

Central 'rookies' prepare for Academic Decathlon

The United States Academic Decathlon, "a contest of academic strength," invited OPS to select one of their high schools to represent the state of Nebraska in this year's program. The District selected Central High to form a team of six students in the eleventh and twelfth grades to participate, according to Dr. Hawthorne Faison, Executive Director of Instructional Services at OPS, who was involved in the Decathlon at his former job in Ohio.

OPS will provide \$5,000 to send 6 team members, 2 coaches, and an OPS representative to Los Angeles for the April 25 Decathlon and April 27 awards ceremony.

"We chose Central because of its outstanding record," Faison said. "It wasn't a matter of Central over other high schools," he said.

Central immediately accepted the offer in mid-February. For a week of decision-making, a special faculty commission chose three seniors and three juniors from the set GPA categories: "A," "B," and "C." "Thus, the competition encourages academic striving among students of all ability levels," according to the program's sponsors.

"Part of their goal is that it should involve more than just good people — it's a motivational thing," said Central principal, Dr. G.E. Moller. "It's not out of reach of those without I.Q.'s."

The commission chose seniors Cory Davis, Peter Kford, and Pat Salerno and juniors Jacques Fasan, Kristin, and Arthur Kosowsky. The faculty commission judged potential team members — those "top five to seven" in the GPA categories — by examining last year's class rank, quality of curriculum, teacher recommendations, and test scores — PSAT's for juniors and ACT's for seniors. Alternates are Kris Koehler, junior; Brook Rose, junior; and Sarah Hilling, senior.

"In no category was it ever very close," Mrs. Marlene Bernstein, one of the team's coaches, said of the selection process. The selected students "always seemed to float up to the top," she said.

The two coaches for Central's team, English teachers Bernstein and Mr. Robert Cain, are presently providing study centers and holding weekly meetings to help the team prepare for the grueling ten-event contest.

"The ball is in the court of the team members," Mr. Cain



The setting: a gymnasium at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California, on April 25, in which a writhing, roaring crowd will stand up and cheer as teams pile up points on a series of scoreboards. The characters: young super-brains who will accumulate points by deciphering answers to questions about "the Olympics" as the people at the sidelines voice their support. What is this? It is the famous Super Quiz, one of the ten events in the 1984 United States Academic Decathlon photo by Jackie Hynek

said. "The coaches will play an insignificant part." As coaches, he and Mrs. Bernstein will lead team members "to the threshold of discovery," he said.

The ten events for each student include written examinations in the areas of mathematics, science, social science, fine arts, English, and economics. In addition, language tests comprise public speaking, an oral interview, and an essay. The Super Quiz is the final culminating event of the day.

The Decathlon itself fills only one day — from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 25. On the 27th, officials will present teams and individuals with Olympic-like gold, silver, and bronze medals.

However, no one expects Central's teams to come home from the Decathlon with a complete victory. Central's team has two disadvantages in that 33 of 38 teams representing different states have won local and regional competitions to represent their states, so they have more

experience in the actual Decathlon itself; furthermore, these teams have studied the material the tests cover since September or October last fall.

"Although we did start late, I think there's enough time to be well-prepared," Pat said. "At first it was a real shock — we had stars in our eyes. But now everybody's getting down to business."

"Central will be the catalyst for [future] city-wide and state-wide championships," Dr. Faison said.

"We think the academic program is as important as athletics — let's give some hoopla to academics," is the philosophy behind the Decathlon, according to Dr. Faison.

"We've developed a lot of unity. We work really well together," Pat said. "It'll be rough. We're such rookies — we'll be green. But we have good kids."



photo courtesy of Sid Stehs

VICTORY

Senior Maurtice Ivy triumphantly pulls a string from the basketball net following Central's 58-57 comeback win over Marian on March 10. In helping to head the Lady Eagle's basketball team to a second consecutive state championship, Maurtice set two records.

Her 175 points in tournament play make her the state's all-time leading scorer, erasing the previous record of 143 points by Chris Leight of Springfield, Platteview. In the Marian game, Maurtice scored 31 points and broke the class A single game scoring record that she set the night before. (more on pg. 8)

Central Register

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Dr. Taylor reviews term, accomplishes all goals

by Erika Herzog

With the ending of the 1983-1984 school year, many aspects of Central and the Omaha Public Schools school system will change. A new group of people will walk through the halls, some will be new sophomores, and others will be transfer students from Tech High School.

The Tech students coming to Central because of the consolidation program is just one of the things Dr. Jack Taylor, Omaha Public Schools Superintendent, has done that affects all students at Central. And at the end of this school year, his term — as well as most senior's — will come to an end.

Dr. Taylor had a set of goals that he set up as soon as he became Superintendent. "Basically," he commented, "They are the opening up of communication between the community and the staff, the extended work with the various community factions, the naming of a number of minority educators to school district positions, and a careful look at the total curriculum."

One addition Dr. Taylor especially pointed out as a specific change he himself initiated was the new computer program. This three-year program involves about \$800,000 and aims to put four to five computers in each school in the school district.

Other goals that Dr. Taylor set for himself were a "closer working relationship with unions and teacher associations, the establishment of goals for the system using the entire staff and community for input, and the extension of the Adopt-A-School system where the schools work with the business community."

Dr. Taylor commented that he has had a "very busy time" with his duties as Superintendent. One program that he said was time-consuming was the reorganization and consolidation of schools program where seventeen schools were either closed or

changed to magnet status.

One other program concerned bringing together the administration for better communications. One solution to this problem was the selling of the Castle to a museum and the future move of all administration buildings to a main headquarters at Tech.



Dr. Taylor

'Had I been here longer, I would have put in a flat power structure system with as few levels of hierarchy as possible.'

Dr. Taylor added that he "has either accomplished or is in the process of getting all of his goals done."

"But," he said, "I think school consolidation and working with the community are the most important things. It is time we brought the community into the schools."

Dr. Taylor did say, though, that he didn't do the things he did alone. "I've had some unusually fine cooperation," he said.

He added, "We have a very open communicative style of leadership with a broad latitudinal base. We select good people."

As for the future? Dr. Taylor pointed out that "money is going to be extremely tight. We are going to need a more active vocational education program, a more complete adult education program, and we need to continually update Tech's material. We also need to update all employee salaries and benefits."

"OPS has an excellent staff," Dr. Taylor concluded. He added that he "believes strongly in our people." Also Dr. Taylor said, "Had I been here longer, I would have put in a flat power structure system with as few levels of hierarchy as possible."

'Always and Forever' Silver stars adorn prom

"A once-in-a-life-time event." "A sign of school spirit." "An important time in a senior's life." What these high school students are describing is the annual Spring Prom. The traditional dance has been in existence for many years, and for a long time it had been called the Senior Prom.

What do the seniors of today feel about this year's spring occasion? Senior Amy Thomas said, "It is something to look forward to all year." "I think Prom is really important especially for seniors; it is their last formal dance in high school," said Pete Tracey Central senior.

"Prom is tradition," commented Valerie Sterck, senior. Tradition is definitely in the works for the student council's plans on this year's festivities. The theme and the song is "Always and Forever." Shades of purple and silver will be the colors. Silver stars will adorn the windows above the dance floor. The traditional dance will be held in none other than Central's very own courtyard. Terri Tesar, senior student council member, said that it was decided that Prom would be in the courtyard so seniors can remember the good times they've had in the school. "The roof was put on the courtyard for a purpose, to make it possible to hold parties and dances," said Terri. Twelve hundred dollars have been spent on a stage and carpeting for the provided entertainment. A disc jockey will supply the needed music.

'The roof was put on the courtyard for a purpose...to hold parties and dances.'

Many Central seniors commented on the facts of having Prom in the courtyard and having a d.j. rather than a band. "The courtyard is a great idea because the whole floor can be used for dancing, and there will be no overcrowding," said Pete. David Pavel, senior, said that Central students are lucky to have the dance in the courtyard. "How many schools have the right facilities like we do?" David said. "I definitely prefer a disc jockey over a band; with a band only one style of music is played," said Terri Nelle, senior.

Although there are many positive comments on Prom, disagreements are still evident among the student body. David said that a band is more traditional for the formal occasion.

