WHAT A FIND!
LAW LIBRARY
RENOVATION
TURNS UP
RARE BOOKS

FR. PORTZ RETURNS
TO MILWAUKEE

ON A ROLL:
CREIGHTON SOCCER
MAKING A MARK

Whatever
Happened to
SPORTSMANSHIP?
Reclaiming the
Moral Possibilities of Sports
Wrong Word

In “A Short History of American Labor” (Spring 1998, p. 23), you say factory conditions at the turn of the century were “Machiavellian.” While I can rationalize some intriguing applications of that adjective to that situation, I think the word you intended was “Dickensian.”

That diction slip notwithstanding, I was pleased to see a summary of the now often-forgotten positive effects of the organized labor movement in American history.

Jim Thorn, JD’86
Chicago

Labor Article Insightful

Professor Larson’s overview of organized labor in the United States (Spring 1998) was very insightful. I represent organized labor in the public sector, specifically, police unions. While these unions are fairly well established in most states, their strength and continued existence is still tied to the fate of their private sector affiliates. Even in the public sector, organizing can be difficult. In large communities, the locals are sufficiently established such that younger officers enjoy better terms and conditions upon their first day of employment — and thus don’t appreciate the need to belong to a union. Organizing in smaller cities and towns can have its drawbacks for different reasons. In small municipalities, the community leaders perceive unions as corrupt and also fear losing management control over the employment relationship.

Thank you again for an informative and enlightening article. I have been delighted to share this copy of WINDOW with both my colleagues and our private sector affiliate.

Robin Buchman Cross, JD’81
El Paso, Texas
Labor story biased

The labor article by Mary Heng (Spring ’98) displays a blind support of the labor movement and a bias toward socialism. Professor Larson appears not only to be an expert on organized labor but an advocate for organized labor in spite of its recent history of well-deserved failures.

Modern society has moved beyond the labor battles of the ‘30s, ‘40s and ‘50s. While an emphasis on employee benefits has impacted take-home pay, the overall wealth and welfare of workers in the United States continues to improve. The Department of Labor reports that overall compensation for all employees has shown a real benefits increase of 21 percent since 1980. The “poor” in the American economy own VCRs, television sets and their own homes at rates higher than middle class Europeans. According to a North Carolina State University study, job tenure has been rising, and job security appears to be improved in America despite the decline of union influence.

While the article reports that 1 in 10 U.S. workers earn wages below the poverty level, one factor is that entry-level wages are part of our capitalist system. Americans can move up in income strata, however, through such means as education, hard work, dedication, creativity and determination.

One of the reasons Americans have rejected the labor movement is that labor leaders have an outmoded set of values — protect the worker at any time, at any cost.

Ms. Heng brings out the old canard about how disgusting it is for capitalist “robber barons” to make so much more than their minions within the companies. Karl Marx is not dead in the academy. I’m just surprised the article did not include some reference to the proletariat or some discussion of the “final resolution.”

When was the last time WINDOW published a blatantly patriotic free market exposition of the greatness of America? WINDOW owes the alumni a better balance, including avoidance of the academ-ic “elitist” vision of the American culture. Please, a little less about how bad American culture is and less about victim groups within the culture. America is a great place in spite of what socialists say.

Opportunity, liberty, responsibility. If unions can operate within those basic parameters for their membership, they will renew their importance in American society. If not, they will go the way of socialism/ Marxism — preserved only in academic museums by backward-thinking curators.

John Dale Dunn, BS’67, MD’71, JD’79
Lake Brownwood, Texas

Sandhills remembered

We have read and reread your “prairies” article (Winter ’97-98). Obviously, Dr. Vinton and I share the fascination of and love for the Sandhills of Nebraska. Your story reminded me that I proudly can bear the title my Jefferson County relatives gave me: Sandhillier.

My father was a frustrated pioneer, born 50 to 100 years too late. He spent many of his early years trying to make a fortune in remote places. Not finding it in the Colorado mountains, or in the barren plains of South Texas (before irrigation and grapefruit), he brought his lovely, but frail, little wife and their only son, Charles Thomas, to a ranch about eight miles north of Bartlett in Wheeler County, Neb.

I remember the lovely penste-mon. I don’t remember what we called them, but sometimes we would cut some and bring them home. While there were many small, colorful flowers in the prairie, not all made good bouquets. The meadows, however, blossomed with daisies, star flow-ers and a blue flag-like plant we called “snakes.” Other bits of grasses that come to mind are timothy, Indian tobacco, rye grass, swamp grass and, of course, the wonderful bluestem that we fed our cattle.

I also recall swimming in the big blowout southeast of our house. Blowouts could hold crystal-clear water for two or three days after a big rain. Mother would give us a rug to stand on so we wouldn’t track sand back into the house.

Thank you for rekindling the memories.

Charlie Vaughn
Omaha

The new McGloin Hall will be dedicated Aug. 28.

The new 270-bed hall, dedicated Aug. 28, features suite-style rooms with cable TV and Internet connections.

The dedication ceremony is open to the public. Tours of the residence hall will be given following the ceremony.
Editor’s Note: Dr. Feezell, Creighton University professor of philosophy, recently co-authored the book Coaching for Character: Reclaiming the Principles of Sportmanship (Human Kinetics, 1997) with Craig Clifford. We asked him to share some ideas from his book with the readers of WINDOW magazine.

