



photo by Lisa Jensen

Reverend Jesse Jackson spoke to an estimated crowd of 2,000 people at an all-school assembly Friday, March 7. Reverend Jackson encouraged students to work hard in school and to stay away from drugs in his 45-minute speech.

Jackson urges teenagers to resist drugs, violence

Don Benning

"I liked the speech a lot."
"It was great. It made me think."

These responses were made by students after attending an all-school assembly Friday, March 7, featuring the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Reverend Jackson, civil rights leader and former presidential candidate, spoke to an estimated crowd of 2,000 students.

The Jackson trip to Omaha was financed by the National Rainbow Coalition, an organization founded by Reverend Jackson. "When Jackson travels around the U.S. for speaking engagements, he often likes to take time out and speak to young people and encourage them to work hard in school," said Dr. Don Benning, assistant superintendent of Omaha Public Schools and coordinator for the Jackson visit.

According to Mr. Buddy Hogan, NAACP Omaha president, "Jackson has historically made it a point to speak at schools that are not predominantly black or white."

Jackson focused his speech on "excellence in academics."

Jackson said he has always had an interest in young people and would like to show them there are many opportunities open to them if they take advantage of them.

Jackson in his 45-minute speech urged students to say "no" to drugs, "sex without love," and violence. Jackson also stressed the importance of academics.

Jackson emphasized this point of academics by making an analogy. He asked basketball player senior Chuck Koziol to stand. "How many hours do you spend playing basketball every day?" asked Reverend Jackson.

"Three hours," Chuck responded. He then asked if Chuck could wear headphones, watch television or talk to his girlfriend. Chuck answered no to all his questions.

The point Reverend Jackson wanted to emphasize was the fact that "people do best what they do most." Students must pay more attention to their books, he said.

Jackson continued his speech by talking about the growing drug problems young people face today. Jackson asked

For more on Reverend Jesse Jackson's visit to Central, please turn to page 9.

students to stand if they had tried drugs. Several hundred students stood.

Afterwards, one senior, said, "I take drugs often and Jackson's words made me think. I was scared at first to stand, but I saw that he really cared. It made me think about my life and where I was headed. Now I think I'm going to try to get off drugs. Reverend Jackson made me see I really don't need them."

"The speech was very informative and did away with a lot of misconceptions about Reverend Jackson. His speech showed that he cared for everyone, black or white," said senior Latonya Hunt.

"I'm glad Jackson didn't speak on politics," added senior Chris Peterson. "It was amazing how he moved the crowd and scary to see someone with that much control. It will be interesting to see how many take his speech to heart."

Conflicts for band members

Early starting time could become reality next year

Hubler

Omaha Public School is now contemplating whether or not to change its current time schedule for elementary and senior high schools in the 1986-87 year.

So far the proposal's estimated times would have high schools start classes earlier at 7:30 a.m. and dismiss at 2:30 p.m. while elementary schools would begin the day later at 9:10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The change would come in the next couple of months to help cut back on the expense of school bus transportation.

"The operation cost of one school bus each year is \$25,000," said Dr. Norbert Schuerman, Superintendent of Omaha Public Schools. "With changes of the schedules, we could double up on many buses. We could start by taking high school students to their school and then proceed to the elementary routes."

"It is very important because of the economic crisis and the tax rise in Nebraska," Dr. Schuerman explained. "With this plan, we could trim the budget and yet not hurt student programs."

The projected savings could be as high as one million dollars.

Dr. Schuerman stressed that nothing is definite and that it will take time for the School Board to make a decision.

"We need to take a very close look at this for the savings," Dr. Schuerman said. "I would think in the next couple of months before the end of school we will have made a decision."

However, Dr. G.E. Moller, Central High principal, believes that the change is imminent.

"The School Board will not likely turn down something that will save money," he said.

If the School Board favors the idea, Central could start 35 minutes earlier than usual, which could alter some of the school's

"With this plan, we could trim the budget and yet not hurt student programs."

activities that take place before homeroom.

Such activities include zero hour classes at 7:30 a.m. and band practice.

Ms. Lisa Hug, chemistry teacher, has a zero hour class but likes the idea of starting school at an earlier time.

"It makes more sense," Ms. Hug said. "There would be more daytime at the end of school to work."

"Junior high kids will also be more used to the times when they come here," she continued.

"If there are those who could only take chemistry out of the regular schedule, they could wait another year, or we could have classes after school."

Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing teacher, also teaches a 7:30 class

but would rather teach before school if the times change.

"The serious-minded will not find a significant difference from 7:30 to 7:05 in the early morning," Mr. Gaylor said. "Nobody is going to want to stay at school after everybody has left for the day. Psychologically it will not sell."

Dr. Schuerman explained that the savings would help in the school system's budget. "We are not going to pocket any money," he said. "Instead we are presenting the opportunity to minimize the increases in the budget and decrease the chances of making cuts in student programs."

"I do sympathize with those involved with early morning band practice," Dr. Schuerman said. "But there is never a perfect

solution to every problem."

Dr. Moller said that Central's band would be the most affected by a change of time.

"We have to study that area," he said. "We do not know if we would make it into a double period or have them practice after school."

Student reactions towards the proposal had mixed emotions for various reasons. "I could work in the afternoons," said Jocelyn Jepson, sophomore.

Bridget Winfrey, junior, said, "Students get here early enough before eight o'clock and just sit here."

Junior Mollie Kinnamon said, "The change will ruin the practice of having club meetings in the morning."

Dr. Moller said he had no strong feelings in either direction concerning the early start, which was originally brought to the Board's attention almost two years ago and called it another adjustment to get used to.

Viewpoints

How should OPS change its desegregation program, if at all?

Amy Vlasnik, junior

"I think they should continue. It provides a better chance to go to school in different parts of town. You meet people from all areas of town."



Curtis Warren, sophomore

"They should definitely continue. People who live in western Omaha have no other way to get to school. Busing helps you meet friends from other parts of town."



Debi Howland, senior

"They should keep the younger kids in their own neighborhoods. It is easier to bus junior and senior high kids."



Bohdan Lechnowsky, junior

"They should have voluntary busing for elementary school. High school should remain like it is. Central has a good mixture of people because of busing."



Dan Sitzman, senior

"I don't see anything wrong with it. It is important that you have schools like Central. It is good to be exposed to a variety of cultures and students."



Angie Naab, sophomore

"I think for the most part it has worked very well, except for the younger ones who have to go across town."



photos by Mary Turco

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The Central High Register seeks to inform its readers accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance. Letters to the editor are welcomed. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Students publish the Register semi-monthly at Central High School. Subscriptions are \$3 per year. POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Register c/o Central High School, 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102. The Register pays second-class postage at Omaha, NE USPS 097-520.

Busing:

editorial

Ten percent. That is the percentage of students that are bused to Central. On February 18, the Justice Department placed Omaha on a list of cities that could benefit from an end to busing. According to Dr. G. E. Moller, principal, if busing were ended these 170 students could no longer attend Central.

An article in the February 19 issue of the Omaha "World-Herald" stated that the Omaha Public School system was among 47 other districts that were "free to adopt any (desegregation) plan that they wanted." The desegregation orders were dismissed by the courts.

Although the Justice Department may feel that ending the current desegregation program could benefit the district, an end to busing would only harm the district.

A return to busing would be a return to segregated schools. Neighborhood schools may be much closer, but their disadvantages outweigh their advantages.

Although end of busing discuss it works and should be continue

"Busing prepares students who will live in urban areas to live and work with a variety of people"

When students are bused to another area of town, they learn from a mix of students who don't necessarily share the same cultural, economic, or racial background. This is a much better preparation for life. What better way to prepare students for working in the real world than busing?

"Busing prepares students who will live in urban areas to live and work with a variety of people," Dr. Moller said.

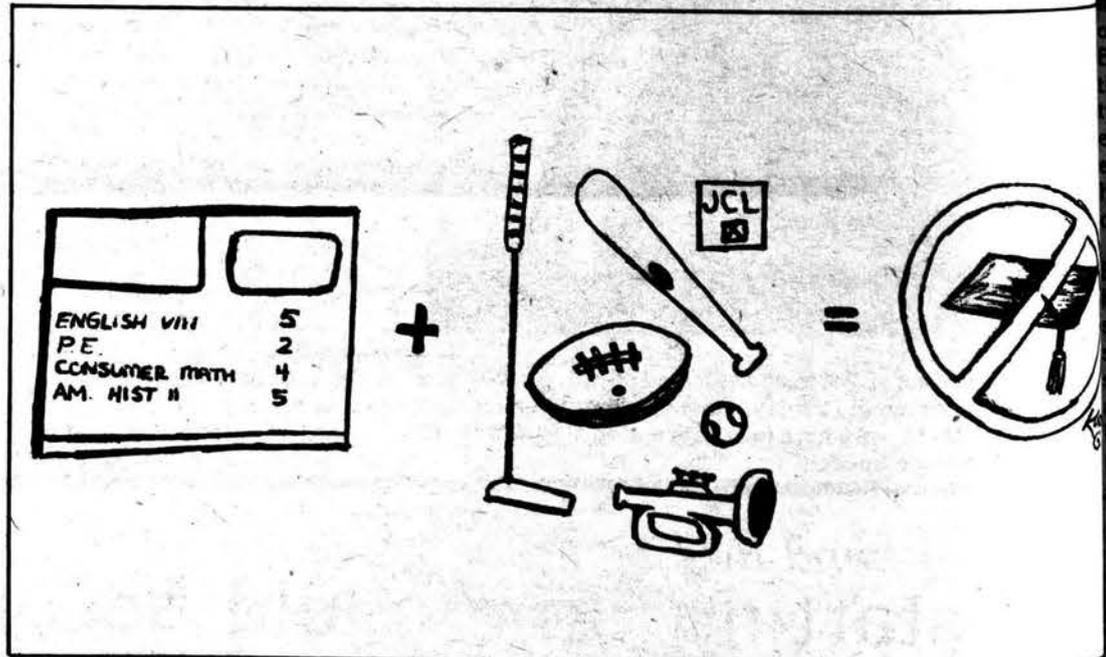
Many people are against busing because they feel it costs too much money. Yes, busing costs 3.5 million dollars a year, but in the long run what is the cost of not teaching students to work and to get along with a variety of people or exposing them to neighborhoods other than their own.