Other activities for Prom night will include the second annual selection of the King and Queen. Also, the Arnold Clark studio will be taking prom pictures during the evening.

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Central's NHS: A stagnant tradition

by Sheila O'Hara

"The National Honor Society; an enriching experience" would not be the subject of many college entrance essays from Central NHS members. Reasons for this include a non-active National Honor Society at Central, poor selection procedures, exclusion of juniors from the society, and late recognition of new members. (Seniors are not notified until the second semester of their senior year). In part, the late recognition and exclusion of juniors from NHS defeats two major purposes of the society, to recognize and honor academically strong, involved individuals and to give seniors the benefit of including NHS membership on their college applications.

In order to explore possibilities for revising Central's National Honor Society, Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central's guidance director, is leading a committee of faculty members in a study of the system as it stands. As he was the sponsor for the National Honor Society at Burke High School before coming to Central, Mr. Maliszewski has brought some different ideas about NHS with him. He feels that Central's method of selection for the National Honor Society is "a valid measure if the purpose of NHS is to reward as many students as possible, but if the purpose is to promote excellence than the system needs to be revised. The goals of the committee are to explore more objective ways to select students for the National Honor Society and to study the possibilities of having an active organization here at Central."

Editorial

Central's selection standards for the National Honor Society are too vague. According to a guideline sheet given to Central's NHS faculty selections committee, a student must be a senior, he/she must have at least a 3.0 grade point average, be considered "willing to render service or do project work, demonstrate leadership in classes and activities, and show high standards of responsibility."

Again, these standards are fine for honoring as many people as possible, but, without becoming elitist, changes should be made to encourage students not only to achieve higher goals academically, but also to become more involved in school activities. With an active NHS organization, open to juniors as well as seniors, students could be of service to the school and student body (i.e. student tutoring by NHS members). "More specific objective standards for selection would set positive goals for students," said Mr. Maliszewski, "and most research shows that people perform better when they set goals because it helps them to formulate objectives."

The solution for Central's lack of NHS involvement lies in compromise. This means taking the original ideas and standards Central uses for selection and broadening them. For instance, open membership up to juniors, raise the GPA requirement to 3.5, specify the criteria for service, leadership, and character, and make NHS an active, motivating force at Central. This would not only allow students to include their National Honor Society Membership on their college applications, but also give more students a clearer objective and a better chance for selection.

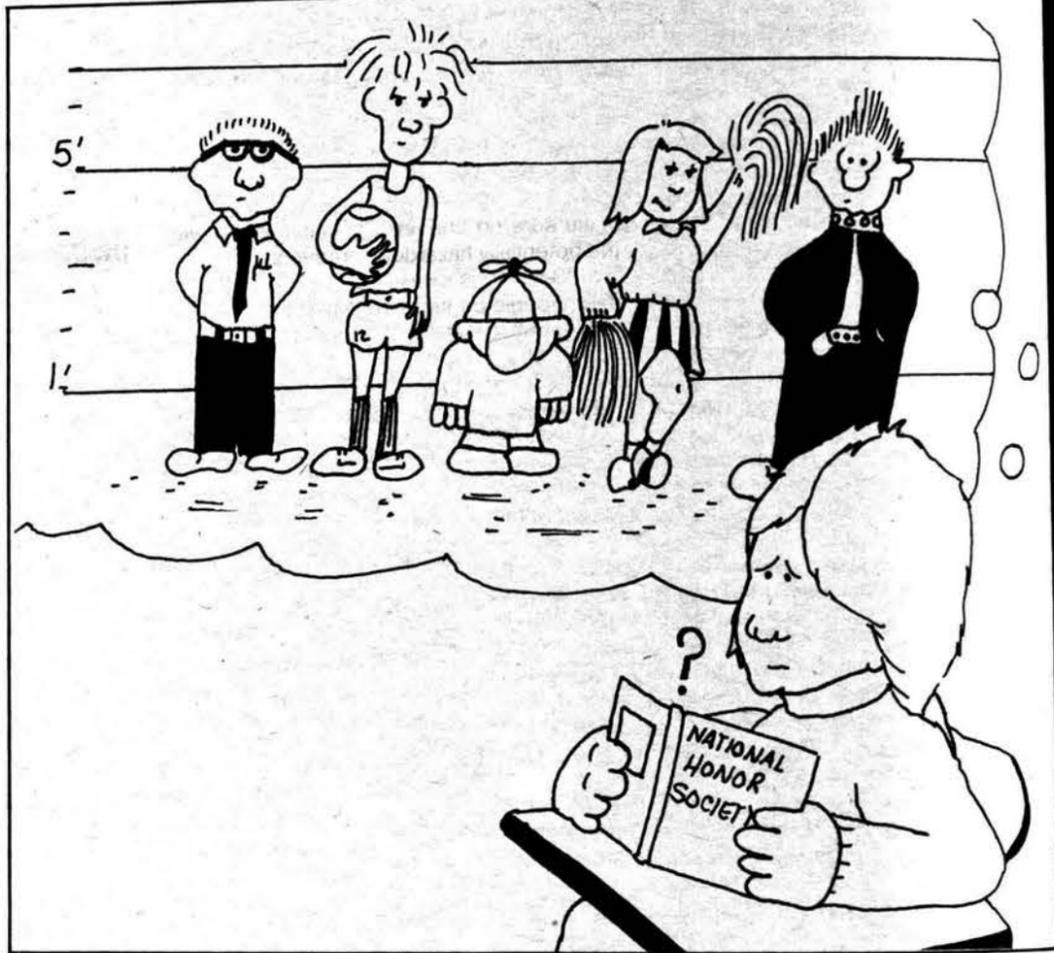
Letter to the Editor

We would like to thank the student body and the faculty for the tremendous amount of enthusiastic support displayed at the recent State Tournament. However, we would also like to take this opportunity to make some suggestions which might improve school spirit and morale in the future.

We feel that the lack of school spirit at Central is a direct result of the administration's unwillingness to encourage the student body to support Central's teams. If in-school pep rallies were held at irregular intervals throughout the year, we feel that not only would the teams benefit, but also students' academic work. One should also realize that sports are an integral part of the formative years of high school to both the athletes and the spectators. In-school recognition of our athletes' achievements is as important as academic recognition. The two areas form somewhat of a coalition; if athletics create excitement, then academics will benefit from the surge and vice versa. After all, everybody needs to take part in a morale-raising experience every now and then.

We do not wish to make a trite impression; however, we think that Central is an excellent school, and its pride needs to be rejuvenated. We simply feel that it is disappointing to think that a school, which had fielded as many high-caliber teams in the past three years as Central has, only generates some excitement at the last game of the season. Although school spirit is intangible, perhaps a stronger feeling can be instigated for the future.

Thank you,
The Varsity, Junior Varsity and Sophomore Cheerleaders



Registered Opinions Comments on Honor Society

Students in this week's poll were asked if they are satisfied with the existing National Honor Society selection, activities, and membership at Central, or if they feel change is needed.

Jello Craddock - Senior (pic at right)

NHS selections should be based more on involvement in school activities, not just academic merit. It should include sophomores and juniors, too.

James Cryslar - Sophomore (pic at right)

If it helped students to get into colleges, I'd support the National Honor Society as a club. I don't think it's too much to ask to raise GPA standard.

Amy Frame - Sophomore

I think it's a good idea to open National Honor Society to more students. If it was a club it would be more powerful. Also, it's not a bad idea to raise standards a little bit.

Adrienne Biggs - Senior

I think that now, because of the lower GPA requirements, a lot of people are in it that shouldn't be.

Retraction

Michelle Frost, junior, and Mike Salerno, sophomore, were accidentally left off the honor roll listing in the Register's last issue.



photo by Bryan Hill

Registered

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Centralites rap with varied lingo



Rocky Road

Linda Rock

It has been said that English is the most difficult language in the world to master. Slang, colloquialisms, and plain misusage of words all help to complicate the, once pure "King's English."

Meandering through the courtyard the other day, I thought that I had crossed international boundaries. Every table that I passed seemed to be speaking a different language. I soon realized, however, that the people were all speaking English modified, perhaps, but English just the same.

Mesmerized, I "hung around" to "chew the fat" and to maybe even learn some new jargon.

