

# Seasonal spirit inspires activities

The holiday season is in full swing for many Central High students. Once again this year the clubs at Central are getting involved in the Christmas spirit.

On Sunday, December 4, the Central High Singers, Decca, and other students from Central were involved in a special night for senior citizens and handicapped citizens at the Target store on Saddle Creek Road. The store, normally closed on Sunday evenings, opened its doors for the elderly to shop for Christmas gifts. Decca students from all over Omaha were in attendance to help the elderly shop and "just to sit in the snack bar and talk to them," according to Kathy Snowden, Central senior and Decca president. Kathy said that Decca has been involved with this event for a few years now. Kathy enjoyed watching students get involved with event; "It was really interesting to see how students, especially guys, who seem unexcited about it, really get into helping and talking to the elderly people."

## CHS Singers perform for hospitalized Central senior Shaun McGuire

Brian Gray, Decca member and Central junior, said that sometime in December Decca hopes to go the Crossroads Shopping Center at 72nd and Dodge and wrap Christmas presents in the mall.

Two Central sophomores, Terry Scholar and Robin Fann, danced for the elderly at the Target Store. The CHS Singers performed a collection of Christmas songs which the choir has been working on.

But the Target concert was not the beginning of the day for the CHS Singers. The Singers sang at the Winter Arts Fair at



photo by Jackie Hynek

Two Central sophomores dance for senior and disabled citizens at Target. Pictured from left in the front row are Terry Scholar and Robin Fann.

the Civic Auditorium. Following that concert the Singers went to Immanuel Hospital where they sang and spread Christmas cheer to Shaun McGuire, Central senior who has been hospitalized since October 15. Shaun is the sister of Denny McGuire, Central sophomore, and Matt McGuire, Central senior and Singer's member in attendance at the concert.

On December 2, the CHS Singers sang at a very profitable concert. They sang Christmas songs at Regency West for a group of professional insurance agents. The choir received \$100 for their performance. According to Margy Klosner, Central senior and Singer's member, "We do receive money for some of our performances, but this was a lot of money for one

single show." The Singers use money which they receive to help pay for uniforms, club activities, and other concerts which the choir performs voluntarily.

On December 19 Mr. Robert McMeen, Central vocal music instructor, presented the Winter choral concert. The concert will consist of performances by the Mixed Chorus, Junior Choir, A Cappella Choir, and the CHS Singers performing music on which the groups have been working most of the school year.

The foreign language clubs are also keeping themselves quite busy this holiday season. French club is holding a progressive dinner in which members go from house to house having a different course of the meal at each home. JCL is helping out a needy student at Central this holiday season by holding a turkey raffle. For 25¢ each, people may purchase raffle tickets to win a free turkey. The money from the raffle will go to help a Central student have a merrier Christmas.

## JCL raffles turkey tickets to help needy Central family's holidays

Drama club is holding its annual Secret Santa event. Drama members choose names and send secret notes to the person they have drawn. At the club's Christmas party the members will reveal who they are.

Cheerleaders are holding a gift exchange among themselves, and student council is planning a door decorating contest. Homerooms decorated their doors and the winners were announced on December 19. The winning homerooms receive free Christmas breakfast on the 20th.

## Debate gains momentum in tournaments

Each year the debate teams of Nebraska choose the same topic to debate and argue throughout the year. According to the Kartz, Central junior and varsity debater, the topic of the 1983-84 school year is: "resolved: that the United States should establish uniform rules governing procedure in the criminal courts in the nation."

Jane said individual debating teams of students research and work together to support an affirmative case within the set time. She said that the teams will spend the year supporting and proving their

Ellen Pritchard, Central English teacher and debate coach, said that the varsity as well as the novice debaters are doing well debating their cases.

"The varsity debaters are doing really well in their divisions with three year debaters and they themselves are two year debaters," said Mrs. Pritchard.

## Novice debaters all receive trophies at Bellevue East tournament

According to Mrs. Pritchard and Jane, the debate team has been placing well in tournaments. During the weekend of December 2-3 the two varsity teams of Jane Kincaid, senior; and Valerie Kincaid, senior; and Dan Mirvish, junior, placed for the quarter finals and earned trophies for their debating at the Nebraska Communication Association Forensic Tournament.

While the varsity teams were debating in the tournament, the novices attended the Bellevue East Tournament. According to Mrs. Pritchard they all received trophies. The novice teams were John Kincaid and Sarah Lundberg, who placed first; Shelley Vang and Denise Wenk placed second; Phil Berman and David Weill's team earned them fifth place, and Laura Gray and Diane Perrigo received seventh place.

Mrs. Pritchard said that it was an unusual weekend because all the students and teams to debate at a tournament.

Early this year the team debated in the South Tournament. Dan placed third in debating. Jane placed third at the tournament in "extemporaneous" five to seven minute speeches given on current events in the nation.

# Central Register

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## Nuclear war Conflicting views arise

by Ann Ostermiller

The questions of nuclear war have run rampant within the last few weeks due to many factors. The television preview of "The Day After" has created many questions on effects, causes, and solutions to the crisis of nuclear war. What Central High School students and teachers feel about this subject has resulted in many discussions about the threat of war and prevention of it through organizations.

Many views are apparent as to what students feel about the threat of nuclear war. The idea of a nuclear war occurring is a definite possibility according to some Central students and teachers. Mr. Al Roeder, science teacher, said that nuclear war is a very real possibility, whether it is in ten years or even ten months. Diane Perrigo, sophomore, said, "If anyone starts a war, Russia would; but the United States won't push the button first."

Other students agreeing with the statements that nuclear war is a possibility, felt that a war of this caliber would not be started by the super powers, the United States and Russia. "Neither the Russians or the Americans will start it; some terrorist group will," commented Eileen Delahanty, senior.

The view that nuclear war could not occur is another aspect of discussion between Central students. "I don't think we will have a nuclear war," said Todd Swartz, senior. "When one side launches its weapons they will know it is suicide."

The shooting of weapons back and forth across nations has stirred questions about the building up of arms. There are several views in this area of nuclear war. One is to continue to build up weapons. "The idea of a disarmament of nuclear weapons is foolhardy because Russia would gain a great advantage, and their chance of starting a war would greatly increase," said Todd. "The problem of decreasing the arms and number of missiles is that the Soviets could mount the first strike against the U.S. and destroy all of our missiles on the ground. Then we

would have no means of retaliation," Todd said.