"The greater the variety of students that we can have living together the better. Busing helps to provide a broad education," Dr. Moller said.

Why stop a good thing? Remember the chaos when the district implemented the busing program? Does the district want to go through this again? People have adjusted to busing. It would be ridiculous to readjust to a plan that might not be any better.

Desegregation is worth it. That almost 20 percent of students volunteer to be bused shows this fact.

"Students are getting a better learning values, and increasing their understanding of life," Norbert Schuerman, Superintendent said.



Extracurricular activities

Academics should come first

editorial

No longer will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities if they do not pass at least four classes. The school board recently approved this measure which increased the requirement from three classes to four.

The new rule states that in order to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must pass four credits from the previous semester. This rule goes into effect next fall, using this semester's grades as a basis.

According to Mrs. Sandra Kostos, school board member, the increased requirements coincided with the increases in graduation requirements.

Required classes also
 "The old system simply didn't

mesh with the number of credits that a student needed to graduate," Mrs. Kostos said.

It is time not only to raise the number of credits, as Omaha Public Schools did, but also to make passing required classes such as English and history mandatory.

Basketball, marching band, Spanish club, and all of the other extracurricular activities can be a great experience and a lot of fun, but they should never come about at the expense of academics.

Graduation

Increasing the requirements to include passing all classes necessary for graduation would insure that academics comes first. If a baseball player happens to fail English and history but manages to pass any other four

credits, he will still be able to play. He will be glad when the "big game" rolls around, but so glad when high school is over and it is time to get a good job or go to college.

Some states, such as Texas, do not allow students to participate if they have failed classes or do not meet a certain grade point average. This is strict. Students should still have the opportunity to challenge themselves in hard, unrequired classes, even if it means failing.

Main course

Allowing students to participate in these activities without passing required classes is like giving them their dessert and skipping the main course. In school academics is the main course and should always come first.

Easter Bunny in N.Y. pen



That's the Way It Is

by Todd Peppers

ny ears.

"Who are you?" I whispered, clutching Wallace the bear.

The Easter Bunny smiled, revealing tobacco-stained teeth, and replied in a gravelly voice, "I'm Murray the Easter Bunny, what did ya think I was Smokey the Bear?"

"But, but you're supposed to be sweet and cuddly and kinda cute and leave me chocolate Easter eggs."

Murray stared at me with a hurt look in his eyes.

"Whadda you think I am, a cheapskate who'd rob little boys blind? Look dere under the pillow before you start running off at the mouth."

Murray then let out a large belch and grabbed my penny collection.

I reached under my Snoopy pillowcase and pulled out a photo. It was an eight by ten glossy of Murray bowling, and on the picture was inscribed "Murray's Bowling Castle, 102 East Elm Street. Lessons three dollars an hour."

"Wait a minute, you naughty old wabbit (I lisp when I'm angry). You're supposed to leave me goodies, not rob the house. Murray snorted and grabbed my Mickey Mouse watch.

"Leave you presents and not get anything out of it? Who'd you think I was, Santy Claus? Now shuddup and tell me where your Mommy keeps the silver."

Virginia, that was more than my little mind could handle. I leaped from my bed, ran to the kitchen, and pulled the burgular alarm. The next few minutes were not pretty, but the police eventually managed to take in Murray alive, but not before they tear-gassed the house and blew up the garage.

So, Virginia, there is an Easter Bunny. I'm afraid, however, that he won't be visiting boys and girls for another five to ten years. Murray likes mail, though, and if you wish to brighten the day of a felon, write him in care of the New York State Pen.

Write again if you have anymore questions, Virginia.

Mr. Peppers

Boxes contain valuables



Afterthought

by Vina Kay

important they are to me. I really do have a reason to keep everything I keep.

Eternal friendship in return for colored beads on a safety pin.

You see, I have this vision of little kids sitting in the attic and discovering my boxes. They'll find them filled with everything that was ever important to me. It's kind of like a time capsule and maybe even better than a history class.

Take my eighth grade box for instance. Remember those friendship pins that we attached to our shoelaces? I still have them. I have the designer shoelaces, too. Now that really brings back some memories. Eternal friendship in return for colored beads on a safety pin.

I also have boxes filled with old, dried up flowers and corsages and nosegays. Mom says they're ugly. But she doesn't understand the importance of keeping all my flowers. Just think of all the memories each one brings back. A corsage from the National Junior Honor Society dinner in ninth grade, a nosegay from my first Homecoming dance sophomore year, roses from my 17th birthday.

A huge box is dedicated to my trip to Germany. I kept every single ticket stub, gum wrapper, and shopping bag. I have napkins, matchbooks, and sugar packets from every restaurant. I've even reserved a separate box for packages of German Kleenex.

These are just a few of the many boxes I've collected over the years. I have a box filled with signs, cards, and wrapping paper from my surprise 16th birthday party. I've devoted boxes to specific people filled with letters and photographs and ticket stubs.

Mom calls my collection a "ridiculous waste of space." But I just know that someone out there knows exactly how I feel. Wherever you are, don't be discouraged by all those rude comments. We know what's important in life.

Mr. Peppers,
I am eight years old.
Some of my little friends say there is an Easter Bunny. Papa says, "If you see it in the Central 'Register' it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there an Easter Bunny?
Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West 95th Street
Yes, Virginia, there is an Easter Bunny. Sit down and brace yourself Virginia, I will tell you the true story of the Easter Bunny.
The year was 1975, Virginia, and I was a happy little seven-year-old. It was the Eve of Easter, and as I hung my basket on the mantle, visions of golden Easter bunnies danced in my head. I then jumped in with my trusty teddy bear, Wallace, and soon was dreaming of the Easter Bunny arriving in a Wells Fargo Truck.
A loud crash awoke me from my infant sleep, and I saw standing at the foot of my bed, with his back to me, the Easter Bunny. He had big floppy ears, a cute little white tail, and on his feet were... dirty, dirty shoes? It was then that my dazzled eyes noticed that the Easter Bunny was holding my piggy bank, and instead of dropping a basket of eggs, he had my Dad's new camera.
I screamed in anger and the Easter Bunny dropped my piggy bank on his toe. I let out a curse too foul to repeat and ran around, revealing a most hideous sight. The Easter Bunny had five o'clock shadow. He also had a cigar in his mouth, a belly, a tattoo spelling "Sharon" on his arm, and a large bald spot which had previously been covered by his fake bun-

I cleaned out my room the other day. It took me the entire day. I stacked boxes neatly in my closet, but as I did I couldn't help looking through each one. Whenever my mother came upstairs to check on my progress, I was rummaging through another box.

"I don't know what you plan to do with those boxes when you go to college," she said every time. "You certainly can't take them with you."

That is why I am afraid of college. I know very well that I can't take everything with me. But I don't know what will become of my boxes when I'm gone. I have this recurring nightmare that as soon as I leave home my mother will go into my room and (heaven forbid) open my boxes. Inside she would find what to her is worthless junk — my most valuable possessions.

Then she would do the horrible, the forbidden. She would stuff everything into garbage bags, and my heartless little brother would take them to the front of the house. The garbage man would come and throw them into his truck, not realizing the cruelty of his crime. And that big smasher would compress my valuables into a tiny little square. Or worse yet, Mom would call the Salvation Army and strangers would buy my priceless possessions for nickels and dimes.

You might think I'm overreacting to something that isn't very likely to happen. I haven't found anyone yet who understands how I feel. My friends just laugh when they see the hundreds of boxes piled in my closet. But no one realizes how

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In Brief

Internorth sponsored a poster contest for Energy Awareness and Conservation Week. The posters were judged by Central High Art instructors and a representative of student council. National Energy Education Day was March 17.

Physics Field Day is scheduled for April 5 at Creighton. Students will participate in computer programming contests, egg-dropping competition, and bridge-building contests.

Seniors Jo Krell and David Weill reached the semi-finals at the district debate tournament held at Lincoln Southeast on March 1. The schools that competed in the finals are Creighton Prep and Lincoln East. These schools will go to nationals.

Boy's and Girl's State, sponsored by the American Legion, is an in-depth study of state government. Central's representatives include juniors David Pansing, John Pavel, Michelle Fox, and Kate Madigan. Alternates are juniors Mike Buckner, Eric Weaver, Courtney Koziol, and Martha McGill.

Senior Amy Frame won third place in the Impromptu Speech at the Westside Invitational, February 15. Impromptu speech competition requires that competitors present a speech without preparation.

Sophomore Michelle Miller will represent Central at the Nebraska Hugh O'Brian leadership conference at Creighton June 6-8. One boy and girl from each state conference will be selected to attend the HOBY International Leadership Seminar in Indianapolis August 1-9.

Junior Robert Holtorff will have his artwork displayed on a billboard at 24th and Leavenworth. The billboard sponsored by Internorth, is designed to promote Youth Art Month. Thirty-three billboards are displaying other area school's artwork. The theme of the national celebration is "You Gotta Have Art."

