

April 10, 1987

Kerrey lectures Central class

David Pansing

"We've invested a lot of time, money, and energy into the state education system," said Kerrey, "we need to invest more—takes constant work—we're blessed with it."

Former Governor Bob Kerrey is helping to teach some of Mr. Clyde Lincoln's American Government classes. He said, "I have the experience of being governor, in business, in the navy," to bring to the course.

Kerrey said that he did not feel that he could add to the course, necessarily; rather he could provide something different. Mr. Lincoln said that, "he adds personal experience and acquaintances, such as members of Congress he knows. He has connections that I don't have."

No list

Kerrey said that he really did not go through a list to pick Central to teach at. He "just thought of Central." He said that he did talk to District 66, but he, "wouldn't have the time to do both."

Not organizing the class

Kerrey said he wanted to teach because he "likes the work involved, working to learn." He went on to say that he is not organizing the class. "All I do is read, research, and prepare as part of the class." Kerrey also said that he did not realize the work involved in teaching a class.

"It's remarkable how things you learn connect to what you do when you get out of school,"

said Kerrey. Kerrey said that he enjoyed school, though, "not all of it," and he did well.

California teaching

This is not the first time Kerrey taught a class. Kerrey taught a college class at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

Kerrey said there was no major difference between Nebraska students and California students, except that students in California "travel by skateboard."

"We've invested a lot of time, money, and energy into the state education system," said Kerrey; "we need to invest more—it takes constant work—we're blessed with it."

Student views

Tanya Hoffman, junior, said, "It's really interesting. He relates what we're learning to what's been happening—things he's experienced as governor, like Reverend Sullivan."

Steve Likes, junior, said,

"What he has to say is real intelligent and real worthwhile."

Media coverage

The media "were pretty rude," according to Steve.

Tonya agreed. "There were more media, than kids."

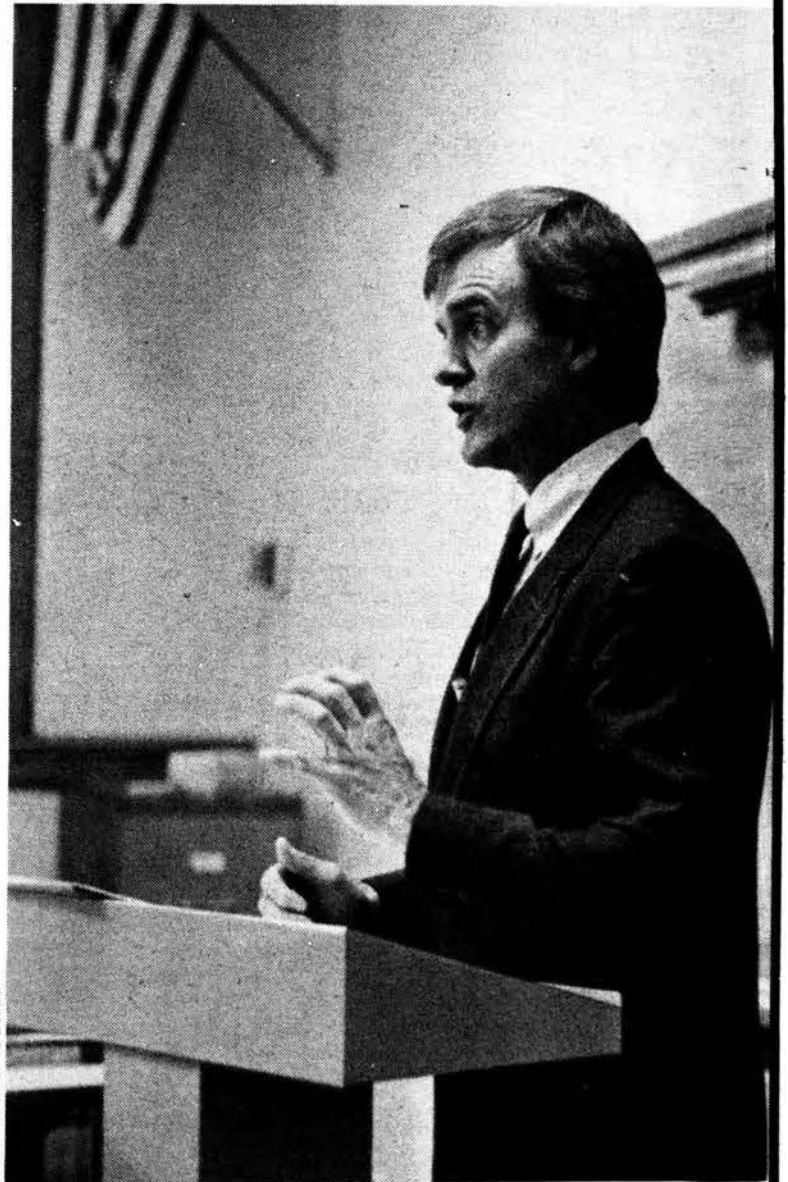
Mr. Lincoln said, "The media intimidated and frustrated the students. They were serious and the media was getting in their way. They're not accustomed to having to deal with the media." He went on to say that the media were very nice and were, "just covering a story." Lincoln and Kerrey intended to get the media out of the way after the first day, so that it would be "minimal after that."