A second view on arms build up is to disarm the weapons, or to have a freeze. "Building up nuclear weapons is just a big ego trip," said senior Nani Soares. Mr. Roeder said that a freeze would be a good start. He also said that ultimately not to have nuclear weapons at all would be the best, but that this is impossible.

Exactly what the arms race is about and the numbers involved is a very complex conglomeration of facts. Many of the weapons the U.S. have are located in different countries, such as Britain, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, and Turkey. Located in these areas are missiles, which contain nuclear warheads. A newly-developed missile called the MX contains ten warheads.

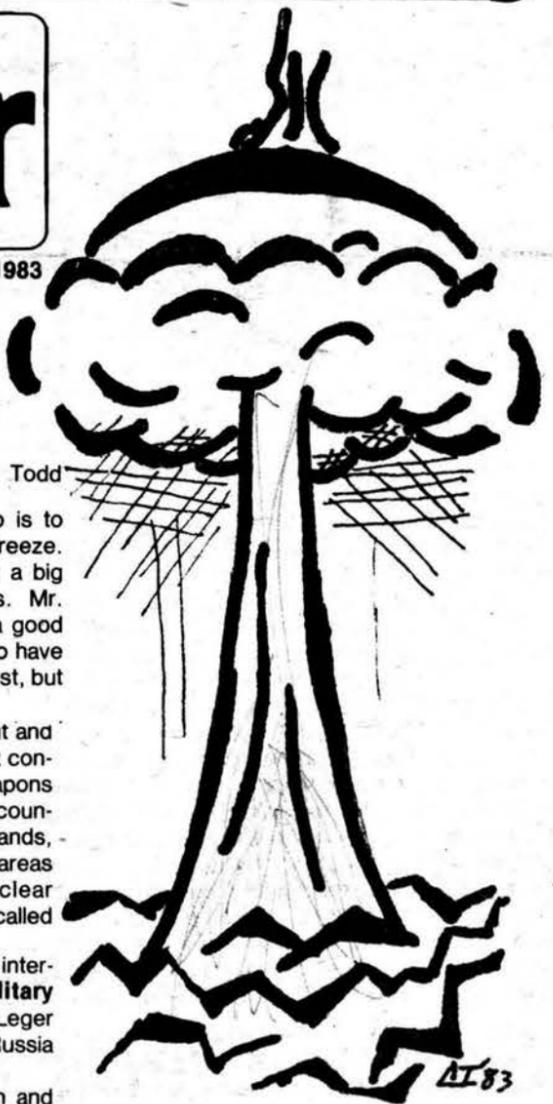
As for strategic missiles for intercontinental use, according to **World Military and Social Expenditure** by Ruth Leger Sivard, the United States is ahead of Russia about 3,000 missiles.

The figures of arm amounts go on and on. Several plans have been developed to solve the problems of nuclear weapon build-up. One program developed by President Ronald Reagan is to construct newer, more accurate weapons while at the same time detonate and destroy the obsolete weapons.

The reaction of nuclear arms and threats have been spurred on by the television showing of "The Day After." After a much publicized viewing on November 20, comments from Central High students were heard throughout the halls.

Erik Rogers, senior, said that he was disappointed in the show because it did not give an accurate description of nuclear war but the forum after the show was very informative, to tell what really could happen. "The Day After" did not show how freezing temperatures and climate could occur because of the dust covering the sun.

Bill Carmichael, sophomore, went to the Creighton University showing. He felt that "The Day After" was not portrayed accurately



ly enough either. "They had some ironic scenes, like when the president was speaking."

"The Day After" was hyped up out of proportion," said Mr. Roeder, "I expected it to be spectacular."

Some students at Central have been talking about nuclear war seriously at groups meeting at S.T.O.P. S.T.O.P. is Student Teacher Organization for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Bill Carmichael, member, said that the goal of this group is to inform and let people know what is happening. Of course, there are varying opinions in the group, which is the first and only charter member of the National S.T.O.P. organization in Nebraska.

There are obviously different opinions about nuclear war in students and adults alike. The majority of American people do not want a nuclear war, especially those people who have experienced the tragedies of wars in the past.

# ACT's and SAT's: A valid measure

Early on Saturday mornings students can be seen stumbling into high schools around the country, number two pencils tightly clenched in their sweaty little hands, their eyes groggy from sleep, or the lack of it, their minds floundering at the grueling task ahead: the college entrance exams. These tests, known as Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT's), or the American College Tests (ACT's) and the Achievement tests, are dreaded by students around the country because they symbolize the ultimate test of knowledge gained from twelve years in school, and many futures seemingly depend on these assessments.

But as a valid measure these tests can only go so far. "The tests are a good measure of cognitive ability (reading, memorization, relationships) but they are not a measure of intelligence," said Mr. Stan Maliszewski, guidance director at Central. "They don't measure creative or critical thinking or problem solving ability. If you have trouble reading, you'll have trouble with the test." But Mr. Maliszewski added that the tests are necessary as a standard measure; they provide a basis for some division.

Mr. Dan Daly, head of Central's English Department, said that the tests are useful as one objective measurement for colleges along with teacher recommendations, personal essays, and grade point averages. However, he also stated that there has been some question about racial or minority bias in the ACT's or SAT's. In response to this statement, Mr. Maliszewski said "The tests have been designed to assess any person from any background for knowledge in areas they need to be competent in to be able to deal with the atmosphere in which they will be learning. In that way they are biased, but if a person can answer the questions, it doesn't matter what racial or economic background they're from."

According to the American Testing Program assessment booklet, "over 2,700 institutions of higher education, scholarship agencies, and state educational agencies recommend that applicants take ACT's," and it goes without saying that any prominent universities require that applicants take ACT, SAT, and Achievement tests. This fact may attribute to the emphasis placed upon achieving high scores on the tests which seems to have precedence over the other more personal measures of a student's capabilities.

A realistic goal for the average nervous ACT/SAT taker is to do his best on the tests but to remember that the intangibles, such as desire for success, self-discipline, endurance, personality or goals are not being measured. The key to college might not only be found in high test scores but also in extra-curricular involvement, high grade point averages, and self-directed motivation.



