought recounts in Florida.

"It's very hard to believe they're behaving unbiased and unpartisan at the same time," Krejci said.

Many students believed in eliminating the Electoral College.

Senior Julie Zoll said the Electoral College is an out-dated establishment and the popular vote should be the vote that counts. Other students agreed.

"It's not necessary for any elections. We should go with the popular vote. That's what people want," Drahota said.

Others disagreed.

Johnson said the electoral college should be left established, but should be weakened.



Mr. President! President Clinton speaks out against partisanship aswell as thanks Nebraska for their support and welcome.

Clinton says hello, goodbye to Nebraska

From Clinton, page 1

I came to Nebraska," Clinton said referring to the mid-20 degree temperature. "But I think I got a pretty warm welcome here today. I thank you very much."

The president also tried to motivate the estimated 10,000 people that showed up to support him. He also said, whatever may happen in Washington, the American governmental system depends on its citizens.

"Yes, it is important to win, and yes it is important that we all believe that the system is truly democratic and fair," he said, "but our system is premised on hard work and innovation, the values and diligent freedom of our citizens."

His speech also had other purposes. The president invited Sen. Bob Kerrey and Senator-elect Ben Nelson, both fellow Democrats, on stage while he spoke. The president praised both of the men during his speech.

"I also want to congratulate his successor," Clinton said after thanking Kerrey. "Thank you very much for running and serving Senator-elect Ben Nelson."

The president also used his speech as a time to say goodbye, if not to Nebraska, than the entire country.

"These last eight years have been a great honor for me," the president said. "It has been a glory to serve."

Sophomore Jennifer Hodges said that she liked the fact that he tried to make the speech resemble a goodbye, instead of a campaign to try to collect votes.

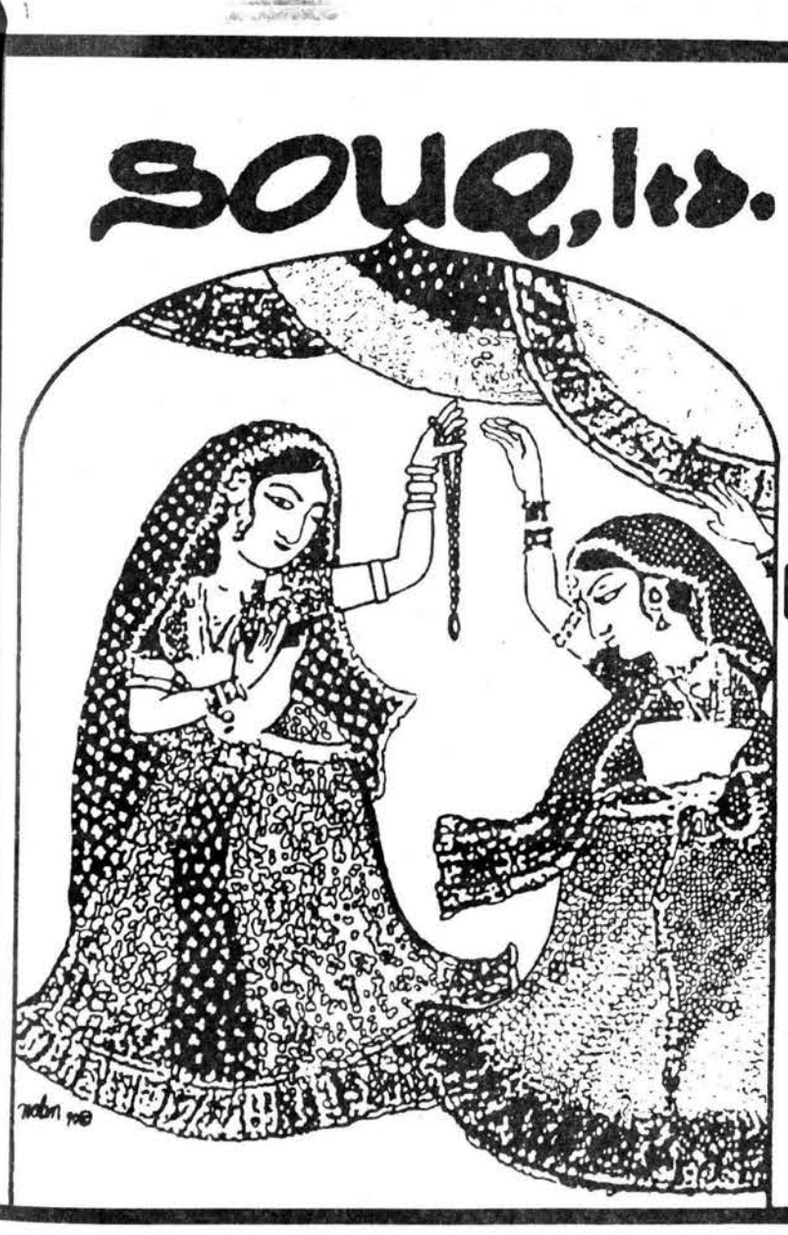
The president ended his speech on a high note. He addressed criticism that he has been late to Nebraska, since it was the last state that he visited while in office.

"And remember that I may have been late, but I sure was glad when I got here," Clinton said.

Hodges said the president finally received an invitation to come to the state from Senator-elect Nelson and former Senator James Exon.

Noll said that Clinton's visit was a success.

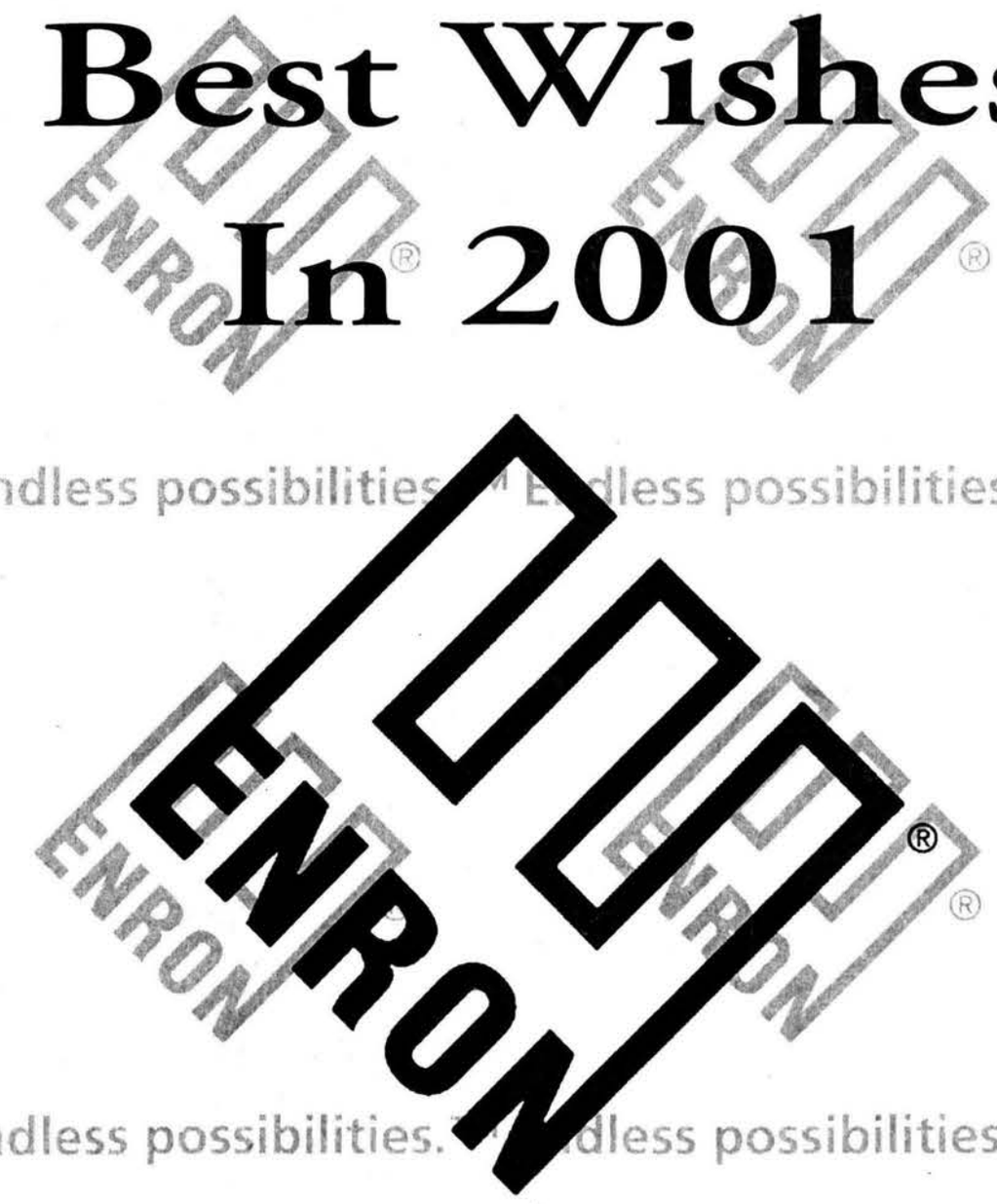
"I think the people at Offut were very impressed with him," she said.



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Sudan's problems rooted deep in past

By Sarah Peterson

While sitting in the comfort of modern homes in relative peace, it is hard to imagine that on the other side of the world nearly four million people from just one country are living in the rough conditions of refugee camps.

Conflict in Sudan has displaced millions. Only some of those who gain enough resources are able to escape to the United States or other countries.

John Voll, an associate director for the Center for Muslim/Christian Understanding at Georgetown University with expertise in Sudan, said the conflict is complex and has been going on for some time.

In the nineteenth century, Egypt conquered the region that is presently known as Sudan, Voll said. By doing this, Egypt brought together two regions with many differences.

The Northern two-thirds of Sudan is comprised of Arabic-speaking-Muslims, while the Southern third is mostly composed of tribes—some being Christian.

During the beginning of the twentieth century, Sudan was ruled by Great Britain.

"While this was constructive for reasons of trade, it was destructive because of tribal raids," Voll said.

Great Britain placed restrictions on traveling between the two regions of the country, and thus two separate identities emerged.

In 1956, Sudan became an independent country after liberation from Great Britain. However, this created more conflict.

"The Southern region feared that the North would dominate, so the South began to rebel," Voll said.

The North wanted the central government in their region, but the South mistrusted Northern control, Voll said. The South was resistant because it was not Muslim, some people were Christian and there were different languages then in the North.

Between 1955 and 1972, the country was in a state of "old-fashioned civil war," Voll said. From 1972 to 1982/3, an agreement was settled and the South had some autonomy. However, in 1982/3, the North tried to gain more control and guerrilla warfare erupted.

The Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM), led by John Garong, are the major movements from the South of Sudan.

"In recent years the war has intensified and many people have left the country," Voll said.

This continuing civil war has caused famine and the destruction of many villages. This has caused the four million people to resettle in refugee camps, three million of these people which remain in internal refugee camps within Sudan. Many others are placed in camps in the neighboring countries, including Ethiopia.

"Conditions are bad at these refugee camps," Voll said. "Sudan does not have the wealth for social welfare."

He said that food and medical resources are limited, but the United Nations does provide some relief.

Beyond the basic civil war, there is also more internal strife within the northern part of South Sudan. In this region there are three important groups which each have their own culture and language—the Dinka, Shilluk and Nuer.

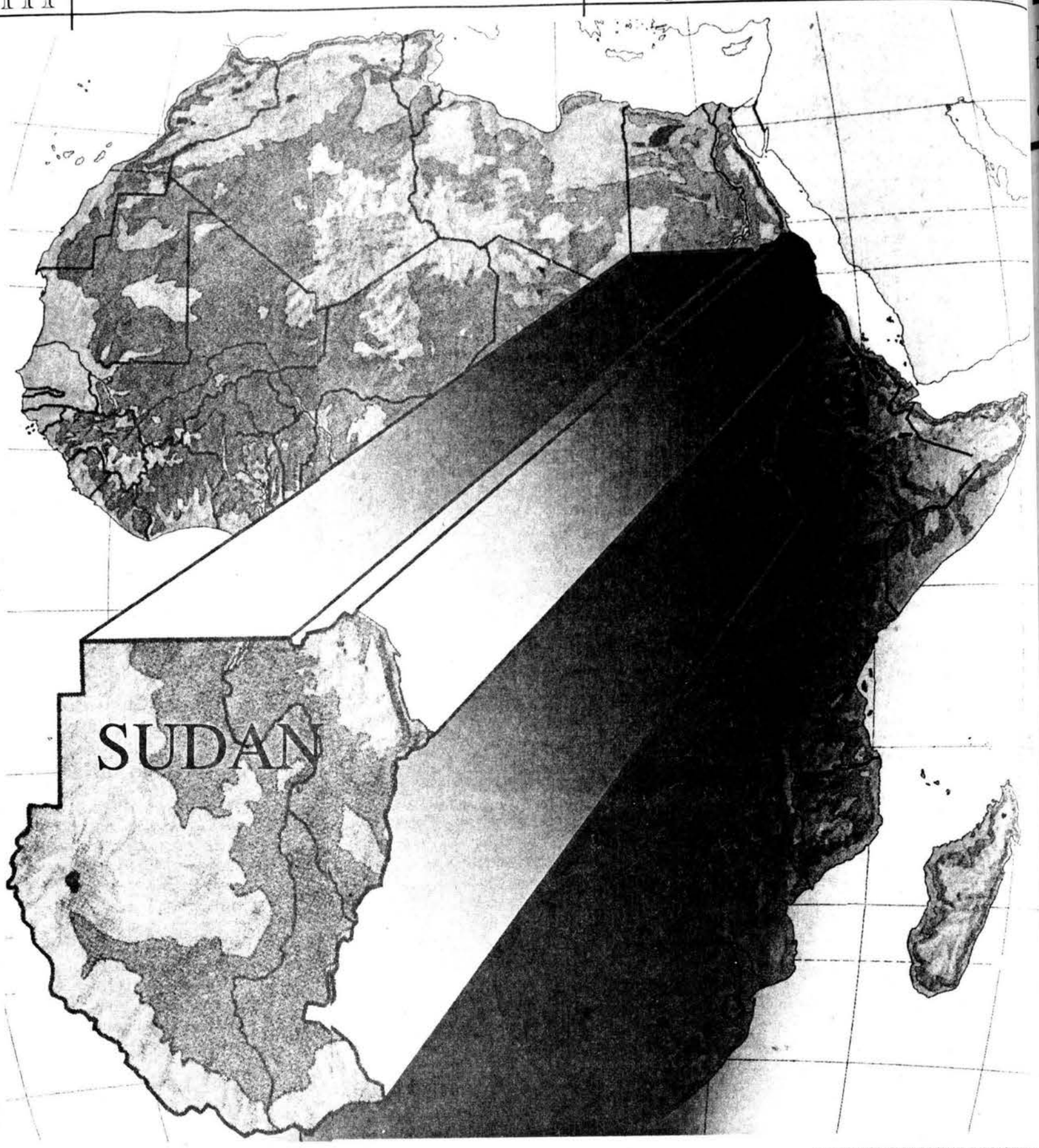
While most of the people in these groups continue older religious traditions, some of the educated elite are Christians, Voll said.

"There is great rivalry between each of these groups," Voll said.

During the early part of the conflict with the North, the Nuer cooperated with Garong and his SPLA which mainly consisted of the Dinka. However, a dispute in the early 1990's over rights to southern oil fields caused conflict between the Nuer and Garong.

"Many people from the Nuer tribe would not say that the SPLA represents them," Voll said. "While these tribes have traditionally fought, now it continues to further divide the Southern side."

While Voll said that many people are trying to work for a solution, he does not see a resolution of the conflict any time soon.



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

ACROSS THE GLOBE Many students have recently emigrated to Omaha from Sudan. Sudan is having a civil war.

Omaha community welcomes civil war refugees

By Ally Freeman

The Omaha community has given a warm welcome to Sudanese immigrants fleeing civil war and economic problems in their country.

Dobuol Deng, a worker at the Southern Sudan Community Association, said his organization works to help immigrants make the transition to the United States. The association is affiliated with the United Way of the Midlands.

Deng said that the association works as a settlement agency helping new immigrants from Sudan. Their services include English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, employment assistance and transportation.

He said many of the Sudanese lack the transportation needed for trips to the Courthouse for Green Cards and do not have the skills for filling out job applications.

Deng said that every day two or three new Sudanese people arrive in Omaha. He approximates that there are well over 3000 currently living in Omaha.

He said part of the attraction to Omaha is the existing Sudanese population and the available resources designed to make their move as successful as possible.

"They like to move to Omaha because they can find help," Deng said.

He said one of the main barriers they face is the obvious language difference.

Tang Both, the Sudanese translator for the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) serves as a bilingual liaison for the district. He said helps student with placement and translation.

Both approximates at least 400 Sudanese students are currently enrolled in OPS schools.