Poster contest winners for the foreign language banquet were sophomore Chelsea O'Hara, first place; senior Karen Grush, second place; and junior Kim Kraft, third place. All winners this year were Spanish students. The contest judges were teachers who do not teach foreign languages.

Senior Marlon Sykes won second place and \$25 in the Wesley House's Martin Luther King essay contest. Junior Krystal Mobley received an honorable mention. Three-thousand students from the Omaha area competed in the contest.

4th in state

Chess club thrives on stiff competition

Sean McCann

Kings, queens, bishops, and knights. These may sound like characters from a medieval play, but they are just pieces from a game of chess.

Current chess club sponsor, Mr. George Montgomery, math teacher, became involved in the club after Mr. Dave Martin, Central English teacher, stopped sponsoring the club in the fall of 1984. Despite missing Metro play that year, the team placed second in state.

Currently the club has approximately 23 members, said Mr. Montgomery. Of the members, eight participate in varsity competition. These team members usually pay their own way to various meets unless the club raises money.

In Metro Tournament and Metro Conference chess team placed third behind Bryan and South, while beating Prep, Boystown, Gross, Millard North, and Roncalli. In the Metro Tournament, Central tied South in division play, but South was allowed to continue playing because South beat Central in regular season play, Mr. Montgomery said.

Throughout the year the team plays each other and a computer program, Sargon III, to study variations, how to apply them, and how to counterattack them. A variation is the way a player uses his pieces to defend his king while attempting to capture his opponent's king.



Sophomore Larry Snider holds his head in disbelief as Andrew Myer, sophomore, makes a move during a chess club practice.

photo by Tim Com

Usually the team meets every Tuesday after school, but while preparing for state, the team meets everyday. Mr. Montgomery estimated that students spend two and a half to three hours a week preparing, while he spends between 10 to 15 hours preparing prior to state competition.

Despite such intense preparation, Central's chess team only

Throughout the year the team plays each other and a computer program, Sargon III, to study variations, how to apply them, and how to counterattack them.

placed fourth in state. "It was pretty good for such a young team," said Mr. Montgomery. With no seniors, the whole team is eligible to return next year and will have plenty of experience in competition which other schools

might lack. This increased experience will also help players cope with the tension of meet next year.

"We should have an awesome team next year," said junior Robert Holtorff, chess club president.

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April 3, Thursday:
English, Reading Drama, Drafting

April 4, Friday:
Social Studies Music, Military, P.E.

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Parents plan prom party

Laura Murray

Parents, Educators and Pupils (PEP) will hold a post-prom party on May 3 after prom. The event will be at the Downtown YMCA from 12 am to 6 am ending with a breakfast.

"The thrust for this year's post-prom party came from last year's PEP," said Mrs. Jane Meehan, PEP coordinator. PEP members last year didn't have enough time to plan it for the prom.

The organization that has helped Central and other local high schools with their post-prom parties is PRIDE. Pride was formed to let parents help their kids with drug-prevention.

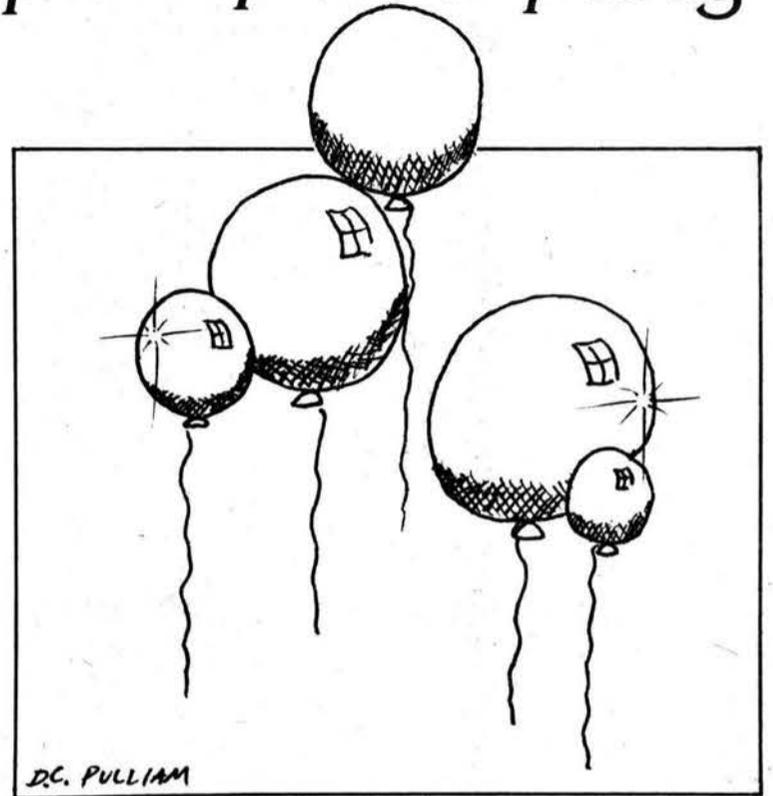
Stimulate interest

At a November PRIDE workshop, Westside, Millard North, and Ralston High schools explained their post-prom parties and encouraged other schools to participate in the parties. "These workshops helped to stimulate interest in alcohol/drug free parties," said Mrs. Meehan.

Later a student, an assistant principal, and five parents from Westside talked to Central's student council about their successes with their post-prom parties.

Although student council is not directly helping, some student council members and other Centralites are planning portions of the party.

On March 6, a group of Central parents and students toured the Downtown YMCA in order to view the facilities available for the post-prom party.



The many facilities include a pool, the racquetball, basketball and volleyball courts. Dancing and movies will also be available.

Racquetball courts

PEP has donated \$350 to this event, and the Downtown YMCA gave Central a reduced rate for the private party. PEP will also receive food donations for the event.

This is the first year that the Downtown YMCA has held a post-prom party, but other YMCA branches have done it in the past. According to Mrs. Meehan, the Downtown YMCA is encouraging the idea.

Despite PEP's enthusiasm, some students feel that the party may not be successful. "It's a pretty good idea, but I don't think it's going to get the results they want, at least not the first year," commented senior Becky Reynolds, student council president.

"No plans"

PEP hopes to make the post-prom party an annual event for students. "A lot of kids have no definite place to go, and we are just providing an alternative to drinking," explained Mrs. Meehan.

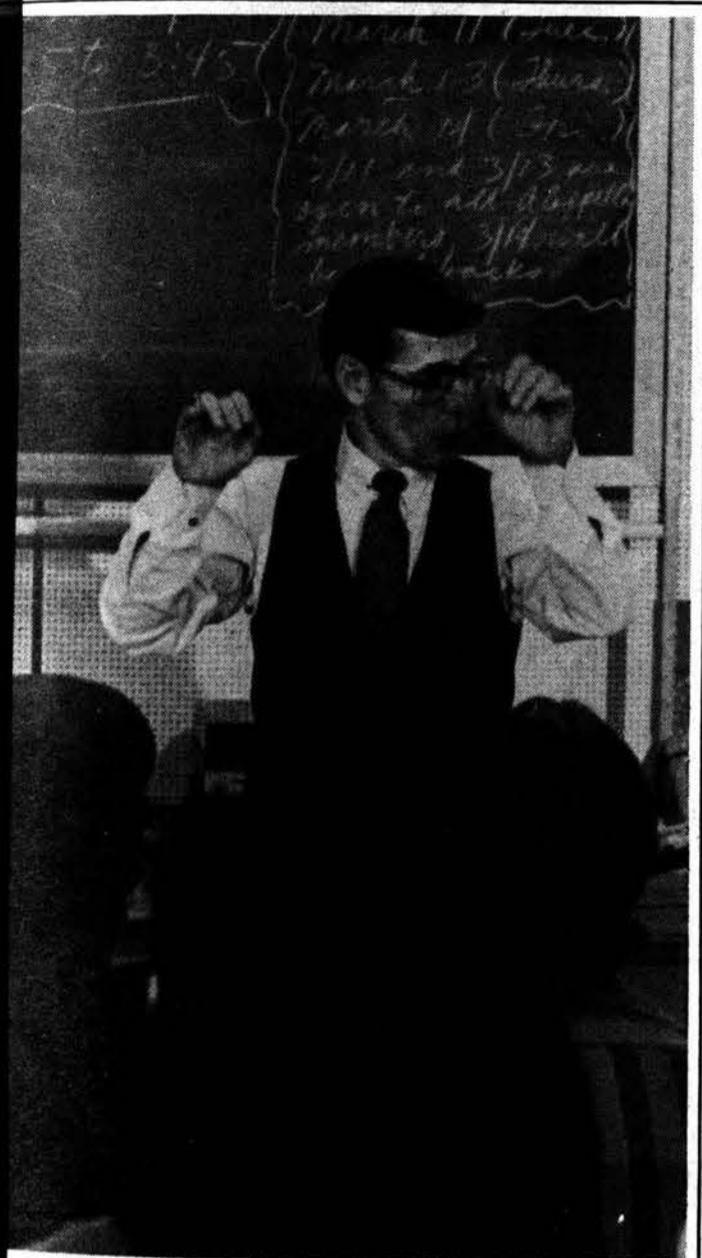


photo by Shanda Brewer

Robert McMeen, music department head, and Mr. Stan Standifer, physical education instructor, won an afternoon off on their Recognition Day, March 3. Physical education assistant supervisor, Mr. Jim Fuxa taught Mr. Standifer's classes and OPS administrator Dr. Norbert Schuerman conducted Central's A Cappella choir.