## Registered Opinions Calendar brings mixed opinions

Students in this week's poll were asked if they are satisfied with the spring break schedule this year. (Feb. 23 and 24 and April 18, 19, and 20), or if they prefer the traditional week-long break in April.

**Matt McGuire-Senior** (pic at right)  
"It's less of a hassle to have the break all at once. This year I'll have to miss school in April when I go on my vacation."

**Jill MacNaughton-Junior** (pic at right)  
"It's really dumb this year — it's better to have a long break after the 3rd quarter so we get back into the spirit of school."

**Mary Zinn-Senior**  
"I hate this year's break — we can't go anywhere with just 2 or 3 days. It's just like having snowdays."

**Clint Calero-Sophomore**  
"I don't care when vacation is, as long as we get one."

**Carrie Roberts-Junior**  
"Spring break is when a lot of kids go look at schools — this year there's no time for that, I wish it was the traditional week in April."

**Michelle Hoffmeier-Junior**  
"I like the schedule this year because we get breaks more often."

**Matt Gurciullo-Sophomore**  
"I dislike the schedule this year because I like to lay out in Arizona for a whole week not just half a week."



photos by Bryan Hildreth

## Tradition best in schedules

This year's winter and spring vacation schedule has undergone a change that is both inconvenient and unnecessary. Winter vacation begins on Wednesday, December 21, and ends Tuesday, January 3. This is inconvenient in that students get out in the middle of the average work week, making it hard for parents who work to co-ordinate their schedules. As a result, some students are missing school so they can travel with their parents, or they are sacrificing a trip. Students and teachers also lose the extra week they would have if schools were dismissed on, for instance, the twenty-third of December and classes resumed on the ninth of January. Spring Break presents the same problems. It is also divided into two separate breaks; The first is February 23 and 24, a four day weekend beginning Thursday the twenty-third. The second break is on April 18 through the 20, and classes are again dismissed in the middle of the week.

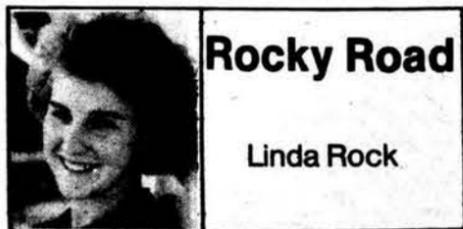
The only benefit in this Spring Break scheduling is a division in the long stretch from January to April. "I have the feeling that this calendar was voted for because the period between Christmas and Spring Break is so long and we get spoiled by the frequent breaks in the fall," said Central principal Dr. G.E. Moller. He explained that the OPS school board calendar committee proposed 3-5 different calendars for the school year. They sent them to all OPS employees and parents to be voted on, and the most popular calendar became the new calendar for all OPS schools. The new school calendar needs to be brought back to the traditional two weeks in winter with classes dismissed on a Friday and one week in the spring, classes also ending at the end of the work week. This allows for working parents and student to match their schedules with less difficulty and makes vacations and college visits easier to co-ordinate. A possible answer to giving students a break between January and April is giving them the two days in February along with a week in April then adding the two days at the end of the year.

## Register

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## Santa Claus — a child's reality



### Rocky Road

Linda Rock

Every December, rumors about the non-existence of Santa Claus seem to circulate in grade schools all over the country. At the same time, stores advertise everything from tires to perfume using the infamous "old man in red". Why, even the Salvation Army has pseudo-Santas standing outside of every major shopping center in town. All of this contradictory information confuses kids, so they go to their parents to ask if there really is a Santa Claus. A majority of these parents, especially if the children are very young, say, "Of

course Santa is real, dear." So what's a little kid to think? Well, I'm here to set everyone straight: Santa Claus is alive and well and living in Florida.

I know this for a fact because he told me so himself. No, I haven't been drinking too much eggnog, he really told me. You see, I too was confused about this mysterious man who only makes once-a-year appearances, so I, like a good reporter, went investigating.

I decided to get to the bottom of this story by starting at the top with Saint Nick himself. As the Register budget doesn't allow for traveling expenses, a trip to the North Pole was out of the question. I settled for the next best thing — Crossroad's Winter Wonderland.

I'll have to admit, I felt pretty stupid standing in line with all of those 'youngsters' to go see Santa. Having on a 'Central jacket' with an "84" printed boldly on the sleeve didn't help much, either. But I patiently waited in "Winter Wonderland" for my chance to (um-hum) in-

terview Mr. Claus.

Well, my turn finally arrived. I was so excited that...um, I mean, I calmly strolled up to the gentleman dressed in red. I thought he was going to faint when he saw me. Funny, I've never seen a grown man cry. Continuing, however, to play my part, I sat on his knee as he began his well prepared speech.

"Hello there. Have you been a good little girl this year? What would you like Santa to bring you for Christmas?"

I played along with his game for awhile, just to humor him, or course.

Our chat could have continued for hours, but a few irate mothers started complaining about "that overgrown brat" taking up too much of Santa's time. Taking advantage of the opportunity, Santa said it was time to go feed his kangaroos, er, reindeer. But I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight (in his red Porche), "Merry Christmas to all...and don't forget to leave cookies and milk out on Christmas Eve!"

# Central - 'Lites'

## Food and Fine Arts highlight holiday vacation by Four's Company

Tired of all that holiday shopping? Looking for something to do besides research papers over vacation? Well, let your problems be solved! With the few loose cents you have left after shopping, it is possible to get a good buy for a bit of diversion.

A good place to really spend your money is Mr. C's, located at 5319 N. 30th St. Mr. C's seems to exhibit a very profound spirit of Christmas. You walk into an intimately-lit room and you are immediately struck with the sight of hundreds of little Christmas lights hanging everywhere about the dining room. You are courteously guided to your table and somewhat promptly waited on.

The cuisine of Mr. C's is rich and plentiful. The spaghetti dish is particularly delectable with a thick, rich sauce. Also offered along with the dish itself are the side dishes of Italian garlic bread and, for example, ravioli and sauce. One thing about this restaurant in that you certainly don't come away only half-full.

An added feature to the Mr. C's experience is the strolling musicians who walk about making requests and perhaps a tip or two. Speaking of money, the Mr. C's experience will squeeze a student's pocket. One visit along may cost you from five to eight dollars, given the amount of food offered, it seems worthwhile.