Although some have been mainstreamed into regular classrooms, most of the Sudanese are in ESL until they get better at English and are able to read and write the language.

Both said the reasons many Sudanese are coming to Omaha are a combination of the job availability and the low cost of living. He said they can find housing here for much cheaper than in other states.

The presence of manufacturing companies in Omaha is favorable for the Sudanese, many who cannot read or write English. Industries such as meat packaging and food processing offer jobs where the Sudanese can work without sufficient knowledge of the language.

> **"It's a different culture and the language barrier causes problems."**
> *Tang Both*

Another factor in the increasing Sudanese population in Omaha is the importance of culture in their society.

"They like to come together and live together," Both said.

Both said that after the first Sudanese families arrived from Africa in 1996 many others followed.

Both identified four primary neighborhoods in Omaha where most of the Sudanese reside.

Pastor Lyle Meester of Mount View Presbyterian Church said his church has implemented many programs to assist the Sudanese population in Omaha.

Meester said his church his located in an area where many Sudanese people live. He believes this has caused many of them to join the church. However, Meester also contributes their presence to another cause.

He said that in Africa, Presbyterian missionaries trained many of the Sudanese.

"That is why they looked for a Presbyterian church once in Omaha," Meester said.

Both said the majority of the Sudanese in Omaha have come from the Southern part of Sudan where a civil war is taking place.

Most were members of Nuer, the second largest tribe in Sudan. Because of the instability of schools many of those students, especially girls have not attended school before reaching Omaha.

"For girls it is not acceptable to leave the families and go to study," Both said.

Both said most of Sudanese students at the high school level attend either Central or Benson. Both said that despite the positive aspects of the move from Africa, the transition is difficult for students.

"It's a different culture and the language barrier causes problems," Both said.

Meester's church reaches out to the different gender needs of the Sudanese community.

He said besides offering ESL classes for women, they have computers available for the Sudanese to use, and offer classes for men and children to develop technology skills.

"We try to involve the Sudanese in the total life of the church," Meester said.

This includes Sunday school classes for the children where they have discussion sessions comparing cultures.

Women of the church also hold programs with the Sudanese women teaching them important skills such as American cooking techniques.

Meester said the Sudanese have also formed their own choir at the church and many students are involved with the Youth Fellowship program. He said his church has about 120 Sudanese members.

Meester said the first family came to the church and asked if they would be welcome. Since then friends and relatives have joined.

That spurred the interest of many others. Now Meester said they have around 120 Sudanese members.

He said their primary mission is to help get them established. That includes assisting with financial needs, Meester said.

Meester is proud his church's efforts.

"They have a lot more adapting than what we can give them, but I think it has helped," Meester said.

Fast Facts: Sudan

Area
Total: 2,505,810 sq kn
land: 2,376 million sq km
water: 129,810 sq km
That's slightly more than one quarter the size of the U.S.

Climate
tropical in south; arid desert in north; rainy season (Aprial to October)

Terrain
generally flat, featureless plain; mountains in east and west

Natural Resources
petroleum; small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, hydropower

Population
35,079,814 (July 2000 est.)

Age Structure
0-14 years: 45 percent (male 8,064,592; female 7,712,839)
15-64 years: 53 percent (male 9,3000,886; female 9,290,340)

Sudanese student adjusts to new life in Omaha

By Sarah Peterson

When Chang Ruach came to Omaha from Sudan in 1998 he was not only leaving behind his family, but the only culture he had ever known.

Ruach took the 95,000 mile journey by himself, meeting a cousin in Omaha.

"I came here because there was war in my country," he said.

Although his sister had lived in Omaha since 1995, it was Ruach's cousin that sponsored his trip and encouraged him to come here.

"I wanted an education and the chance to learn English," Ruach said. "I was excited to see America."

Ruach said he keeps in touch with the family he left behind in Sudan, calling them almost every weekend.

Ruach remembers the life he left behind in his tribe is Sudan where he was a member of the Neur tribe. He said his tribe is located in Southern Sudan where civil wars are currently raging.

He said his family lived in a small town where he attended school. Ruach said there were significant differences between his school in Sudan and Central.

"We were taught different subjects," Ruach said.

He also said instead of having school in one building, they went to different ones throughout the day.

Ruach said that not all kids in Sudan went to school. In Sudan the government leaves education up to the parents.

"Some do not want their kids to go to school," Ruach said.

Another difference between the two cultures Ruach finds is the passage to manhood.

He said when a boy turns fifteen years-old they have reached manhood. From then on they are expected to act like a man and respect people.

When Ruach reached this point, he also made the decision to wear the traditional Neur tribal markings on his forehead. He said the markings are difficult to explain, but have significant meaning to tribal members.

"It recognizes the tribe," he said.

Ruach pointed out the differences between marriage in America and Sudan.

"Here you don't pay for marriage," Ruach said, explaining that in Sudan the male is required to pay a set sum to the parents of his bride.

In Sudan women are also expected to remain at the house, doing chores, while the man works, he said.

Ruach said it has taken time to overcome the language barrier. Although he was taught English as a Second Language in Sudan, it was British English, not American.

Before coming to Omaha, Ruach said he never had been anywhere by himself.

"It's amazing," he said.

Sophomore Nya Juok also came to Omaha in 1998, but she came at a much younger age and with her entire family.

"I didn't want to leave Sudan," Juok said. "I really like it."

Juok had to leave Sudan when she was only three because of war in the country. Her family lived in a refugee camp in Ethiopia for nine years.

In the camp, Juok was provided with free schooling, food and a two-room house.

The camp, which Juok described as a city, had stores and a public television for the entire camp.

Juok's entire family lived in the camp, including many relatives from her extended family.

Juok, like Ruach, was also from the Neur tribe. The one major difference that she felt between her culture and that of America was the treatment of women.

"In Sudan the man does the work and the woman does the housework," Juok said.

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, 1791

Helping A+ teachers make the grade

To combat the teacher shortage, Nebraska has proposed a new policy regarding out of state teachers. Under these proposals, any teacher that has taught for three years and is already certified in another state can become a teacher in Nebraska without having to pass certain tests usually required in the state.

This is a step in the right direction for Nebraska's school system.

EDITORIAL
The Opinion of the *Register*

The newly proposed requirements for out of state teachers entering Nebraska school districts are not as bad as people have made them out to be, but they are probably not enough.

If these changes are passed, they would waive some testing requirements for new teachers that have been teaching for at least three years in another state.

Opponents of these requirements have claimed that these proposals make a mockery of Nebraska's public education system by putting inexperienced teachers in the classroom.

This claim is ill founded because the only teachers affected by the measure would be teachers who already have teaching experience in another state and have been certified in that state, not new teachers starting in the state.

Another negative contention is that the new proposals are a harsh reaction to the teacher shortage that the state is experiencing. They insist that these proposals will dilute the teaching pool in the state.

Actually, these new policies are a step in the right direction if Nebraska hopes to increase its educational system and the teachers that teach its students.

Currently, even if a teacher is certified in another state, they still cannot teach in Nebraska until they have received certification from the state.

These policies make qualified teachers take tests they have probably already passed in the other state, eliminating their immediate effectiveness.

Under the new proposals, teachers who have been certified in another state will automatically be certified in Nebraska. This would eliminate wasted time when a teacher from another state is waiting for their certification.

Although the proposed requirements are a good idea, they do not address the issue of attracting new teachers to the state.

The district cannot expect to gain a significant amount of teachers because of this proposal.

The state of Nebraska will still suffer from a teacher shortage created by poor teaching conditions if it only relies on these requirements. Changes are still needed to attract teachers graduating from Nebraska colleges and keep them in the state.



The educational system cannot just simply get new teachers from other states, it needs to recruit more local teachers and satisfy the teachers it still has.

In short, these teaching requirements allow for teachers from out of the state to become infused in Nebraska's educational system faster.

This will lead to a more experienced teaching force that will help the state's students succeed and will help the state attract veteran teachers, but something still needs to be done concerning teachers in the state.

Since the state has apparently just realized that there is a problem in the amount and quality of teachers the state has, now would be a good time to implement those pay raises that teachers have been requesting for so long.

This solution would help in two areas.

One: It would keep the fine teachers that the state already has.

Two: It would attract more quality teachers from out of state than these proposals can hope.

Nebraska teachers have been teaching under poor conditions for too long. The state should reward them for all of the hard work they have put in over the years.

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

HEROES

-Bill Clinton

Finally, after eight years in office, President Clinton made his way to Nebraska. Sure, his speech on foreign policy and partisanship was a little boring (and short) but he seemed to satisfy the crowd. Maybe our next president should come and visit the state before they are about to leave office.

-Eagle women's volleyball team

This year, the Central women's volleyball team made its first appearance at the state tournament in Lincoln. Even though they were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, they still represented the school well. Hopefully, they will be able to repeat this fantastic feat next year.

-ACLU lawsuit

This is the perfect opportunity for the ACLU to make a stand against Initiative 416. Granted, they don't stand a chance, but at least they are making the effort.

ZEROS

-Work Keys, PLAN and ASVAB tests

The Work Keys, PLAN and ASVAB tests achieve nothing but give the school district enough hours of school teaching. Because of these tests, a half of a school day is wasted in overcrowded rooms subjecting students to bureaucratic requirements that hinder academic development.

-School mixed with bad weather

Even at twenty degrees below zero with wind chill, the Omaha Pubic School district decided not to close down schools on Dec. 12. Several streets had still not been plowed since eight inches of snow had fallen the previous day, making driving dangerous. If the school district is going to pretend to care about its students, keeping them out of subzero weather would be a nice start.

-Election 2000

We finally got a president. Trhity-six days was too long to wait.

Curfew punishments penalize wrong people

Punishing parents for their children's irresponsibility is wrong.

In Springfield and Gretna, parents are being fined for their children staying out past the 11 p.m. curfew.

This policy not only punishes the wrong people but also teaches children the entirely wrong lesson.

One of the main problems with today's society is lack of responsibility for one's own actions.

From school shootings to truancy, this problem stays throughout the life of the youth today. Placing the blame of a child's actions on the parents only makes this problem worse.

Beyond these reasons, this policy delays teaching children responsibility. With this idea, a child would want to be home on time not because it is unlawful but because they do not want the repercussions from their parents.

This is entirely the wrong reason as well as the wrong lesson.

Are curfew violations in Gretna and Springfield such a problem that this policy be put in place? Are teenagers running rampantly through the streets, ravaging the town after 11 p.m.?

This doesn't seem to be too much of a problem in Omaha, so why would it be such a problem in these smaller towns?

EDITORIAL
The Opinion of the *Register*

Parents should be involved in their child's lives, but they shouldn't be blamed for their child's actions.

They should place clear behavioral expectations on their children. Regardless, a child must learn to take responsibility for himself.

The current trend of scapegoating parents needs to be stopped, so that responsibility can be placed where it belongs, with the kids that break curfew and commit the crime.

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Diversity brings problems

Central is a big school with many diverse people. What I've noticed here is that some students don't get along and this results in fights.

Why can't students grow up and act their age? Maturity levels are very low for teenagers these days and it makes you think, "What is the world coming to?"

Our future depends on today's kids, and if some are fighting, when will people learn? I think that more youth groups and organization should be established to help America's youth.

Shaila Bruckner, 10

Teens welcome trends

Many teenagers today complain about the way they are portrayed in movies and about how adults perceive them.

Now, some teenagers are actually intelligent, but for the most part, they are stupid. Most teenagers are a product of American pop culture and it makes me sick.

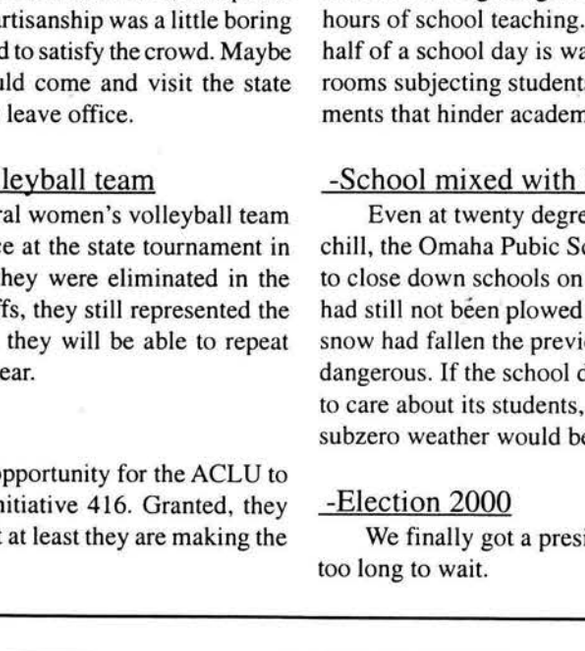
Teenage girls annoy me the most.

Now, I am a teenage girl. I know what they have to deal with, but I also know how absolutely annoying and narcissistic some teenage girls are.

I have met many girls here at Central and there are only five who do not remind me of Cher from the movie Clueless.

Maybe if most of them spoke more intelligently, I wouldn't dislike them so much. It seems to me that most teenage girls' vocabulary mostly consists of 'um', 'like', and 'yeah'. Maybe if the read something besides *Teen People*, they might have a more extensive vocabulary.

I sincerely hope the teenage population will grow into their own soon.



I hope they will become their own person and have their own thoughts, hopes, and dreams.

Amanda Owen, 9

Central sports lack hockey

There are many sports here at Central High School that I love to watch.

There seems to be a sport out there that every student can participate in. That is really great, but there is a problem with this.

The only sport missing from Central is hockey. Being a hockey player, I can't show my talent in school. I think having hockey at Central would be exciting for the school.

Aaron Clark, 12

Students deserve small classes

My concern is the number of students in a classroom.

Having a large number of students in a classroom can cause many distractions. In a smaller class, there is less of a chance of being with those who are a distraction to you, and even if those persons are in the class, they would be monitored easily by the teachers.

Also, in an overcrowded classroom, students get less individual attention from teachers.

At times, tutoring is needed for a student to get anything out of the class. Students should be learning and getting individual attention in the class.

Classroom size is an issue that should be a concern. It is important to have a good environment to learn in.

I do appreciate the public school system for all it provides. I think Central is a great school, but improvements can always be made.

Jacqueline Miletti, 12

Office staff troubles students

I have a strong opinion on how the school's staff treats the students. I have had several situations where I would go to the office, seeking help, and I would be treated so horribly.

Don't get me wrong, the teachers are great.

I'm talking about the personnel in the office. They are so rude, kind of like they are against the students. I understood that they deal with a lot of students and their days are long. Why make it hard on everyone?

Just because we are young does not mean we do not deserve respect. I believe that all humans deserve respect.

The teachers are great. They are understanding and polite. The staff seems to hate the students. I understand that we are not as old as them, but why do we deserve that kind of treatment?

Kitrina Fisher, 12

School's centennial brings tradition, greatness to mind

Central's building turned 100 years old in November. The school's success record speaks louder than the age of the building ever will.

The greatest thing about this school is not the building. The school's enduring commitment to always be the best stands out when looking at Central High.

The school has always been great. The state gave the old building and grounds to the school district once the state capitol was moved to Lincoln.

When the building and grounds were donated, no one could have thought that Central would make this type of name for itself.

EDITORIAL
The Opinion of the *Register*

At first, it was called Omaha High and served the whole city. It produced some of the finest citizens of the early twentieth century.

Professional football players, senators and award winning actresses were all educated here in the early years of the school.

The name changed, but the tradition never fell behind.

Even through a Great Depression, two World Wars, numerous teacher shortages and even open enrollment, Central remains the best high school in the city, if not the state, or even the nation.

Central High is probably best known for its tradition of putting forth students well prepared for college. Former students have become Rhodes Scholars, Nobel Prize winners and successful entrepreneur, but Central is not just another college preparatory school.

The school also provides students with other learning opportunities. Students can enroll in vocational classes at the Career Center, learn how to bake a cake in a home economics class or even take a class on child development.

In this new era of educational reform, Central has still produced not only successful students, but quality people. Not all of these students go on to persue higher education, but they all leave Central with the knowledge they need in life.

Throughout the years, Central has always focused on one thing: the students. Everyone that has ever passed the "sacred C" can take pride in that simple accomplishment.

Many things change and another hundred years may past, but Central's excellence will

Inside

New requirements for teachers

Gore's election lawsuits

PERSPECTIVE

The opinion of the Register staff

December 18, 2000

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Internet Censorship

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I'm a Jerk You're a Jerk



Michael Gerhardt

Central focuses too much on small problems

The problem with Central today is wrong priorities.

The administration at Central places far too much emphasis on the smaller things that are more easily controlled as opposed to the bigger problems that actually affect the learning environment at Central.

Recently, I was sternly told to no longer hold my girlfriend's hand, since that is obviously an offensive public display of affection.

Everyone knows that hand-holding is the very essence of education, destroying any chance of learning.

Call me whiney, but I think Central has bigger problems than two people holding hands in the hallways.

What are the big problems you ask?

What are you, an idiot?