Teachers extinguish fire in music practice room

Peppers
The ringing of the fire alarm may be a familiar sound to Centrites, but on February 28 students evacuated the building when what was an actual fire.

When the fire alarm sounded, I grabbed my keys and ran to the alarm box," said Central principal G.E. Moller.

It was just about to turn the alarm off when Mr. Jones came running over and said it really was a fire. I then went to the infirmary and announced that it was a drill. I didn't want to say it was a fire because some students might panic."

Blackened walls

The fire started in the southwest practice room of the music room. The cause of the fire was unknown, and in addition to destroying the practice room, the fire blackened the walls and damaged a piano.

"Mr. Schmidt was the one who discovered the fire," said vocal music director Mr. Robert McMeen. "I don't want to sound dramatic, but it was because of his swift and courageous action that the fire didn't spread."

Mr. Stanley Schmidt, assistant vocal director, was between classes when he discovered the fire. "When I walked by the practice room, I noticed there was a big glow coming out of it," said Mr. Schmidt. "I walked in and noticed that the piano cover, which was lying in the corner of the room, was ablaze. I shouted at Mrs. Allender, our accompanist, to pull the fire alarm and when I turned around again the flames were a foot and a half high."

Waste can

The next three and a half minutes were hectic ones, Mr. Schmidt said. At first he tried stamping the fire with his foot, and when that didn't work he

"When the fire alarm sounded, I grabbed my keys and ran to the fire alarm box."

tried to smother the fire with a waste can.

Mr. Richard Jones, Central assistant principal, finished the job by throwing a bucket of water on the fire, and then squirting it with an extinguisher.

"I didn't even think about getting burned," said Mr. Schmidt, "but when I got home I noticed that the hair was burnt off my hands."

"The waste can didn't work, so I pulled the piano over to the other side of the room and tried rolling the waste can back and forth over the fire. It didn't seem to be doing any good, so I ran and finally smothered it."

The last time Central had a fire

it was anything but minor. "The date was March the 10th, 1977," said Central chemistry teacher Mr. John Williams, "I will never forget that date."

The fire was in a storeroom that was located between rooms 349 and 311. The fire started when an 18 foot section of the shelving collapsed, spilling countless varieties of chemicals on the storeroom floor.

Chemical closet

"I heard this horrendous crash and was dumbfounded to see a cloud of dust coming from the storeroom. I walked over to the room and by the time I opened the door there were flames. I told

the students to leave the room, that this was not a joke, and as I grabbed the fire extinguisher Mrs. Buresh tried to pull the fire alarm. The office kept turning it off, assuming it was a prank, and it wasn't till I found an administrator that the building was evacuated."

The fire destroyed the chemical closet and did extensive damage to the two classrooms before being brought under control. Dr. Moller estimated that the fire did close to \$100,000 worth of damage, and it was several months before the classroom could be used again.

"The only funny thing about the fire was watching the firemen trying to get up to the building," said Mr. Williams. "They couldn't get the trucks over the lawn retaining wall and instead had to walk up to the building."

The Law and you

Hotel parties

Legal age doesn't deter room renting; hotel owners welcome 'lock-in' efforts

Mike Meehan

Homecoming and prom conjure up images of teenagers testing their maturity and independence. However, these words form contradictory images in the minds of high school students, such as time to party.

Where do these teenagers go to party before and after prom and homecoming, is the question that rises. Sometimes they may go to a house, and yet other times they may go to a hotel or motel.

Sue, a Central junior, (the names of the students have been changed) said, "I started going to hotel parties my freshman year. I was really scared because we had to sneak in the exit because there were cops all around the hotel."

Why do students risk renting a room if they have to sneak in? "You don't have to worry about the room because it's not yours. You can sit in privacy and do what you want," answered Sue.

"Most people have a room, and the girl almost expects that you have one or are planning on going to one," said Al, a senior.

Cleaning woman

Robin, a senior, explained, "It's great because there are no parents, no phone calls, no neighbors. Nobody knows where you are except the people you want to know. It's like having your own house because you don't have to worry about anything getting broken or messed up because the hotel will clean it up."

Since the legal age to rent a room in Nebraska is 21, high

school students either ask an older brother or sister to rent it for them or use a false identification. In some cases, parents will actually rent a room for the kids. "The first time I went my date's cleaning woman got us a room. The second time one of the people who were with us had their mom get the room," Sue said.

Mr. Max Copenhever, a clerk at the Thrifty Scot Motel, said that he once saw a father rent a room for his 16-year-old daughter. "The girl had about ten people in her room and trashed the room pretty bad," Mr. Copenhever said.

"Understands teenagers

Of the students interviewed, only Al said his parents knew where he was going. "The reason why my parents knew and let me go is because my mom understands teenagers. My dad was a little harder to convince, but I told him it was a place where you could crash out and it was better than driving around all night," Al explained.

Mrs. Brenda Holbrook, manager of Embassy Suites Hotel, said, "Many parents let their kids go to hotel and motel rooms because they won't have to worry about the house getting ruined and they will also know where their kids are."

The usage of hotel rooms is not limited to Central alone. Darren, a senior at Creighton Prep, said, "I have been to a lot of other school's dances and we always go to a rented room. Everyone does it. It is not just limited to one school."

"All the high schools are different, but there are always those people who won't rent rooms, but then there are always those who will," explained Peggy, a Marian junior.

Hotel and motel managers try to combat this problem by asking for age identification and reserving the right to refuse to rent a room to anyone. "If the people are obviously rowdy or unruly, they won't get a room," Mr. Copenhever said.

"We call the schools to check on the dates of dances, homecomings, proms. On prom nights we double our security which consists of deputy sheriffs who can actually make arrests," Mrs. Holbrook explained.

"If any parties are found, the people are kicked out and their money is refunded," Mrs. Holbrook said. "If minors are found with alcohol, it is dumped out and the kids are sent home."

Post-prom parties

Many minors do not realize that they and the person who signed the hotel register are directly responsible for any damages to the room, she said.

Post-prom parties and lock-ins are alternative activities high schools are planning for proms. Hotel owners and managers welcome these efforts. "I would love it if the school systems got something together for the kids after the dance," said Mrs. Holbrook.

However, Mr. Copenhever said, "A kid usually gives an adult \$10 to get a room so no matter what people do if the kid wants a room bad enough he can get it."

Taking this risk may not be worth it, according to

Shoplifting

Vina Kay

Nobody else is around. It would be so easy. The cashier is busy talking to someone else. She's not even watching. You could just stand there and look. And when no one is watching, you could slip it under your coat. You could walk out normally and nobody would even notice. Nobody can see you now. This is so easy. You can just make it out the door without ...

"Just where do you think you're going?"

A cold, firm hand grabs your wrist tightly. You freeze. What just happened to you? It seemed so easy.

This hypothetical situation really does happen. Thousands of cases each year," said assistant city prosecutor Marty Conboy. "Shoplifting is an ongoing problem, and it doesn't seem to be getting any better."

"It's a problem everywhere," said Mr. John Garland, director of loss prevention for Brandeis department stores. Thirty percent of the shoplifting at Brandeis is done by people who are not even supposed to be there, he said. Not only does it affect the store itself, but it has a negative effect on other customers, said Mr. Garland. The number of prices must be marked up to pay for our losses.

Undercover detectives

Stores are really cracking down, according to Mr. Garland. Security devices at large department stores such as Brandeis include cameras, undercover detectives, and mirrors. Sensormatic cameras at store exits if they are not removed by a shoplifter. The Sensormatic is helpful in that it deters potential shoplifters from even attempting to steal, said Mr. Garland.

Smaller businesses do not have access to such elaborate security devices, said Ms. Mary Thomsen, pharmacist at Cris Store. "We depend on the individual attentiveness of the person who works there. If a person knows we're watching, he won't even try to steal."

Store layout is an important factor in deterring shoplifting, according to Mr. Mike Fratt at Homer's in the Old Market. "We have counters in front of our pre-recorded tapes, check-out counters at the front door, and extra employees during our busiest times."

About 50 percent of the shoplifters at Homer's are caught, said Mr. Fratt. "They'll take anything small. It gets worse in the winter months when people are wearing heavy coats."

Local parking violations result in tickets, towing

Margi Shugrue

It is almost 3:20. Tests for this week are finally finished. You cannot wait to pick up that sweet girl you met at a party last week and take her to the game and a movie. The bell rings. You dash to your car, eager to get home when you notice something is missing — your car. Oh no, could it have been towed? And you just got a ticket last week!

Because of Central's downtown location, it is impossible to accommodate all those who wish to drive to school. Students are susceptible to receive tickets, warnings, or being towed because of illegal or unauthorized parking.

Hearing principal Dr. G.E. Moller's report on the intercom announcing that Joslyn Art Museum, Central's neighbor, was towing vehicles identified as having owners attending Central, Deby Fleishner, senior, ran to Joslyn to find her car already in the grips of a towing truck.

Reserved parking

"I offered to pay them \$40 on the spot, but they wouldn't let my car go." Furious, Deby went to the tow company and paid \$40 in addition to signing many forms. "I didn't think it was fair. Even though I was a senior, I didn't have a student parking permit." After much discussion Dr. Moller agreed to give her a permit.

Mr. Donald Treaster, Joslyn head of security, said that they check for unauthorized parking every day. "There are large signs explaining that the space is 24 hour reserved parking for visitors of Joslyn only. Violators either don't know or can't read."

Joslyn used to distribute tickets to offenders warning them but not demanding a fee. Now, if the same car is seen periodically, Joslyn usually decides to tow. "I don't want teenagers to waste \$40 like that, but if someone breaks the rules, there has to be a punishment."