Once you have satisfied your hunger, you are ready to proceed to other things besides that nagging term paper that is due two days after you come back to school.

Here are (tentatively) a few things happening in the metropolitan area:

**Dec. 20, Tuesday:**  
"Cinderella" will show at 7 p.m., at Emmy Gifford Children's Theater. The Saturday Sunday shows are sold out, so you better hurry to catch this enchanting play tonight tomorrow evening at seven. Hurry! These are the last performances.

**Dec. 21, Wednesday:**  
Mary Walter will give a concert on the harp as part of the "Brown-Bag Advent Concerts" at the First Presbyterian Church. This is something to see during those last-minute shopping hours. It's free and will run from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

**Note: Four's Company is a pseudonym for a group of writers comprised of Roxanne Gryder, Ann Ostermiller, Nani Soares, and Cathy Wendt.**

## Recruits part of balancing act

Central High School is currently holding recruitment workshops for freshmen.

According to Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, the purpose of the workshops is to attract ninth grade students to enroll at Central as sophomores.

The program is aimed at "majority" students who live outside of the Central attendance area, to help maintain a court-balanced racial balance.

Central English department chairman, Stan Daly, who is in charge of the program at Central because of Central's English "magnet" program, said that Central must keep approximately the same racial balance as Omaha's because Central is an

"all-city" school.

The workshops are held during school hours, and the freshmen go through a simulated school day. According to Mr. Daly, "they have a pretty good experience of what it's like to go to high school."

A day for the freshmen includes a writing lab experience, a tour of Central, an introduction to high school theme-writing, lunch in the Central cafeteria, and a discussion group with four current Central students, which is led by Mr. Ed Waples, English teacher.

Lisa Jensen, a freshman at Norris Junior High School, summed up her experience at a workshop simply by saying, "I think it was great."

## Christmas Prom breaks winter's monotony, dating standards

The Peony Park-sponsored Christmas Prom for all schools is scheduled to be held on December 22, 1983, at Peony Park from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m., with the doors opening at 8:30 p.m. Tickets, which may be purchased at Central, Brandeis, or Peony Park, cost \$12 per couple in advance and \$13 at the door.

Christmas Prom has traditionally been a departure from normal dating standards of boys asking girls out and paying for the entire evening. The consensus among most girls concerning this tradition is one of mixed emotions. Although they feel that it is fair for girls to pay for the event, they have apprehensions about asking boys out.

Senior Maria Morgan said that although she would not normally ask someone out, she thinks that "girls asking guys to

Christmas Prom helps put them in the guys' shoes. Girls feel the fear of rejection of asking someone out." Senior Adrienne Biggs agreed with Maria, but also said, "Somehow I don't think the guys have as big of a problem asking the girls out."

Most boys, however, favor the role-reversal tradition of Christmas Prom. Senior Calvin Minor said, "I like it. It gives the girl a chance to see how hard it is to ask someone out." Although Calvin likes the idea of a girl paying for the evening, he said that he would pay "if a girl wanted me to."

Most Central students look on Christmas Prom favorably, despite any fears that they might harbor. Adrienne said, "It's kind of neat. It breaks the monotony of winter by giving us a chance to get dressed up between Homecoming and Spring Prom."

## back to basics underscored Credit requirements increase

The phrase "back to basics" has become a common term to students at Central High School. Many Centralites have become worried about the possibility of losing their elective courses or the possibility of not being able to graduate because of increased credit requirements. Even after students do graduate, the "back to basics" movement may influence college entrance requirements, causing them to increase.

Lisa Stubbe, Central senior, is worried about the credit-requirement increase. She feels that the requirement now "isn't going to kill you, but it's not easy either" and believes "it should be left alone."

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, explained that there will be minimal changes in the Omaha Public Schools. According to Dr. Moller, credit requirements will probably increase, but this change will be counteracted by an increase in possible credits earned. For example, all of the half-credit courses will

now earn full credit.

Dr. Paul Kennedy, a retired professor of Educational Administration Supervision and Foundation of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, doubts that there will be a change in requirements for colleges. Dr. Kennedy said, "There can be no big movement of change, for economic reasons. The colleges need students." Also, as far as an increase in high school requirements go, he believes that "academic students have enough homework" and that "people making up these requirements need to realize all the work some students are doing."

"Too much 'blanket prescription' is not healthy. Test scores in Omaha are very healthy and we have good education programs. Most of the National Commission data was gathered off both the East and West Coasts, whereas the Omaha Public Schools are already pretty much 'Back to Basics,'" Dr. Kennedy said.

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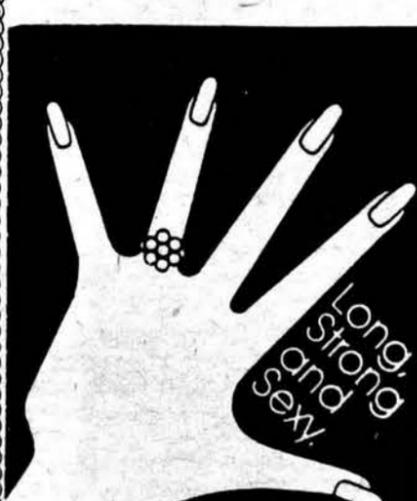
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# Family

## Fact or fantasy?

### Season cheers humanity



graphic by Jeff Wilson, Nani Soares

Christmas provokes thoughts of Christmas trees, candy, and Santa Claus even in the "Scroogiest" of people.

One day after gorging upon a delectable Thanksgiving feast, many people flock to shopping centers, put up Christmas trees, or fret over deflated banking accounts, all in anticipation of the holidays. The holiday season is in full-swing. Stores and businesses are decked in all of their tinselly glory and play piped-in Christmas carols. Strangers wish each other season's greetings on the bustling sidewalks. Families seem to come closer together to share in holiday happiness. The above paints a rather traditional Hallmark-card image of holiday spirit.

**"Around Christmas people have more spirit. People get excited."**

Whether this spirit is a real feeling or one kept for the sake of memory, it is felt by nearly everybody. Central junior Dana Wayne said, "Around Christmas, people have more spirit. People get excited. It's neat to see people thinking of others. I think that it's a real spirit in the heart." Sophomore Barb Poore said that while the

word "Christmas" conjures up images of "The Nutcracker," snow, and fireplaces, the real meaning of the holiday is "being together with family and relatives — being happy. Christmas pulls the family closer."