I don't know, maybe the kids dealing drugs in the courtyard or kids smoking in the bathroom? Maybe the kids that are failing English with a .000001 percent?

Most of us have seen some kid dealing (or worse) in the courtyard. Everyone has the mandatory 947865 cigarette butts in the toilet/urinal in every bathroom, even on the weekends.

Everyone knows the kid who sleeps through English everyday, then complains to the teacher when he gets a bad grade and expects the teacher to pull out the magical grade wand, capable of magically making the kid a non-failure.

Yeah, yeah, I know, I know, kids should take some responsibility in keeping this from happening. Well, I may be unfairly generalizing (as I very often do, but deny it always), but most kids are too lazy to care enough, or participating in these actions.

Some kids do care (for example, me and family) and actually attempt to do something about it.

Still, as every teenager with their head duct inserted in their eyeball knows, positive peer pressure doesn't work, so telling students what not to do isn't really very effective.

So yeah, students have a responsibility too. But the administration needs to focus less on hand holding and more on drug dealing (like not dealing drugs, but stopping it).

I am fully aware of how difficult it is to catch kids doing any of these in the act.

I've never walked in on a kid smoking in the bathroom; I've only smelled it. I know it's not really possible to "stake out" a bathroom, so that's kind of out of the running (although watching a teacher walk around a bathroom for 45 minutes would be pretty funny.).

This would also help stop this whole blood-all-over-the-urinals thing. Every time I go to the bathroom, the urinals are covered in blood. Don't bleed on the urinals. I don't know, bleed in the sink.

And catching drug dealers would be even more difficult, since any sort of search would instantly bring about 40 multi million dollar lawsuits from every party involved, including witnesses. I hate everyone.

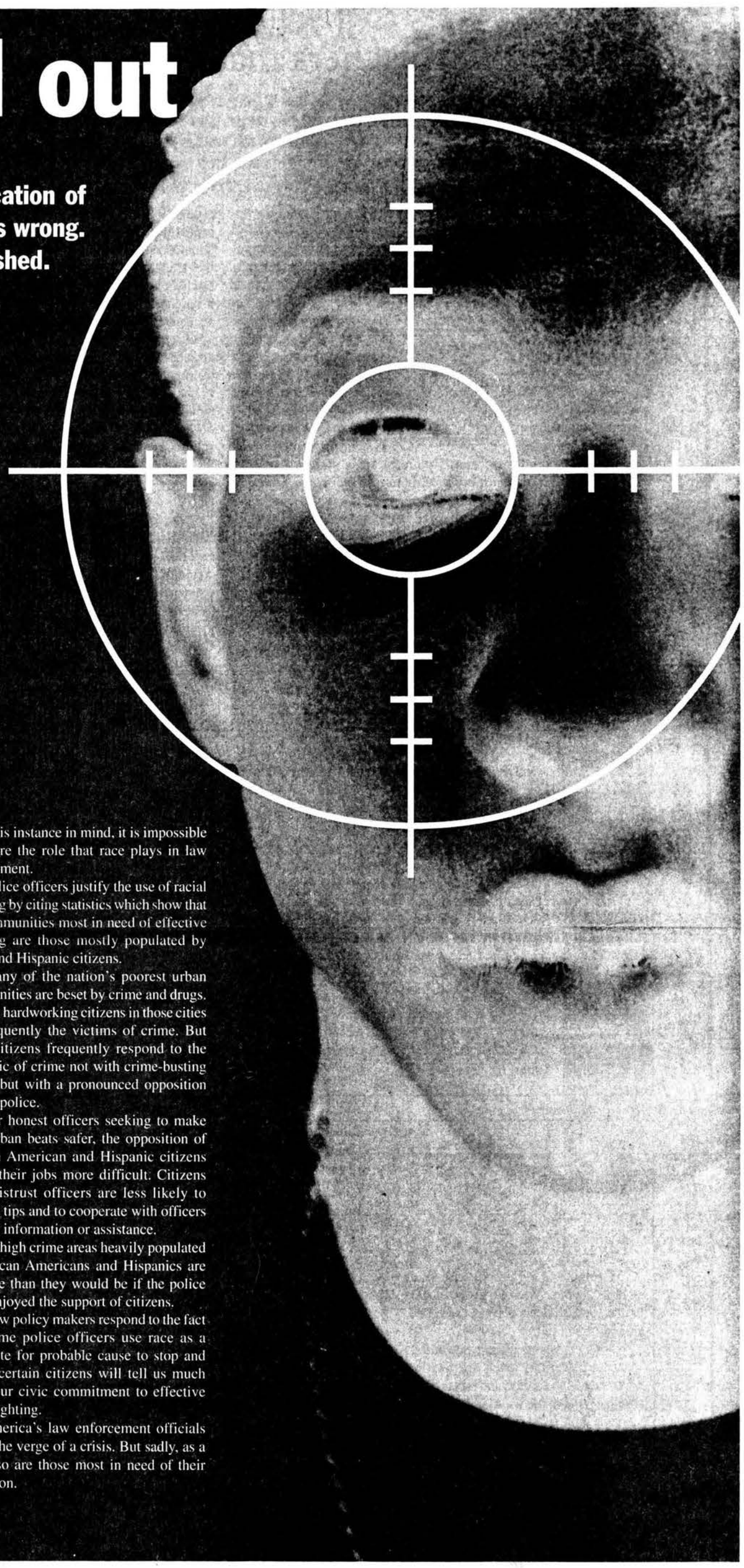
So, what to do, you ask? I find myself asking the same thing. It's a difficult thing to answer.

The problems are there, but no clear solution exists. Kids aren't going to stop being idiots and with the world the way it is today, any solution there probably violates some stupid law.

It's a terrible world we live in.

Singled out

Racial profiling, the classification of citizens based on ethnicity, is wrong. The practice should be abolished.



Racism, regardless of its purpose, is wrong.

While police brutality towards minorities makes most of the headlines, mainstream African Americans find themselves more intimately identifying with stories of a more common form of official bias: the use of race to "profile" suspects.

In states such as Maryland and New Jersey, reports have been released with findings that show state police troopers routinely used the race of drivers to decide whom to stop and search.

But rather than provoking surprise and outrage among African Americans, the reports brought forth a familiar frustration. Many African Americans have long swapped stories of confrontations with traffic patrol officers, apparently brought on by little more than a policeman's stereotypes about the types of cars and neighborhoods in which black citizens should be found.

The phenomenon has an informal label—"DWB," or driving while black.

Given that African American and Hispanic men commit a disproportionate share of violent and drug related offenses, reasonable people may ask why racial profiling should be so controversial. If African American and Hispanic men are substantially more likely than others to commit serious crimes, is it not logical to include African or Hispanic ancestry in generalized criminal profiles?

Perhaps. But a mere link between means and end is a bad justification for an institution, such as law enforcement, to use.

Law enforcement leaders should be aware of two significant social consequences of such racial bias. First, allowing officers to use race as an element of probable cause places police departments on a slippery slope to civil-rights abuse cases.

EDITORIAL
The Opinion of the *Register*

States that keep records based on race too frequently provide a reason for officials to act on unfair biases. It is far better to remove race from the tools of the state than risk sanctioning this from happening.

Second and more important, permitting officers to use race as probable cause encourages African Americans and Hispanics to think that law enforcement agencies cannot be trusted.

These perceptions often differ from those held by most whites, which can create potentially volatile divisions within the community.

Consider the racial perception gap that was evident after the trial of George Bibins. With this instance in mind, it is impossible to ignore the role that race plays in law enforcement.

Police officers justify the use of racial profiling by citing statistics which show that the communities most in need of effective policing are those mostly populated by black and Hispanic citizens.

Many of the nation's poorest urban communities are beset by crime and drugs. Honest, hardworking citizens in those cities are frequently the victims of crime. But those citizens frequently respond to the epidemic of crime not with crime-busting fervor, but with a pronounced opposition toward police.

For honest officers seeking to make their urban beats safer, the opposition of African American and Hispanic citizens makes their jobs more difficult. Citizens who mistrust officers are less likely to provide tips and to cooperate with officers seeking information or assistance.

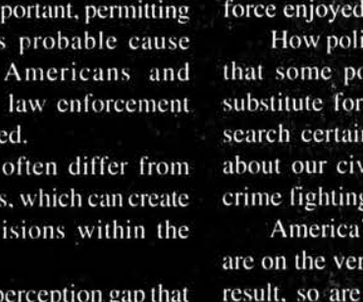
So high crime areas heavily populated by African Americans and Hispanics are less safe than they would be if the police force enjoyed the support of citizens.

How policy makers respond to the fact that some police officers use race as a substitute for probable cause to stop and search certain citizens will tell us much about our civic commitment to effective crime fighting.

America's law enforcement officials are on the verge of a crisis. But sadly, as a result, so are those most in need of their protection.

'Intellectual property' gives creators too much credit for their work

Read Between the Lines



Matt Wynn

It was weirder than bailing Ian MacKaye out of the drunk tank. I walk into the medical building where my doctor has her office. I've got an appointment for a normal checkup.

When I enter the building, this fat little man with a walrus-style mustache sidles up to me.

"That'll be twenty-five cents, please," he says, holding out his hand.

"For what?" I ask, "you don't even know where I'm going!"

"It doesn't matter," he answers, "I'm collecting royalties... for the architect. You use the building. He gets paid."

The urge to argue is less than the urge to visit the little boys' room, so I fork over the quarter. Inside the doctor's office, I check in with the anorexia-thin receptionist and go take a seat.

"Hang on there," she says, "You've got to pay the seat tax. Ten cents please."

I reach into my pocket. What's this one for?" I ask.

"Five cents goes to the carpenter and the other five goes to the guy who designed the chair."

I sit down and wait for the doctor to call me.

When I'm finally in her office, she asks me to lie on the table face down. Out of the cormer of my eye, I see her reach into a box of latex gloves. She puts one on. Then she goes for the thermometer.

"After I finish, she says, "in addition to my regular fee, you'll have to pay a dollar in royalties."

"Royalt..." I start to ask before the thermometer is in my mouth.

"That's twenty cents to the guy who invented latex gloves," she explains, "another twenty to the inventor of the thermometer, thirty to the guy who discovered the manufacturing process and another thirty to the first guy who ever shoved mercury into a tube."

Of course, none of this really happened. But it's the logical extension of our system of "intellectual property." Normally, when you do a job, you get paid for it. When you want more money, you do another job.

Denise Dingbat writes a song and records it. The Pussy Zits sing a new version of it. The Pussy Zits pay to record their version. The Pussy Zits pay for the record pressing. The Pussy Zits sell the records. The Pussy Zits put Denise's name under the song, so everybody knows she wrote it. The Pussy Zits still have to pay Denise Dingbat.

For what? What work did Denise do for the Pussy Zits? None! It doesn't make sense.

But if the patent/royalty/copyright system were only stupid, I wouldn't object to it. Tamagochi, day-glow condoms and the X-Files are stupid. Big deal. But the evil goes deeper than just stupidity.

Let's hop on a private jet with the American inspector. We watch Omaha disappear from beneath us as we head for Delhi. When our plane lands, we follow the inspector into town to the local drugstore.

Inside, we see the American inspector looking at the local brands, made by Indian rug companies.

These drugs are cheap and readily available to the poor Indians. A single Indian cop moseys in behind him. The cop, a young man with a thin mustache, wears a curiously calm look.

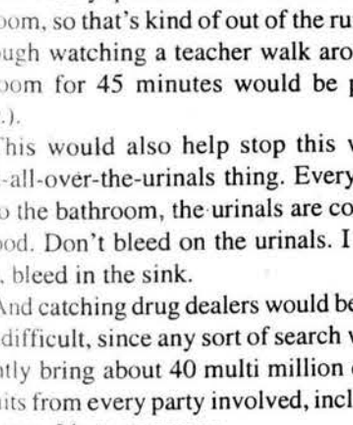
"They're copies," says the American. "These are drugs invented by the world's great pharmaceutical companies, made without license here in India. They are frauds. Confiscate them."

"No," says the Indian cop. "Our people need these drugs. The drug companies who invented them are already rich. We are not."

"Fine," says the American. "Then you don't get any more drugs.

The rules are stupid. We need to get rid of them before they get downright silly.

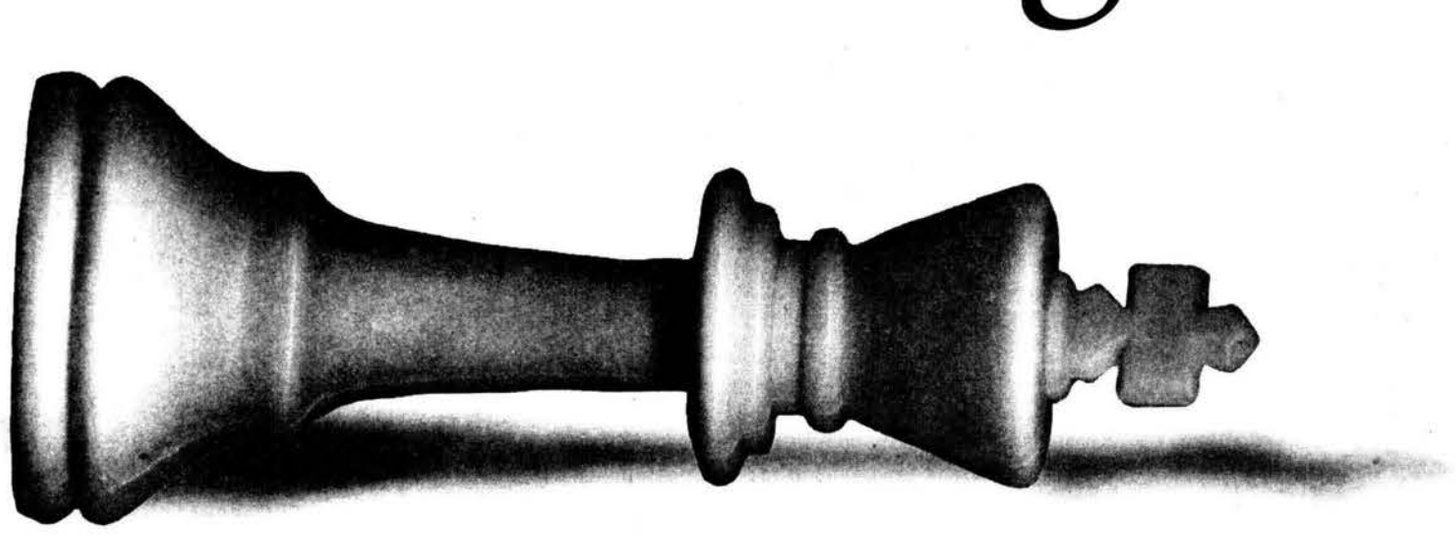
Political Cartoon



Pg 9: Clinton tries to save face in Nebraska

ELECTION 2000

Rules of the game



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Al Gore gave his concession speech at the right time

Vice President Al Gore has been criticized for prolonging the presidential uncertainty this year. The Bush camp has even gone as far as to call him a sore loser.

Likewise, Gore supporters claim that Bush tried to end the total ballot count prematurely to boost him into the Oval Office.

The recent legal challenges took the United States hostage for thirty-six days, from the political commentators in Washington to the first graders in Hawaii, but the drama goes far deeper than that.

This election has made citizens re-evaluate certain values, especially definitions of winning and losing and at what price a win should be pursued.

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the *Register*

During this election, and the days after it, the question of at what point a presidential candidate should concede a contest and congratulate his opponent has surfaced. Gore was relentless in his attempt to give himself the best chance to become the next president, but he finally threw in the towel on Dec. 13.

He will always be known as the man who stunted the presidential transition in the 2000 election.

This election will be historic because of the closeness of the race. It might even be known as the closest election ever, but close elections are not new to the United States.

Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford both lost presidential elections by slim margins. In both of those elections, voter fraud was suspected, but both candidates stepped aside early and allowed their opponent to assume the responsibilities and rewards that the president of the United States of America enjoys.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON UNIV.

AL GORE His legal challenges made this election uncertain for over a month. Although he has been criticized for these actions, they needed to be made.

But this election was different. This election was decided by less than 400 votes in one state with 25 crucial electoral votes.

Those electoral votes gave Bush the necessary majority to assume office, but those votes were hotly contested.

Not only were they contested, but the margin of victory is possibly the smallest ever. The legal challenges to the electoral process had to be made at one point, and this year was just as good as any other.

Although the decisions did not come out in Gore's favor, his legal challenges succeeded in setting the precedent for future legal challenges. Can a candidate order the recount of disputed ballots? Can the courts overrule a state's official certified vote?

These questions, and more, were decided by the time that Gore finally conceded.

These proceedings have only strengthened the American democracy. In a perfect democracy, every vote must be counted.

Gore should have not conceded until an attempt was made to count every vote so that every citizens' voice was heard. The decision on who should take office should not have been made until this attempt was completed and the courts had responded.