I am attending a sixth-grade YMCA basketball tournament in Small Town, Neb. The kids are decked out in $100 sneakers, knee-length shorts and NBA model shirts. The star of my son’s team scores, jumps at the defensive player who was guarding him, puffs out his chest, stares into his opponent’s eyes, then struts away with his arms in the air, looking at the stands for cheering approval. The fans readily comply. His father, the coach, of course, sneaks a glance at his wife who is smiling and cheering in the stands, radiating that proud parent glow. At that moment, they would have done anything for their little Star. Me? I could have strangled him.

My friend Joe, a former major league baseball player, tells me this story. He’s watching a football game with his 10-year-old son. After a quarterback sack, the tackler picks himself up, helps the quarterback to his feet, and

Dr. Feezell asks, “What happened to ‘respect for opponents’ and ‘respect for the game’?”
calmly walks back to the defensive huddle. Joe’s son turns to him and queries: “What’s the matter with him, Dad? He didn’t celebrate.” Huh?

A successful college basketball coach, who wants to run “a real classy program,” is notorious for running up the score. His comment? “Our job as coaches is to make our team look as good as it possibly can, and the other team as bad. That’s called winning.”

A college coach, you say?

The grandfather of one of the little league players I am coaching responds to one of my tender-minded comments about the purpose of sports. He has a more tough-minded approach. “The point of sports is to win. That’s all. That’s the reason you keep score.” What’s going on here?

What happened to “respect for opponents” and “respect for the game”? Perhaps many young athletes today have never heard these expressions; perhaps the language of sportsmanship is more scarce than it once was. Wasn’t there a time when coaches were more serious about their roles as moral educators?

More than 20 years ago, Gerald Ford made this remark in *Sports Illustrated*: “Broadly speaking, outside of a national character and an educated society, there are few things more important to a country’s growth and well-being than competitive athletics. If it is a cliché to say athletics build character as well as muscle, then I subscribe to the cliché.”

Mike Tyson bit Evander Holyfield’s ear twice during their 1997 heavyweight title bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. The fight was stopped and Holyfield was awarded the victory. Tyson’s boxing license was revoked, and he was fined $3 million for the incident.
A generation later this comment sounds more like an artificial piece of nostalgia than an insightful moment of cultural affirmation.

People who care about sports want the moral possibilities of sports participation to turn into actualities, but what are our children learning as they watch the ever-available games on cable TV? If they had grown up when we did, they may have had the good fortune of watching Mickey Mantle respectfully and humbly trotting around the bases after smashing a home run. "I had a terrible habit of running around the bases with my head down," Mantle said, "because I didn’t want to embarrass the pitcher."

The image of Mantle trotting — perhaps limping — around the bases with his head down captures for me something of the possible moral resonance of sports. In our time, there are obviously pockets of graciousness in the sports world, yet the moral atmosphere of contemporary sports seems better expressed by trash talking, taunting, strutting, cheating, point-shaving scandals, drug abuse, assaults on coaches, fans assaulting referees — why go on? And this behavior has some effects on the next generation of kids who watch TV.

It’s difficult not to be pessimistic about the state of sports today. A cover story in 1995 in *The New York Times Magazine* by columnist Robert Lipsyte even proclaims the end of American sports: “Sports are over because they no longer have any moral resonance. They are merely entertainment, the bread and circuses of a New Rome. Nothing makes this more chillingly real than our current Babes: Mike Tyson and Tonya Harding. Two of the neediest, hungriest, most troubled and misguided young people in athletic history, they are the archetypal extremes of this frenzied, confused sports endgame.”

In an interview for a “60 Minutes” segment on sportsmanship, NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar remarked: “Our whole culture here in America has become a lot more vulgar. And I think it’s not considered cool to be a good sportsman. You’re considered square and soft ... There’s the whole process of celebration that’s gone beyond celebration. It’s taunting. I pity the people who are doing this, because they really don’t understand: Sports is a step away from the rule of the jungle, and they’re trying to move it back towards the jungle, where the strong survive and misuse the weaker in any way they want. And that’s really unfortunate for our whole system of values in our country.”

Abdul-Jabbar reminds us that unsportsmanlike behavior is contrary to the nature of sport, and sportsmanlike conduct is consistent with the nature of sport. Bad sportsmanship is at least in part the result of bad understanding. Let’s begin with Abdul-Jabbar’s suggestion:

• An understanding of sportsmanship must be based on an understanding of the nature of sport.

When we participate in sports, whether as players, coaches or fans, we carry with us certain assumptions about what we’re doing, what kind of activity we are engaged in. If we believe that sport is simply a pleasant diversion from the world of serious concerns, that its primary purpose is fun, this perspective will affect our conduct. On the other hand, if we believe that sport is more like war, that it is an arena where the strong triumph over the weak and the primary purpose of participation is winning, our conduct will be quite different. Conduct appropriate for a war-like activity is quite different from conduct appropriate for child-like frolic.
Sport is competitive play, so we must attempt to find the proper balance between seriousness and playfulness when we participate in sports.

Sport is a form of play. Essential to the notion of play is that it is freely chosen. We freely choose to play, not because it produces something else that is valuable, but because we enjoy the activity itself. We play because it’s fun. Thus play is intrinsically valuable.

However, sport is not merely frolic. There is an important element of seriousness in this kind of play. Sport involves rules, sharply defined limitations about how certain activities are undertaken in relation to the goals of the sport. Sport often involves games, always includes competition, and thus necessarily includes winning and losing. Rules articulate the nature of the competition and define the conditions of fairness or equality within which winning is defined. Within the context of the sport some players and teams are better than others.