Types of family celebrations vary widely, but the general purpose seems to be the same — to unite the family unit while observing "true" meanings of holidays. Travis Feezell, sophomore, said that his family sets aside one day to be together, put up decorations, and enjoy a big dinner. Senior Melissa Meares said that her family "is always together in a house full of cheer."

Although the holidays represent a time of togetherness and good cheer, many people, perhaps through disgust with commercialization, feel the season and its spirit are superficial. "Christmas is a Christian custom that has become a pagan one," said Mrs. Geri Zerse, guidance counselor. But she added that the "real spirit is more intangible and the only way we have to express it is by material things."

While Scot Kilgore, senior, and Denny McGuire, sophomore, said that they think of families getting together and exchanging gifts as an important part of holiday celebrations, Charlotte Ross, senior, said, "I think that too much time is spent on physical items (gifts), not the real meaning." But, according to Mike West, senior, presents are "on my mind and 90 percent of everybody else's."

Hiding behind whatever facade that may be enveloping it, the fact remains that to many people the holiday spirit — a spirit of any definition — is very real. Those who believe in seasonal traditions whether family celebrations, good cheer, or gift exchanges, may be inclined to disagree with Charles Dickens' immortal Ebenezer Scrooge when he said, "Every idiot who goes about the 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart." Senior Mary Villella refutes Mr. Scrooge's opinions of holiday cheer by saying, "Christmas is still an attitude. There is always more giving and sharing during the Christmas season."

## Family of the



photo by Roxanne

Traditional family dinner scenes such as this may be ceremony.

by Tracy Bernstein

The family may neither vanish nor enter upon a new Golden Age — and this is far more likely — break up, shatter, only to be put together again in weird and novel ways.

—Alvin Toffler, *Futures*

A glance through a compilation of editorial research unified by the topic **The Changing American Family**, reveals a variety of disturbing titles: "Violence in the Family," "Pregnancy," "Single Parent Families," and "Youth Unemployment." The same reports, titles that are hopefully perceived as advancing the cause — for example, "Women in the Work Force."

Well obviously, as publicized as these subjects are, they do not minimize the "signs of the times" — where American families are changing day by day.

**This story contains writer opinion**

But what about the not very distant yesterday? Like a fragmented jigsaw puzzle with lost pieces, the truth about the previous generation manifests itself in a very fuzzy picture for today's teens.

Of course Mom and Dad (yes, the kids are picking on the regularly remind their children of the good old days when "was still a family, when a house was still a home." This important speech will include such remembrances as family dinners, family traditions, and family viewings of "The Osmond Family Christmas Special.")

In a more serious vein, important discussions could develop involving what parents, educators, and pupils alike feel is a "lost identity." To hear it discussed, one might come to the conclusion that

## Survey reveals grievances

### Modern parent, teen

If you could, what would you change about your parents? "Make them open their eyes to reality — the way teens actually live, not what they'd like to think," responded one Central student to a recently-administered informal survey on teen-parent communications. Some students would change nothing about their parents; others, everything. Many students would have their parents understand them. "Understanding is a two-way proposition," wrote Ernest G. Osborne in **Understanding Your Parents**. According to Central junior Ray Johnson, it is communication that leads to understanding by what he calls "a team effort."

Mr. Jack Blanke, head of the social studies department and veteran father of three teenagers, said the greatest cause of family friction is a lack of communication. "Teenagers are beginning to establish their own identities," said Mr. Blanke of the adolescent years. "Often, parents don't like the identifies their teenagers establish, and this leads to communication breakdowns. In my opinion, they're not communicating on the same wavelength," he said.

#### Statistics speak louder than words

Although 43 percent of students surveyed said they usually get along with their parents and 33 percent described the relationships they have with their parents as strong ones, complaints seemed to outweigh the statistics. Central students listed many causes of family conflict, which ranged from

disputes over curfews, money, neatness of the teenager's room to drinking, and teenage sex.

Junior Gwen Oberman, who described her relationship with her parents as "perfect," said that her family situation was definitely not the norm. "People behind their parents' backs; parents know anything about their children's they're strangers in their own homes because they won't open up to their parents," she said.

#### "Each generation brings a new set of values"

Other students attributed the communication and understanding generation gap. Comments like "change so fast. They (parents) don't want to understand," "Kids grow up so fast (they) are exposed to more earlier generation brings a new set of values," "Parents are old-fashioned," and "We're growing up in different worlds," were typical responses.

Over two-thirds of the students surveyed described the world they now grow up in as having more divorce, more advanced activities during the teenage years, more weekend drinking and drug-taking, and more working mothers than the one they grew up in.

Mr. James Rawlings, a psychology teacher who said he has over 20 years of experience with teenagers, said one difference between



# 'Americans have conceived a new group of intelligencia with ancient desires of individualism and freedom'

communications have ceased, promiscuity and drugs run rampant, the family unit, as a whole, is crumbling.

## "There's no evidence that yesterday's mothers, devoted more time to their children than today's working mothers do."

Over, an article entitled "The Family's Not 'Dying'" by August shares these views expressed by Professor Mary Jo Bane in **Here To Stay: American Families in the Twentieth Cen-**

...families have two parents now (84.3 percent) than in col- (70 percent).

...divorce is doing to disrupt families today, death did in es. As the death rate has dropped, the divorce rate has in- but more divorced people remarry to stay.

...e's no evidence that yesterday's mothers, laboring from usk to do housework without labor-saving devices, devoted to their children than today's working mothers do.

## Heroes and leaders symbolize American patriotism and family systems

What about heroes and leaders? Certainly they are important to what love for country and the American family system are about. There are those too young to remember John F. Kennedy's "stranger" who brought about love, courage, hope. Youths remember first-hand, only the corruption brought about by Richard n in Watergate and recent farcial activities of politicians. With the present threat of nuclear war, it would be pathetic if that destruc- or idea of destruction were necessary to rebuild a family from

## National influences have a large effect on the family

Another point of unity: Don't national influences have a large affect to family? World War II brought on a necessary togetherness not family-wise but among all patriotic Americans. Whether one or disagreed with the cause, a "love for your neighbor" developed simply out of fear — the reality that he be gone tomorrow.