Al Gore's actions were justified. He, like anyone else, does not know exactly what the situation in Florida was. In times of serious confusion, the courts must be looked to for rulings and interpretation of the law.

Rulings handed down by the nine justices must have been followed. Bush was considered president-elect after Florida's vote was certified, but Gore did not give up hope at that point.

The courts made their rulings, and he came out on the short end, so Gore gave up at the right time.

Shades of Black



Kaitlin Davis

Election 2000: Ho hum

Confused, contrived and coat-tailed.

These three words completely embody the two major candidates that ran for president this year. The two major parties in this country have grown into one large group of midway running bureaucrats.

No one actually does anything in this country that's different. A politician that actually follows through on his promises would be a good change. Why don't we elect a leader that's innovative and tries to move this country a little?

I know that we won't be moving much in the next four years. It is amazing to me that the American voters based its votes on party affiliation instead of who will actually be the best leader.

I don't know if voters noticed that there was absolutely no difference between the candidates in this race. Both of them tend to lean toward the moderate sides of both their parties' values.

I hate to attack the American people, but can't we think for ourselves? There was a fifty percent voter turnout. People were so lazy that they couldn't even bring themselves to use the only method they have to control the people that essentially run their lives.

The voters' lacksadaisical attitude has allowed one of two incredibly dull people to get elected. I have a feeling that voters don't even care who runs their country.

How many times did we have to count the votes? Let me count again. Come on people we learned how to count in elementary school. Did we really need to recount?

Did we really need to leave it up to Florida courts to decide? Since when is it a court's right to decide who is elected president. I thought that was the people's decision. Sorry, I was mistaken.

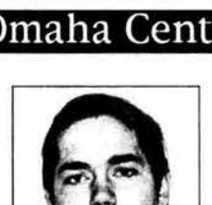
If you ask me we should call it a tie and leave it up to Congress to decide. That's really the only logical answer. Between all the confusion of pregnant chads, hanging chads and dimpled chads we have lost all hope of getting the perfect count. These ballots have passed through so many hands that there is little chance we will ever know who won the popular vote.

We could also always have a second vote in Florida, except this time the government must mandate how the ballots look and they will all be the same. What a concept, let's make a uniform ballot that can work for every state. Maybe then we won't have this problem again.

the Omaha Central High School
REGISTER
Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi, Established 1886

the Omaha Central High School *Register* **December 18, 2000** Volume 114, Issue 4

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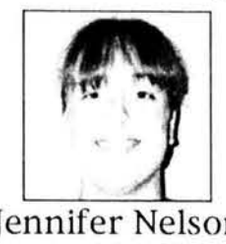

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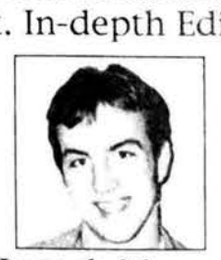

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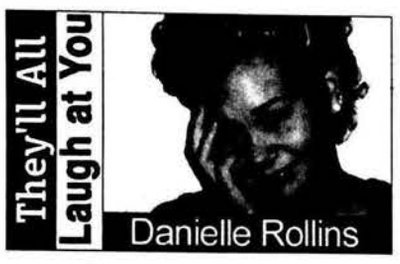
Opinion

Car brings job, poor grades with keys

My parents made me buy a car. I may ve really needed one, but that isn't the point. he point is that I do not now, nor did I ever ve the money. I do not have the money for candy bar, but that is another column.

So because I had get a car, I had to t a job as well. ey kind of go hand hand. I did not ink that I wanted a b, however my rents insisted that I d. They told me at it would benefit e in many ways and ach me the meaning of ethics. What a load crap. The only thing that it will teach me is at 'The Man' always wants to get you down, en when you're still in high school.

But then my parents told me that if I dn't get a job I would lose my car,



Considering that this is my only real means of getting to school, I had to bite the bullet and start working retail.

Now I am forced to deal with the consequences. I have no time. I have no money. I have no life and although I do have a car, I have nowhere to go.

All would be different if I was one of those slackers that have become so abundant at Central. All I would have to worry about is making sure that I don't miss my weekly WB dramas and getting my allotted video game fix. Though I may be 'making fun' of these pathetic nimrods, I'll bet that if they ever picked up a newspaper in the first place, they would not understand the joke anyhow.

I realize that, with the exception of the many people who affiliate with the definition described above, everyone is busy. I know that you all have work and your social life and homework and blah blah blah…I know all of this and I don't care. You don't have a column. If you get a column then you can vent too.

Since I don't sit around all night watching stupid sitcoms and whining to my friends over the telephone, I have to deal with the fact that I have booked myself to be in one million places at the same time. This is the reason that I needed a car in the first place.

Owning a car is a paradox. I need a car in order to get to school and learn stuff and get good grades. I need a job in order to keep my car. I am too swamped with homework to keep my job, so I therefore have to blow off homework to keep from getting fired. Blowing off homework obviously gets me bad grades. See where I am going with this?

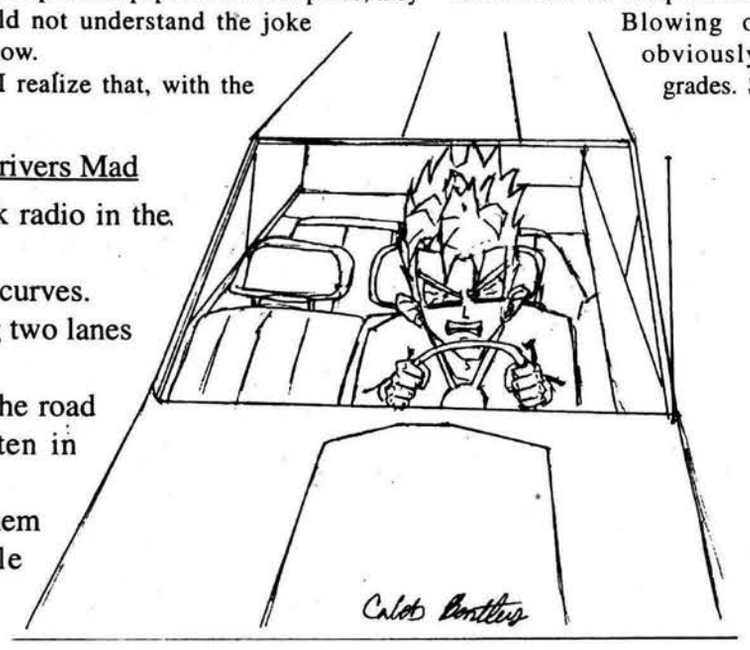
I thought that I could sell my car and find an alternate way of getting to school. Walking was my first thought, however, considering that I live about 10 miles away, this was a very short-lived idea.

If I am too far away to walk, biking is not a great idea either.

Hitchhiking seemed to be the obvious answer to me. You don't have to pay for gas or insurance, you can get a ride to wherever you want to go. All that you need is a steady thumb.

There are two immediate concerns that I have about hitchhiking. My first is that it is really cold outside, not exactly ideal weather for standing around with my thumb out. My second is the whole rape and murder thing. I wouldn't want worries like that to plague my thoughts as I am riding to school.

So I guess that a car is the only viable answer.



Top Ten Things to do to Make Other Drivers Mad

1. Head bang to Rush Limbaugh's talk radio in the morning on your way to school.
2. Close your eyes while going around curves.
3. Stop at green lights while occupying two lanes of traffic for four light sequences.
4. Pretend that you don't know what the road signs mean unless they are written in Russian and purple.
5. Stroke your car fresheners and give them names like "Daisy" and "Little Princess".
6. Converse periodically with the empty back seat, claiming that you are talking with your friend 'Sophia' who you accidently locked in the trunk four weeks ago.
7. Take pets along during long road trips and make sure that they are wearing their seat belts.
8. Scream hysterically every time someone tries to correct your driving techniques, claiming that you are "the best driver ever."
9. Drive in the wrong lane.
10. Ask pedestrians if they have any Grey Poupon.

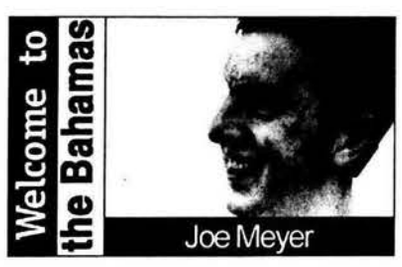
Bus rides become wild adventures

Everything I ever learned, I learned on a us.

During the first sixteen years of my life, have had many educational experiences on arious buses.

One of the best days of a young person's fe is when they discover all of the profanities ritten on the back of the seats of the school us.

For me, it was e same as everyone se, except I ounded extremely norant when I ispronounced all of em and no one new what I was lking about. I ounded like a drunk wede with a uthern twang.



I have also learned things that have not tten me in that much trouble on buses.

Once, a couple of friends and I were mplaining about some petty thing while tting in the back of a city bus.

Then, this strange looking guy in a wife ater and camouflage pants approaches us nd sits down with us. Meanwhile, I was eing the dozens of other seats the man could ve sat in.

For the first five minutes, he was mpletely silent.

When he finally opened his mouth, I scovered that he was one of the most norant people I have met in my life. ranted, I am not the quickest person at times, t this man's stupidity was unprecedented.

He started screaming profanities at us mercifully. The extremely edited version of what he said is "You guys should stop complaining because you don't know what you are talking about."

The next thing that I learned on a bus was to never begin the habit of "chewing." Once, I looked over at the seat across the aisle from me and saw this unusual man. It looked like he was becoming intimate with a Mountain Dew bottle, which I think is illegal.

Before I turned him in, I discovered that he was spitting a black tar-like substance into the bottle.

I was so disgusted that I almost vomited on myself and had to get off the bus and walk the remaining ten blocks home.

On every bus that I have ever ridden on, there has been the best dynamic of individuals ever put together in one place.

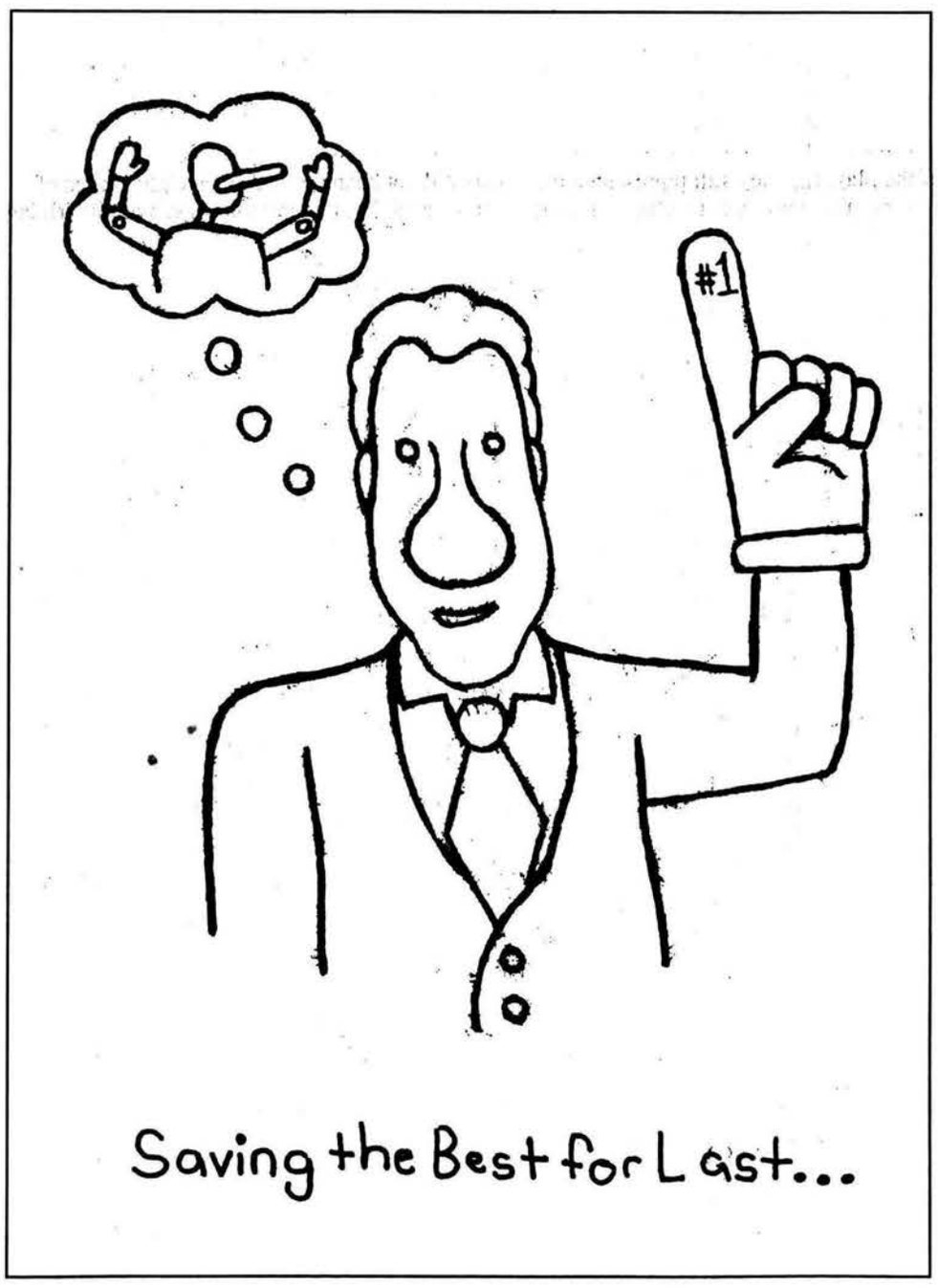
The first person that I notice is the poor businessman with his suit, *Wall Street Journal* and his briefcase.

This individual is secluded in the corner of the bus, looking out the window and not talking to anyone else.

Then, the next thing that I notice are the little children that are constantly running up and down the aisle and when the bus starts or stops, they fall to the ground.

I am always perplexed by whether to help these helpless kids to their feet or simply laugh at them.

If I ever get any free time, I should write a manifesto of experiences I have had while riding a bus. I can picture it now; it would be a best seller. I think I would call it *Welcome to the Bahamas*.



School board fails to reflect student opinions, concerns

Public education in America today has come a political stage show.

It is possible to take some of the bureaucracy out of school, thus insuring a more efficient educational ystem. Ironically, it volves the addition more people to the hool board. Students should have me say on the isues that effect them.



With the majory of America's outh enrolled in ublic schools, some political intervention is ecessary, but not to the extent of today's reity.

The best interest of the students, in many ases, are overlooked for the best interest of e school board and other bureaucrats. Students in public schools have turned into puppets on short strings with school officials controlling the perceived image behind the rewall curtain of the media.

Far too often, administrators' ulterior motives are not in the best interest of students, and pupils are forced to hide behind the facade painted by these powerful administrators. Unfortunately, these facades lead to some students slipping through the cracks.

The issues that school officials often toil over are not very important to students.

For instance, over the past summer, the story of Dr. Mackiel possibly leaving OPS for a better job was well documented. His decision to stay was just as well documented and the argument was made that he allegedly stayed due to some bargaining by the school board.

Although not proven, it can be said that if that was the case, it was not done in the best interest of the school district. Yet these figures, who are elected by the public to head the cultivation of society's most valuable resource, education, put forth too much effort towards lobbying for or against issues only pertaining to themselves.

Is public schooling about the livelihood of school officials? Most would say no, but it has become that way in modern society.

The most practical way to improve student's learning potential and cut back on red tape is to involve students in the legislative process.

It would be easy to say that all of OPS's problems would go away if students were allowed to hold chairs on the school board, but that is not looked upon nicely by current members. Also, like most other public offices, there is a minimum running age that would prevent most high school students from running.

Indirect student representation might be a better solution. A system in which elected students would be official consultants for board members might be more orderly.

Step by step, electing student officials would be a fairly orderly process. At the beginning of junior year of OPS students, every pupil would be given the chance to run for the positions. Hopeful board consultants would return an application to the principal of their respective school.

The top ten applicants from each OPS high school would speak in front of the school board, attesting their assets to the board. After reviewing each student's speech and recommendations, the panel would further narrow the number of candidates to two students per school.

In the end, the entire student body would vote for the one student that would represent their school in front of the school board.

With seven high schools, that will create 14 students (a junior and a senior elected the previous year) that consult with members of the school board, which has 12 members. Each elected student would be randomly assigned to consult with a board member, thus leaving two student representatives to advise superintendent John Mackiel.

Under this plan, every student would have a say in what happens on the school board. This is a much needed change from the current system and everyone would benefit from it.

Register your Opinion

The Nebraska Legislature has proposed a bill that would legalize and encourage the production of industrial hemp in the state. What do you think?



"If they really need it to make materials, then they should legalize it."

Rose Perkins, 10

"It makes younger generations smoke more."