Therefore, there is a paradox at the heart of sport. Because sport is competitive, it’s serious. For better and worse, winning and losing matter. But sport is play. It consists of activities created only for the sake of the inherent value of participating in them. The principles of sportsmanship are based on the delicate balance of playfulness and seriousness. That is at the heart of sport. The playful activities can be exhilarating, but they are also trivial. They don’t “really matter,” in an important sense.

Sportsmanship requires finding the middle way between two extreme views of competition.

One extreme view holds that winning is the only thing in sports, nothing is gained in losing, and competition in sports is like war. According to this view, the opponent is an enemy to be destroyed. The other view holds that competition is bad since it teaches conflict, aggression and egotism. It is educationally, psychologically, morally and even politically destructive. This view endorses the value of noncompetitive play, so sports participation, especially for youth, should de-emphasize winning and place the
central stress on “having fun.” In this view, winning — as well as achievement and excellence — doesn’t matter.

Those who believe that winning is everything seem to ignore the fact that sport is found in the neighborhood of play — they forget the spirit of play. Those who believe that fun is everything ignore the fact that sport is competitive; it involves winners and losers, talent, standards of excellence, the possibility of failure — they forget the spirit of seriousness. One view needs to “lighten up”; the other needs to “get serious.”

• Competition is a mutual striving for excellence in a world of play.

Competition does involve winners and losers, but it is also an opportunity for the development, exercise and expression of excellence.Athletes, in attempting to win, try to become as good as they can be at their sport. The pursuit of excellence is an important part of playing sports. But to become excellent I need worthy opponents who also attempt to excel, to play better than I play, in order to beat me. My opponent gives me the opportunity to strive for excellence. Although we oppose each other, we are striving for excellence together. The other who challenges me is the condition for the possibility of my achievements. In this sense I ought to be thankful for a worthy opponent. This attitude is essential for sportsmanship.

• The middle way between the extreme views of competition stresses the value of participation in this kind of practice.

If the only purpose in playing sports is winning, and I lose, then what’s the point? If I expect to lose, why bother to compete? On the other hand, if the only point is to have fun

Philosophers collaborate on Book

The book is Craig’s fault.

My long-time friend from graduate school, Craig Clifford, intellectually energetic and obsessive about certain moral and educational matters, was convinced that the world needed a book about sportsmanship. I wasn’t so sure. Whenever we talked, our conversation often turned to the topic of sport — and then to sportsmanship. Since our usual larger topic was the moral decline of civilization, and we were both sports participants and fans, it was inevitable that we would turn our perspectives, as “philosopher-kings,” to behavior in sports. Plus, we were not simply academic eggheads.

Craig’s Ph.D. in philosophy helped qualify him to be a college tennis coach. (He’s also a state champion archer, with Olympic hopes.) My own philosophical education also appeared to be an idiosyncratic background for pursuits in athletics: countless hours spent playing and coaching various sports. We both knew our way around the library and the locker room; we had every right, or so it seemed, to offer the first and last word on such matters, if such words were required.

After much persuasion, I finally came around to Craig’s perspective. Something needed to be said and done. As we began to work on our book, we realized that we were not alone in our interest to revive the traditional language of sportsmanship and reclaim the moral possibilities of sports, in our emphasis on “respect for opponents” and the other basic principles of sportsmanship.

But unless we could give reasons for these principles, our prescriptions would appear to be groundless imperatives, ignored by athletes, coaches and fans, and treated as unrealistic moralizing. We reject the view that winning at all costs is the only thing that matters in sports. We believe this view is based on a misunderstanding of sport and competition.

Hence, our book, “Coaching for Character: Reclaiming the Principles of Sportsmanship.”
in playing, and winning doesn’t matter, why try hard? Why bother to become better? Why be serious enough to care about how I play? The winning-is-everything extreme is morally repugnant; the winning-is-nothing extreme is morally inane. Winning matters, but only in the context of participating in a special experience of trying to become better, sharing common goals with others, joyfully competing and learning things about ourselves.

The winning-is-everything attitude diminishes the importance of all the other good things about sport. Who would go to a good movie and say the only worthwhile thing about it was how it turned out? An understanding of the richness of sport helps us sustain the balance of playfulness and seriousness, and this balance allows other important values — including sportsmanship — to flourish. Competitiveness — striving to win — is an essential part of sportsmanship.

• Sportsmanship is a matter of excellence of character — or, in the language of the classical tradition, sportsmanship is a virtue.

The English word “virtue” sometimes has the connotation of moral purity, of avoiding the stain of vice by not doing certain things. However, in the classical tradition of ethics, virtue has the very different and more robust sense of excellence of character. When Aristotle speaks of arete, he describes the characteristics of the “good” person in whom the best capacities of human nature have been realized. Athletic competition can be an area of our life in which we can practice virtue, that is, in which an excellent character can be developed.

• As excellence of character, sportsmanship involves developing good habits.

As Aristotle insisted, moral education requires habituation. People need to confront situations in which they have the opportunity to develop these important human traits. If I lack courage, self-discipline or responsibility, I need opportunities to practice these virtues. If sportsmanship is a virtue, then its development requires practice. How coaches and parents respond to various kinds of conduct in sports tells young athletes what kind of character ought to be developed and what kind of human being they should attempt to become.

• Sportsmanship requires developing an attitude and a habit of respect.

A good sport ought to respect opponents because they provide opportunities to excel, and human excellence is worthy of respect. Showing respect for opponents requires giving your best effort, avoiding displays of disrespect, refraining from gamesmanship (taunting), celebrating victory respectfully, engaging in rituals of respect like the postgame handshake, and being guided in difficult circumstances by the Silver Rule — “Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you.”