"Mumsy and Daddy are transporting moi via Mazurati to an Ivy League after our summer at the beach," I overheard a green-and-pink-alligator-clad girl slur as I passed the first table in the courtyard. Translated, she meant that her parents are sending her to college at one of several prestigious schools on the East Coast in a very expensive car after a summer on the French Riviera. Preppy language is characterized by adding "y's" at the end of names (ie, Muffy, Buffy). No Preppy library would be complete without the Preppy dictionary — also known as the L.L. Bean catalog.

The colorful shades of hair of a lively group in the corner intrigued me to draw closer. I found this group discussing some rather "trendy" matters. Included in their

conversations were government ("socialism now") and the economy ("poverty is patriotic"). They tended to blame everything on a guy named Sid. And some poor guy named zippy is given credit for being a "pin head."

"Like, he has the most totally awesome bod," I heard a girl squeal. This one really caught my interest. To this group, extremes play a key role. Either something is "totally awesome" and "tubular" or it is "grody to the max" and requires the speaker to be "gagged" with a kitchen utensil.

Speaking of slang, "jamboxes," according to my mom, is probably one of the most confusing words conceived by our generation. Jamboxes have nothing to do with jelly. A "jambox" is what is used when one wants to "jam." "Jam" as in what Jessica Haynes did in the final eight seconds of the basketball game against Marian.

Vandalism: Broken vending machine glass, M-80's, damaged wall are 'against grain' of Central teaching

Sarah Thalling

The sounds of shattering glass will be heard no more. The AAA Vending Company replaced the glass in Central's lower courtyard candy machine with plexiglass. Vandals broke the machine's glass and took items three to four times in February, according to Central custodian Troy Schopen. Each repair cost around \$132 for glass replacement and labor alone, according to Mr. Frodyma of AAA Vending. He said in time items were stolen from the machines \$320 were lost.

Troy Schopen said the vending company threatened to remove the machines if another break-in occurred. But Mr. Frodyma said that "there is that possibility if the vandalism got rampant." He said the machine hasn't suffered real damage, only the glass.

"It's wrong. It's unfair," Central principal Dr. Moller said of the recent spree of vandalism at Central. "It's going against the grain of what we're trying to teach... [but] it's always been with us. We can work on minimizing it, but we can't wipe it out entirely."

\$50 reward

Presently Central is offering a \$50 reward to anyone who can supply information concerning the vandals. The reward money would come from the Student Activity (S.A.) fund, Dr. Moller said. Central gets a 20 percent profit — which contributes to the S.A. fund — from the machines' candy, Mr. Frodyma said.

Sophomore and junior homerooms approached the subject of vandalism and the reward in early March.

During the homerooms, school officials talked about the fireworks — probably M-80's — being set off in the bathrooms and halls, junior Jeff Wageman said.

In addition to recent M-80 explosions in Central's halls, the shattering glass of the vending machines, and the hole kicked in a first floor wall, traditional forms of vandalism exist. Students still write on bathroom and study walls and classroom desks; they still throw ice cream cones, milk shakes, and full milk cartons from upper floor windows onto unsuspecting students eating lunch in the courtyard below.

"Ninety-nine percent of the people

would never throw milk in the courtyard. They drink the milk," said Mr. George Taylor, who is both head of security and the only security employee at Central. "Students could very easily be hurt. They could look up and get hit in the face with a milk carton."

'Everybody's job'

Mr. Taylor said the problem of dairy projectiles could be stopped easily if only "milk monitors" standing at cafeteria exits would make sure no one left the lunch rooms with the potentially hazardous products.

"Security is everybody's job. All the vandalism could be stopped with the help of the students," he said. At Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, if candy machines are vandalized, they are shut down for a week; and if it happens again, they are shut down for two more weeks, he said.

"Everybody's attitude is 'I don't want to be involved,'" he said. "We got to have the student body involved much more than they are now."

"Whenever you have these things happen, you think security is lacking," Dr. Moller said.

"If we hired more eyes, I don't think that would do a whole lot of good. It's [the need for more security] not enough to make that expenditure justifiable. . . I think we do the best we can with what we have," he said.

Mr. Taylor said Central had four security employees in the early 70's, until the 1975-76 school year. "We could use more eyes," he said, but he explained that it wouldn't make a great difference.

Mr. Taylor said some Central students know who has broken into the machines, but they refuse to cooperate with school officials. Meanwhile, if the machines are vandalized again, they may be removed. The machines' removal would punish all students first by eliminating a source of convenient quick energy, and second by subtracting from the S.A. fund, which supports athletics, fine arts, and various other Central activities.

Students point fingers

Dr. Moller said several students have given names of people they thought were the vandals. The reported students will have conferences with administrators.

"I'm highly suspicious of several," he said. But he said Central must have undeniable evidence before it can punish anyone or pay the \$50 reward.

"I would [report them], but I have a



Spilled milk flung from afar dirties courtyard during the lunch hour.
photo by Bryan Hildreth

background of vandalism myself," said one Central student, who said he has seen the same group vandalize the machines twice. "Someone who told me. . . I'd do a number on them."

"I think it's an increase since last year," junior Dawn Velasco said of Central's vandalism. "It wasn't anything like now. We've got at least one machine a week broken into," she said.

"We expect [a break-in] maybe once a year," Mr. Frodyma said of the high schools his company works with. "We have more break-ins at Central than at other schools, but it hasn't been bad until this rash."

Motivation?

"We might be going through another

rebellious period like we were in the 60's. Kids didn't want to have anything to do with the establishment," Dawn said, attributing vandalism to an attitude of restlessness.

The student who witnessed two of the break-ins said the group probably vandalized "for the money and for something to snack on. People come from out of school."

"There's nothing really mature about it," the former vandal said. "They do it just to get their kicks. . . if once or twice they get away with it, they might try other things to see if they can get away with them."

"Pride in the building, the school, [and] the organization is what we need to work on. We seem to have a handful of people — they're beastly. . .," Dr. Moller said.

Unusual musician: John Fogarty

While many Centralites were taking piano and violin lessons, Central sophomore John Fogarty was learning to play the bagpipes.

John became interested in the bagpipes about four years ago when he attended a meeting of the Irish-American Cultural Institute with his parents. At the meeting, the "Omaha Pipe and Drum" performed. "I was really impressed with them," John said of the musical group. After seeing the Pipe and Drum, John talked to his parents about the bagpipe performance and decided that he would like to take lessons.

John then began taking lessons and playing with the Omaha Pipe and Drum. John said that he wore the full Irish uniform while playing with the group. The uniform consisted of black shoes, spats, flasher, and kilts. He wore a tunic with tails in the back. He also wore a plade, which is worn across his body like a cape.

John said that he has really been playing the bagpipes on his own for about a year. He stopped playing with the Pipe and Drum because of financial disputes with the group about his doing solo performances without their permission.

PROM TIME



84

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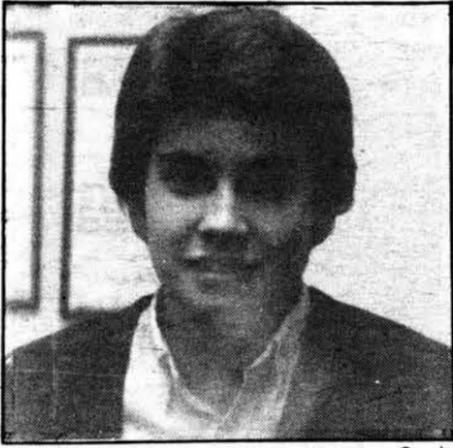


photo by Roxanne Gryder

Jeff Olson, winner of the Bausch and Lomb Scholarship, is awarded for his science achievements.

Senior wins award

Jeff Olson, senior, was chosen for the Bausch and Lomb science scholarship. The scholarship is given to one student in each school. Jeff was chosen by the Central Science Department.

Jeff said, "The scholarship was for two thousand dollars provided that I go to Rochester College, but I don't plan on going there. It is more like an honor."

Jeff said that Mr. Brown, Science Department chairman, gave the notice to Dr. Wolff, Jeff's physics teacher, who announced that Jeff had won the scholarship.

Jeff is planning on attending Iowa State University. He will major in math but said that this is tentative and may change.