Tamiece Bass, 12



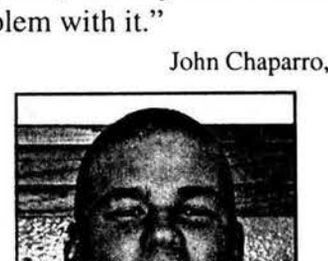
"It doesn't matter because you cannot smoke it."

Logan Dumaine, 9



"If people are using it for useful purposes, I really don't have a problem with it."

John Chaparro, 9



"We should encourage the legalization of hemp because it would provide an alternative to cotton."

Sam Comfort, 11



"You can make other things out of hemp, like paper."

Adrian Montes, 10



"I think it would be good because it could lower gas prices. It will also help Nebraska's economy."

Shayna Denny, 12

A&E

Marilyn Manson censored



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOTHING RECORDS

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Holiday movie preview

Review: 'Nunsense A-Men'

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Calendar

Sex, drugs and rock and roll are not the only things Marilyn Manson has had to think about, censorship is a major part in his career. For years he has been fighting parents and society, and this battle with Circuit City and Best Buy is no different.

By Layne Gabriel

Both Best Buy and Circuit City have imposed restrictions on the cover art for Marilyn Manson's most recent album, "Holy Wood: In the Shadow of the Valley of Death."

The album cover portrays Manson as a Christ figure in a crucifixion pose with his lower jaw missing.

"We felt that the original cover art would be viewed as objectionable," Bill Cimino, spokesman for Circuit City, said.

Cimino said that Circuit City will offer the album without censored lyrics and with the original cover art hidden underneath a cardboard covering that is shrink-wrapped around the album.

"We thought this was the best solution," Cimino said.

Manson's last album, "Mechanical Animals," also had restrictions placed on the cover at Circuit City.

Cimino said that Circuit City merchandisers made the decision about the cover art before the album hit the shelves.

He said that the cardboard cover, which has an image from the back of the original cover, could be considered a collector's item by Manson's fans.

"Most people view this as an appropriate compromise," Cimino said.

Donna Beadle, spokesperson for Best Buy, said that the store chose to offer less graphic cover art in newspaper inserts that reach 40 million people.

Beadle said that the original cover art will be offered in the stores with a parental advisory sticker.

Best Buy chose to use the alternative art because the advertising insert reaches such a wide audience, Beadle said.

"We didn't want to offend anybody that was looking at the insert," she said.

"The irony is that my point of the photo on the album was to show people that the crucifixion of Christ is, indeed, a violent image."

Marilyn Manson

Although Manson's publicists were not available for comment, Manson's personal view was found on his website.

"The irony is that my point of the photo on the album was to show people that the crucifixion of Christ is, indeed, a violent image.

"In fact, the picture itself is composed of a statue of Jesus taken from a place of worship. My jaw is missing as a symbol of this very kind of censorship.

"This doesn't [bother me] as much as it pleases me, because those offended by my album cover have successfully proven my point," Manson said in a statement through his website, www.marilynmanson.net.

Opinions about the album cover varies among Central students.

"Not everyone wants to see that. You have to think about little kids and their interpretations of that," Sophomore Liz Davis said.

Junior Jack Marcuzzo said that he thinks the restrictions imposed on the cover art are absurd. He said he thinks that Manson is not against religion and that he is not a devil worshipper.

Marcuzzo predicted that many people will be offended by the artwork on Manson's album. He also said that businesses should select other albums to censor, such as hate bands, instead of Manson's more tame material.

"They've already screwed around with Marilyn Manson too much," Marcuzzo said.

Freshman Nick Goding said that Manson's album cover should be censored because it offends many people's religious beliefs.

"I think if it's offensive, then they probably shouldn't sell it at all," Sophomore Holly McCarthy said.

Junior Nicole Engler said that options should be offered if the album could be offensive, but it comes down to the shoppers themselves.

"If you don't like it, don't buy it," she said.

89.7 the River is up for bids

By Layne Gabriel

The River (89.7 FM) may be going to the highest bidder.

The Iowa Western Community College board of trustees voted Nov. 20 to proceed to the bidding process with a unanimous 8-0 vote.

River Director Vicki Jacoba said that the availability for bidding has been advertised in the Council Bluffs daily newspaper and bids were taken on Dec. 13.

On Dec. 18, the board reviewed the bids and will make a final decision.

Jacoba said she thinks the board continued to the bidding process to see what kind of bids they will get and that it was an obligation to taxpayers that support the station.

Jacoba said that a firm in Kansas City estimated the value of the station to be at $4.5 million.

All bids near that number were to be considered.

Dr. Dan Kinney, President of Iowa Western, said that he attended the hearing on Nov. 4 and that it was obvious that listeners love the sound, but he is unsure if selling is a good decision.

"If the River will is sold, it is sold," he said.

Kinney said he thinks enrollment will not go down with the loss of the station.

Jacoba said that the station and fans have done everything possible to save the River.

"It's out of our hands at this point," Jacoba said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MILLENNIUM THEATRE

A-MEN...WOAH, THEY'RE MEN! Sisters Mary Amnesia, Mary Hubert, Mary Regina, Robert Anne and Mary Leo are the Little Sisters of Hoboken in 'Nunsense A-Men.' The show is a humorously morbid story about these five nuns that try to raise money to bury the last four of their dead sisters.

'Nunsense A-Men' proves to be hilarious Catholic humor

By Layne Gabriel

"Nunsense A-Men," the current production put on at the Millennium Theatre, is a laugh after laugh experience with the Little Sisters of Hoboken.

The show is filled with hilarious musical numbers and the fact that the sisters are played by men keeps the audience cracking up with their antics.

The order's chef, Sister Julia, Child of God, just happened to kill 52 of the sisters with botulism in a dinner.

Fortunately, the order had enough money on hand to bury 48 until Sister Mary Regina blew the cash on a DVD player.

The last four sisters are stuck in the freezer, and the nuns are putting on this variety show to raise money to bury them.

"Nunsense A-Men" is filled with hilarious jokes that even the most non-Catholic person can understand. Each of the characters have a wonderful distinct personality and can make everyone laugh.

Sister Mary Amnesia, played by Jason Rodgers, is possibly the funniest character in the show. She spends most of the production trying to remember who she is after she got hit on the head with a crucifix.

Sister Mary Leo, played by Jerry Ditter, did a funny ballet about praying in the morning. Ditter's dancing skills and choreography in the show were great and fit the production wonderfully.

Sister Robert Anne, played by Michael Taylor-Stewart, had desperate plea to get a big part in the show is shown during the song "Playing Second Fiddle," which goes so fast, the audience cannot help but laugh.

Sister Mary Regina, the Mother Superior, played by David Sims, stole the show when she took a few whiffs of something one of the other sisters found in the bathroom. Of course, Mary Regina gets completely blitzed and staggers offstage.

Sister Mary Hubert, played by D. Kevin Williams, led a few wonderful numbers and kept the audience laughing with many one-liners.

All of the cast did a great job at portraying women, especially Rodgers, who could easily make the audience forget that Mary Amnesia was a man.

Although some of the show's jokes could be a little on the racy side for strict Catholics, the show is all in fun. With cute and funny song and dance numbers that rival Broadway productions, the show is a wonderful addition to any holiday season.



LEFT: "The Emperor's New Groove." The Emperor explains who is the most important person in his perfect world. David Spade and John Goodman loan their vocal talents to this Disney film.

ABOVE: "Proof of Life." Russell Crowe plays a kidnap and ransom expert that helps Meg Ryan find her kidnapped husband in South Africa.

ABOVE: "Dude, Where's My Car?" Ashton Kutcher and Seann William Scott play two party dudes that had such a good time, they forgot where they parked their car.

LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Man Down gets taste of local fame with fine beginning

By Layne Gabriel

The thriving Omaha music scene is welcoming Man Down.

Joel Kassera, the voice behind Man Down, said the band has been getting quite a wide following. The band's recent shows have been packed and the crowd has been singing to the band's songs.

"It [That following] really makes it that much better," Kassera said.

Kassera said Man Down began when the lead singer from his former band, Old Boy Network, left the band. Kassera, who was a drummer at the time, along with former bandmates Dave Backhaus, bassist, and Vince Giambattista, lead guitarist, formed Man Down.

After recording Man Down's album, the band began a search for a lead singer, but had a tough time finding one.

"Actually, on our first album, I played the drums and sang," Kassera said.

The band fortunately found current drummer Scott Evans, and Kassera became lead singer and guitarist.

"One of the things we really liked about him is that he knew the band [before he started]," Kassera said.

Although Kassera has been getting more talented at the guitar after only playing seriously for two years, he found it difficult to learn a new instrument.

"The hardest part was singing and playing at the same time," he said.

Man Down has been compared to the Foo Fighters, Kassera said.

"It's been a while since anyone's compared us to anybody," Kassera said.

Although the band has not played with many national acts, it usually plays with various other local bands. Kassera said he has met many people through the music business.

Kassera said that the band works together to make the songs perfect. He and Giambattista write the lyrics, Backhaus puts the pieces together and Evans throws in his ideas.

He said the band's songs are usually about life and girls, but also writes about alcoholism and tries to remain positive in his lyrics.

Man Down plays three or four shows a month, usually at the Ranch Bowl, and Kassera said getting ready for shows always makes him nervous. The band members are getting more confident and Kassera said all he looks forward to are the shows.

Aside from the Ranch Bowl, Man Down has played in Denver, Kansas City and other various bars across the region.

The band is looking forward to getting a record deal and travelling the country for shows.

At the beginning of 2001, the band is planning to return to the studio to record its second album, Kassera said. The band is looking for an agent and management team and then take its act on the road.

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'Tis the season to visit the Old Market...Fa La La



YOUR UNDIES ARE ON THE GROUND, MA'AM (Above) Angela Barry (left) and Linda Jensen (right) laughed after Barry's hoop skirt fell on the ground.



CHRISTMAS IS WORTHLESS (Far right) Anderson delivered a monologue on the uselessness of Christmas.



MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. SCROOGE (Top left) Kent Anderson, who played Scrooge, yelled "Bah Humbug!" at an innocent bystander.

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

Sparkles, songs and smiles are seen at this time of the year in the Old Market area, despite the cold, blustery wind and snow.

A total of 1 million lights were put up throughout the Gene Leahy Mall in the downtown area for the holiday season by the event's executive director Vic Gutman of Vic Gutman and Associates.

"I'm expecting a big outcome in all of this," Gutman said.

The Holiday Lights Festival was put up for the holidays from 14th and Farnam Street to 10th and Farnam Street, throughout the Gene Leahy Mall.

"You cannot miss the lights when you come down here," Marc Nichols, president of Downtown Omaha, Inc. said. "It's a huge section of the Market."

Gutman said that Hy-Vee grocery stores, Douglas County, the City of Omaha, Downtown Omaha, Inc. and the*Omaha World Herald* Foundation sponsor Holiday Lights Festival.

Nichols said the Gene Leahy Mall area holds many lights on trees, buildings and also has numerous displays with leaping deer and elves.

Not only are the lights an attractive place in the downtown area, the featured seasonal fun and games are too. Every weekend between now and Jan. 7, 2001, carolers from the Nebraska Choral Arts Society are going to be singing Christmas carols, Nichols said.

Family Fest Day on Dec. 31 will be full of carriage rides, Christmas caroling and fireworks at 6:30 p.m. For those who would like to see the art studios and museums downtown, they will be open to the public as well.

These holiday events run until the first week of Jan., between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m. every day.



ALL PHOTOS FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

DEATH WILL COME (Top right) Mils Erickson played the Ghost of Christmas Future.

Dickens in the Market celebrates its 14 year anniversary with its weekend of festivities in the Old Market on Dec. 8-10. Actors from Scrooge & Co. along with local actors and school choirs worked together to bring old-time magic to the Old Market.

Holiday gift buying made easy around the Metro with extra shipments

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

The holidays are fast approaching and purchasing gifts is at the top of everyone's list.

Central High junior Robin Dahlke, who works for K-Mart, said she expects toys and clothes to sell quickly between now and Christmas Day.

"K-Mart got a huge stock increase for the day after Thanksgiving sale which will last until Christmas," Dahlke said.

"We just received leather pants and faux fur coats that everyone is now beginning to wear these days," Central High junior Khay Patterson said about the Gadzooks stores' new stock for the Christmas season. "We also have the Santa Claus stocking caps, too."

Gadzooks is not getting any more stock in, but the employees usually do not know what they are getting until it comes, Patterson said.

He anticipates Gadzooks will have major store traffic between now and Christmas Day. The store has hired extra employees because of it.

"We made an estimated quota but it's just as busy," Patterson said. "More people shop [at this time of the year] rather than to look around."

Patterson is not expecting any gifts for himself this season but he will get his friends a pajama-gift set from the Gap.

Central High senior Aleks Berzins, who works at the Gap, anticipates hats, gloves, scarves and pajamas to sell quickly. These will go briskly because of the cold weather coming, Berzins said.

"The polar fleeces are the warmest," Berzins said.

Berzins is unsure how many new shipments will come in to the Gap before the holidays.

The Gap is selling regular items as well as lotion, perfume and gift-sets for the holiday season.

"There was a lot of store traffic... it was awful," Berzins said. "The season is good for business."

As for the Target stores, manger Greg Bellus awaits for the new stock shipment to come in for the holiday season.

"Every section is affected [by the sales]," Bellus said. "Most of the stuff is already in stock."

Target expects to sell lots of Furbies, Barbies, electronics and electronic toys like Poo-chi, a mechanical dog.

"The main emphasis is the high-tech stuff like the educational computer game of Leap Frog," Bellus said.

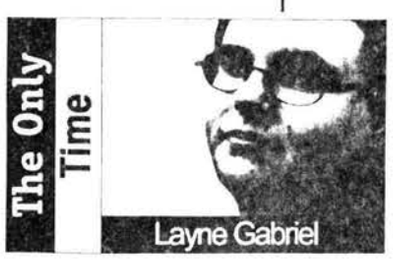
Target stores have sales in their departments between now and Christmas Eve. This time of the year is the busiest, Bellus said.

If one is looking for music and books to get for gifts, Borders Books and Music Café is getting some new stock for its shelves as well. New CDs, books and seasonal items will be available. The employees expect to be bogged down with traffic as Christmas Day gets nearer.

Homers is awaiting the new Christmas album releases from artists such as Christina Aguilera and talk show host Rosie O'Donnell.

Long-time employee Gregg Korth expects as least 100 new titles to appear on the racks. Korth also thinks Homers' business will triple during the next three weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

Holiday shopping around the metro could be stressful, but finding the perfect gift for that special someone will not be hard.



Take time to remember John Lennon's legacy

December 8, 1980, John Lennon was shot outside of his apartment and pronounced dead at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City.

Lennon's death was truly tragic. Lennon was such a rock icon and his influence reached out to many artists of our generation.

Born Oct. 9, 1940, Lennon died at the age of 40, ceasing all possibility of a Beatles reunion. The only time the three remaining Beatles were together was at Linda McCartney's funeral.

Many people of this generation do not understand what kind of a difference Lennon made in his lifetime.

Lennon was not only a cutting edge experimental musician, but he fought strongly for peace in the world among times of war.

He gave the world so much hope. In the beginning, he was an object of parental disapproval and an object of teenage lust. As the years went on, Lennon became more experimental with drugs and turned heads with his more peculiar albums and songs.

The Beatles broke up only a decade before Lennon's murder, but he remained busy in the music business with his second wife, Yoko Ono, and fathered two children, Sean and Julian.

Lennon was one of the most prolific songwriters of all time, writing nearly 200 songs with and without the Beatles. His work inspired artists from Oasis to the Offspring.

Lennon lived a relatively good life and it is a true shame to see his ability cut short because of one idiodic person that thought he was just better.

Lennon's convicted killer, Mark David Chapman, was recently put up for parole and denied, which was probably the best decision to be made. The impact he made on so many lives was crazy, and sadly it was a catastrophe that caused him to become well-known.

Lennon made so many people believe in peace and life, and his words have become themes for our parent's generation. His name is a household term and almost everyone has heard at least one Beatles song.

My fear is that the next generation will never know who John Lennon was and what he made out of his life. His name should not just go down in the history books along with General Custer and Andy Warhol.

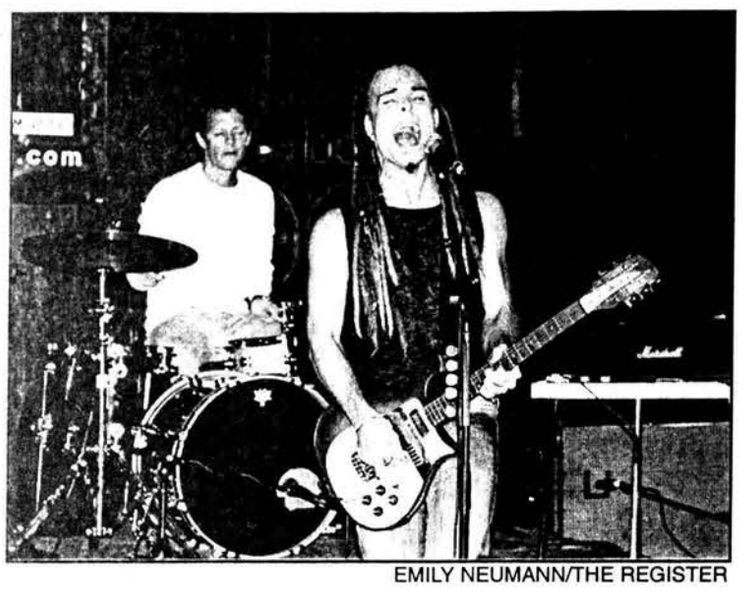
He should remain the dreamer and thinker everyone remembers him as. He should continue to influence music for decades.