Kerrey said that he is looking at houses in Omaha and Lincoln, but has not determined which city he will live in.

Stereotypical teenager

Kerrey would rather not stereotype the typical teenager. He said that many myths were shattered when he was at University California in Santa Barbara.

Kerrey said that he got involved in politics because he, "fell in love with Nebraska." He cares about the state and the community. He said that being governor was "terrific." "You have a chance to be free. I could listen to my own voice—me making the decision."



Samantha Guinn

Former governor Bob Kerrey lectures an American Government class. Kerrey said that he just "thought of Central" when deciding where to teach.

Omaha seniors organize dance, corporate donations Senior class gift to benefit many local charities

Kris Deffenbacher

Seniors from eight Omaha-area high schools are working together to organize a dance and to solicit corporate donations to raise funds for a monetary "Class Gift" to local charities. There are approximately 20 committee members and 15 other volunteers from the schools of Bellevue West, Central, Creighton Prep, Gross, Marian, Mercy, Millard North, and Westside working on the project.

This is the second year that Omaha-area high school seniors have come together to raise the money for the Class Gift. Last year's dance and corporate donations raised \$5500 for local charities. Tim Uhl, Creighton Prep senior and leader of the student group this year, said that they are "aiming to top that" this year.

The charities that will receive part of the Class Gift this year are the Omaha Area Food Bank, the Stephen's Center, which is a center for the homeless, and a viral syndrome clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where AIDS research is carried out.

Volunteers

The 20 committee members and other students helping out are all volunteers from the senior class of their high school. "It's all students," Tim said. "It's student led and student organized. No adults are involved in any part of the project." Tim volunteered to organize and lead the group this year on his "own initiative."

Central has only one representative to date who has volunteered and worked for

the group—Senior Class President Joe Fogarty. "Anyone else who would like to help can," Joe said. "It would be greatly appreciated." Joe is working on the publicity committee. There are three committees involved with the project; bands, corporate donations, and publicity.

Royal Grove

The group has organized five high school bands to play at the Royal Grove in Peony Park on Friday, May 8. The Royal Grove was given to the group for the evening, but the group was asked to clean up the area for one of their weekly Saturday meetings, Joe said. The five bands that will be playing are the Lombards, the Eds, the Bedrockers, the B-Hangs, and the Good Ol'Boys.

The project also raises money from corporate donations. "We send out letters to corporations and then follow them up with appointments," Tim said. "We are trying to concentrate on the corporate donations, and we've had some minor successes. But so far it hasn't been what we expected."

INSIDE:
The spring play rehearses for performance. p. 4

Viewpoints

Dr. Norbert Schuerman, superintendent of Omaha Public Schools, has proposed a sex education program to begin in the 1987-88 school year. Do you approve of sex education programs in high school and why or why not?

Alexander Young—Junior

Yes, because I think there's a lot of things that kids don't know about sex. If we had a class, we'd get some good results.



Susan Anderson—Senior

I think it should be available to the students but not required. It should be up to the parents and the students.



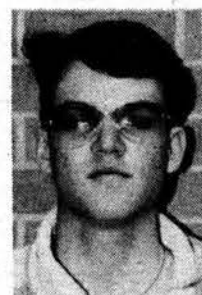
Mabo Nakashimada—Senior

Yes. In America, pregnancy is a big problem. You think of sex so easily—as a game. It's not a game, it's serious. You should think of sex seriously.



Martin Ferry—Junior

Yeah, because a lot of the parents in America don't talk to their kids about sex. If (a sex ed. program) is the only way these kids are going to learn about sex, that's how it needs to be done.



Karin McCoy—Sophomore

No, I think that most of the people in high school already know about sex. The ones that don't would feel uncomfortable talking about it in a classroom.



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Schuerman outlines program

Sex education important

Bravo, Superintendent Norbert Schuerman! At last, an Omaha official has broken away from traditional midwestern conservatism and introduced an important program to the OPS system: sex education.