Play to be comedy

Once again spring approaches and with it the spring production. This year's production is **The Clumsy Custard Horror Show**.

Try-outs were held March 6-8 and call backs were on the 9th. Cast members were announced on the 12th. Cast members include: Seniors; Peggy Aufenkamp, Sabrina Curto, Patty Mallory, Linda Rock, David Rhodes, and Julie Sutton. Juniors: Jill Anderson, Linda Andrews, Tracy Glass, Paul Crumbliss, Jeanne Dow, Bob Fagan, Courtney Fryer, Sherraine Green, Jeff Hiatt, Ray Johnson, Steve Kosowsky, Jane Kurtz, Karen Pallesen, D.C. Pulliam, Brooke Rose, Heather Short, Jeanine Trim, and Dawn Velasco. Sophomores: Mark Brady, Lynda Diemont, Bill Gehrig, Mathew Gurciullo, Sarah Holmes, Debi Howland, Colleen O'Brien, Alisha Owen, Todd Peppers, Dan

Rock, Terry Scholar, John Timm, Stephanie Vatsndal, Rob Weberg, Tracy Webster, Shelly Wolford. Student Director is junior Leanne Lovings and assistant student directors are junior Heather Short and Linda Andrews.

"It's a comedy in which everyone in the audience can get involved too," said one cast member.

The play will be presented on May 4, for a student matinee, Saturday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Volunteer honored

Junior Dana Wayne was selected by the Omaha Volunteer Bureau as Central's Volunteer of the Year. One person is chosen from each Omaha-area school for giving "sustained, consistent, and effective community service in the voluntary sector," according to the Bureau.

"I never heard of volunteers being recognized," Dana said. "I was excited but not just about the award. The honor counted more." Dana's volunteer service included working as a candy stripper at Methodist Hospital, doing artwork for the Jewish Community Center, and "taking care of kids" as a Children's volunteer. In addition to this, she and her parents worked in an emergency room and Child Life Center last Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The volunteers entered their names and work with their counselors. Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central Counselor, said a committee of teachers and counselors voted on a winner. Criteria involved the nominee's record, hours, and type of work. Dana was selected out of a group of 13.

The Volunteer Bureau will honor its "unsung heroes and heroines" with certificates and a Holiday Inn luncheon on May 8th.

Girls' Boys' State

Girls and Boys 1984 State Government will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska June 3-9. The representatives chosen from Central High School are juniors Evangelos Argyrakis, Tim Gaherty, Debra Carter and Gwen Oberman. If the representatives are unable to attend, alternates have been selected to take their place. The alternates are juniors Jeff Wageman, Daniel Mirvish, Anneliese Festersen and Marcia Peters. Representative Gwen Oberman said, "I don't know what to expect, but I'm looking forward to the experience."

Students who are selected are chosen from three possible sources. First, all social studies teachers at Central are asked to suggest which students they believe would be

capable of being a good representative. Then, the counselors from Central also contribute their nominations. To be sure that no one is overlooked, a notice is put in the bulletin so that anyone who wishes to be considered as a representative may add his name to the list of nominees.

This list compiled of all the students' names is put before the selection committee. This committee consists of Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, Central counselors, and Central's social studies teachers.

The representatives live on the University of Nebraska at Lincoln campus for their time spent at State Government, holding elections in which they are the candidates. After the elections are concluded they practice running their own state legislation, which is instrumental in their leadership education. But, State Government doesn't end when the representatives return home. After their return they attend leadership seminars every month in which they hear speeches from prominent members of the community.

Janet Kent, one of last year's representatives, said, "It was an exciting experience, and I met many people with whom I still keep in touch."

Ball honors seniors

The JROTC Military Ball was held on March 15. The event took place at the Peony Park Ballroom from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The ball was open to all JROTC cadets and the public with the cost of \$5.00 per couple. Tickets were sold by JROTC commanders and staff.

According to Major Richard Yost, Central JROTC instructor, the ball was given for several reasons. One reason was the presentation of all the battalion commanders' promotion to lieutenant colonel. Another reason was to honor the senior officers. Yost felt a prime reason was for everyone to have a good time.

Also present at the Military Ball were Dr. Edward Klima, Burke principal, and Dr. Jack Taylor, OPS superintendent, who gave remarks to those in attendance.

This year's ball was hosted by Burke High School. Burke cadets were in charge of supplying music, reserving a location, organizing the "grand march" (a presentation of school colors), and decorating.

The evening began with Burke's presentation of the school flags and national colors. Following events were the presentation of the swords given by the saber team of Burke

cadets under which a procession of and their escorts walked. The cadet dance and a mixer dance were then commenced. A drill team demonstration given which preceded the dance. Music performed by the Burke High School Band.

Remodeling financial

Dr. Jack Taylor announced at the March 5, 1984, meeting of the Omaha Board of Education that The Peter Kiewit Foundation is financing the remodeling of the Central auditorium in honor of the late Peter Kiewit who was a student at Central.

Up to \$300,000 is to be granted for a project which will include 1420 new seats, a cost of \$134,000 a new cat walk at a cost of \$35,000, and a new sound system \$20,000. Also a new ceiling, spotlight chandelier, and expanded pit areas will be included in the construction.

Mr. Ray Daniels, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Peter Kiewit Foundation that as a whole the committee decided memorial would be best manifested renovation of the auditorium. However memorial is not to be confused with a for Peter Kiewit does not give grant public institutions because they are reported by taxes.

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal that he was contacted and asked to provide what he and some teachers thought would be good physical improvements. He said, "Of course we just had everything done we could want. This will be the frosting on the cake. We are extremely grateful."

Chess takes state

The Central Chess Club has won a record consecutive state championship. The state championship tournament was held March 3-4.

The club members are Gene H. junior; Arthur Kosowsky, junior; John McArthur, senior; Erik Rogers, senior; Ty S. junior; and Mike Waussem, senior.

The Chess Club never lost a rated tournament this year, according to Ty. He said, "The championship was not even close. It was all wrapped up after one round."

John McArthur transferred to Central from Benson High on February 27 and immediately began playing chess for Central. He is the top-rated high school player in the city, according to Arthur.

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A focus on teenage sexuality

Central has had 33 this year, and numbers are up across OPS. Four teens in ten get pregnant every year in Nebraska. These are just statistics. But who do they affect?

Sarah Thalling

At least thirty-three girls have been pregnant at Central since the beginning of this school year, according to Mrs. Geri Thomas, Central High School nurse. Some have already delivered their babies, four of which were born prematurely. A few opted for abortion, but the majority kept the children. Others currently continue to attend Central's classes, while some go to ISCs (Individual Study Centers) to work at their own rates, facilitating prenatal care and doctor appointments. Most were in the tenth grade, Mrs. Thomas said. And then there were those who never told the school nurse about their pregnancies.

I would guess the majority [of pregnant teens] are white middle class.

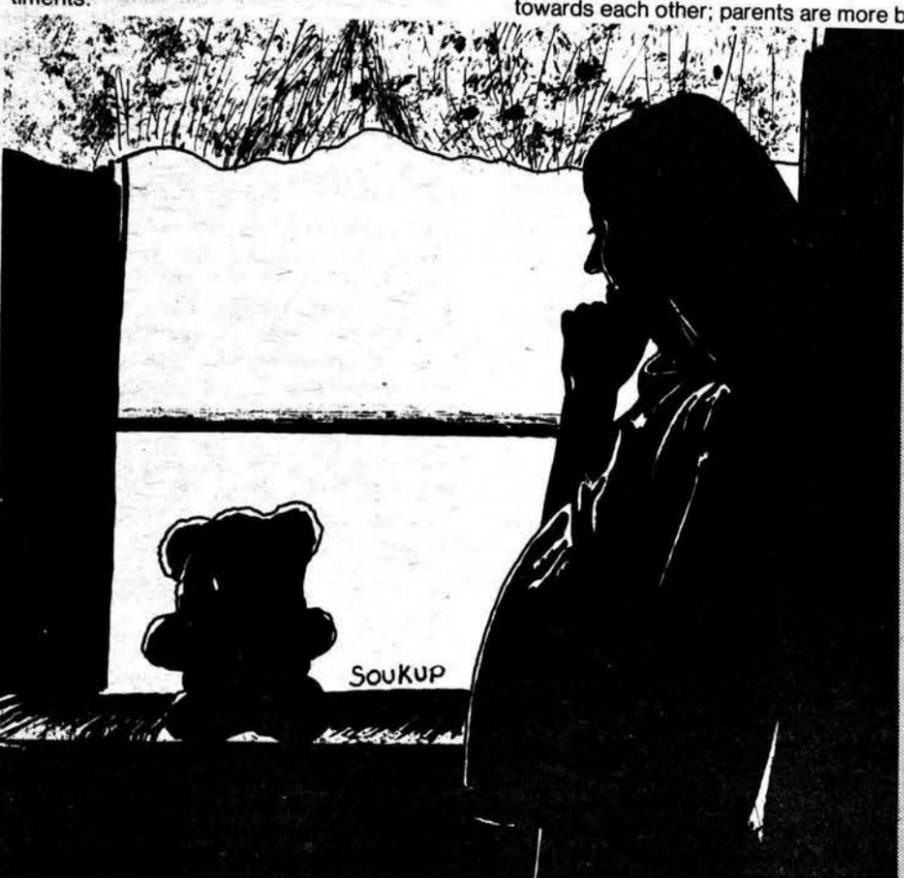
"I would guess the majority (of pregnant teens) are white middle class," Ms. Dani Ehrenheim, Education Coordinator and Counselor for Planned Parenthood in Omaha, said of Nebraska's adolescent pregnancies, explaining that the number of blacks is small in comparison.