## "Not all teenagers are 'doped out.'"

Another issue: Not all teenagers are "doped out." It is unfor- a "loss" scale for such a problem is alarming. Drugs and alcohol are only not new.

Good ole "American institutions" still exist: Little League, Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA, hot dogs, and applie pie. **Love Story** still inspires tears, spring still symbolizes rebirth, and holidays are still special togetherness times for remembering and unifying.

Other reflections: The crime rate is on the rise — but has there ever been a time that it wasn't? The teenage pregnancy rate is high — but has there ever been an era void of pre-marital sex? And other concerns — money, sibling rivalry, divorce, etc. — but has there ever been life without discontent and fear?

Today's society seems to carry a trademark of individualism. Some say this is the aftermath of the 60's "revolution," but it seems more likely that Americans have conceived a new group of "intelligencia" with ancient desires of individualism and freedom on a more pronounced level than ever before.

It is certainly not a new idea for women to want a career, for teens or adults to experiment with harmful chemical substances, for young men to avoid draft registration, and above all, for a person to aspire to make a beneficial mark in his own corner of the world.



photo by Jackie Hynek

The fast paced life of the eighties opts for drive-thrus and fast food over traditional family dinners. Various extra-curricular activities often cut into time spent with family.

# Relationships explored

...of the parent's youth and of today's ... that now expectations are less defin- ... adolescents "are faced with not knowing ... they're going to do, (or) how to ... ve," he said.

## "As I get older, they let me do more and trust me more. The gap gets a little smaller."

The atmosphere of family life has also become more "open," according to many Centralites. Gwen said of her parents, "They tell me everything, so we're always ready to talk things out." She continued, "You have to start communication from day one." Senior Diane Vazzano said that the older she gets, the closer she and her parents become. "As I get older, they let me do more and trust me more. The gap gets a little smaller," Diane said.

Sophomore Lisa Salisbury said she never used to understand her mother. "She was always willing to listen, but I shut her out," Lisa said. "Now I know she's there as a mother and a friend, not just as a boss."

However, any hardships that students have encountered seem not to radically affect their future plans: while 14 percent don't plan to marry, 77 percent of the surveyed students said they will have children when they marry, continuing this business of trying to communicate and work together. Will students be like their parents when they themselves are parents? Yes and no. Craig Dorsey said, "As you get older, you step back and evaluate; you choose the values you like." Of his parents, he said, "I like the way they are — their values are mine. It's how I was brought up."



photo by Roxanne Gryder



photo by Mike Hogan

## Century III nominee

Leslie Johnson, senior and varsity cheerleader, has become Central's representative in the Century III Leaders Scholarship Program. To be chosen, the five students entered were required to fill out an application listing achievements, involvements, and leadership positions, write a current events essay, and take a current events test. The panel of judges consisted of

a student, an Omaha Education association representative, and Mr. Jack Blanke, social studies chairman.

By January 16, Leslie will know if she is more than just school representative. If she is one of the two state representatives, she will receive a \$1500 scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, for a conference March 2-5, 1984.

At the conference students discuss the purpose of Century III, that is to prepare for the third century and have leaders prepared for the proper handling of the new era. Also a national scholarship of \$10,000 is awarded.

Mr. Kevin Moran, counselor at Central, said in respect to Leslie's qualifications, "From what I saw it (the essay and test and application) was all well done. She did very well on the current events test. She has a lot of school involvement and leadership positions."

**"current events, ... school involvement, ... leadership..."**

The program was almost dropped this year, but Mr. Moran said he would take it over. Leslie's brother was the school representative in 1981. "That's probably a lot of the reason why I entered because my brother won it," Leslie said.

## Review of Student Council

Student Council is a group of students that act as a mediator between students and the school administration, according to Mrs. Vickie Anderson, Spanish teacher and Council sponsor.

Mrs. Anderson said that the Council also tries to involve the school in community projects such as the can food drive and the United Way, and helps other clubs with financial problems. Janet Kent, senior and president of Student Council also organizes activities like dances and the spring Prom. Calvin Minor, senior and vice-president of Student Council, added that the Council has in the past been involved with the Easter Seals Telethon and has also brought the Red Cross Blood Mobile to Central for students to donate blood. Mrs. Anderson said that the Council is in the process of trying to get a change machine for the school.

Student Council runs similar to a local government and is made up of nine seniors, nine juniors and nine sophomores. The junior and senior members are elected to the council in the school year previous to serving. Sophomores are elected before the second semester of their sophomore year.

The Council has three committees. The communication committee is in charge of publicizing events. The functional committee

organizes fund raisers. Finally, the mental committee helps make sure the council laws and its constitution. The students have a chance to serve on all the committees during the school year.

Certain members have distinct duties. President, Janet Kent, senior, makes sure that meetings run smoothly and the vice-president, Calvin, gives out and replaces or fills in for the president when necessary. The treasurer, Ellen Zwick, keeps track of the money earned from fund raising. The secretary, Michael Hornstein, senior, keeps notes of the meetings and delivers and receives messages to the student council. Sergeant-at-Arms, David Ciummo, junior, makes sure that the roll at least half of the activities are taken care of at meetings. The parliamentarian, who must be a senior, makes sure the rules are followed and votes are done "by the book." David said his job is to keep order in aspects of parliamentary procedure as written in The Robert's Order book.

To be eligible to run for Student Council, students must have a petition signed by people in his class level.

## Reasonable fee for animals

# Humane Society adoption available

Christmas gift buying can often be a real "hare raising" experience. If waiting in check-out lines makes you "dog-tired," and finding that "purrfect" gift makes you want to go "ape," maybe you should consider adopting a pet as a gift.

Adoption is not a new concept. Everyday anxious couples apply to adopt children. There are even services such as adopt-a-grandparent. Following this trend, one should not be surprised to find out about the adopt-a-pet program at the Nebraska Humane Society.

"As many as fifty dogs are brought to the Humane Society daily," said Ms. Sandy Duncan, humane education teacher. Of these, she said that many are strays and others are

**An average of ten animals are put to sleep daily. The remaining animals are put up for adoption.**

returned to their owners. "Less than ten percent stay." But of those who do stay, the Humane Society is forced to dispose of many of them. Sandy guessed that an average of ten animals are put to sleep daily. The remaining animals are put up for adoption.