Dr. Schuerman's proposed sex education program includes factual information on sex, birth control—especially abstinence, and the AIDS epidemic. The program also deals with self-awareness, communication, and responsibility. And perhaps one of the most important aspects of the program is that it is optional. This leaves the decision to the students and their parents, avoiding some unnecessary conflicts.

Dr. Schuerman's decision to outline a sex education class reflects a growing general concern for the welfare of today's youth. He has thrown aside the blind, careless attitude that "what they don't know won't hurt them." What they don't know can hurt them and will hurt them as a result of their ignorance. Nothing but good can come of an educational program that seeks to inform rather than enshroud in mystery.

Many of Dr. Schuerman's opponents argue that teenagers should learn sex ed at home or from their church. First of all, the

Nothing but good can come of a program that seeks to inform rather than enshroud in mystery.

program will not detract from the responsibility of parents and church to define what is right and what is wrong. Secondly, if the full burden of sex education rests on the parents, why are they not providing this information? How many times does a pregnant teenager say, "I didn't know"? Obviously many parents turn their backs on the topic of sex. This creates a void that Dr. Schuerman and the school system have taken the responsibility to fill.

In addressing the OPS Instruction and Americanism Committee, Dr. Schuerman said, "We can no longer afford to sidestep frank, open discussion about human growth and development

and the consequences of becoming sexually active during their teen-age years." This is the primary argument in favor of sex education. Teenage pregnancy rates are rising and sexual abuse is rampant. Many teenagers are confused about their own bodies and their conception of sex is oftentimes unrealistic. AIDS and other venereal diseases are spreading at an alarming rate. These facts alone support the

How many times does a teenager say 'I didn't know'?

program—we can no longer afford ignorance.

Dr. Schuerman's step toward an informative sex ed program is a step in the right direction. His willingness to go out on a limb to provide the best opportunity for each student to lead a healthier, more fulfilling life is admirable. Of course, his proposal will bear the brunt of conservative protest and ignorant criticism. But again, the statistics support the program with a strong argument—we can no longer afford silence.

Activities should be voluntary

In the early 1920's, Central principal J.G. Masters conceived the National Honor Society (NHS). The society recognizes students who excel in academics and are involved in school and community activities. Students are judged by character, leadership, and service. In 1985, the students requested that Central's chapter of the NHS become active. Previously, the chapter recognized its members during an induction banquet and as a list of names.

Several of the activities and meetings have been beneficial to the students; however, many of the required activities have been nothing more than social gatherings. Attendance of social gatherings should not be required criteria since students are already required to be involved in school and community activities to be admitted into NHS. Members often miss NHS activities due to other extracurricular obligations.

NHS should not remain active for the sake of being active.

The chapter established a set of rules to guarantee that it be active. The rules require members to attend one activity per semester. At least three activities are sponsored a year. The rules also require members to at-

meetings.

The activities sponsored by NHS to date include a meeting with previous graduates, an all school pot luck followed by a financial aid lecture, a pizza party followed by an ice skating party, Bagels and Bach, a picnic and guest speakers. Members tutor during school as an activity.

Students in NHS do not have any trouble occupying their time.

Many NHS members have been put on probation due to their failure to comply with the active chapter policy. If they do not make up the missed activities and/or meetings, they will be expelled from NHS and their membership will be removed from their high school transcripts. College admissions personnel and scholarship selection personnel highly regard a student's membership in NHS. Student's should not be denied such an important element on their transcripts due to such a minimal transgression.

NHS should remain active since many of the activities are educational. It should not remain active, however, just for the sake

of being active. The students involved in NHS are already very active people and do not have any trouble occupying their time. Many members have gone to the NHS sponsored activities only to fulfill the active policy requirement. Participation in the active chapter should be voluntary.

NHS has adopted several new activities that are beneficial. The tutoring program, in which an NHS member helps students that come in for help during their study halls, is a good learning experience for both the tutors and the tutored alike. The Central Student of the Month selection committee is made up of NHS members. The committee chooses one person from each grade per month that deserves recognition for achievement in the classroom. Guest speakers come during the monthly meetings to speak on such subjects as financial aid, college application essays, student loans, and other informative topics. Many of the activities sponsored by NHS are very worthwhile and educational to members.

The active chapter is a good idea in that it establishes an identity for the organization and it is beneficial to those involved. It would be a shame, however, if a member were expelled because he was too busy to attend a pizza party.