The black illegitimacy rate for Douglas County teens was 94% in 1981, although nationwide black out-of-wedlock births declined somewhat in the 70's. However, Mrs. Thomas said that ratio between black and white pregnant girls at Central is "pretty much 50-50."

Teenage pregnancy seems to be coming from the back seat, and as the phenomenon becomes more and more prevalent, the stigma against it has declined. Ms. Ehrenheim gave dimension to teen pregnancy in Nebraska for 1982:

- * 4,687 teens became pregnant
- * 1,810 of those teens had abortions
- * 106 were 15 or younger
- * 2,849 babies were born
- * Teenagers accounted for 40% of Nebraska's out-of-wedlock births
- * 40% of Nebraska's teens will get pregnant every year if this trend doesn't reverse
- * 80% of those pregnant at age 17 or

younger don't graduate from high school. As these statistics have piled up since the sexual awareness of the 60's, adults and teens have changed their attitudes about teenage pregnancy. Although one sophomore said of teen pregnancy, "I think it's wrong to be pregnant when you're a teenager — I don't think you're ready for it," very few Central students echoed her sentiments.



"It's their own business what they do in their own personal lives," Dede Swanson, sophomore, said of teens who get pregnant. "I don't think it really matters."

"It's not unacceptable; it's not acceptable either," senior Larry Anderson said.

A teenage girl is "too young to have children. She's almost a child herself," one sophomore girl said, continuing that the mother has "no kind of future."

However, Dawn Bruckner, who attended Central as a senior until this semester when she had her baby, said she has many plans for the future, including marriage and college at UNL.

"When I was in high school thirty years ago, girls would drop out and get married (if

they got pregnant)," said Mrs. Zerse, who went to high school in a small town. "In the cities girls were having abortions — if they could afford it."

"It used to be if a girl got pregnant, she stayed at home. Now they mingle with other kids. (Then) she was called a bad girl, and you didn't associate with her," Mrs. Thomas said. "Now girls are more compassionate towards each other; parents are more broad-

me any problems. . . Right at first it'll hit them funny, but after a while they accept it."

One sophomore said that when teens have sex, they don't think about contraceptives or pregnancy. "They think, 'I can get away with it this time.'" She continued, "Nothing's wrong with sex; some people just aren't ready for it. . . Today's teenager is a lot more sophisticated. They know about 'doing it,' not the consequences."

Ms. Ehrenheim said the average age of those taking advantage of Planned Parenthood's services is between 20 and 24. "The majority of our patients aren't teens."

According to statistics, half of all teens use no contraceptives at all when they begin to have sex, and most seek out protection only after a pregnancy scare.

Mrs. Marlene Bernstein, Central teacher, speculated that many teens don't use available contraceptives because with them sex isn't romantic or spontaneous, and "it's too much trouble."

'Females have to face the consequences. It took two to make that child.'

Teen pregnancy poses medical problems for both mother and child. "The vast majority are afraid to tell their parents. They're not getting prenatal care," Mrs. Thomas said. Most keep the news to themselves when they need to visit a doctor monthly to check for malnutrition, anemia, and lack of iron in the blood, she said. "Their bodies haven't fully developed."

Larry said, "Economically it's a problem; socially it's not too much of a problem." He said welfare needs to be regulated more.

Unwed mothers presently receive \$280 for each child in ADC (Aid for Dependent Children) payments until the child is 18, the total cost amounting to \$60,480 per child to taxpayers if the mother consistently qualifies for welfare, Ms. Ehrenheim said.

Teen pregnancies carried to term also are economically damaging to society and individuals because they remove young women from the work force and add to unemployment and poverty. Without high school diplomas, many teen mothers fail to find jobs that pay enough, so they remain on welfare.

Teen pregnancy causes social problems as well. "Females have to face the consequences," Mrs. Zerse said, listing broken homes, emotional damage, and child abuse. "It took two to make the child. It's one more example where women pay. Things don't work out equally at all. A girl has to take responsibility, and a boy does not."

Should a 'private' subject receive more attention in class? Sex education fights 'conservative' attitude

Tracy Bernstein

From September 1975 until September 1976, Mr. Stanislawski, Central guidance director, previously Burke School counselor, embarked on what he later deemed a "year of frustration." Mr. Stanislawski and another counselor tried to institute a "sex education course (at Burke School) that not only dealt with sexuality but also feelings and values."

After ultimately getting a voluntary, "with parent permission only" course that would "discuss things all the way from sources available for students in the community to homosexuality," approved by parents, educators, and school board, Mr. Stanislawski commented that he and his colleagues felt they had really accomplished something.

The next day, Mr. Stanislawski found out that the course had been cancelled.

According to Mrs. Patricia Wallington, Central biology teacher, in Bellevue a few years ago the school board decided that the chapters on reproduction in the biology textbooks (the same books currently used at Central in advanced placement biology) were unsuitable. In order to salvage the rest of the text which the school board approved, the pages on reproduction were glued together.

These incidents are just two examples of what has occurred when schools try to approach volatile subjects, specifically sex education.

Currently, some aspects of sex education are being discussed in the classroom. For example, the biology textbooks include a chapter or unit on reproduction. But according to Mrs. Wallington this "barely scratches the surface."

"It's the technical stuff just like any other part of biology that went in one ear and out the other," said Valerie Sterck, biology teacher. "Sex is a moral subject in addition to being a physical one. It is difficult to draw boundaries between the schools' and the parents' responsibilities."

"It [sex education] is considered a topic to be handled in the home but if not, it needs to happen somewhere," Mrs. Wallington said.

"[High Schools are] not shirking their responsibility, but they're not being pioneers," said senior Pat Salerno.

Mr. Jim Fuxa, assistant supervisor of health, p.e., and athletics in OPS cites that there are units in health taught in elective courses in specific grade levels. Mainly this occurs in home-economic classes where they deal with family development and pre-natal development.

Mr. Fuxa thinks that the schools could go into more depth in their teaching to a certain point. "Anyone who plans to be a parent should have something taught to them. A lot of people think having children is cute, like a pet — someone to give love to."

Mrs. Jenene Rauth, Central home-economics teacher, teaches classes in child development and family living. According to Mrs. Rauth, child development deals with subjects from pregnancy and pre-natal care to adolescence. Family living focuses more on helping to give insights into sexual values and standards and family crisis.

"There is quite a bit of freedom to teach and meet students' needs," said Mrs. Rauth.

"The question has been raised many times if a sex education course is reasonable. Most [biology teachers] agree it is needed and are willing to teach it," Mrs. Wallington said.

According to Mr. Fuxa, the main problems in instituting a class is "where to fit this in to teach it and where to get money for a staff."

If financial problems were overcome, what should a sex education class include and who should teach it?