In addition to unauthorized

cars from Central, Creighton students and nearby businesses often park there. Since Joslyn is not open until 10 am, cars parked in the area before that time are unmistakably violators, said Mr. Treaster. For the last three years Mr. Treaster has worked at Joslyn, the new school year means reinstating Joslyn's policy to new students and reminding the old.

Full capacity

Big events with 500 to 600 people cause a great hassle if unanticipated cars use spaces because they expect a place to park and they pay admission, Mr. Treaster said. He compared Joslyn's policy to a family's policy. "Would you like someone to just decide to park in your driveway?"

In Central's two lots, space is limited to mainly seniors and teachers, each lot reaching a full capacity daily. Mr. George Taylor, security aide, makes an effort to check whether cars properly display Central identification. If not, the automobile is given one warning, and a second violation leads to a discussion with Dr. Moller deciding if a tow company should be called.

This year approximately eight to ten cars have been towed. "Students come to the office upset and must talk to Dr. Moller. He reminds them that they had been warned once."

Weather conditions determine if Mr. Taylor will make his rounds. "I check more during warm weather. When it's so cold out, my pen won't write."

Right to challenge

Parking violations on city streets are in the hands of city authorities. Officer Mr. Phillip Huston of the Omaha Police Department explained that meter technicians are responsible for checking expired meters in designated areas of the city. Uniformed patrolmen handle all other parking violations. Complaints are often called in rather than police looking for violations.

"We're usually so busy, people

bring problems to our attention. Officers on duty in neighborhoods also look sometimes for offenders," Mr. Huston said. An expired meter fee is \$10 and all other violations are \$15. Violators may send in the money or appear in court on the date specified on the ticket.

Mr. Huston said every citizen has the right to challenge the accusation in court. The officer is then subpoenaed in court and a decision is made. Even if no fine is levied, one is still subject to court costs.

One day Kirstin Lillegard found her car mysteriously gone after Road Show tryouts. She was parked in the alley between the student lot and a Creighton house. Besides being towed, Kirstin received a ticket for "blocking the alley," which Kirstin questioned. Kirstin had to pay a total of \$51; \$40 for towing and \$11 for the ticket.

Court fees

"I called a court officer and told him what happened and that I objected." He told her that she may oppose it in court. Kirstin chose not to waste the time or money for court fees. Kirstin still parks in the same place but closer to the wall. "I don't think the police should be so strict when we have such a bad parking situation here."

Students who use the UNO library are often confronted with a parking ticket. Senior Pat Volkir received two tickets which he has turned in and another he has kept. Each ticket costs \$5, but the fee for visitors who take them to the security office for the first offense is waived.

When Pat drove a car with an intransigent sign, he simply tore up the tickets because his car could not be traced. Pat said that many students use a ticket they received in the past by placing it under their windshield wipers in an attempt to trick security into thinking they have already acquired a ticket for the day.

But in order to be completely safe, Pat parks in the church parking lot across the street.

ent of excitement could haunt you forever."

photo by Tim Combs

attracts teenagers; presses 'crack down'

most effective security device, according to Mr. Fratt, is new shoplifters. "When word gets out that it is not so easy to steal from a particular store, people don't try it." When they do catch shoplifters, he said, they always prosecute.

"If someone is not respecting our atmosphere, why should we respect them? We give our customers the opportunity to enjoy our store. If someone abuses it, we'll definitely press charges," Mr. Fratt said.

Penalties for shoplifting, regardless of age, are severe, according to Mr. Conboy. The first offense if it is under \$100, a class one misdemeanor, is up to six months in jail and/or up to \$1000. The second offense, a class one misdemeanor, is up to one year in jail and/or up to \$1000. The third offense, a class four felony, is in the state penitentiary. If the offense is over \$100, the first offense is a class one misdemeanor, and the second is a class four felony.

(not her real name), a senior, never had to face these penalties. When she was in eighth grade, she would go to Westroads Mall to shoplift. "My friend and I took all kinds of stuff like books, hair accessories. We tried everything."

Stuffed animals

After being caught once when trying to take a lighter at a store, she never tried it again. The store did not press charges, she said, since she only had the lighter in her hand. "They let me go as a case." Kathy said she never felt guilty for the shoplifting.

The reason for the lack of guilt, according to Ms. Thomsen, is that shoplifters see it as an impersonal theft. "It's not a human being stealing from. It doesn't feel like you're hurting anyone." (not his real name), a junior, has never been caught for shoplifting. He started about five years ago. "I've taken everything from stuffed animals. Sometimes it's something I really like. Sometimes I just do it. I don't know why." His problem got worse about five years ago, that he was stealing five times each day. "I've been in jail a lot since then. I know it's not right and I don't have to do it. I just do. I would never do it if I got caught."

"It's a real gamble," said Mr. Conboy. "In the long run it's not worth it. Once shoplifting is on your record, you can never get it off. The moment of excitement could haunt you forever."

Reyes Syndrome strikes two midlands teenagers

Kurt Hubler

With the wide spread of influenza this winter, two cases of Reyes Syndrome have already been reported in the Midlands this year.

While one of the patients, a 19-year-old Iowa State college student, is fully recovered, the second, a 16 year old Lincoln girl, is awake after being in a coma for two weeks and is now starting to function normally.

"No one knows what causes Reyes Syndrome," said Dr. Carl Gumbiner, Head of Intensive Care at Children's Hospital. "But it is related to viral infections such as influenza or chicken pox."

Chicken pox

"Toxic reactions occur during recovery from these illnesses; then something other than the infection makes the brain or liver sick."

Children and adolescents are normally the ones who encounter the disease because it is at that period in a person's life when they are most susceptible to chicken pox and other infections.

"It seems to follow a pattern of occurring in three years," Dr. Gumbiner said. "Not many cases were reported last year, while this year we already have two positive ones."

Dr. Gumbiner also explained that many people base the history of Reyes Syndrome with the taking of aspirin to fight the original infection.

Best prevention

"Actually no one knows why there is a connection," he said. "It had been noticed by just looking at the numbers of those who had the disease and finding out what medicine they were taking before they got it."

To be assured of a full recovery against Reyes Syndrome, medication and hospitalization is almost always necessary.

"There is no particular medicine for the disease," Dr. Gumbiner said. "The treatment is basically through supportive methods, like giving the patient oxygen through a respirator or medicine that will keep the brain from swelling if it begins to."

"Some cases are mild and resolve on their own, while the severe ones progress to death if untreated."

Even with treatment, Dr. Gumbiner said death or after effects such as memory loss, blindness, muscle weakness, or epilepsy could be the final outcome. While Reyes Syndrome is not contagious, Dr. Gumbiner said that most people are familiar and alert to the disease

Matt Pospisil

A doctor, lawyer, teacher, and engineer; these may all seem like typical occupations students will pursue after college. However, some students are considering a career related to religion.

Although she once thought about being a pastor, junior Lisa Prescott is now thinking about becoming a social worker. "I like to work with people and help people with problems," said Lisa. She stated that she would like to incorporate religion into her counseling, but she doesn't "want to push my religion on anybody."

Lisa explained that it was her religion that encouraged her to help others, and her career would be an expression of "faith through actions."

Although he felt God and religion were special in high school, "I felt priests were looked upon as failures and unattractive," said Father Tom Greisen of Holy Cross Church. He explained that after he went to college, he was "often depressed and unhappy."

However, after talking to a priest, Father Greisen visited a seminary. There he found that priests were "sincere about learning and people. At first I struggled with the commitment, but I eventually fell in love with the profession," Father Greisen said.

"Being raised in a Christian home and having a father who was a minister," has prompted Senior Tonya Robards' interest in religion. Presently, Tonya is considering becoming a psychologist because of her interest in "why people do what they do."

"A lot of people are trying to help people mentally, but you can't help people mentally unless you also help them spiritually," explained Tonya.

Although he once thought about becoming a minister, David Holt, senior, is currently interested in directing music in church. During the time David spent at church camp, he listened to "thought provoking preaching" which prompted his serious consideration of a career as a minister.

David grew up going to church every Sunday, and while listening to his pastor he thought, "Hey, I might be able to do that."

"Every teenager that is aware, considers the mysteries of life," said Mr. David Martin, Central English teacher. He explained that as a teenager, he did not know all of the answers to life's questions.

Mr. Martin also said that he has always been interested in other cultures and "how different people answer life's questions." Through his studies of other beliefs, he has become more knowledgeable and tolerant. Mr. Martin said he discovered "we are much more similar than different."

Recently, the minister of Mr. Martin's church, the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, resigned. Although Mr. Martin is not an ordained minister, he will be taking over the duties as minister until a new minister arrives.

"Everyone is interested in why we're alive, what purpose we have, and if life is worth the trouble living," explained Mr. Martin.

Student receives perfect 800 on SAT

Sean McCann

This spring many juniors will take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) hoping to score well for college and scholarship applications. Many will use a test preparation book or course, trying to increase their score even further.

Some will do well, others will take the test again to score better.

Senior Denise Wenke scored an 800 on the verbal section and a 730 on the math section on the SAT. Central principal Dr. G.E. Moller believes this is the first such score in Central's history, but he said no records are kept.

"It wasn't until a couple months after the test that I found out what the score meant. I knew it was good, but not that good. I was a little startled," Denise admitted.

Denise used an American College Testing (ACT) book to prepare for the SAT because it had a lot of similar material. Classes at Central also helped her prepare, especially the foreign language and English courses. "English borrows many words from foreign languages. You recognize many words you've never seen before," Denise said.

A final preparation was pro-

ofreading a church newsletter. "My mother had me proofread a lot of material," Denise said.