Cuisinart-inflicted insanity High school relationships

Speaking
in
Tongues
Joe Fogarty



when I was his age, we never had time for boredom. Why, we used to have to carry 40 pounds of water in a bucket uphill about a mile from the well to the house. Then we'd chop wood for two hours with blunt scissors. Then the sun would come up and we'd walk to school, 15 miles uphill!

"Why, we used to have to carry 40 pounds of water in a bucket uphill about a mile from the well to the house. Then the sun would come up and we'd walk to school, 15 miles uphill."

Melba: Gosh, it's a gorgeous day! Listen! The birds are happily chirping in the cool spring breeze. The grass seems greener, the sky seems bluer—and look, Mr. Thompson is out mowing his lawn.

(An enormous clap of thunder shatters Melba's rapture. He steps back inside his front door and slams it behind him. He still hears the spiteful torrents of rain pelting the soggy ground outside.)

Melba: Arrgh! My brain's gonna explode if this rain doesn't stop!

(Melba's mom peeks out of the kitchen. She is the kind of woman you might see in your dad's high school yearbook. Bouffant hair-do, pointy-black thick-rimmed glasses, infectious smile, puffy cheeks—etc.)

Mom: Melba honey, you musn't scream like that, you're liable to wake the dead and I most certainly would not enjoy dealing with Grampa Fohitchtiba again.

Melba: But Mom, if I don't get rid of this enormous reservoir of accumulating energy, I may be forced to destroy your Cuisinart.

Mom: No! Not my beautiful, lovely, pretty, spectacular brand new Cuisinart! It loves to puree my vegetables—you couldn't, you wouldn't!

Melba: Mom, your stupid Cuisinart is the most worthless object in the entire house—and that's a highly competitive position. It only has two speeds and one is "leisurely mingling." I've got to move—I've got to run, to jump—to jump, perchance to scream! Aiaiaiee!

(Melba runs screaming up the stairs and races through the house slamming doors, jumping on beds, and scaring the heck out of quite a few household pets.)

Mom (aside): Oh, that boy! I remember

Melba (upstairs): Aiairairgh! (Slam!)

Mom: Sometimes, if we were lucky, Mom would give us a nickel on a special Saturday and we'd go to the picture show. With that one nickel, five of us could catch the streetcar downtown, get in to the movie, buy each a two gallon bucket of popcorn and a cherry phosphate, pay for our taxi home and maybe play a video game . . . twice.

Melba (Runs down the stairs, through the kitchen and into the basement.): Rarraieeargh!

Mom: Oh yes, we earned our rights to sleep at night. Like I said, we didn't have time to be bored, even on a rainy day. These kids today, they're pampered babies with soft, squeaky clean palms and lazy brains. How has this new generation fallen to such a low point?

Melba(in basement): Aighicarraghal! (Thud—crash!) OW!

Mom: Oh my baby! (She runs frantically down the stairs to find Melba entangled in a pile of bicycles, sleds, and other miscellaneous self-entertainment devices.) Oh, baby, did Melba hurt his wittle self? Oh, let me see your owie. Here, I'll carry you to your bed and bring you a cup of hot cocoa. Do you want me to rent a movie and set up the TV in your room?

A
Closer
Look
Kris Deffenbacher



or girlfriend just lost. A relationship becomes wrong when lies, mistrust, and jealousy become a force in it. When any of these feelings prevail, a serious relationship should not be entered or should be altered or ended if already in existence. We're only in high school, there will be others.

Whatever you call it, "playing the field," "getting around," or "scamming," is a popular past-time and creed for the high school years of many. Beyond the dangers of social and deadly diseases and pregnancy, there's nothing wrong with it if both parties are responsible and enter it with a willing and emotionally ready attitude.

"Playing the field" becomes wrong when one or both parties are hurt by their actions. Using someone; that is playing on emotions that they may have for you to get what you want, is just plain wrong! Just as going along with a "scam" is when you know your own self-pride and emotions will be endangered by such actions. When you "play the field" rather than "tying yourself down" to one person you must be able to come away from your actions with self-strength and self-pride, for there's no boyfriend or girlfriend to fall back on.

And there are those who some deem as "prudes" or "geeks" who avoid any form of high school relationship altogether. I sometimes find myself envying the intelligence and strength of those who are able to avoid the whole tangled mess altogether.

No regrets

But I don't regret any of the high school relationships I've had. I am glad that I took the risk of entering relationships with everyone I've ever gone out with. None of them have lasted to this day, but I have taken memories of good times and some hard-learned lessons out of even the rockiest ending relationships. I've also come away with self-respect, self-pride, and a place always in my heart for those who I thought I hated after the terms that we ended on. I never stop caring about a person simply because we didn't work out as boyfriend/girlfriend.