"It [the course] shouldn't be required; most of us already know about [sex and pregnancy]. They just think 'it can't happen to me'. . . but if they talked about contraceptives and clinics then it might be helpful," Valerie said.

Pat thinks that such a course should focus on the social and moral aspects of sex — something that "causes someone to stop and think."

"The course should include just what the name says — education — and all topics involved," said Mrs. Wallington, who thinks that such a class could be taught more effectively with outside reading, discussions, and speakers that students could understand and relate to, including discussions on contraceptives.

And when should the education start? "Probably at eleven-years-old for the physical, and by the ninth grade they'll be more ready to handle the emotional," Mrs. Wallington said.

How could the course be combined with something already taught? In district 66 at Westside High School a voluntary sociology course is taught to seniors. According to Dr. Jim Findley, Westside vice-principal, the course includes a "popular" unit on sex education.

Discussions and speakers include controversial groups like Planned Parenthood.

Is sex education really needed? "I think it's a much-needed course — even if it's offered as a mini-course. We need it so badly that it's a shame to look the other way and pretend everything is OK when it's not," said Mrs. Wallington, who labels Omaha a conservative city.

Pat calls the concept of sex "a gray area for most young adults."

Another issue in all this, according to Mr. Stanislawski, is "What are schools for. There are limited resources and unlimited needs."

"I don't know if schools can teach morality," said Mr. Fuxa.

But meanwhile, "Children are having children; it's very sad they weren't able to turn to someone for information," said Mrs. Wallington. "It's like the blind leading the blind — where can you go except into a ditch?"

Competitions, changes

A Cappella anticipates future

by David Albrecht

The 1983-84 school year is far from over for the A Cappella Choir at Central High School. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Robert McMeen, Central Vocal Music Instructor, has several events planned for the remainder of the school year.

One upcoming event for the choir is the exchange day with Burke High School's Concert Choir, directed by Mr. Jeffrey Sayre, on April 11. This is an event that Central and Burke have participated in for the last three years. This year Burke will come to Central. At the exchange day the two schools will spend about 20 minutes each in the afternoon performing songs that the choirs have been working on this year. According to Mr. McMeen, "It's not to be competitive, it's to create a positive feeling between the two schools. After the choirs sing they will spend time talking and getting to know each other."

On April 28 the A Cappella choir will go to district competition in Papillion. The choir will wear their complete uniform and perform in front of judges. Last year the choir received a one rating at the district competition.

On May 12 and 13 the A Cappella Choir will be making their annual trip to Kansas City, Missouri. At Kansas City, the choir will be involved in competition at the Worlds of Fun amusement park with other schools in the midwest. The choir will ride the bus down to Kansas City wearing their complete uniform. As soon as they arrive in Kansas City they will perform for the judges. After singing, the choir will have the rest of Saturday and Sunday to enjoy the amusement park. They will

return to Omaha on Sunday evening.

Finishing the year the choir will perform in their annual Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 15, two days before the senior members of the choir finish the school year.

Mr. McMeen is planning several changes for the vocal music department at Central for the 1984-85 school year. Mr. McMeen is hoping to acquire a part time vocal music instructor. "Right now it looks good," Mr. McMeen said of Central's chances for getting a new teacher. If the new teacher does become available Mr. McMeen would like to add some additional classes.

Mr. McMeen would like to add a music theory class to the school. The class is designed for the student who plans to continue on in college with music. Mr. McMeen said that it will be a full credit course and homework will be given.

A Major change with the A Cappella choir next year will be a change in the uniforms. According to Mr. McMeen, A Cappella has worn the traditional burgundy blazers for about the last 20 years. Next year the school board will be purchasing new choir robes which will become the new A Cappella uniform. Mr. McMeen said that his reasons for changing the uniform is to save money for the members, who had to purchase their own blazers, and also to give the group a more uniform appearance. Mr. McMeen said that lately the choir has been getting several different shades of burgundy. With the new purple robes the choir will once again have a complete uniformed appearance.



Central - 'Lites'

Shops inspire sweet thoughts

by Four's Company

Candy shops have always been a treat, and their popularity seems to be increasing. The downtown has some wonderful shops worth visiting.

C. Clair's, in the new Braiker-Brandeis mall, has cookies home baked, fresh, and delicious. If you are a chocolate chip lover, you will love these.

In the Old Market at Pam and Loie's, one can obtain home made fudge. Something fresh and all natural seems to be the new key to success. Imported candy is also available.

How Sweet It Is is one of the best, handmade and natural, even molded anything one could request. Truffles of every flavor and filling, and chocolate covered strawberries are available on occasion. All the jelly bellies in single and mixed flavors can be bought in any monetary amount desired.

No matter what your craving is, there are sweets and chocolates available to fit your needs.

Students view government "close up"

Fourteen Central High School Students will soon be packing their suitcase for a week long trip to Washington D.C. Because of a program named Close Up, O.P.S. students now have the opportunity to meet with congressmen and explore areas of government at the nation's capital.

Dr. G.E. Moller, principal, and Mr. Jack Blanke, Social Studies Department Head, will accompany the following students on the trip: Lisa Bashus, Gia Ciummo, Dan Coonce, Jan DiMauro, Jim Keene, Heidi McGee, Gwen Oberman, Marcia Peters, James Quigley, Kris Smith, Bob Soukup, and Amy Story, juniors; and Wendy Novicoff, sophomore.

The Omaha Public Schools have been involved with the Close Up Foundation for

two years. This is the first year Central has been involved. All OPS schools will be participating this year. Mr. Jack Blanke said that this is an opportunity to give students an understanding of government from Washington rather than a textbook.

Seven hundred and thirty-nine dollars required to attend the trip. The School Board appropriated three thousand dollars to be divided as scholarships between less than six students. James Quigley said, "We had a meeting for diehard Close Up people and they drew names from a hat. Twelve of the fourteen students received a scholarship."

Parents reflect on coming graduation

As high school seniors contemplate graduation, they sometimes regard the occasion with mixed emotions. For many, the end of high school represents a transition between childhood and adulthood, with new emphasis placed on independence and responsibility. Teresa Bloomingdale wrote in *Murphy's Law: Have Been a Mother that* "seventeen is the ultimate, glorious age. As a high school senior you suddenly become sophisticated, self-confident, and on top of the world. You are the best, the brightest, the greatest. The graduate!"

Mrs. Bloomingdale's reflections on graduation are representative of one mother's but is this attitude typical of parents? Marie Zinn, mother of seniors Ellen and Marie Zinn, said, "It's really a whole new world opening up for parents as well as for graduating seniors." With regard to parents' emotions, Mrs. Zinn said, "It's really a bivalent as far as you feel. You're sad to see them leave, but you're still happy for the graduate."

Mrs. Judy Tesar, mother of senior Judy Tesar, and Mrs. Sue Stohs, mother of senior Sarah Stohs, also had mixed emotions about their daughters' upcoming graduations. Mrs. Tesar said, "I'm happy in a lot of ways, mostly I'm sad — I feel old. I'm excited for my daughter." Mrs. Stohs said that she thinks how quickly her daughter has grown up is "how sad."

Mrs. Stohs offered her advice for the future by saying that, as she has been relating to Sarah lately, "life is not 50 state wins."

Busing promotes enrollment

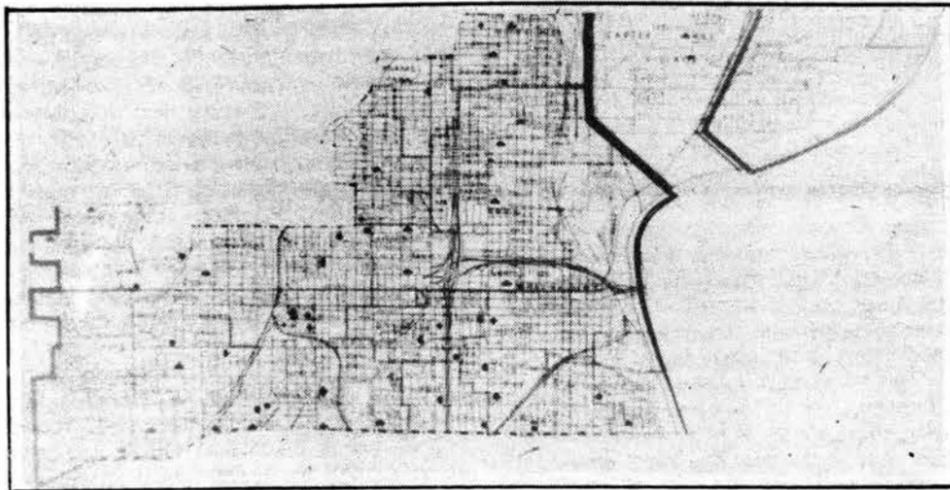


photo by Roxanne Gryder

Pictured is Central High School's attendance area. Many students who live outside of this area also attend Central.