Lennon's unfortunate death 20 years ago has made people think. Although his life was cut short by a selfish and disturbed person, his legacy will still remain in the hearts of musicians and music lovers for lifetimes.

"Imagine all the people living life in peace..."

John Lennon, October 9, 1940 - December 8, 1980.

Unified Theory rocks the Ranch Bowl



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

JAM ON! Dave Krusen and Chris Shinn, formerly of Pearl Jam, rock with their new band, Unified Theory.

By Emily Neumann

Former members of bands Pearl Jam and Blind Melon graced the Ranch Bowl with their presence Dec. 12 in the form of the band Unified Theory.

Lead singer and guitarist Chris Shinn (former member of Pearl Jam) was an imposing figure with his head of dread-locks and his retro boot-cut jeans.

The set began with a driving guitar line and powerful vocals. By the time the rest of the band started in, the audience appeared to be hooked. Every head in the place was bobbing in time to the music, and for those who were too inebriated to do that for long, toe tapping continued from chairs at the back of the room.

It was pretty easy to tell who was from what band. Bassist Brad Smith and guitarist Christopher Thorn donned straw hats in a gesture of nostalgia of their prior claim to fame, Blind Melon. Drummer Dave Krusen and Shinn were among the many artists that trekked their way through the Pearl Jam line-up.

Krusen just chilled in the back setting the pace with a lackadaisical demeanor and impressive precision.

Overall, the show was thoroughly enjoyable. If you are a connesuer of high pitched vocals and intense sound, then Unified Thoery should be on your Christmas list this year.

Best hot chocolate found downtown

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

This time of year, hot chocolate becomes a popular drink.

Restaurants all over the Omaha area offer hot chocolate. The Old Market has multiple coffee shops that offer hot chocolate. Many shops offer a comfortable place to study and a warm drink.

The coffee shop, 13th St. Coffee Company on South 13th St. has a nice study atmosphere. One can enjoy a nice hot cup of hot chocolate with whipped cream sitting downstairs where a giant coffee cup decorates the wall. Upstairs has the comfortable arrangement of sofas and soft chairs.

The 13th St. Coffee Company makes its hot chocolate with Hershey's syrup and 2% milk. The whipped cream is real and is mixed with a little bit of vanilla syrup [to make a faint vanilla taste]. Whipped cream is optional and does not cost anything extra.

The chocolate is not too strong, but there is a little too much cream. The whipped cream is fluffy white and tastes good and sweet.

Stage Right Coffee and Tea Company, located at 16th and Harney Streets, also offers hot chocolate in the Old Market area. Stage Right has music playing along with the classic chairs and round tables. If the regular tables are not as appealing, Stage Right has SurfTables which offer internet access for a nominal fee.

Stage Right's hot chocolate is made with Italian De Ora's chocolate syrup and steamed milk with Ready-Whip and chocolate syrup on top.

The hot chocolate has too much chocolate in it plus a faint taste of almonds, and is lukewarm.

The busy, homestyle restaurant Village Inn, located at 44th and Dodge Streets, has been making hot chocolate for the season as well.

It is made with Carnation Mix and served in a small one-sized cup and saucer with Ready-Whip on top, as well as chocolate syrup drizzled over it.

Village Inn's hot chocolate is really sweet but watered-down. The whipped cream tops it off nicely.

By far, the best hot chocolate is offered at the Delice European Bakery and Coffee Bar located in the center of the Old Market.

This coffee shop has a more appealing atmosphere to it with fun music playing in the background.

Delice attracts a wide variety of people as well as the typical local teenager. It has the traditional chairs and round tables with checkered tablecloths. The building has a pleasant atmosphere to it.

Not only is the atmosphere stunning, the hot chocolate is delicious. The cup his huge and the hot chocolate is made with steamed skim milk and Hershey's syrup. The whipped cream is laced on top with chocolate sprinkles to finish. This hot chocolate is hot, rather than lukewarm.

They Taste So *Good*

13th St. Coffee Co.

12 oz. $1.90, 16 oz. $2.15, 20 oz. $2.70

Stage Right Coffee and Tea Co.

12 oz. $1.75, 16 oz. $2.15, 20 oz. $2.65

Village Inn

One size with one refill for $1.19

Delice

One size for $1.75.

Out of five

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Profiles

Family Matters

Senior Dominique Johnson follows his brother's footsteps by playing basketball for the Eagles

Troy Schulte

Growing up around his older brother and watching play basketball was how Central High senior Domi- Johnson learned how the game was supposed to be ed.

Dominique's older brother, Donnie, who graduated Central in 1995, influenced him to go into basket- at a young age.

"He has basically influenced me my whole young Dominique said. "He taught me everything I know ut basketball]."

Donnie said when they where young and just learn- he game, Dominique showed so much desire towards tball that he did not have to push him into it or teach a whole lot about the game.

"He always wanted to do it," Donnie said. "I would let him make his own decisions and his own mis- ."

Donnie was a three-year starter for the Eagles at for- before graduating in 1995.He said his best moment Eagle was in 1994 during his junior year when the won the districts to give Central a trip to the state nament in Lincoln.

Even though the Eagles did not win in Lincoln, Dominique said that he was still there watching and cheering on his brother.

"I tried to go to all the home games, it was just so exciting," Dominique said.

Donnie also said he enjoyed playing more when he knew that his brother was in the stands watching.

"Knowing he was watching really motivated me and made me want to play harder," Donnie said.

After his senior season came to an end, Donnie had to make a decision over what college to attend and which would give him a better chance to play basketball. It came down to only two, he said, Iowa St. and Creighton.

He chose Creighton. The main reason he chose the Blue Jays, he said, was because of head coach Dana Altman.

"He [Altman] was the one that really recruited me well and showed the most interest," Donnie said.

During his career at Creighton, Donnie said he played well, but a back injury slowed him up. He suffered a herniated disc in his back, an injury that bothered him throughout his career.

"It was real bad for awhile," Donnie said. " It gave me back spasms every now and then, but now it's better."

Despite injury, Donnie played through the pain to help lead the Blue Jays to two consecutive Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) championships and two NCAA tournament appearances in 1999 and 2000.

"I was surprised the first year," Donnie said. "But we played real hard and it worked out towards our advantage."

Initially, Donnie thought after his college career was over that he would pursue a professional career. But, after playing a few exhibition games for a team in Iowa, he has decided to put an end to his basketball career.

"It is partly because of my back is still bothering me," Donnie said. "Also professional [basketball] is nothing like college. College is the ultimate level of basketball."

Now, Donnie is planning on moving to Dallas, Texas to begin a career in real estate. However, he said he still thinks his brother has a future in basketball.

"If he puts his mind to it and works hard, he can succeed and do whatever he wants," Donnie said.

Dominique said he also believed that with a little hard work he could play college basketball too, but does not necessarily want to follow his brother to Creighton.

I just want to go to a division I school where I can play," he said. "They [Creighton] are stacked this year."

Shipman decides to quit coaching

By Troy Schulte

The head cross-country coach announced he was stepping down from after 10 seasons at the position.

Coach Tim Shipman said that he has made the decision to focus on family concerns and had made the decision before the 2000 season began.

"It was mostly family concerns," Shipman said.

Central's athletics director Paul Pennington said that when Shipman informed him a couple weeks after the season ended it surprised him a little bit.

"I know that he is good at working with kids and I know he enjoys it, but he is also a family man and you can not blame him for that."

Sophomore Chris Gorga, who has ran on varsity for two years, said that Shipman's decision came as a surprise to him as well.

"I don't think any of us saw it coming," Gorga said.

As for Shipman's successor, Pennington said that the decision has not been made yet. He said that before the decision is made he wants everyone to know the position is available.

"It is possible that it will be one of our track coaches. Track and cross-country are closely related," Pennington said.

Shipman came to Central prior to the 1991 season and was hired as the girl's coach. At the time, Matt Carmichael was still the boy's coach and he and Shipman coached the team together for six years.

After the 1996 season, Carmichael left Shipman has coach both teams by himself.

He said that the group he has now is the one he will miss the most.

"I had a good group of seniors who worked hard for me for four years," he said.

Three freshmen starters need to adapt to varsity level, coach says

Chris Aponick

The spark that the s' basketball team will d to carry them through season may be found in three freshmen starters, sity head coach heile Roberts said.

Crystal Howard, rina Washington and Onna Williams earned ing roles on the team, erts said

"As a matter of fact, I e started all three of them because I thought they earned starting spots," she said.

However, being placed in this position will bring about several challenges for these three, Roberts said.

Roberts said that the team's biggest challenge will be trying to conquer the change in difficulty from middle school to varsity high school basketball

"Coming out of eighth grade, they were the best," Roberts said. "They were dominant and could do things their own way."

She said they are now having difficulties because they are up against people who are better or even to them and the team is more structured.

In all aspects, varsity basketball is a lot harder than basketball was in eighth grade, Williams said.

The first and, probably, the toughest challenge was making it through tryouts, Roberts said.

"During tryouts I was just thinking about trying to make the team but when I made varsity I was very excited," Washington said.

All three girls said making the varsity team was an honor.

Howard said being on the varsity squad brings about even more pressure than starting the season on the freshmen or junior varsity team.

Another challenge for the girls will be getting used to the level of competition, Roberts said.

"I think I'm ready for the competition and I am looking forward to going to state," Washington said.

Howard said she thinks that the team is anxious to get into the season.

Williams said she is just looking forward to trying to win as many games as the team can and contributing as much as possible.

The girls will also be challenged because they will be learning different things all year, Roberts said.

However, they already have had experience with the team because the girls worked at the team's summer camp.

They have also been working with the older girls since June and the team has been able to develop some chemistry, Roberts said.

"They were able to jump in and contribute right away," Roberts said.

"They were also able to hold their own during the summer against other varsity teams."

The girls also have relied on their skills to guide them, Roberts said.

"For example, Williams takes care of the ball and does a nice job as the point guard. Howard and Washington both are offensive threats and rebound well. They all are really quick," Roberts said.

These three girls are already used to playing with each other as well because they have played with each other since about the fifth grade, Roberts said.

The other players are also helping to push the three so they can continue to grow and get better.

"The other kids have done a nice job at helping them to learn to step up and play at this level," she said.

Central teacher becomes coach after career overseas

Troy Schulte

This men's basketball team ed a unique basketball coach. new coach has had professional erience, both in the United States broad.

Scott Wilke, a first year teacher Central who is an assistant coach this season, grew up in Panama, Iowa and played high school basketball at nearby Harlan High School.

After graduating from Harlan in 1984, he moved away from home to play college basketball at the University of Colorado.

Standing at six feet seven inches tall, Wilke's natural position was center and, as a result, he moved into the starting line-up midway through his sophomore season.

Though the team did not have very much success, Wilke said that he enjoyed his four years playing for the Buffaloes.

"We were not one of the best teams." Wilke said, "the Big Eight was very strong in the 1980s."

After his four years with Colorado, Wilke wanted to play professional basketball, but was not drafted by any teams in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

So he tried out with the Los Angeles Clippers in October of 1989 hoping to make the team.

But, after a month with the Clippers and a small amount of exhibition games, Wilke was cut.

Since he still had the desire to play professional basketball, Wilke moved to Australia and played with a team there in January of 1990, but he did not stay for very long.

"I got homesick and only stayed there for about four months," Wilke said.

For the next couple of years Wilke moved from place to place playing anywhere he could in countries like England and Japan.

He said he enjoyed playing in Japan, but the cultural differences made it hard to communicate with people.

"I got paid well [in Japan] but the language barrier made it difficult," Wilke said.

In 1992 Wilke was supposed to play another season in England but ended up in Luxembourg for three years.

Wilke said in England he had to have a work permit to play and when he landed in London, he did not have one and they did not allow him into the country.

"They gave me one day, before they were going to ship me back to America," Wilke said.

He said he then got in contact with a coach in Luxembourg who still wanted him to play and gave him a try-out.

"I went there just to try-out." Wilke said, "and I ended up playing there for three years."

Wilke decided to stop playing basketball in the summer of 1999 while living in England.

"I had an offer to play in Germany but I would have had to leave my son and wife, who was pregnant at the time in England," Wilke said. "I did not want to do that."

He said that he thought he could have played a few more years but he was getting older and wanted to spend more time with his family. He then decided to take up teaching mainly because he wanted to be a basketball coach.

While playing for so many seasons in America as well as overseas, Wilke noticed several differences between American and European style basketball. He said that the rules are very different and the style of play differs.

"In the U.S. the game is a lot more powerful, you use your athleticism to score and get to the basket." Wilke said, "in Europe they concentrate more on skill, you see that in players [in the NBA from Europe] like Vlade Divac and Tony Kucoc."

In the European leagues, every player, including the centers, handles the ball and participates in scoring drills, Wilke said.

In the United States, only the guards recieve that attention.

Wilke said that he has had a few offers to continue playing this year.

"I had to turn down an offer in Poland for this year," Wilke said. "But I spent a long time doing it [playing basketball]."

Even though he has only been out of it for a little over a year, Wilke said he still misses basketball and he got a chance to play again on Nov. 3 at the faculty vs. seniors basketball game.

Wilke said that he is a competitive person and went into the game wanting to win, but also to have a good time playing.

The faculty won the game 76-73 in overtime; an outcome that did not surprise him.

"I thought I could dominate that age group, with their tallest kid being only about six foot 3 inches," Wilke said.

Wilke arrived at Central as a new Pathways 21 teacher on Sept. 24.He said he is excited about helping out head basketball coach Rick Behrens.

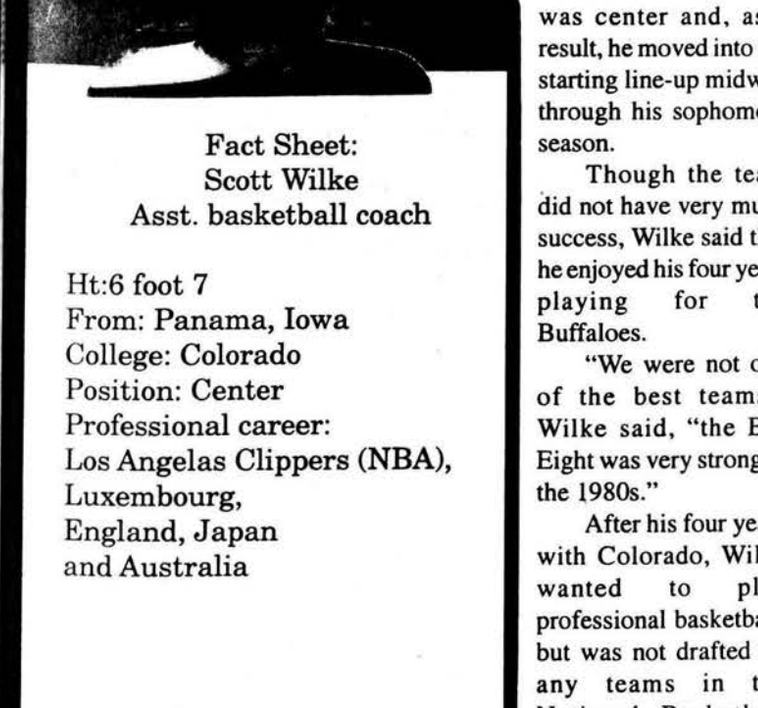


EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

FORMER PRO Central assistant basketball coach, Scott Wilke, looks for an open teamate during the faculty vs. seniors basketball game on Nov. 3. The faculty won the game.

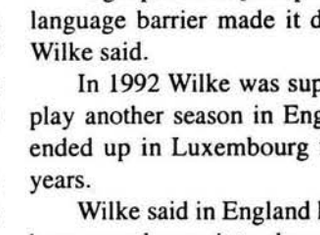
Fact Sheet:
Scott Wilke
Asst. basketball coach

Ht:6 foot 7
From: Panama, Iowa
College: Colorado
Position: Center
Professional career:
Los Angelas Clippers (NBA),
Luxembourg,
England, Japan
and Australia



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TRUE LOVE WAITS

Wrestlers want state glory

By Chris Aponick

The wrestling team has a goal to try to qualify more individuals for the state tournament this year, wrestling head coach, Jimmie Foster said.