• Sportsmanship requires good judgment and self-understanding.

If an opponent repeatedly taunts me and disrespects the game by cheating or by ignoring important traditions and customs in some sport, how do I respond in such a way that my behavior reflects my understanding of the need for a good opponent and my own respect for the game? There are clear cases of good and
bad sportsmanship, and stories are helpful in showing these transparent examples. It is easy to see how attempting to injure an opponent or physically assaulting an official are classified. However, in some situations the best we can do is struggle for wisdom as we deliberate in light of certain principles of respect.

The way in which good character is built in sport resists the simplistic model of the tidy application of principles to difficult situations. An additional reason for this involves the role of self-understanding in the development of character. When sport is wisely handled by coaches and parents, it provides opportunities to understand truths about oneself and one’s relationships to others.

Sportsmanship requires that we have some realistic understanding of ourselves — a recognition of our limitations along with our sense that we can become better, we can develop and excel in extraordinary ways.

- Athletic achievement ought to occasion humility.

Achievement in athletics often requires hours and hours of dedication, hard work and sacrifice. Yet it is also a matter of being gifted with talent and good fortune. While it’s natural for the athlete to claim his just rewards for winning the Big Game because he worked so hard, some comments seem to imply that the winner came out on top because of his moral superiority. The winner is often praiseworthy because of his hard work and perseverance, but that seems
to tell only part of the story. Good or great athletes are gifted, and it is appropriate to respond to the magic moments of victory with a touch of humility, thankfulness and even reverence. From a larger perspective, good athletes are extraordinarily lucky to be so gifted. Their pride ought to be mediated by recognizing this fact with a sense of humility for its significance.

Why sportsmanship? Because the nature of sport requires it. Sport understood as rule-governed competitive athletic play requires — and therefore can teach — certain character traits. If the game is valuable — if we play the game for its joy, for its educational value, for its intrinsic beauty, for the truth about ourselves that it opens up — then sportsmanship is indispensable.

Because it matters what sort of human beings we are — and what sort of human beings our children become. Because it’s better for human beings to be courageous, disciplined, fair, honest, responsible, humble and wise than not to be. The complex character traits that we refer to as the virtue of sportsmanship are useful — good character helps us win games, run a business, develop friendships — but we should be careful not to reduce sportsmanship to mere expediency.

Because good character is good for its own sake, whether we are “rewarded” for it or not. Or, in traditional ethical terms, sportsmanship is its own reward. **W**

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### 10 Ways to Raise a Good Sport

1. **Expect respect.** Parents are wise to expect respect from their youngsters for opponents, teammates, coaches and officials. The sandbox is not too early a place to start. Respect encompasses attitudes and behaviors.

2. **Model respect.** Your actions — and attitudes — speak volumes. Be a good role model in your own behavior toward players, coaches and officials.

3. **Reinforce good sportsmanship.** Reward good sportsmanship, and develop guidelines for dealing with unsportsmanlike behavior.

4. **Encourage a wider perspective.** Help your child to take the perspective of other participants in sports, to walk in others’ shoes.

5. **Use the language of sportsmanship.** The following words resonate with the true spirit of the game: character, integrity, “class,” dignity, respect, sportsmanship, honor, humility. Don’t be afraid to use them.

6. **Discuss the two sides of sports.** Talk about its competitive and playful aspects.

7. **Look beyond the headlines.** Discuss news stories and TV clips related to sportsmanship — both good and bad — with your child.

8. **Promote reflectiveness about sportsmanship.** Ask questions of your youngster that encourage reflection on real-life sports experiences.

9. **Encourage personal responsibility.** The winner-loser mentality often is expressed in whining and excuses on the one hand and boasting and worse on the other. Encourage personal responsibility through a wider understanding of sports.

10. **Help your child remember to play.** Nurture in your child the inherent fun of the game.
They’d been housed on the shelves of the TePoel Rare Book Room of the Klutznick Law Library for more than 23 years, seldom used in the hectic press of normal business. Although it was known for years that this collection of 750 old books included some special and rare pieces, a clear and complete description of the contents and identity of these materials was missing. However, in May 1997, that changed dramatically.

Creighton law librarians planning for the $3.6 million library expansion rediscovered that the long-ignored room contained a bibliophile’s dream – a treasure trove of 16th and 17th century treatises on the development of British law, many in mint condition. Today, this collection is being conserved in a state-of-the-art, security- and climate-controlled room. Works from the collection, such as a beautifully preserved 1766 edition of Blackstone’s *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, are prominently displayed in a lighted case – a focal point of the library.

“By maintaining and displaying this collection, we want to inspire our students,” said Associate Law Library Director Ann Kitchel. “These books are not irrelevant. They are more than museum pieces. Much of the collection is the foundation of the law that every first-year student must study.”

Kitchel said the value of the collection came to light when she and Catalog Librarian Hua Li were planning what to do with the old books during and after the renovation. “Generally they were regarded as old historical materials, not necessarily unique or rare,” said Kitchel. However,
the old rare book room was being demolished and the books had to be moved, so a closer look at the collection was mandatory. The results of this examination were startling.

“We found book after book that was rare and old and very significant to the development of British legal history,” said Kitchel. Many of the works were authored in the 12th century, then printed after printing was developed in the 15th century.

Law Dean Lawrence Rafual recalled the excitement which the finds generated. “Li’s enthusiasm was unbelievable. She was the first to recognize the value of the material.”