Because of her high scores Denise said she has received brochures from colleges such as Northwestern and Georgetown, but she has applied to North Park, a smaller college in Chicago, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Denise intends to major in a foreign language and become an interpreter working for an international corporation or another situation where two people might not share the same language.

Sneaky seniors capture Burger King's Herb



photo by Bart Lovgren

The "Cardboard Capers," otherwise known as seniors Doug Mousel, Mike Meehan, and Bart Lovgren, give herb one last chance to try the "Whopper."

Gerry Huey

Has anyone seen Herb? This question has been asked by the managers of Burger King at the 1902 North 72nd restaurant since February 20.

A six-foot cardboard cut-out of Herb was stolen from the Burger King restaurant on February 20 at approximately 9:20 p.m. The thieves were seniors Bart Lovgren, Doug Mousel, and Mike Meehan.

News of the theft gained national attention as well as local attention. The theft was mentioned on late night talk shows, "The David Letterman Show" and "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson."

The Omaha police were notified of the theft and were given the license plate number of the get-away car. The license plate was traced to Bart Lovgren's house, but the car was

registered to Bart's brother, Bruce, a sophomore at Central.

The police talked to Bart's father who thought the incident was rather humorous. "My dad loved it," said Bart. The police wanted Bart to straighten out the situation with Burger King. No charges were filed against Bart, Doug, and Mike, who called themselves the "cardboard capers."

First Mike was sent into Burger King to "check out the place." Mike returned to the waiting car in the parking lot and told Doug that the place was clear. Doug put on a ski mask and ran into the restaurant. He grabbed Herb and fled in the waiting car.

After making the news, Doug and Bart decided to carry the prank further. They wrote a ransom note that said they wanted 1,000 cheeseburgers in unmarked wrappers. The ransom note

was given to KMTV, Z-92, and Burger King.

Z-92 was the only one to respond to the ransom note. "I gave me something to do after work," said Diver Dan, radio personality at Z-92. Diver Dan dressed up in a dark blue suit and sunglasses carried a briefcase to McDonald's restaurant at 78th and Dodge across from Burger King.

According to Diver Dan only a Kiddy meal filled the ransom note because of lack of time. The ransom note instructed Diver Dan to place the Kiddy meal in the washroom of McDonald's. But Diver Dan found a note in the washroom saying that the Cardboard Capers called the ransom off.

Monday, February 24, the Cardboard Capers changed the ransom to requesting songs, but Z-92 failed to comply, Bart said. "It was a lot of fun, but I advise others not to do it," Doug said.

Family histories: Mapping hereditary disorders

Most Pospisil

Many teenagers may wonder if their body is harboring a disease that could harm them in the future. The answer to such a question lies in the study of hereditary diseases.

From the moment of conception, genes are already arranged and some could be possibly dangerous. "A person is born with susceptible genes which may lead to a disease when triggered by environmental alterations," Ms. Melonie Welsh, genetic counselor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said.

Ms. Welsh explained that a high school student should check his family's medical records for growing abnormalities, mental retardation, or early death. "The family history should go back to at least the grandparents to discover whether a hereditary disease is present," she said.

Ms. Welsh advises a checkup would be followed by recommendations made by doctors. "It is good to have a physical done by a family doctor," Central's nurse Ms. Geri Thomas said. She said that diabetes and high blood pressure were some of the main concerns of students.

"Genetic disorders cannot be cured. Unfortunately they are passed on to other generations that must deal with the consequences and risks."

Mrs. Thomas said that the doctors will ask about family histories and then keep in touch with the student after the physical. "The doctor would alert a student if he saw any signs of a severe illness that could be warded off or tell the student that everything is okay."

In addition, heart disease is becoming an increasingly greater concern for students. A survey conducted by the American Health Foundation in New York City reported that the United States' 13-year-olds rank only ninth in the amount of cholesterol in their bodies. In contrast, U.S. 13-year-olds rank third in weight and fourth in cigarette smoking, the May 2, 1981 issue of "Science News" indicates.

"The risk factors are greater for cardiac illness in adolescents," said Ms. Lorane Dickey of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Family Health Center. She went on to explain that the risk increases for adolescents because those are the ages when students begin to smoke and stop getting good

amounts of exercise. "The highest risk occurs in those students whose families have a history of heart disease," she added.

However, she said that cardiac illnesses in particular were becoming more preventative. Two preventative measures she mentioned were lowering cholesterol intake and, most importantly, quitting smoking. Such changes would markedly decrease a student's chance of developing an illness.

The October, 1985, issue of "Nature" reported the progress made in mapping hereditary disorders. "Since many of the genes now mapped are related to human disease, diagnostic procedures can be rapidly developed. These findings mean genetic counseling in affected families soon may be possible."

Although Ms. Dickey said hereditary diseases were more preventable, Ms. Welsh said, "Genetic disorders can not be cured. Unfortunately they are passed on to other generations that must deal with the consequences and risks."

Jackson motivates youth

Jennifer Katleman

Former presidential candidate Reverend Jesse Jackson used to come to Omaha to see people like Gale Sayers and Bob Gibson, but now he returns to Omaha to talk to farmers, teenagers, and ministers.

"I remember one time I was in Omaha quite some time ago, I was hurrying downtown to make a speech. On the street corners I saw pregnant girls both black and white smoking cigarettes, so I stopped and observed them for a while. It was obvious they needed more than opportunity," Reverend Jackson said in an interview.

"Those kids had to learn that you must do your best against the odds." He explained that this theory relates to a simpler equation he uses today: opportunity plus effort to the third power plus character equals success.

He said that innercity youth such as Central students often have trouble dealing with their fears of the future, nuclear war, drugs, and letting go of the past. In addition to having these fears, teenagers from farm families worry about sustaining their family farm.

"If you keep looking backwards, you will stumble. That's why four times a week I tell 20,000 students to say no to drugs and peer pressure," he explained.

Reverend Jackson became involved in his academic excellence program over ten years ago because he said he spent too many years winning discrimination law suits and not enough time working for multicultural causes.

"If I have to decide between four or five schools in one city, it's a hard choice." When this happens, school systems try to pull several schools together.

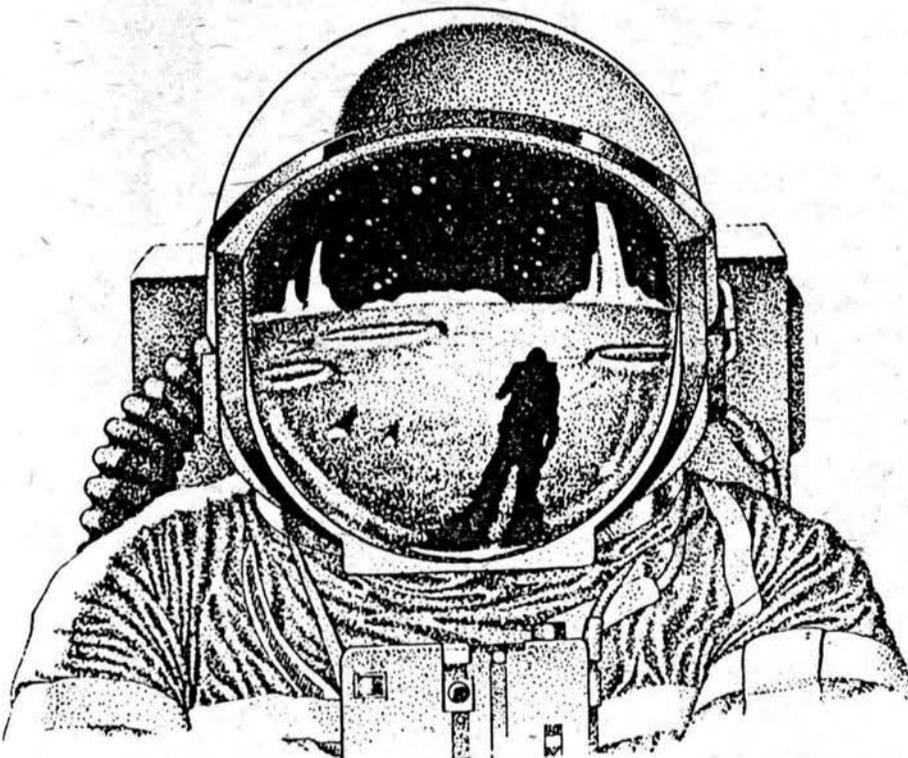
Reverend Jackson will not speak to a school that does not have a certain amount of intellectual, cultural, and ethical diversity. "The schools I speak to must have an ethical common ground with morals like thou shall not kill, rape, or steal."

"Ethical standards if nothing else will survive. That's why I keep trying to get kids to say no to liquor, drugs, and violence everyday," he said.

Because he feels one man can't influence every teenager's behavior, he feels health education, not sex education, would be effective. "This course would teach them about personal hygiene and how to take care of the body and mind. A sense of consequences needs to be taught, like how to say no to sex and drugs as recreation."

Reverend Jackson said he would like to see morals included in school curriculum because "you have to value life to protect life."