If the wrestling team survives a difficult schedule it could improve on a 2-4 match record from last year, Foster said.

The team has 13 returning wrestlers from the varsity squad that could make this season very successful.

Three of these wrestlers came off a very successful season, Foster said.

Seniors, Anders Christensen and John Whitmyre, as well as sophomore, Mike Barnett could lead the way because they qualified for the state tournament last year. Christensen needs to get to 35 wins to break the school records for single season and career victories and could go to state for the third time.

A couple of the other wrestlers said the also believed that the team had some very successful returning wrestlers.

"We have a strong team with a lot of good seniors," senior Andrew Baker said.

Baker is only a first-year wrestler, but said he is hoping to win as much as possible.

"Every wrestler wants to win matches and make the varsity team," junior Tom Bischof said.

Bischof is a second-year wrestler and has already wrestled in several tournaments this season.

"The team should improve on last year's performance and hopefully we will qualify more wrestler in state and place more," Foster said.

This task may be complicated because the duel schedule is tougher this year, he said.

The team's goal is to have as many people as possible winning their individual matches, Baker said.

The key matches this year are the home matches against South and Creighton Prep, Foster said.

Both are at home. Last year, Central beat South for the first time in eight years.

The team also has duels against defending champion, Burke and a talented Papillion- La Vista team, he said.

"The team's improvement will not be record-wise, but in ability," Foster said.

The team could get a boost from younger wrestlers too, he said.

"There are a lot of new guys on the team. The freshmen show lots of promise," Bischof said.

Girls' varsity basketball strives to improve

By Chris Aponick

Quickness and youth are the two keys possessed by Central's varsity girls' basketball team that could cause strife for its opponents, head coach Michele Roberts said.

Roberts said that she thinks the team can best its 4-14 record from last year because the team has several speedy players.

Even though Holly Greenamyre is the only returning starter from last year, the team has several players who have a lot of experience with Central basketball.

They also have plenty of talent and promise, athletics director, Paul Pennington said.

"Joante Wilson, Gina Rahaman, Holly Greenamyre, Becca Pauba and her sister, Lauren Pauba are all really good players," Pennington said.

He said Gina Rahaman won last year's Bryan game with a free throw.

The team's speed could help them focus on defense this year, Roberts said.

"They should create a lot of problems for their opponents, especially turnovers," Roberts said. "They should be very competitive."

The team has a chance to have an excellent season. It all depends on how the team's chemistry develops as the season goes on, Pennington said.

The team's success could be measured by its performance in several key games.

These will be against Millard South and Burke because the games are in Central's district, Roberts said.

"Our success will be determined on how well the younger kids step up and if the older kids take on team roles," Roberts said.

She said there would be a world of difference compared to last season.

"These kids can really create on the floor," Roberts said. "This is a whole new team."

Varsity Girls Roster

Name	Pos.
KeOnna Williams	G
Rebecca Pauba	G/F
Michelle James	G
Lauren Pauba	G/F
Katrina Washington	G
Nikita Warren	G
Jontae Wilson	G
Crystal Howard	G/F
Trish Cannon	G/F
Gina Rahaman	F/C
Holly Greenamyre	C
Morgan Chatmon	F/C

Swimmers try to improve on past years

By Troy Schulte

Taking as many swimmers and divers to the state tournament as possible and improving individual times are two areas the swimming and diving team are concentrating on for the upcoming season, head coach Lynne Braddock said.

After coming off of a 1999-2000 season in which they had a losing record in duels, this years team is looking to improve and become more competitive against top 10 teams like, Westside and Marian.

Braddock said that there 3-4 record in duels last season is somewhat misleading considering how well they swam and the swimmer's personal times.

"They swam excellent all season long," Braddock said. "You can't go by record to know how well they did."

One of those swimmers who did well, Braddock said, was senior Marisa McClure who finished 6th at the state meet last year in the 100-meter breaststroke.

McClure said that the breaststroke was her best event and that her best shot to make the finals was in that event. She said that this year she hopes to do better at the state meet and thinks that other people on the team have a shot too, like junior Luke Kielion.

"I had an all right season last year, I think maybe I could have pushed harder and could have done better," Kielion said. "I think I have a real good shot [at state] this year."

As for as for how the team is going to do this season, Kielion said that they have a lot of freshmen which does not allow immediate success.

"We have a lot of freshman this year," Kielion said. "Which will allow us to build a program and improve in the coming years."

Braddock said that she would like to see the individual's times improve and have a better record in duels this season, but it will be tough against teams like Westside (Dec 5), Creighton Prep/Marian and swimming in the Lincoln invite.

"I hope to see us swim well against those teams, but I don't think we are going to beat them," Braddock said.

She said that their main concern was getting as many swimmers and divers at the state meet as possible.

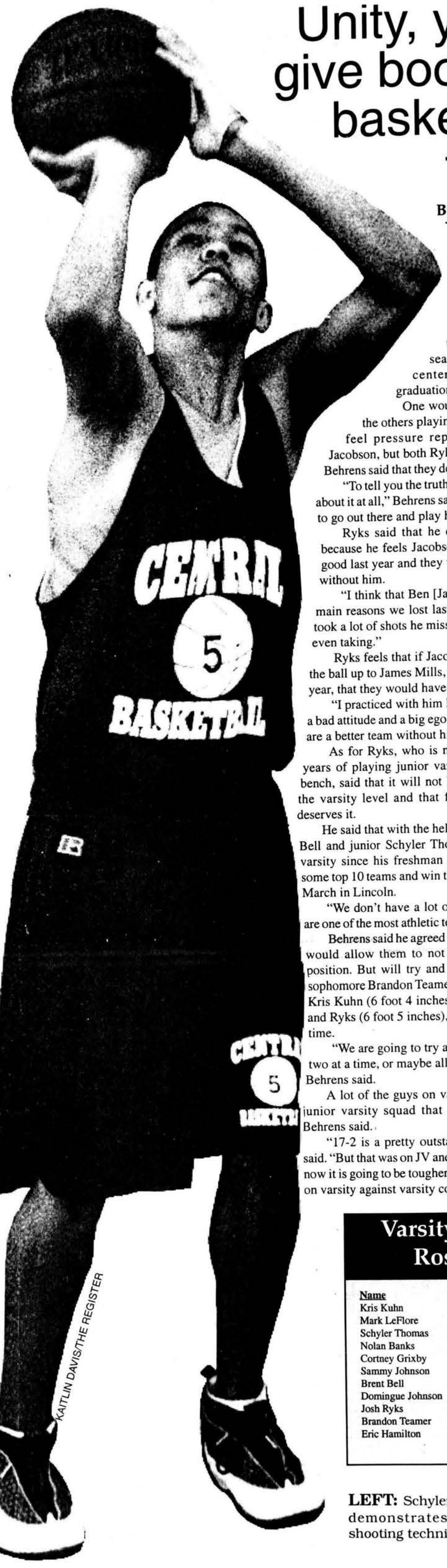
"I would like to take most of the team there, but I don't think all of them will go [to state]," Braddock said.



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTER

TAKE A BREATH! Lara Watzke (10) shows her technique during a recent practice. Swimmers put in many hours to achieve their desired outcome of winning.

Unity, youth give boost to basketball team



KAITLIN DAVIS/THE REGISTER

By Troy Schulte

"We're going to take state this year," senior center forward Josh Ryks said dispite being one of the new starters on a team that went 7-12 last season and lost all-state center Ben Jacobson to graduation.

One would think that Ryks and the others playing at the position would feel pressure replacing a player like Jacobson, but both Ryks and head coach Rich Behrens said that they do not see that as a factor.

"To tell you the truth I don't think they think about it at all," Behrens said. "They are just going to go out there and play hard every day."

Ryks said that he does not feel pressure because he feels Jacobson did more harm than good last year and they will be more successful without him.

"I think that Ben [Jacobson] was one of the main reasons we lost last year," Ryks said. "He took a lot of shots he missed and had no business even taking."

Ryks feels that if Jacobson would have given the ball up to James Mills, who also graduated last year, that they would have won more games.

"I practiced with him last year and he just has a bad attitude and a big ego," Ryks said. "I think we are a better team without him."

As for Ryks, who is now a starter after three years of playing junior varsity and sitting on the bench, said that it will not be difficult adjusting to the varsity level and that from his hard work he deserves it.

He said that with the help of fellow senior Brent Bell and junior Schyler Thomas, who has been on varsity since his freshman season, they will upset some top 10 teams and win the state tournament next March in Lincoln.

"We don't have a lot of height, but I think we are one of the most athletic teams around," Ryks said.

Behrens said he agreed and that their athleticism would allow them to not have a primary center position. But will try and have their tallest guys sophomore Brandon Teamer (6 foot 5 inches) junior Kris Kuhn (6 foot 4 inches), Bell (6 foot 4 inches) and Ryks (6 foot 5 inches), on the floor at the same time.

"We are going to try and get them on the floor two at a time, or maybe all three at the same time," Behrens said.

A lot of the guys on varsity come over from the junior varsity squad that went 17-2 last season, Behrens said.

"17-2 is a pretty outstanding record," Behrens said. "But that was on JV and playing JV competition now it is going to be tougher because they are playing on varsity against varsity competition."

Varsity Boys Roster

Name	Pos.
Kris Kuhn	G
Mark LeFlore	G
Schyler Thomas	G
Nolan Banks	G
Cortney Grixby	G
Sammy Johnson	G
Brent Bell	F
Domingue Johnson	F
Josh Ryks	F
Brandon Teamer	C
Eric Hamilton	F

LEFT: Schyler Thomas (11) demonstrates the proper shooting technique



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TRAINER'S CORNER



Facial injuries connected to flying objects

What are the most common facial injuries you see?

The most common facial injury that I see is usually the result of blows to the nose. Nosebleeds and broken noses are often a result, each producing large amounts of blood. If given the right treatment of ice, applying pressure to the upper lip, and direct pressure, the bleeding can usually be controlled fairly quickly. If I suspect a broken nose, the patient is referred to a doctor for x-rays.

What sports cause the largest amount of facial injuries?

Any sport that involves flying objects, often balls, runs a greater risk of producing facial injuries.

Therefore, sports such as baseball, softball and soccer will have a high occurrence of these injuries. In addition, sports with high bodily contact, such as wrestling have their fair share of injuries to the face. This is often the result of close contact with other people and the equipment (mat).

What are the best precautions when preventing facial injuries?

The precautions taken will often vary with the sport in which the athlete participates, and may be governed by rules within the individual sport. For instance, for face protection, football and hockey players are required to wear facemasks.

Many forms of facial protection will hinder the athlete's ability to see and/or focus to some degree, therefore athletes often elect to not wear the protection unless they have sustained a prior injury. For sports that do not require masks of some kind, there are clear shields available on the market that surround the orbit of the eyes and cover the nose.

These are most often worn after the occurrence of a nose of eye injury. In addition to the use of the masks, wearing contact lenses versus glasses will greatly decrease an athlete's risk of facial injury.

Cheerleading causes most high school injuries, study shows

Findings do not apply in OPS, athletic trainer says

By Matt Wynn

A high school junior cheerleader was doing a warm-up for a stunt in a state cheerleading competition. The stunt involved the cheerleader doing a flip off the hands of a teammate into the arms of several other teammates.

The teammates failed to catch her and she landed on her back. She suffered a fractured elbow, a concussion and a back injury that later required spinal fusion. She was not able to return to school and had to be tutored her final high school years.

Accidents like this may not be so rare, according to a study recently released by the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury.

Of the twenty-one catastrophic college injuries to female athletes that the Center has kept records of, sixteen were associated with cheerleading. The other injuries were associated with gymnastics, skiing, field hockey and lacrosse.

Cheerleading also was found to be responsible for 46.3 percent of all high school direct catastrophic injuries to female athletes.

Jeanee Weiss, Central's Athletic Trainer, said that she does not think cheerleading is very dangerous, at least in Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

"All of these injuries come from stunting," Weiss said, "in Nebraska, stunting isn't allowed."

Weiss said that the Nebraska State Athletic Association (NSAA) has taken precautions to limit the number of serious injuries in high school sports. One of these precautions is to ban high school cheerleaders from creating forms such as human pyramids and other shapes, also known as stunting.

But the NSAA did not ban stunting altogether. Instead, they limited stunts to being no more than 3 feet off the ground. Several Central cheerleaders expressed their feelings that this limitation is stupid.

"OPS is one of the only school systems where we're groundbound and can't stunt on the field," Emily McTate (9) said.

McTate said that she thinks this limitation will definitely hurt her chances to cheer in college.

"We can't compete with cheerleaders from Texas, who are very into the sport and not limited as far as stunting goes," McTate said.

Many cheerleaders said that findings of this report will not affect their decisions about the sport.

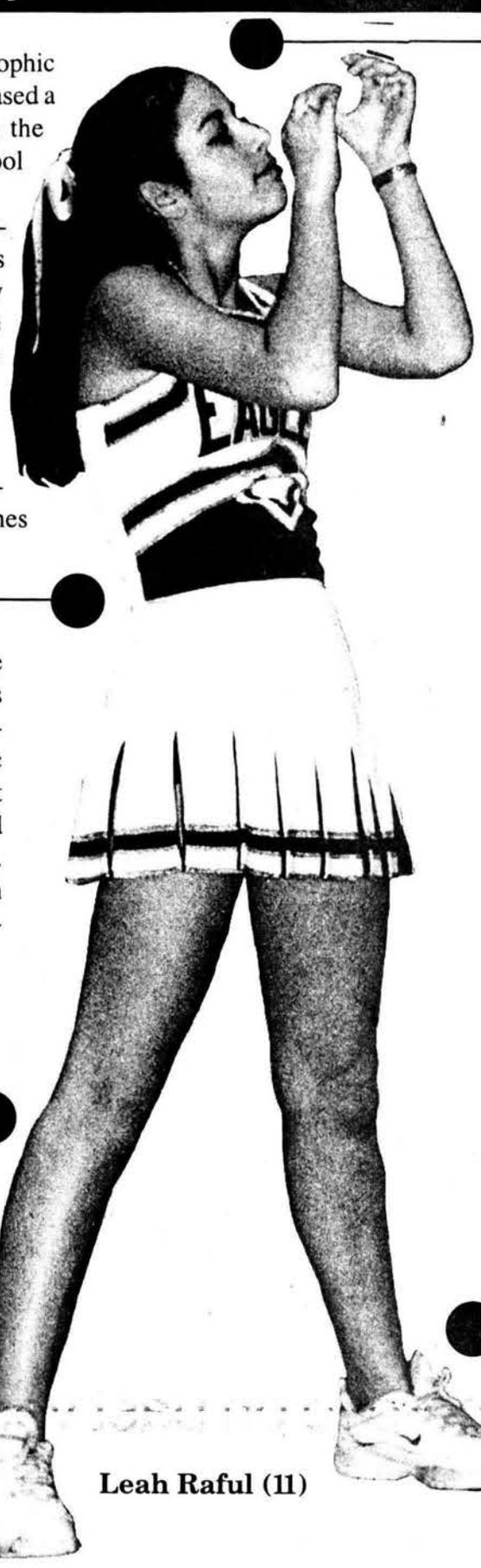
"You can hurt yourself walking up and down the stairs. There are so many ways a person could die just doing everyday activities. Why should you not do something you love just because you think you might get hurt?" Kylie Eledge (9) said.

What injuries are most common?

The National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research recently released a study stating that cheerleading is the most dangerous sport in high school athletics.

Because the Nebraska State Athletic Association bans cheerleaders from building human pyramids any more than three feet high, the Center's results differ from Central's own.

Jeanee Weiss, Central's athletic trainer, offered her input on the differences between the Center's major cheerleading injuries and the ones she has seen at Central.



Leah Raful (11)

HEAD

According to the report, concussions are the second most common injury in high school cheerleading. There are three categories:

Grade 1 -- Transient confusion; no loss of consciousness; mental status abnormalities last less then 15 minutes.

Grade 2 -- Transient confusion; no loss of consciousness; mental status abnormalities last more than 15 minutes.

Grade 3 -- Loss of consciousness, either brief (seconds) or prolonged (minutes or longer).

BACK

According to the study, back injuries are the most common catastrophic sport injury present in high school and college cheerleading.

Back injuries can cause, at worst, paralyzation.

KNEE

Weiss said that knee injuries are fairly common among cheerleaders at Central.

ANKLE

Weiss said that ankle injuries are one of the most common injuries she sees at Central.

She said that this is probably caused by all of the jumping techniques cheerleaders use in lieu of "stunting."

Six football players awarded post season honors by local media

From **HONORS, page 18**

Horne said he went along fairly consistently throughout the year and that he hoped he was fitting the mold of the Central I-back.

"I was a weapon. The team could depend on the running game," Horne said.

These players also shined because of another player's success. For example, Dorsey's recognition came because of the Horne's success running the ball. One player would help another, McMenamin said.

"All of the players did their part and mine was to pick everybody up, to motivate and lead them. I'd like to think that I was a major contributor," Davis said.