“I was really surprised that we have materials at the Creighton Law Library dating back to the 16th century,” Li said. “Now our main task is to preserve this rare collection.”

Some of the most significant items in the collection include:

- Henry Bracton’s *De Legibus Angliae*, a 13th century work which, Kitchel said, “represents the first written description of British common law in its entirety.” Creighton’s copy is a first edition of the printed work dated 1569, the most important work in the collection.
- Glanville’s *Tractatus*, a first edition published in 1554, one of the first printed legal treatises in British legal history. The book is “tremendously important” in the development of land law, Kitchel said.
- Thomas Littleton’s *Tenures*, printed in 1569. While the volume is not a first edition, it is especially interesting because it contains marginal notes handwritten by a person of that time.

Kitchel said both she and Li were amazed at the excellent condition of many of the books, considering their age and the previous lack of climate-controlled storage.
Some are bound in vellum, which is made from animal skins, she said. Many of these 400-year-old books have cotton pages which are still white and not the least bit fragile. Kitchel was able to safely riffle through the pages of one, much as she would a contemporary book.

The Stanford book is a fine example of the art of gilding pages with gold. The book also has an embossed leather cover and embossed pages with beautiful block printing. “When we looked at the gold edges, we knew it wasn’t spray paint,” Kitchel said with a smile.

In addition to the historic British legal commentaries, the collection includes interesting individual items such as deeds of land from England between the years 1558 and 1685. The handwritten illustrated documents are on a velum-like material which is more like leather than paper.

There also are some historic American items such as a copy of the U.S. Code published in 1796. This contains the laws passed in the first session of the Second Congress. There’s also a receipt signed by Abraham Lincoln while he was a lawyer in Illinois.

Kitchel said that no one knows for sure where the collection originated because there are no records documenting its source. However, it seems likely that a collector years ago donated a private library to the university.

With the help of computers and today’s vigilant record-keeping, the collection will be monitored closely. “We are still in the process of creating a bibliography and catalog,” Kitchel said. “We will make (the records) available in our online catalog.”

Kitchel said that Creighton’s challenge now is to conserve the works. The collection’s longtime location in a dark, interior room helped protect it, but there has been some damage. One book, for example, had its cover taped to keep it from falling off.

“The books were protected from natural light,” she said. “There was no humidity or temperature control, but the books were kept in the dark for 20 years. They were not handled.”

Since discovering the value of the collection, law librarians have learned a great deal about proper handling and protection of antique books, she said. “We have learned to lay materials flat to reduce stress on bindings.” Librarians also don cotton gloves whenever they pick up a rare book.

The new rare book room is temperature- and humidity-controlled to adjust to changing conditions outside. Even light coming from the new display case is filtered to prevent harm from ultraviolet rays. A fire suppression system uses gas instead of water. A tight security system has been installed. The books are stored on old cherrywood shelving rather than new, because new wood would emit harmful gases as it cures.

Kitchel said that faculty members will be allowed to examine the rare book collection by appointment. Students will be encouraged to view the changing displays.

Rafal praised the skill and dedication of the Law Library staff members for their work on the rare books project and the entire renovation of the library.

The ambiance is that of a major law firm – elegant but understated. And it includes an amazing focal point that none of its original planners could have imagined!
Klutznick Law Library isn’t Creighton’s only repository of rare books and documents. An elegant room near the main office of Reinert Alumni Library is home to another fascinating collection of books and artifacts, as is the Health Sciences Library/Learning Resource Center.

According to Lauralee Grabe, head of technical services, the Reinert collection shares a common woe with the Klutznick rare book collection – no one is sure where many of the items originated.

Grabe said that the Reinert rare book room, which resembles a private library in a turn-of-the-century mansion, houses between 2,600 and 3,000 items in locked cases which line the walls.

Some of the most significant items include:

- A first edition (1669) of Milton’s *Paradise Lost* in “mint condition.”
- A stone Egyptian hieroglyphic bill of sale dating to 2000 B.C.
- A first edition of a speech on the Boston Massacre delivered by Benjamin Hichborn in 1777.
- A handwritten diary of a Union soldier named Jasper Hall who was captured at Chickamauga, in northwest Georgia. The diary describes his life in several Confederate prisons. Some works are amusing by today’s standards, said Grabe. Librarians especially have enjoyed a 1797 work published in London called *A Plan for the Conduct of Female Education in Boarding Schools*. The book details rules for dress and habits of young women which bear little resemblance to today’s standards. There’s even an anti-Catholic tract published in London in 1726 called *Popery Truly Stated and Briefly Confuted*.

Grabe said that the collection includes information on the Creighton family history and Omaha history which students and faculty are allowed to use.

The room provides a strong visual link with Creighton’s founders. Some of the furnishings include the piano, a rocking chair, a hurricane lamp, a grandfather clock and portraits of Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton that originally belonged to members of the Creighton family.

The Health Sciences Library and Learning Resource Center also has some rare books and historic medical instruments but no specific rare book room, said Director Jim Bothmer.

The instruments, which include a collection of antique microscopes and a Civil War surgeon’s kit, are on display in a History of Medicine area, he said. The books are kept in locked cabinets to preserve them.

Three especially interesting volumes were donated by Dr. Harold Hand, an alumnus from Stockton, Calif. They are:

- A General System of Surgery in Three Parts Containing the Doctrine and Management by Laurence Heister (1743).
Five regular-season CHAMPIONSHIPS; 5 tournament CHAMPIONSHIPS; Six straight NCAA TOURNAMENT appearances ... and THAT'S just the BEGINNING.
Early next month, the 25 members of the men’s soccer team will return to campus, taking to the field for intensive work on ball skills and life skills. Many of them will arrive after spending the summer in national and international competition. After last year’s 16-5-1 season, they are shooting for another record-breaking year.