Busing first became a relevant issue in Omaha in 1976 due to court ordered busing for elementary and junior high schools. Although Central, like all Omaha Public High Schools, has no mandatory busing, many students are voluntarily bused to Central.

Approximately 250 of Central High School's students are bused in from outside

Central's attendance area, according to Mrs. Udoxie Barbie, assistant principal. Even more provide their own transportation to Central from outside the area.

According to Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, in general, any first time sophomore living in the Omaha Public Schools jurisdiction, with the exception of

those living in the North High School attendance area, may attend Central with no special transfer or reason. Depending on their race, some student may be considered as racial balance students and ride a free yellow school bus.

Dr. Moller attributed the large number of volunteers to Central's recruitment program and academic reputation. The recruitment program is primarily aimed at ninth graders and includes such programs as letters to parents, calls to ninth graders from current Central students, and open house for ninth graders, and counselors programs in junior high schools. Numerous Advanced Placement classes, award-winning English, math, science (as well as many other) departments, a long standing tradition of excellence as well as newly remodeled building and a new athletic field are among other reasons which Dr. Moller cited for Central's success in recruiting students outside of the attendance area.

Donald Benning, sophomore, lives in the Burke High School area. He said that he chose Central over Burke because of its academic reputation and also because his sisters enjoyed Central when they attended school here.

Senior Mark Ryan rides a yellow school bus to Central. "I could have gone to South, but I selected Central because of the better academics."

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Central sets standard for powerlifting excellence

Central can justifiably label itself the finest high school in Nebraska. Three consecutive state powerlifting champions and highly successful track and football programs, which are structured around the weight room, give the school some reason to believe that it can outlift anyone.

rather he seeks to get students to take lifting seriously. He said, "It is an incentive to get people to perform in the weight room. If an athlete is really into the program, then he'll want to lift."

Mr. William Reed, head football coach, requires all of his backs to participate in track. Many of these backs also participate in powerlifting.

Richard Bass, a junior who took first place in his weight division this year, believes that lifting will help him become a better football player. He said, "Lifting makes you bigger and stronger and faster."

McMenamin believes Central's success can be attributed to talent, dedication, and excellent coaching. He said, "I can't imagine any school having as good a coaching staff as Central does."

Lifting for many students is a year-round activity. Except for a month and a half break following the football season, many students lift all year.

The powerlifting team meets three times a week and works up to and into the track season. On Mondays and Fridays the team will work on squatting and benching. On Tuesdays the team works on dead lifting.

The season begins with about three weeks of general conditioning. Team members will lift 75 percent of their max (the greatest amount of weight that a student can lift) in repetitions of about ten.

Another three weeks are spent on strengthening, during which students will lift 80-85 percent of their max in repetitions of four to six. The final three weeks end with peaking. Students lift anywhere from 90-97 percent of their max in repetitions of one to three.

"The most important thing is that the person is dedicated to the sport," said McMenamin. "No matter what level you are, there is always room for improvement."

While practicing, lifters work with two other students. According to Richard, these fellow lifters play an important role. He said, "Some days you don't feel like lifting. These other two people can pump you up."

Art Thirus, junior, seeks to be his best in all three branches of lifting: benching, squat-

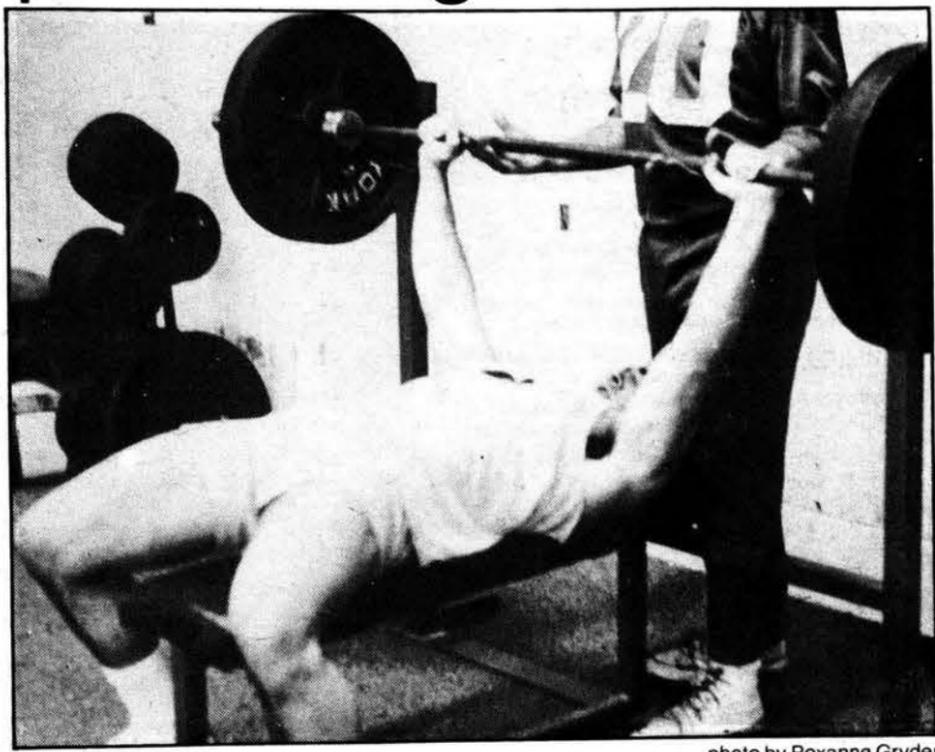


photo by Roxanne Gryder

A Central lifter practices benching. A spotter stands behind him for safety reasons.

ting, and deadlifting. In competition, it is the combined total of these three lifts which determines the winner.

Because Art had worked on all three lifts, including his specialty, squatting, he was able to take first place in his weight division at the state meet. He said, "If I get a good squat, I have an advantage over other lifters. They will have a hard time catching up with me."

'It's been shown that if you stop lifting, you lose anywhere from 30-70 percent of what you have gained during the season

Lifting in preparation for the football season runs from June to August. Reed said, "We emphasize squatting, and in the backs we also emphasize benching."

Rather than stop lifting when the season begins, the football team keeps a program of maintenance. McMenamin said, "It's been shown that if you stop lifting, you lose anywhere from 30-70 percent of what you have gained during the season." Players lift twice a week to maintain their strength.

According to McMenamin, lifting, which has been receiving greater attention in the last few years, has really done a lot towards improving athletes. He said, "There are almost no track records that are more than five years old."

Art believes Central will continue to have the best lifters in the state. He said, "We work hard, and we really take our lifting seriously."



Mr. Joe McMenamin, head track and powerlifting coach, said, "I think that a lot of powerlifting's success has been the result of involvement with football and track. It gets everyone working toward a common goal."

Five years ago, no powerlifting team existed at Central. Weightlifting was used only to strengthen students for football and track.

At this time, McMenamin believed that he had some really strong lifters. Central graduate Terry Evans in particular was very good. McMenamin said, "I felt that they could compete at the AAU level."

Interested students raised money to finance a trip to the AAU meet which was held in Doniphan, Nebraska, that year. Coming in the "teen-age" division, which included lifters as old as 19, Central placed second. The following year, Central again placed second. The meet was held in McCook, Nebraska.

Powerlifting an incentive to get people to work in weight room

Action was taken at this time to create competition between schools. McMenamin and other Omaha coaches got together and decided to hold a state meet of their own. The costly entrance fees of the AAU meet would make the self-run meet considerably more expensive.

For the last three years, Central has hosted the state powerlifting meet. Central has won state titles all three years.