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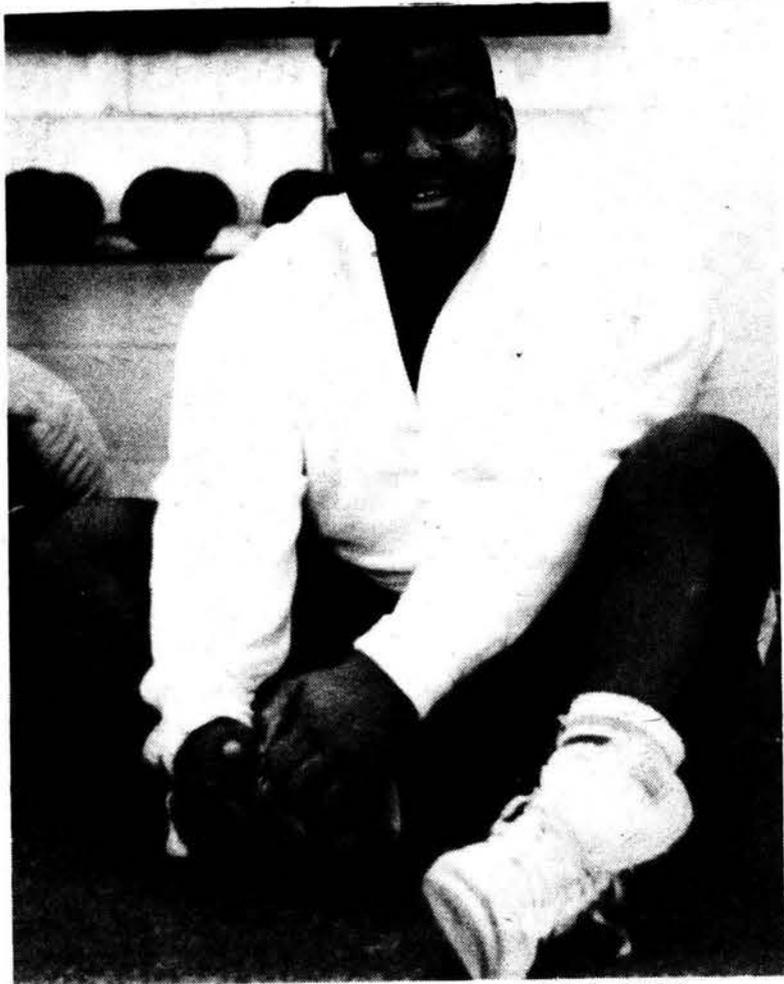


photo by Phil Berman

Senior Evan Simpson had a combined lift total of 1520 lbs. at this year's state powerlifting competition held at Central March 8. Evan won the heavyweight division and led Central to their fifth consecutive state title.

Simpson shoots for 425 lb. bench press

Travis Feezell

He's probably the heaviest person in Central High School. He's been called Central's own version of the heralded William "Refrigerator" Perry. The rec-spec glasses surrounding his head are another telling trademark. But through all these things this one person stands out.

As head football coach Mr. William Reed said, "He is the strongest person I've had in this high school." Junior Evan Simpson may just have a chance to prove that lofty statement.

Evan Simpson, an all-state football player, may have a chance to put his name in the record books for another sport, powerlifting. Simpson may set a national record for his age group in the bench press.

Individual record

"The national record in the bench press for the 16-17 age group as of 1984 was 425 pounds," explained powerlifting coach Mr. Joe McMenamin. "One month ago, Evan bench pressed 440 pounds at a tournament. The meet wasn't sanctioned by the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) or the IPF (International Powerlifting Federation) so the lift did not count. Evan is planning on going to a sanctioned meet this summer to get the record."

If he could break the record, Simpson said, "It will mean a lot to me. It would be great because it is an individual record. It will be me proving to myself that I am better at lifting than some other people."

Simpson has worked hard to gain this plateau. The many hours of practice in the weight room have led to exceptional prowess. "I've worked real hard to get to this point," said Simpson.

"It's funny because Evan sometimes overstrains," explained Coach McMenamin. "Instead of taking days off, he'll come right back to lifting because he's afraid he might miss something."

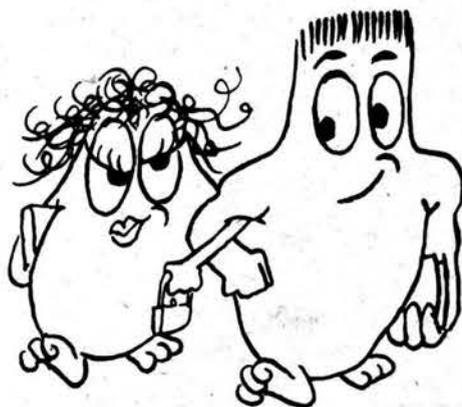
Powerlifter's prime

But what if the opportunity came up for Simpson to lift in "professional" amateur meets such as the Olympic games?

"If I had the chance to do something like that after football, I would probably do it," said Simpson. "Powerlifting to me is a lot of fun. I get a lot out of it."

"Evan has a lot of potential to go on in powerlifting," explained Coach McMenamin. "The powerlifters reach their prime by their late 20's or early 30's. Evan just turned 17, and he may hold all the heavyweight records by next year."

What do you want to do after the prom?



- Eat
- Dance
- Swim
- Play Cards
- Win Prizes
- See a Flick
- Play Basketball
- Play Volleyball
- or Just "Hang Out"



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Gillaspie tackles pro ball



Extra Point

Travis Feezell

was an outstanding baseball player as indicated by his all-state selection as a senior, Gillaspie remembers a lot of other things about Central.

"Great relationships"

"Central was always a great school for me," explained Gillaspie. "I remembered a lot of the teachers and friendships I had there. I had great relationships with my team members, and even today, I still keep in touch with them."

"I remember Mark as an excellent hitter," said math teacher Mr. Paul Pennington, his high school coach. "He could hit from either side and had a great eye. One time in district play at Booth field he hit two home runs off the metal bridge (a 400 ft. distance to the bridge which stands 60 ft. in the air). He was always extremely quiet, but he was a great kid."

After graduating from Central, Gillaspie moved on to UNO. Although only a freshman, he led the varsity team in hitting. But even with his success, Gillaspie was still dissatisfied. "The scholarship money they (UNO) gave me was only for books so it wasn't really worth staying."

Large sacrifice

From UNO Gillaspie transferred to Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs. Here, he met two very influential people in his baseball life. The first, head coach Mr. Rick Matthews, impressed upon Gillaspie that he needed to make a large sacrifice if he was going to get anywhere in baseball. The second, Mr. Bob Herold, taught Gillaspie even more about hitting.

By combining the influences of those two, Gillaspie had a tremendous year. He was then offered a baseball scholarship at Mississippi State University, one of the premiere baseball schools in the country.

It was there that Gillaspie blossomed. He was one of the team's best hitters, and he helped lead them to a College World Series berth in Omaha. But his biggest thrill was yet to come.

"Great outfielders"

In the summer of 1981, Gillaspie was drafted in the 11th round by the San Diego Padres. He played for their lower class minor league teams until he became a free agent at the beginning of 1985. He was picked up by the Cubs' organization and was assigned to their AA team. But Gillaspie started quickly and was soon raised to the Iowa Cubs team.

Last year Gillaspie hit .257 with 63 runs batted in. He led the league in walks and was third in doubles. "He improved the entire season," said Mr. Bruce Bieleberg, director of player relations for the Iowa Cubs. "He played sensationally considering he started the year one level below this. I'm not sure about his status with the Cubs because we have a lot of great outfielders. But Mark is pretty good himself."

So don't be surprised if you flick on the tube and find Mark Gillaspie scoring the winning run in a 6-5 thriller over the Los Angeles Dodgers. Just remember that this man may have taken English or history the same teacher you have.

Eight year wait

Boys make state

Thatcher Davis

The 1986 boys' varsity basketball team ended its season with a disappointing 52-59 loss to state runner-up Northwest in the first round of the state tournament held in Lincoln last week. Central finished with a 17-5 record and a district championship under their belt.

This was the first year since 1978 that a Central boys' basketball team has qualified for the state tournament.

"Not only did we have the pressure of getting to state," said senior Chuck Koziol, "but we had the pressure of not being there for eight years."

"Nobody on our team had ever been to state," commented senior Mike Beasley, "so we got lost in the excitement."

Central proved to be "lost in the excitement" when they fell behind Northwest 42-28 after three quarters. Then, however, Central outscored their opponent 18-4 in a period of about five minutes in the fourth quarter.

"Before the fourth quarter we felt we were going to show the crowd the greatest comeback they had ever seen," said Coach James Martin.

Perhaps the comeback came too early and too quickly for the Eagles.

"We ran out of gas," said senior Shane Sessions, "We had

spent the entire game trying to catch up."

Central then fell victim to numerous fouls and the wrong side of what Coach Martin called a "herky-jerky" type of momentum.

"It might have been the worst game we played all year," said Koziol, "it's too bad it was a state game."

"I'm very pleased about our season."

Possibly Central's greatest victory all year came in the district finals on March 4, when the Eagles defeated Millard North 42-40 with a storybook ending supplied by junior Leodis Flowers. Flowers hit an 18-foot jump-shot as the buzzer sounded to push Central ahead by two and secure their district title.

"The victory opened the door to state after it had been slammed in our face for the past eight years," said Coach Martin.

Despite the upset in the first round of state competition Coach Martin said he felt the 1986 season was successful overall.

"I look back and I'm very pleased about our season," said Coach Martin. "The kids proved what you can do with character and talent."

Sports field stays tight; outlook remains brighter

Rock

Even though Central has sent many athletes to the professional ranks, many more are left behind. For these people who are not professional but are a walking sports encyclopedia there is a future. They can put them in the game. Rich Thiesfeld, WQOW sports caster, was a multisport athlete in high school and in college. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in broadcasting. He then found a job at a small television station in Kearney Nebraska.

You have to start in a small market, make your mistakes where no one can see, and survive the long hours and low pay. "You can get a break (into a larger market)," commented Thiesfeld. "Experience is the key. Do anything you can so you can put it on your resume."

Mr. Thiesfeld explains his choice of his careers by saying, "It sounded fun, I've always loved sports, and when Osborne didn't come calling I decided this was it."