Creighton has become a powerhouse in soccer in a remarkably short time. Since 1992, the Bluejays have played in six straight NCAA tournaments, and the team advanced to the national semifinals in 1996, to play in soccer’s version of the Final Four in Richmond, Va. Creighton claims one of the winningest Division I men’s soccer programs in the 1990s. The Bluejays’ 119-32-11 record from 1990 through 1997 ranks the team fifth nationally in winning percentage (.769) over those years.

Omaha fans appreciate good soccer, Creighton’s Men’s Head Soccer Coach Bret Simon contends. “Soccer has a strong reputation here in the Midwest as a very athletic, physical and aggressive sport, in part because of the nature of our weather and the field conditions. What differentiates our players is that many are from warm weather climates, and they have been trained in different styles of play. There are many ways to win a game, ranging from brute force to skillful finesse. We work hard to play more skillful, more exciting, more artful ball.”

Creighton fans share the enthusiasm of millions of soccer fans from around the world, many of whom converged in France June 10-July 12 for the Federal International Football Association’s World Cup games.

Richard Mulrooney, below left, will lead the Creighton attack this year. The senior from Memphis, Tenn., is a two-time All-Midwest Region pick with 35 career assists and 11 career goals.
The history of soccer at Creighton reflects the history of soccer nationwide. Although the rules of the game were formed in England’s prestigious public schools and universities more than 130 years ago, soccer was a latecomer to U.S. playing fields — and to Creighton. Starting in 1979 and gradually building up interest and momentum, Creighton soccer struggled in the 1980s and eventually took a back seat to the university’s other sports. The soccer program was discontinued in 1985 after a particularly disappointing season (5-12-0), but it was welcomed back to campus in 1990 under the direction of Coach Bob Warming. Within three years, Creighton’s team was ranked first in the nation, and among Warming’s outstanding recruits was his new assistant coach, Bret Simon, who took over Warming’s duties in 1995. Warming accepted a director of athletics position at Furman University, Greenville, S.C., in 1995, then a head coach assignment at Old Dominion in Norfolk, Va., in 1996. In 1997, he joined the staff of Saint Louis University as head men’s soccer coach, where he is today.

In a very short time, Creighton’s men’s soccer team not only captured the hearts and attention of Bluejay fans and Nebraskans, it also captured the interest of national sportswriters and the attention of competitors and high school stars around the country.

In addition to Final Four play, the Bluejays also have won five Missouri Valley Conference regular-season championships and five tournament championships, holding a 32-3-2 record in regular-season games against Valley teams since joining the league in 1991. The team has an 81-19-5 record since Simon joined Creighton as assistant coach in 1993. Simon, who was NAIA District 25 “Coach of the Year” in 1989, 1991 and 1992 at Berry College in Rome, Ga., was named Missouri Valley Conference “Co-Coach of the Year” in 1996.

The Creighton soccer team hosts an annual carnival on campus for area youth. The carnival features games and Creighton players and coaches.

But beyond the records and accolades are other important achievements. Despite the demands of team schedules and rigorous academic programs, Creighton’s soccer players since 1990 have either graduated or are on track to graduate. Players who have left early have a window of time to complete their degrees.

“We consider that one of our most important records,” Simon pointed out. “Creighton is a very challenging academic institution, and our students come here first of all for the academics. When we recruit, we acknowledge that right away.”

And who are the student athletes he has recruited?

They are clever, intelligent, resourceful and skillful scholars and ball handlers who come from homes as far away as Mexico City, Toronto, San Diego, Scottsdale, Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Decatur, Batavia and Chicago.

“Every school has a different profile for its soccer players. Ours are smart,” Simon said proudly. “But what separates them from many others is that they are well-rounded students and involved members of our community who happen to have strong soccer-playing abilities.”

Unlike many other sports, where body types often play key roles in determining an athlete’s success, soccer has no perfect prototype, Simon said. Several of Creighton’s players have topped 6 feet, 4 inches and 200 pounds, and others have tipped the scales at little more than half that weight. “Johnny Torres, who was named the nation’s leading soccer player while he was here, stood 5 feet 7 inches on a good day and never exceeded 130 pounds, but he was as quick-thinking as can be, as clever and skillful as any player I’ve ever seen, and he was very, very fast.”

Torres ranks among Creighton’s legendary student athletes. He was named “Player of the Year” by Soccer America in 1997 and won the prestigious Hermann Trophy (soccer’s Heisman) the same year. Articles in USA Today and Sports Illustrated featured the Colombia native after he earned his U.S. citizenship; he celebrated his achievement four days later.
with an exceptional four-goal game against the College of Charleston.
Torres also was honored as a national “Hometown Hero” for his community service work during the Children’s Miracle Network annual telethon, and the *Omaha World-Herald* selected him as its 17th Frederick Ware Memorial Award winner, recognizing the Creighton soccer player as the top collegiate student-athlete in Nebraska.

Last spring Torres signed with the New England Revolution, one of the 12 Major League Soccer teams. Three other Creighton alums, Brian Kamler, Zion Renfurm and Ross Paule also are on current Major League rosters. Paule was the 1996 Missouri Valley Conference “Player of the Year” and left Creighton for the Colorado Rapids his junior year, as the only underclassman selected in the Major League Soccer draft. Other alumni play on recreational, semiprofessional or international teams.