Dorsey said he thought the offensive line helped the success of the whole offense.

"It shows that my work off-season and on-season paid off," Dorsey said. "The whole (offensive) line deserved an award because they all worked hard this year."

Berzins said his punting also helped out with field position and kept the team's opponent's return average low.

Along with field position, Berzins said other duties helped the team because he put points on the board. The kickoffs had good hang time (time ball is in the air) and that gave the chance for guys to get down the field.

"Most teams' key would be to stop the run. My performance opened up holes for Horne and got AJ Anderson and Marlon Carter open. On defense, I did nothing special. I just played real good through this year," LeFlore said.

These awards show the whole team's effort, McMenamin said.

"All of the graduating seniors could have very successful college years," McMenamin said.

"They all have the ingredients to be good collegiate players," McMenamin said.

Davis has been heavily recruited by several Ivy League schools and he said he does not think that his award will have too much of an effect on his recruitment.

"Many of the schools were already interested in me, so these awards were not vital to me getting into college. However, it will be nice to have on my résumé and to tell my grandkids," Davis said

As for Dorsey, Horne and LeFlore, the best is yet to come because they are just juniors, McMenamin said.

"Their athletic ability has made them standout on the field. They are not the normal run of the mill players," McMenamin said.

Next year should be an interesting year, Dorsey said.

"It should really help being recognized with Horne. We may be rated number one going into next season," LeFlore said.

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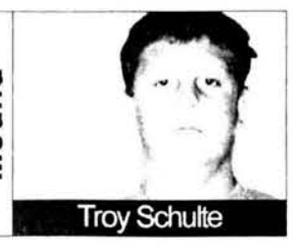
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Charging the Mound



Troy Schulte

Definition of sports clear to many fans

What is a sport?

It sounds like a very simple question with a very simple answer that every Joe Sports Fan who knows anything about sports should know the answer to. Well, from talking to those so-called "sports fans" I have learned that they do not.

I know what you all are thinking, who am I to decide what is or is not a sport? Really, I am nobody, but since I have the sports column and you don't. I am going to use my power to tell you.

So, let's start simple and actually define what the word "sport" means.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word sport as physical activity engaged in for pleasure. Well, I say screw the dictionary. I have my own definition.

My definition of a sport is, physical activity engaged in not only for pleasure but also for competition in which you must use both your athletic and mental talents.

I think that rules out professional wrestling.

Don't get me wrong. They are athletic guys and it is entertaining as heck to watch but that does not make it a sport. Anything that has the outcome predetermined and scripted can not be a sport that takes away the competition, which is quite possibly, the best part about sports.

Bowling is not a sport.

I know what you are thinking now, "but it's on ESPN so that means it is a sport." Newsflash, just because of the simple fact that something merits airtime on ESPN does not mean it merits the title of being a sport. If that is the case why not make lumberjacking a sport?

Is hunting a sport?

Sure, if you give the deer a gun too. Now it is just a bunch of guys shooting at animals that can't shoot back. Again, there's no competition.

What about horse racing?

Yeah, for the horse. Just because you throw a midget on a horse and tell him to whack it with a whip does not make it a sport or the midget an athlete. Its main purpose is to make money off of the people betting on them.

So right now you are thinking, what's left? What is a sport?

Football, basketball, baseball those are sports. I will even go as far as saying paintball is a sport. Hey, at least both people have guns.

Anything that combines athletic talent with mental toughness all in a way that makes it enjoyable for both the fan and the athlete, that is a sport.

Golf is one of those border line sports that not too many people think qualifies. A lot of people think that the only people that golf are old retired men. I've played golf and I'll just say that it is one of the most challenging games to play.

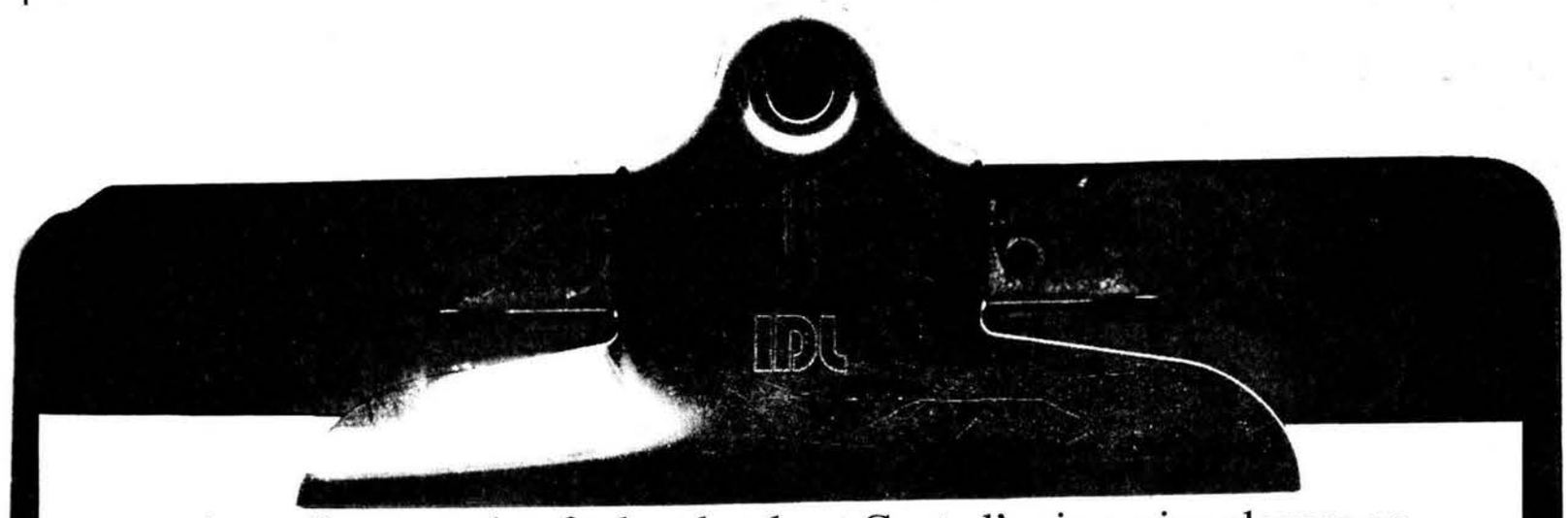
Even though I can't stand it, soccer is a sport.

I absolutely hate everything about soccer. It is called the international sport but the greatest nation of them all, the United States, is no good at it. How does that work?

Even though I don't like it, it takes a lot of athletic talent to play and I know I'm not in good enough shape to do it.

Hockey, now there is a sport, hockey players are hands down the toughest guys in sports. Not only do they have to put up with the abuse; they have to do it on ice, which makes it a million times harder

So I did not hit all the sports, or non-sports for the matter. But, I only have one column to do it. At least you know the basics on what is and is not a sport.



An endless supply of talent has kept Central's six major players on their coaches' clipboards all season. Now that the season is over, this talent is being honored with several postseason awards.

Central's playbook picks

McMenamin's go-to guys

This season's end has brought several awards to Central's most reliable players that have greatly surprised all of them. Here is a listing of their awards and each players' reaction.

"It gives me something to work harder on so I can continue improving," Horne said.
-Two first team All-State selections, All-Metro first team and All-District.



David Horne

"I expected to make All-State but not on defense," LeFlore said.
-Two first team All-State selections, All-Metro first team and All-District.



Mark LeFlore

" I did not think that I would do this well in my first year playing football," Berzins said.
-All-Division and honorable mention All-State.



Aleks Berzins

"It's time for Central to bring home the state title [next year]," Dorsey said.
-Two All-State honorable mentions, All-District and All-Metro Second team.



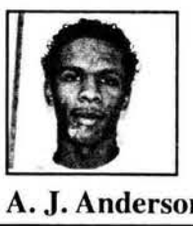
Jamar Dorsey

I'm just a small piece in a big puzzle," Davis said.
-Two All-State honorable mentions, second team All-Metro and All-District.



George Davis

Two All-State second team selections, All-Metro second team and All-District.



A. J. Anderson

By Chris Aponick

The football team will have to make room in their trophy cases for the 30+ awards have been given to their 15 best players this postseason.

The major awards went to receiver/defensive back, Mark LeFlore and running back, David Horne who both made the first team for All-Metro Conference, *Lincoln Journal Star's* Super-State and the *Omaha World Herald's* All-State team. Quarterback, George Davis, offensive linesman, Jamar Dorsey and defensive back, AJ Anderson made second team for All-Metro. Anderson also made second team for both All-State teams but Davis and Dorsey, along with punter Aleks Berzins, were only given honorable mention.

This season goes to show that the whole team gave a tremendous amount of effort this season, head coach Joe McMenamin said.

"These awards let the players reap the fruits of their labor. They all worked hard all season. It speaks well of their talents," McMenamin said.

Having all of these talented players on the team gave the whole team and the coaches satisfaction this year and should help us next year, he said.

The three players that won major awards this season will be the team's leaders next season, he said.

"When you have a group coming back with that kind of talent, it's great to build off of. It is a tremendous boost," McMenamin said.

Central has a strong football tradition and history. People have grown to expect good players out of Central, he said.

"These kids are continuing that tradition," McMenamin said.

These awards are also very good for the football program, he said.

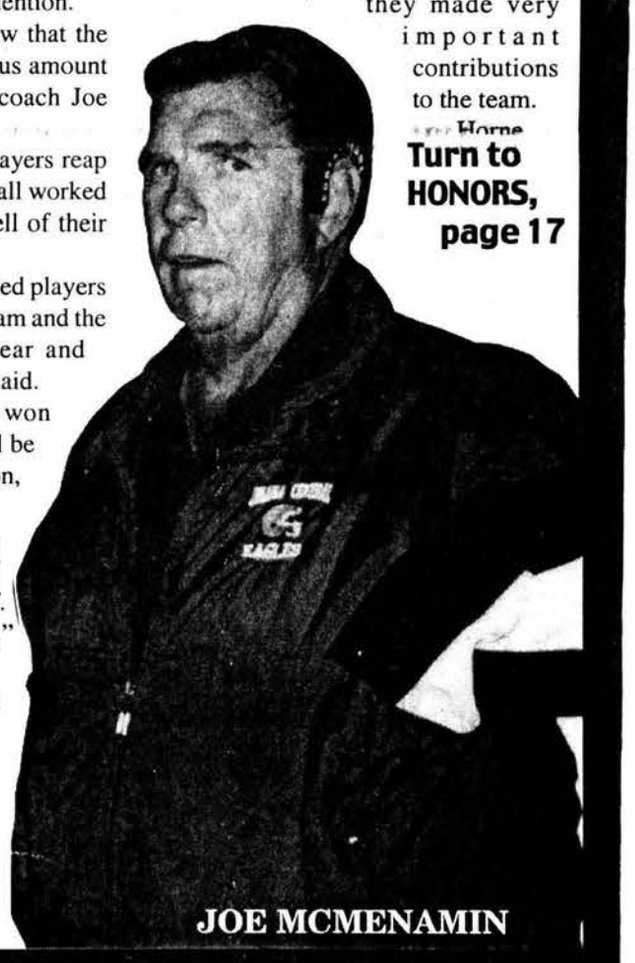
"These awards should put the team on a positive note because of the underclassmen who got awards. It will help us be fired up for next year so we can go to state," Dorsey said.

This type of success starts off with hard work during the off-season. During the season, this transferred over into impressive statistics for these players, McMenamin said.

"From the very first game there was the potential to do very well," Davis said. "Things may not have fallen our way...but (these awards) are a credit to the guys working very hard," Davis said.

Each athlete said they thought that they made very important contributions to the team.

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JOE MCMENAMIN

LEUNINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Central coach inspires players with experience

By Troy Schulte

After jumping between several college football teams and an attempt at making a team in the National Football League (NFL) one Central football coach decided to put an end to his playing days and become a coach.

Ryan Murtaugh, Central's linebacker's coach, went to the University of Missouri to play linebacker after graduating from Creighton Prep in 1990.

But during his freshman season Murtaugh suffered a serious neck injury that would eventually plague him for the rest of his football career.

He stayed on the sidelines for the rest of that season and when defensive coordinator Mike Church was fired in 1991 Murtaugh considered his career at Missouri was about over.

"I decided that it was about time to leave," Murtaugh said.

He then decided to return home and transfer to the University of Nebraska. But, after about a year in Lincoln, Murtaugh's neck was still bothering him and he could not play any longer.

At the time he thought that his football career was over.

But, then he received a phone call from the head coach at Hastings College at the time, Barney Cotton.

Cotton wanted to know if he still had the desire to play football and thought he had a bright future playing linebacker for the Broncos.

"He just called me up one day and asked me if I wanted to play again," Murtaugh said.

After finishing up his two years of eligibility at Hastings, Murtaugh received a letter from the Dallas Cowboys inviting him to try-out with them at training camp in 1998

He did not go..

But, again Murtaugh could not play because of his neck injury.

"My neck was too bad, I couldn't pass the physical tests," Murtaugh said.

He decided to come back home again and become a coach alongside his dad, Jerry Murtaugh, at his former school, Creighton Prep.

After a few seasons at Prep, Murtaugh came to Central to coach linebackers prior to last the 1999 season.

Right away, Murtaugh's players knew he was a good coach and knew the game of football.

Senior linebacker Dru Taylor, said that Murtaugh's experience at the linebacker position brought something to Central that they have not had in a coach.

"He has played linebacker before so we know he knows what he is talking about," Taylor said. "Two years ago we had coach Farrand, who was a good coach but he did not have that much experience with linebackers."

Coach Jeff McCune, who coaches wide receivers and helps Murtaugh out with the linebackers, agrees, saying that Murtaugh's strengths as a coach is his knowledge but also his ability to get his players attention.

"He has a real passion for the game and has been around it for a long time," McCune said.

"He [Murtaugh] has a real passion for the game."

coach Jeff McCune

McCune said that from just two years of coaching with him he has already learned a lot from him, but his best asset is his ability to get the attention of his players.

"He is well respected by the players on the team, and he knows how to get his point across [to the players]," McCune said.

Not only does Murtaugh provide the team with his coaching and intelligence, Taylor said that him and the rest of the team enjoy having him around.

"There is no other guy I would rather have on our team than him [Murtaugh] ," Taylor said. "You can talk to him about anything whether it be football or just the problems you have."

Billups, ISU earn bowl appearance

By Chris Aponick

Ja'Maine Billups was not eve born the last time the Iowa Stat Cyclones went to a bowl game.

Flash forward 22 years late former Central standout Billups is freshmen on an Iowa State team tha is 8-3 and will be playing the 7 Pittsburgh University Panthers in th 2000 Insight.com Bowl on Dec. 2

"The team had a relentles hunger to be the first team in 22 year to make a bowl," Iowa State hea football coach Dan McCarney said

The program at Iowa State ha to be sky high with their record Central's head football coach Jo McMenamin said.

Billups said that this success wa in the cards for the team since th beginning of the season.

"After two-a-day practices, figured out from practice that this wa a pretty good team," Billups said.

The team knew that making bowl game would be automatic if th team had a winning record, Billup said.

"This team knew they had th talent to make a bowl this year Billups said.

Billups had a lot to do with th successful season but still his be years are in front of him, McCarne said.

"During the year, I practiced hard and kept a positive attitude," Billup said. "I have gained more technique and power, this year."

He was the only one out of four true freshmen on Iowa State to rece playing time this season. However the team has a lot of young player that are producing for the team Billups said.

Billups received a lot of playing time on special teams returning kickoffs, McMenamin said.

"As a freshman back my job wa getting the starting defense prepared for games," Billups said.

Billups gives a lot of credit t McCarney for the season's success.

"Dan McCarney is a great motivator, but he is also a very reasonable coach and down-to-earth guy," Billups said.

Billups said that he thinks tha Iowa State can become a team tha always goes to bowl games.

"I think we will keep on going to bowl games and having better records. This is a program that is on the rise to prominence," Billups said

Hopefully, the team can finish strong against a good opponent and gain momentum for next year McCarney said.

"We want to prove that we are not just a good team but a good program," McCarney said.

The major aspect that the bowl will have on Iowa State will be from a recruitment perspective. Iowa State will be able to start recruiting ever better athletes, Billups said.

"The effect it (going to a bowl) has on recruiting is of major importance. Going to a bowl game has been the piece that was missing It shows that the program has turned around and is not just trying to anymore," McCarney said.

When Iowa State was recruiting Billups they had had the nation's leading rusher the past three of four years and he seemed like a good fit McMenamin said.

"They sold him on the theory that he would be part of the freshmen class that would bring Iowa State to the forefront of the Big XII," McMenamin said.

The university is proud to have Billups here. Central is one of the top high school football programs in the country and the team is going to definitely recruit there again McCarney said.

"Billups was an outstanding prospect. We had never been able to recruit a big-time player from Nebraska. It was a major coup and it opens up doors for us to recruit more blue chip athletes," McCarney said