In sportscasting the changing sports season keeps the job exciting. The opportunity for travel is another advantage, Mr. Thiesfeld said.

Sportswriting for a newspaper is another way in which an avid sports fan can get away from a "nine to five" office job. However, Rich Thiesfeld explained that the average sportscaster is paid more than an average sportswriter in Omaha.

The traditional methods of staying close to sports such as coaching and officiating can also be rewarding. Mr. Jim Galus, social studies teacher, is presently coaching sophomore boys' basketball, boys' golf, varsity football, and is scouting for basketball.

Mr. Galus explains his role in three back to back sports which

overlap and extend through the school year by saying, "Sports have been a part of my whole life. I think they are very important. I have a fine opportunity to help Central out and stay close to sports at the same time."

Mr. Mike Nanos is a metro football and basketball referee. "I wanted to keep in touch with sports so I became a referee as my second job at night," he said.

Mr. John Georgesen, physical education teacher, earned his

"I wanted to keep in touch with sports so I became a referee as my second job at night."

masters degree in physical education before becoming a physical education teacher at Bryan High School for 11 years.

Mr. Georgesen's first desire was to become a coach. "In some states a person can be hired as just a coach, but in

Nebraska all coaches are teachers also," commented Coach Georgesen. Coach Georgesen was assistant football coach for seven years and head football coach for four years at Bryan High before coming to Central.

Coach Georgesen tries to teach the kids in his team sports class competitiveness, teamwork, and discipline, but still have fun. "You have an association with kids of all different ranges of ability and many different activities. You have to be able to blend them all together to form a team."

Coach Georgesen believes the physical education field is really tight right now. "There is not a large turn over rate in this field. However," he said, "statistics show that by 1990

there will be more available physical education jobs and better qualified people earning a better salary on those jobs."

"Do anything you can so that you can put it on your resume."

Every professional, minor league, and even college ball club needs people to sell insurance, purchase equipment, make travel arrangements, figure salaries, taxes, and promotions.

Other jobs in sports include corporation fitness directors, public relations, sports medicine, sports information, photography, statistics, sporting goods, grounds keeper, and agents.

Varsity ball players return to new coach, realigned district

Thatcher Davis

The newly chosen 1986 varsity and junior varsity baseball teams are anticipating a successful season.

"Our goal is to win the district tournament and go on to win the state title," new head coach Mr. Ken Dirks said. Coach Dirks is presently a teacher at Lewis and Clark Junior High School.

Mr. Dirks gained his experience in coaching baseball as an assistant coach at Bryan High school for two years and at Central for one year. He also played four years of collegiate baseball in Winfield, Kansas.

Coach Dirks feels the two squads will do well this season because of returning veteran players and a lighter district schedule.

Four varsity players on this year's team played for Central as freshmen. In addition, three freshmen are currently playing for the team.

The junior varsity team was blessed with over 18

"Pitching is going to be the key for us."

-Coach Ken Dirks

sophomores trying out for the team earlier this season.

"We've got a good crop of sophomores," said coach Dirks. This crop allowed the coaches to be picky shoppers when it came time to make final cuts for the teams.

At the start of the conditioning period the teams consisted of over 45 players trying out. After first cuts that number was lowered to about 38. The coaches then cut the teams down to 30 members between them.

"It comes right down to the line for a lot of the people," said junior John Hannon in reference to tryouts.

The first step coach Dirks took towards filling individual positions was to hold a type of pitching camp. Every player on the team took his chance at the commanding position until the coaches picked their final selection. "Pitching is going to be the

key for us," commented Coach Dirks.

By finding some players who are not usually pitchers, Coach Dirks hopes to distract opposing teams. "What we need is a couple of surprises," he said.

Due to this year's district reassignments, Central has been placed in a district that has fewer players and coaches see easier competition than last year's district.

"They're still some excellent teams in our district," John said. "But at least we're not playing the top teams in the state before we get to finals."

"We will be very competitive against all the teams in the district," Coach Dirks echoed.

The varsity baseball team started its season yesterday competing in the Creighton Prep Early Bird Tournament held at Prep.



photo by Val Spellman

Junior Richard Anderson catches as the boys' varsity baseball team begins practice. This year the baseball team has a new coach and a new district.

Track prepares for new season

Dan Rock

After bringing a state team runner-up place and a third team place home to Capitol Hill last year, Central's track teams are again stretching out.

Practice began for both teams March 1st. "The weather is just not dependable so we have to work outside when we can," said Mr. Joe McMenamin, head boys' track coach.

Both teams are expecting a very successful season. "Our team is very balanced this year. Usually one of the areas (jumpers, sprinters, long distance, or field events) stands out," said Coach McMenamin.

"I think the girls will have a lot more to work for this year since we didn't win state last year," said Mrs. JoAnne Dusatko, head girls' track team coach.

The girls who are returning that earned points for the team at the state track and field competition last year include Monica Hart, Anika Patterson, Ann Sitzman, Mallory Ivy, Andrea Lewis, Kris Deffenbacher, Lynn Jackson, and Dwana Williams.

The top boys in each area who are returning include Terry Lewis and George Anderson in the sprints, Keith Logan and Terry Lewis in the middle distances, Eric White and Frank

"This year Mr. James and I want to concentrate on how we win not what we win."

Nuno in the long distance, Leodis Flowers and Eric Anderson in the jumps, Michael Page and James Keith in the hurdles, and Evan Simpson and Chris Sacco in the shot put.

Both teams are expecting this to be a record-breaking year, especially with sophomore Mallory Ivy who took third place in the nation last year in the 100 yard dash when she competed in Seattle.

The girls' track team has a new philosophy this year. "This year Mr. James (girls' track coach) and I want to concentrate on how we win not what we win," said Dusatko.

At practice the boys split into their different groups depending on whether they are competing in the sprints, jumps, field events, or long distance. In these groups they not only work on their event directly, but they also work with weights and watch films on the technique of their event.

The men's track schedule is a little different this year. The Eagles are not attending the Kansas Relays nor the South

Dakota Invitational. However, in place of the South Dakota trip the team is competing in the Grand Island Invitational. Also, since the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) dropped its track program, it is in question whether or not its annual meet will be held.

Coach Dusatko thought that no matter the schedule the pressure would be off the Lady Eagles this year. "Other schools' goal is usually to beat Central, but I think it won't be that way as much this year since we lost state last year." This is the first year ever the Lady Eagles aren't defending a state crown or runner-up place, said Coach Dusatko. The men won the state championship in 1982 and 1983 and took runner-up in 1984 and 1985.

Track team members are confident about this season. "We will definitely be in contention for the state championship," said junior Chris Sacco.

Senior Eric Anderson said, "We are looking at a shot at state. Fremont and Burke are tough, but I think we can overcome them."

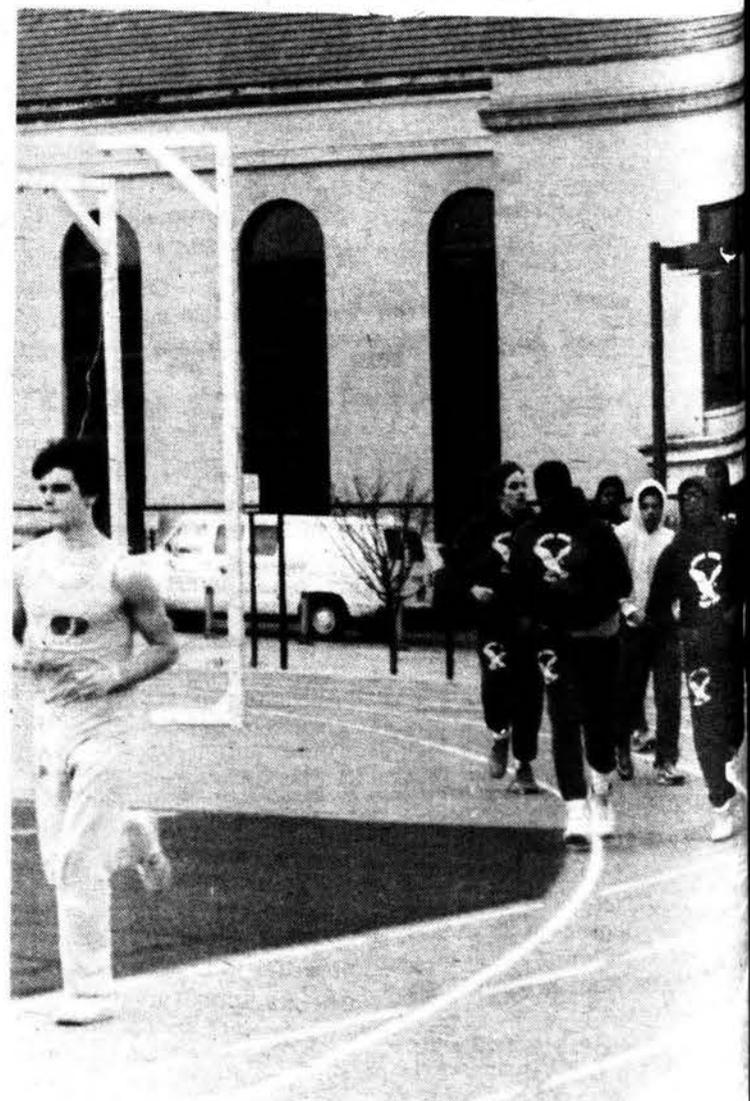


photo by Shanda Brewster

Members of the varsity track team prepare to battle for the upcoming season. Last year the boys' team placed second and the girls placed third at the state track and field meet.