Not all of Creighton’s ball handlers, past or present, are copies of Johnny Torres, but Simon can point out numerous success stories, some from surprising sources.

The coach calls Matt Mendlick the “most inspiring player” of last year’s team. Mendlick, who graduated this past spring, was a walk-on who gradually became a starter his senior year. “His name was on the dean’s list...
every semester,” Simon said, “and he gradually worked his way up, thanks to a lot of hard work, long practices and determination.”

Creighton’s soccer team offers about 10 scholarships among its 25 team members, so the coaches rely strongly on students who play for the challenge and love of the sport. When Creighton’s coaches hit the road to recruit students, they tell a different story from what many other college and university coaches relate. Simon doesn’t pull punches about what will be expected of the team members: hard work in the classrooms and in the community as well as on the field.

“When soccer returned to Creighton in 1990, Bob Warming recruited on the basis of Creighton’s academic strengths and its standing as a well-known and well-respected small university rich in the Jesuit tradition, a university with small class sizes and big names in academia,” Simon said. “Nowadays those are still strong selling points, but, in addition, we have our standing as a soccer powerhouse.”

Simon and his staff vie with the top soccer schools in the nation — Virginia, UCLA, Princeton, Duke, Clemson, Indiana and William & Mary — for recruits. “We look predominantly at nationally ranked players, many of whom have traveled overseas and represented the United States in their age groups’ world championships,” the coach said.

But Simon doesn’t just sell recruits on the team. He emphasizes that soccer may be an athlete’s first priority when he is on the field, but off the field, he will be required to maintain high scholastic standards and a level of community activism. Simon challenges high school juniors and seniors to consider what they can offer to Creighton and to the community outside Creighton’s campus.

“We’re looking for solid citizens as well as solid students and solid soccer players,” the coach said. “We look for kids willing to give back to the community. That’s a requirement in our program. For most kids, that’s a turn-on. We find students all over the country who are anxious to do things for others.”

Through the Peanut Gallery, created by former CU player and current Lady Jays’ soccer coach Ira “Peanut” Philson, the Bluejays visit with thousands of the area’s youth every year, using soccer as the stage to carry messages about the importance of staying drug-free, living a healthy lifestyle, making wise choices and maintaining proper nutrition. The Peanut Gallery is a community service program operated by Creighton’s men’s and women’s soccer teams. Bluejays serve as mentors to young soccer players, and they meet children in schools, YMCAs, Boys’ Clubs, hospitals and other facilities where a helping hand is needed. Also, more than 2,000 youngsters, some from other states and nations, attend Creighton soccer camps and clinics each summer.

“The one thing that separates our program and our players is that they are well-rounded individuals,” Simon said. “We evaluate our players, not just on their playing ability or the
The coaches and the team members discuss how they can become better students and better citizens. “We let them know that they can make the world a better place — and we expect them to try,” Simon said.

Thanks to the team members’ involvement in the community and to successes on the field, the community is a strong soccer booster. Creighton’s games draw large and enthusiastic crowds, and the soccer camps and clinics fill to capacity with young players each summer.

According to Simon, soccer ranks nationally right behind basketball in participating numbers, and it is rapidly growing as a spectator sport. He cited the new television contract recently acquired by the 12 professional soccer franchises of Major League Soccer, the new professional league. “And on the college level we see interest in soccer increasing every year,” he said. “One of our goals is to promote a ripple effect within our community, encouraging more youngsters to participate and more fans to appreciate the sport.”

Every year Creighton ranks among the nation’s top 10 soccer programs for attendance at home soccer games. Last season, the Bluejays were fifth nationally. They play on Tranquility Field, which belongs to Omaha’s Parks & Recreation Department and holds as many as 5,000 spectators. Thousands attend the home games, and the coach hopes for a larger and more convenient facility with enhanced accommodations for spectators.

“We aim to achieve a level of high-intensity ball. We enjoy the art of the game,” Simon said. “But in the long run, we want our student athletes to leave Creighton with a more balanced perspective on life. We want them to develop a sense of responsibility and a greater respect for all people. That’s what participating in a sport should be all about.”

Major League Soccer

Records Broken

BY CREIGHTON ALUMNI

Former Creighton soccer players Johnny Torres (New England Revolution) and Ross Paule (Colorado Rapids) are in Major League Soccer’s record books. Paule set a record for the shortest time between goals (1 minute, 7 seconds) in a May 31 match against the Kansas City Wizards. Torres has the second-fastest goal ever — scoring 30 seconds into New England’s June 7 match against the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Torres drives the ball past D.C. United defense man Carlos Llamosa as a member of Major League Soccer's New England Revolution.
This summer, Fr. Bernard Portz fulfilled a dream of returning to the Milwaukee area to be near his family, ending his 31-year relationship with Creighton. He is now living in the Saint Camillus community for retired Jesuits. His absence from the Creighton community, the choir and the classroom will not be easily filled.

It was a different Creighton University that Fr. Portz encountered on June 1, 1957. He would have walked up a brick-paved California Street to the door of the Administration Building, and a youthful Carl Reinert, S.J., then Creighton’s president, probably would have greeted him with characteristic warmth.

The young Jesuit mathematician from Sioux Falls, S.D., fresh out of college with a degree in mathematics from St. Louis University, had come to Creighton to teach for the summer. His field was linear algebra.

It was the beginning of a long and special relationship.