According to McMenamin, he does not intend to create great powerlifting teams;

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Lady Eagles clip Marian to win state title

Miracle comeback needed to propel Central to victory

by Lee Garver

Central's Lady Eagle's basketball team wrote the final chapter of what has been a fairy tale season March 10 with a miracle comeback against second-rated Marian.

In the final seven seconds of the state championship game, junior Jessica Haynes drove the length of the court and finger rolled the ball into the basket at the buzzer. Her game-winning shot gave Central a 58-57 win over a Marian squad that had held a 54-43 lead little more than five minutes earlier.

The Lady Eagles have now won 50 straight games and have also captured their second consecutive state title. By doing so, Central has become the first team in the history of the tournament to take home the state championship trophy two years in a row.

Before entering the tournament, Central had been favored to win. Having won 47 straight basketball games, the team appeared unbeatable.

The Lady Eagles opened play by not surprisingly crushing Ralston 57-36. Central's next game matched the girls against Millard South. The two teams' previous meeting had been a closely fought battle in which Central fought to the wire for a 48-45 victory.

The state tournament game appeared as if it might follow the same pattern. At halftime, Millard South trailed Central by only two



photo courtesy of Sid Stohs

Jessica Haynes, junior, reaches for the ball during the Marian game. Her basket at the buzzer gave Central its win.

points, 30-28. Central's defensive pressure, though, began to take effect upon Millard South in the second half. Central outscored the Indians 20-6 in the final quarter to convincingly win the game 68-49.

The Lady Eagles' next game was against Marian, and it proved to be a more evenly matched contest than the two teams' earlier meeting had been. Semrad said, "Marian had momentum and carried it right into the game.

I thought it had the potential to be very close."

Marian stunned Central in the first half. At halftime, they led 28-24. Excellent field goal and free throw shooting had given Marian an early lead.

Semrad said, "At half time I told my players that as poorly as we were shooting and as well as Marian was shooting, we were only four behind going into the half."

Yet, Marian continued to widen its lead

during most of the second half. With 5:00 remaining in the game, Marian led 56-45.

Senior Maurice Ivy, forward, said he figured it was all over. "I really didn't think we had a chance." Junior Tonya Semrad, guard, said, "At one point we started to get apart."

Time out was called, and Semrad attempted to erase the psychological effect of being down by double figures. He said, "I always think you can come back if you keep the difference less than ten."

Tonya said that when Central frequently double teamed the Marian players they seemed to panic. According to Semrad, Central was in better shape and the Marian players were also very tired.

With eight seconds remaining and Central trailing 57-56, Marian's Pam Grady shot a five foot jumper. Jessica Semrad thought it was going in. But when it did not, she caught the rebound and saw that only two seconds were left. "I pushed the ball up to the floor. I was going to stop and pass to the free throw line, but when I saw that the basket was open I went for it." Following the basket at the buzzer, Central fans flooded the gymnasium.

Semrad said, "I'm very proud of the team that they did not quit. To come from behind to win the state tournament is a tremendous accomplishment."

"The odds were probably way against us doing that. Sure, luck was involved, but I think it also says a lot about the character of the team."

To stay at the top it takes more talent. We had to find out if we had the talent and character to take the season one game at a time.



photo courtesy of Sid Stohs

Senior Sarah Stohs, who played a major role on this year's girls' basketball team, waits for the play to begin.

In the spotlight

Stohs and Deal help team win title

by Glenn Mathews

Central High's girls' basketball team was comprised of 15 choice female athletes. All these young ladies played some part in helping the Lady Eagles win the 1984 State Championship.

Some girls played more important roles than others. Seniors Sharon Deal and Sarah Stohs figured prominently in the success of the Lady Eagles' basketball teams which compiled a two season record of 50-0.

Sharon Deal, point guard, said that she played an important role on the 1983 and 1984 state championship teams. She described her contribution by saying, "My role on the team was to set up the plays and to calm the team down if it needed to be."

Mr. Paul Semrad, girls' basketball coach, said, "She was our floor leader; she kept things under control for us." He added, "She did what was asked of her." According to him, if the team needed more scoring, Sharon could do it.

Sharon said, "I'd rather pass the ball

because if one of the others score off my pass it is just as if I was scoring."

Sarah Stohs, center, also believed that she played an important role on the two state championship teams. Sarah said that her height worked to her advantage. She said, "I think I sometimes intimidated people with my height."

Although she was not one of the highest scorers on the team, Sarah said that she was pleased to have been a part of it all. She said, "I didn't mind not being one of the top scorers on the team because that wasn't the most important thing."

Sarah said that she played better than she did as a junior. She said more self-confidence and more experience accounted for this fact.

Semrad said, "Realistically, we wanted 7-10 points and 7-10 rebounds per game from Sarah, and she produced just what we wanted."

Experience not a problem

Baseball team out to repeat state berth

Central High's baseball program seems to be on the upswing. Mr. Wally Knight, baseball coach, said that there were 58 young men who tried out for the team. "This is a whopping number of candidates for only 29 spots on the varsity and junior varsity squads."

According to Knight, tryouts were prolonged somewhat due to weather conditions which prevented tryouts from being moved from the old gym outside.

Knight said that the tryout period went as well as expected. He also said that the team would be chosen according to the "B major skills." These are as follows: hitting, fielding, and throwing the baseball.

According to Knight, the varsity team returned only five players from last year's state team. He said, "The other guys still have to prove themselves."

"I think this year's team could be as good or stronger than last year's state team because this team has a lot of baseball experience," said Knight. He cited seniors Dan Bye, Pat Salerno, and Tom Zerse as team standouts and "proven varsity players."

Knight cited sophomores Mike Baker and John Finnigan as being potentially good

baseball players. He also cited freshman Mike Buckner for his proven ability. Because of the freshman rule, he will automatically make the varsity squad.

Knight also mentioned the names of outstanding players who made last year's team as freshmen. These two young men are sophomores Travis Feezel and Mike Salter.

Knight said about the Central High baseball program, "In the last two years we have proven that we can compete with teams who previously felt that playing Central was an automatic victory." He said, "We are a year from being one of the top ball clubs in the Metro Conference."

Knight cited Omaha Northwest as being the toughest competition in the Metro this year. According to Knight, Northwest was voted the number one high school baseball team in the conference last year. But, Knight said that Central High finished 13-7 in summer league baseball during the 1983 summer season.

There is one more addition to the Central High baseball program. He is Mr. Dan Connelly, the new head coach of the junior varsity team. Connelly is a graduate of Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska.

Solis reaches finals of Golden Gloves

by John Carlson

Success is limited for most young and inexperienced boxers. For senior Rod Solis, who has been boxing for only three years, the climb up the ladder of success has been a quick one.

Rod began boxing for the 1140 Boxing Club at the age of fifteen when he noticed the accomplishments his older brother was having in the sport. "My brother is a really good boxer, and he has helped me to realize and accomplish my goals along the line."

Boxing takes a lot of work, and for Rod this means about two hours are spent in the gym a night. "I go to the gym about 6:00 and do a lot of rope jumping and sparring. My coach is really tough. He has me work out with the bag and do a lot of shadow boxing."

Rod boxes twice a month and said the wait in between each match is tough. He said, "Before each match I really begin to get nervous." However, boxing in front of large crowds does not bother Rod. He said, "I am concentrating on my opponent so much that I can't hear the crowd when I am in the ring."

Rod boxes in the bantam weight division and recently finished second in the open tournament at last month's Omaha Golden Gloves Competition. He listed that and his

first place finish in last year's novice division of the Golden Gloves as his two biggest accomplishments.

Rod said he was a little disappointed he did not win this year's open but said the open division is a much tougher division. "The boxers I meet in the open division all had more fights than me, and each of the three rounds are one minute longer."

Rod has had only one injury during the three years of boxing and said he thought people over-exaggerate violence in boxing. "Boxing is no different than any other sport. As long as you are in shape and know what you are doing, there is no reason for an injury to occur while in the ring."

According to Rod, it takes a lot of work to make it to the nationals in boxing. "You must finish first in both the city and the Midwestern Golden Gloves before you can qualify for the nationals."

Boxing is taking up so much of his life and restricts his life so much that he thought about giving up the sport. However, Rod has decided to once again try and make it to the finals. He said, "I have begun to train harder, and I am going to keep on fighting until I make it to the nationals."