The adoption process is very simple. Potential owners may go into the adoption kennels and look at the animals. Once they have found that "perfect pet," all they have to do is take the card from the animal's cage to the desk. Here they sign an adoption agreement (just like a real adoption) that says they will keep the animal as a pet only, not to

be used for breeding purposes. They agree to provide proper medical care for it. They then pay the fee and may take their new pet home.

The fees are \$35 for a dog and \$16 for a cat. These prices include the adoption fee, license fee (if the owners live outside the city limits, this fee is eliminated), and a spaying or neutering fee which is returned when the animal is "fixed." These fees are relatively low considering a mixed-breed kitten may be as much as \$15 in a pet store, a purebred persian can cost as much as \$100 to \$200, and a purebred poodle puppy can be obtained for \$200 to \$400. Sandy also said that if people have to pay for something, they tend to take better care of it.

The Humane Society also includes a certificate for a free health exam at any Omaha veterinarian clinic. If the animal does not pass the exam, the owners may take it back to the Humane Society, and exchange it.

There are a few qualifications that new owners must meet. No one under 18 may adopt a pet. Sandy said this is so that kids can't get a pet without parental consent. Families with children under six years old are not allowed to adopt puppies for the puppies' own protection. Potential owners are also checked against a file of people involved in animal cruelty incidents.

All in all, the pet adoption program benefits everyone: the Humane Society is encouraging animal protection, families receive good healthy animals for a reasonable fee, and hundreds of cats and dogs are saved from being put to sleep.



photo by Roxanne

Potential pet owners can adopt a cat like this one for \$16 from the Humane Society.

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# Past athletes find satisfaction in coaching

Success in athletics is found in many ways, usually through hard work and a strong desire to win. Athletes are not alone in making sacrifices. Coaches devote countless hours of time and energy helping students realize their fullest potential as athletes.



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There is no enticement to become a coach. Yet, year in and year out teachers continue to give up their free time for the job at Central. According to Mr. Richard Jones, Central director, when openings become available, people volunteer for positions. He says, "Generally speaking, the best qualifications for coaching are having participated in sports and being physically fit." He believes that a major or physical education can also be a requirement. If someone has a strong desire for the job and does not teach at Central, that per-

son is not prevented from becoming a coach. He is only required to provide his own transportation to the school. Mr. Wally Knight, baseball coach, and Mr. Kent Freisen, gymnastics coach, are good examples. Knight teaches at Monroe Junior High, and Friesen teaches at Lewis and Clark Junior High.

Coaching is not a job; it is something a teacher does because he or she wants to. Mrs. Jo Dusatko, girl's track coach, said, "I coach because I like to work with kids."

Often times the reasons for coaching involve more than simply a desire to work with young people. Mr. Joe McMenam, boys' track and powerlifting coach, said, "It was basically my own participation in athletics that led me towards coaching."

Mr. James Martin, boys' basketball coach, would agree with that statement.

Martin suffered a certain lack of fulfillment as a basketball player in college. Due to a skin condition, he was forced to quit the team. "I was so upset that I took a year off from school, hoping it would get better," he said. "I guess coaching is an extension of my own desire to play."

Mr. William Reed, football coach, had a somewhat different experience. He played on a high school football team that won 38

straight football games and three state championships. He said, "I got such a great feeling from that experience that I became a positive thinking person."

**"I realized that this thing that had such positive effect on my life could change other lives."**

Yet, upon graduating from college, he had no intention of coaching. He said, "I shied away from coaching because everything had always come naturally for me."

While teaching at Tech, Reed was pushed into coaching swimming and golf. At this time, he came to the realization that "athletics could save lives, physically, mentally and socially." He said, "I realized that this thing that had such positive effect on my life could change other lives. I wanted an individual to feel what I felt when I won all those games."

Mr. David James, cross-country and girls' track coach, echoed Reed's sentiments. According to him, athletics did much in molding him as an individual.

Each of James' coaches influenced him in one way or another. He explained how one coached stressed academics, another taught good morals, one showed him how to find courage, and another taught him discipline.

Martin said, "When I was a student we had such a high esteem for coaches." He hopes this situation still exists and that coaches can demonstrate how to be gentlemanly and show good sportsmanship.

Coaches often find that they can more

easily justify what they ask of team members if they occasionally participate in a practice themselves. Swim Coach Carol Gebhard, who competes with the U.N.O. Masters, said, "I always tell my team that I wouldn't make them do anything I wouldn't do myself."

James, who also occasionally will participate in a practice, said, "I feel that an athlete is more likely to buy the philosophy of a coach if the coach is also willing to make sacrifices." According to him, if an athlete knows that his coach understands what he is going through, that athlete, when the coach expresses certain expectations, will be confident that he can achieve them.

Martin said, "It's not very hard to motivate players to win. I get tremendous efforts from players who may not show much effort in school." According to Gebhard, most students want to work; they just need someone to remind them that they do.

Reed also believes that the win and lose aspect of coaching has lost importance. He said, "I'm interested in what an individual gets from being around me. If that is positive I feel that I have won. I'll probably stay with coaching the rest of my life because that feeling that I'm touching someone's life is so positive."

Coaches, the same as athletes, find it very difficult to cope with defeat and disappointment. According to Martin, to be a coach you have to have a strong desire to win. He believes that anyone who has a strong desire to win hates to lose. He said, "We have to get out of the rut that success is gauged by the number of wins."

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## In the spotlight

# Athletic success has not spoiled Central's Ivy

by Glenn Mathews

Maurice Ivy, one of the state's top girl basketball players, is a young multi-talented lady. Her athletic abilities enable her to excel in many different activities.

Maurice, with the aid of her brother Maurice, started playing basketball at the age of four. She said that Maurice took her to Fontenelle Park and taught her how to play. She also participated in track and softball.

### played football

At the age of eight, she began to play football. She played for her father for the Gate City Steelers. Maurice said, "It was fun but it was also painful. My father didn't give me any breaks."

Mr. Tom Ivy, Maurice's father, said, "Everybody had their job to do and that was that. She was a second team linebacker when she started, but later on she worked her way into the starting lineup."