Fr. Portz would return to Creighton for summer teaching appointments in 1960 and 1961, and, following teaching assignments at Marquette University High School, Jesuit College in St. Benifacius, Minn., and Normandale State Junior College in Bloomington, Minn., would return to Creighton to stay as mathematics instructor in 1970. His teaching subjects would range from algebra and trigonometry to Calculus I, II and III.

During his Creighton years, Fr. Portz was to give of himself in ever wider arenas. A gifted musician who studied voice at Manhattanville and Alverno colleges and the University of Minnesota, he became more and more involved in the liturgies at St. John’s. Students came to know him not only as their mathematics professor but as director of the liturgical choir.

He infused the music of the Mass with grace and passion, awakening students and parishioners to subtleties of phrasing and meaning. His specialty was the unforgiving but compelling sound of a cappella singing. Over the years, Creighton’s Mass of the Holy Spirit, Midnight Mass at Christmas, Founders’ Day and Holy Week Masses and Baccalaureate Mass have been shaped by his influence and sensitivity.

Fr. Portz’s love of music and mathematics led him to the Omaha Symphonic Chorus, where he put to work his twin talents as the organization’s treasurer, and member of the board of directors.
and executive committee.

He also turned to music composition and over the years wrote music and lyrics for responsorial psalms and hymns. A special piece he wrote for the Omaha Symphonic Chorus recently made its debut.

Fr. Portz’s ear also was attuned to his students, his parishioners and his colleagues, their struggles and accomplishments. A good listener, he was patient with a wide array of learners, whether they were wrestling with calculus, a cantata or a first year of teaching.

He once said that helping students grow as people was the most important subject Creighton taught.

Fr. Portz became known for his scholarship and contagious joy. Once, on being asked what he thought St. Ignatius might find if he stopped by his classroom, Fr. Portz said, “I hope he’d see the students’ joy in learning, the intense concentration on the work, the interest that is absorbing ... the learning and appreciating ... and fulfillment.”

He was honored with the Distinguished Teaching Award for mathematics by Upward Bound in 1982. In 1985, he received Creighton’s Distinguished Service Award, and was inducted into the Jesuit Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu, by Creighton students. Long involved with Creighton’s Mathematics Field Day, Fr. Portz was honored last year at the annual event.

In May 1994, he officially retired as assistant professor of mathematics and computer science. But he continued to teach a calculus class each semester through the fall of 1996, even though health problems made it difficult for him to stand. Leave it to a mathematician — and dedicated teacher — to find a solution to the problem! According to one colleague, Fr. Portz chose to lecture to students from his chair and worked with an assistant to write formulas and notes on the board.

He met his commitment to the math lab with the same spirit, driving a car to the lab three times per week when the walk became too difficult.

“He’s genuinely a good person,” Dr. John Mordeson said of Fr. Portz. “And he wasn’t a bad athlete, either,” the mathematics colleague chuckled, recalling several student vs. faculty softball matches during which Fr. Portz shone.

“He never brought up the subject of religion to me,” recalled another colleague, Dr. Michel Mallenby of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. “But he didn’t need to. He is a living example: His goodness just shines through.”

One of the many tasks Fr. Bernard Portz undertook at Creighton, as director of the liturgical choir, was setting the Psalms to music. Among his favorites was Psalm 96.

Sing to the Lord a new song; 
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; 
announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations; 
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

From Psalm 96

Here, one can imagine the Creighton Jesuit joining forces with the ancient psalmist — both bent on sharing their faith with their people through the medium of song.
Creighton’s highest student honor, the Spirit of Creighton, is conferred upon two special seniors each year at May commencement.

It’s easy to find outstanding students at Creighton. The challenge comes in narrowing down the list to just two students who, among all of their peers, will best represent Creighton’s ideals.

In 1998, College of Arts and Sciences seniors Steven Haskett and Megann (Margaret) Walker were chosen for the Spirit of Creighton.

An honors student from Lincoln, Neb., Megann balanced top academic achievement during all four of her undergraduate years with exceptional leadership and service. Her academic honors span the curriculum, with honor society membership for history, chemistry and biology. Megann was also president of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society, and served as both a chemistry and a biology teacher assistant.

A member of the Student Board of Governors, Megann served as an important resource to students as community advisor, treasurer, resident advisor and assistant resident director.

Her commitment to her community extended well beyond the boundaries of the campus. Through the years, Megann reached out to others at Francis House and Girls Incorporated, spring break service trips and the Institute for Latin American Concern in the Dominican Republic. This year, she is coordinating/staff member for ILAC, serving as liaison between her North American team members and the Dominican people.

Steven Haskett of Midwest City, Okla., represents a similar commitment to Creighton’s ideals. An outstanding scholar, Steve lived in the Creighton Study Community for two years, ultimately serving as vice president, and is a member of the national leadership honor society, Omicron Delta Kappa. He embraced the liberal arts curriculum, combining a rigorous major in biology with courses in astronomy and the fine arts. A biology teaching assistant, he also was honored often for his academic achievements.

From the moment he arrived at Creighton, Steve’s concerns went beyond the classroom. By welcoming students entering Creighton for three successive years, first as Freshman Seminar group leader and executive, then as coordinator for Freshman Orientation Welcome Week, Steve displayed his enthusiasm and dedication to Creighton. He also held a number of leadership positions on the Student Board of Governors.

Steve sought service to others at locations as diverse as the Omaha Boys and Girls Club and Omaha Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and “A Peace Place for Children,” the latter in Williamsburg, Ky.

Congratulations to Megann and Steve ... and the many Creighton students you represent.