According to him, her competitive spirit helped her a lot. He said that Maurice was very fast and could out run almost all the boys on the team. According to him, the team won the league championship one of the two years that she played.

Maurice did not play junior high basketball in the ninth grade. As a freshman, she played at Central. The 1983-84 season marks her fourth year as a starting player on Central's team. As a freshman, she averaged 16.7 points per game. As a sophomore she averaged 19.8 points per game and as a junior 21.1 points per game. Last year she was named to the All-Metro, All-State, and Street and Smith All-American teams.

### played in the National Sports Festival

This summer, she played in the National Sports Festival, held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She averaged 11 points per game and was the second leading scorer on her team. She played with collegiate basketball players and was the only high school player on the team for which she competed.

During the summer, Maurice also competed in the AAU tournament in which she averaged 24 points a game. In this tournament, she played alongside three other Central players: Seniors Sarah Stohs and Sharon Deal, and junior Jessica Haynes.

Mr. Ivy said, "She has not changed at home since she has accomplished these goals." He said that she still relaxes as she did before, and that he is pleased that her honors and awards have had no long term effect upon her. Concerning Maurice's relationship with her parents, Mr. Ivy said, "Maurice beats herself to death for us."

Although she participates in many activities, Maurice



Maurice Ivy, senior, displays a number of poses and emotions that may occur during the course of a basketball game. In the first three games of the 1983-84 season, she averaged 26 points a game.

said, "I prefer basketball because I excel more in the sport." She said, "My family has been the most influential group of people in my life."

She plans to go to college after she graduates. According to her, she has not decided which college to attend. She has narrowed her choices to the following: University of

Southern California, Louisiana Tech, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas State, Minnesota, Nevada-Las Vegas.

When she gets some free time away from the school, Maurice said that she likes to play video games and watch her father in mechanics around the house.

photo by Roxan



photo by Jackie Hynek

All-Metro and All-State honors went to three Central students. Sean Ridley, junior; Kieth Jones, senior; and Ben Lehr, senior; qualified. Kieth was captain of both teams, and Sean was the only junior in Nebraska to make All-State

## Station makes All-Big Ten

Iowa linebacker, Larry Station, a 1982 Central graduate, has been named to the U.P.I. (United Press International) All-Big 10. He was placed on the first team among five of his Hawkeye Colleagues.

The Iowa Hawkeyes presently maintain the 10th place slot on both the A.P. (Associated Press) and U.P.I. polls. They also are bound for the Gator Bowl to be played December 30 against Florida at Jacksonville, Florida.

As for Larry Station, he has most recently received Honorable Mention for the All-American first defensive team. He was also named All-American by the UPI sports writers. Iowa's offensive coordinator coach and recruiter, Bill Snyder, said, "Larry has taken Iowa City by storm."

According to Coach Snyder, Larry is doing quite well academically and will average well over the 3.0 average for the semester.

Hawkeye Coach Hayden Fry has taken his Iowa team to the Rose Bowl and Peach Bowl the past two years. According to the *World-Herald*, he said, "We've always, late in November, become one of the best defensive teams in the Big Ten," said Coach Fry.

## Varsity hoopsters drop open

Central High's boys' basketball team opened its season on a down note by losing to Papillion. However, the team did redeem itself by trouncing arch rival Tech in the second game of the season.

Central's team played its first game at home against Papillion. The game was close throughout the match, but little errors made by Central enabled Papio to win. According to Mr. Jim Martin, boys' basketball coach, the team did not play that badly. He was pleased with the team's overall performance. He stated that the team didn't play really poorly, considering that it was the first game of the season. Martin said, "The team has a lot of potential to improve." According to statistics given by Martin, the eagles outscored Papio from the field, 22 baskets to 20. With this in mind, he said, "Fouls and free throws beat us in terms of scoring." Papillion went on to win the game 52-49, dropping Central to 0-1. Martin said that he is greatly encouraged by the play of the "big guys."

In redeeming the loss to Papio, Central blasted Tech 72-51. Central took control early in the game and continued to control

throughout. Martin said of the Tech players, "Defensively we had them under control." The Eagles led at the half, 34-22. According to the fact that Central out-rebounded Tech in the first half. The second half was of the same as Central out-rebounded Tech 50 to 32 for the game. Shawn Starks came off the bench to grab a game-winning rebound with 15 points, Tony Wadd added 11, and Starks pumped in 14 rebounds. Dave Moody, junior guard, Martin said, "Our offense was better than Tech." According to Robert Johnson, Tech guard, the team knew how the Tech would play because most of the players have played with or against the Tech players.

The Eagle team will play Bellevue tonight at Norris Jr. High. The Mid-Confidence Holiday Tournament will be December 26 at the Civic Auditorium. Central is seated 4th in the tournament. They will play the Roncalli-Abraham Lincoln in the second round game at 1:30 on December 27.

## Central's girls' basketball team opens season by crushing Benson, Bryan

Central High's girls' basketball team, the defending state champion, opened its season by thrashing Benson and Bryan. With these victories, the lady eagles extended their winning streak to 27 games. This total carries over from the 1982-83 season.

The lady Eagles began the 1983-84 season with an overwhelming 83-27 victory over Benson. Central jumped to a 15-0 lead which was never relinquished. The lady Eagles were led by senior Maurice Ivy's 25 points and junior Jessica Haynes' 15 points.

The lady Eagles then defeated Bryan 81-30 to improve their record to 2-0. The Bryan game was no different from the Benson game. Central took control early in the game and coasted to an easy victory. Maurice and Jessica continued their strong scoring averages, as Maurice scored 25 points and Jessica 15 points.

said, "The success of the team is in great part due to good teamwork." He said that the overall experience of the team provided the girls with an edge in both games.

In addition to experience, Semrad said that speed has been another factor in the early success of the team.

Semrad said that he is happy with the play of senior Sharon Deal. He said, "Sharon has done a super job in running the offense."

According to Semrad, the bench could play an important role in the success of the team. He said that junior LaShawn Rollins has done a good job in coming off the bench and helping the team early in the year. LaShawn scored 6 points in the Benson game and 10 points against Bryan.

According to Semrad, the attitude of the team is important. He said the team's attitude has been good and that he is pleased by that.