Those are probably the two greatest lessons to be taken from high school relationships—learning to respect and care for others and learning to respect and love yourself.

There are those that feel all relationships, including those boy-girl romances formed in high school, should be one-on-one, exclusive, and serious, even at this level. Others feel that at this age no one should be tied down, that they should be able to "play the field." And there are a few who feel that kids our age are not ready for any kind of relationship at all.

Actually all three theories hold some validity; it depends on the preference of the individual as to which applies most to his high school years. Whatever road that person chooses to follow, whether it be tied to one, free with many, or free from relationships altogether, is right only if it's right for that person.

If you find someone during your high school years whom you get along with and care about and who likes you and only you in return, then a one-on-one relationship is right—if it's what both parties truly want.

There are those our age who avoid serious relationships like the plague. But, if going out one-on-one feels right, you shouldn't be afraid of comittment. If it ends, as almost all high-school relationships undoubtedly do, then you've come away with memories of the good times and lessons learned from the bad times that will make you that much wiser and stronger in your next.

Not mature enough

There are times and people for whom a serious relationship should not be formed. Some high school students are not yet mature enough to handle the responsibilities and emotions that come with going out with someone one-on-one. Relationships can be entered for the wrong reasons: a need for personal security, a desire for someone to take the place of a boyfriend

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In Brief

The 1987 meeting of Boys' and Girls' State will take place June 7-13 on the University of Nebraska campus at Lincoln. Central's boy delegates are Steve Likes and John Williams with alternates Jonas Batt and Alex Haecker. Central's girl delegates are Chandra Freeman, Joan Jorgenson, and Inga Soder with alternate Jenny Holmes. The workshop teaches the principles of state government through lectures and participation in simulated state government activities.

The Military Ball took place in the Peony Park ballroom at 7:30 PM March 26. Meishe McGee officially became battallion commander at the event and 15 other seniors received honors. A disc jockey provided music for the event.

Mr. Mike Gaherty, Central High journalism teacher, received the 1987 Gunnar Horn Journalism Adviser Award. The award, presented on March 18 at the Press Club, honored long-term service to the field of journalism. The Creighton University Communications Department gives the award to honor both the recipient and Gunnar Horn.

JCL sponsored the Intramural Foreign Language Volleyball Tournament March 20. Spanish A beat French A to win the contest. French took second place while German and Latin teams tied for third. The event prepared Foreign Language club members for the upcoming conventions which were April 3 for Latin students and April 25 for German students. French club members will meet for their convention April 25.

Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleaders tried out March 25. Varsity Squad members are: Jennifer Anderson, Shawnda Brye, Shawn Cooper, Chandra Freeman, Jenny Holmes, Joan Jorgensen, Susan Lager, Jeanna Orduna, Lori Pendleton, and Kelly Skillen. Junior Varsity members are: Tiffany Doolittle, Debbie Dubes, Lydia Luong, Michelle Mejak, Nancy Sempeck, Heidi Sharp, Linda Stennis, Jamie Strauss, Debbie Tyler, Tiffany Whitney. Prospective Reserve cheerleaders tried out March 26. Reserve members are: Jenna Brigman, Kelly Browne, Bernadetta Calimfin, Robin Cammarata, Jennifer Collins, Yahnea Green, Rachel Kopfle, Heather Larimer, Melissa Roberts, Simone Wehbe.

ETC plays for Night in Orient

Prom is going to be held on May 2, 1987, in Central's courtyard. The annual dance will have the theme, "A Night on the Orient," this year, according to Student Council president John Ford. Student Council sponsor's Prom.

The band this year will be ETC. John said, He went on to say that ETC plays rythm and blues, rock, and pop. "They will be rocking," said John.

Student Council helped to purchase a portable stage this year that can be used for Prom, as well as other events. According to Mr. Paul Semrad, Student Council advisor, Student Council paid \$1,000 of the cost of the stage. He said that Road

Show and Doctor Moller paid the rest of the cost of the stage.

Tickets will be sold for this all-school Prom on a first come, first serve basis, limiting the ticket sales to 350. All-school means that sophomores, juniors, and seniors are free to attend. Ticket sales will begin on Tuesday April 28, and the tickets will cost \$14 for couples and \$9 for singles. Prom royalty will be voted on by all seniors when tickets are sold. All seniors are eligible, except the Homecoming King and Queen.

PEP will be hosting a Post-Prom Party again this year at the Downtown YMCA. The tickets to the Party will cost \$2. The theme for the party is the "BudhaBash.

Spring play starts April 24

Doug Haven

"The spring play deals basically with how people see people and how they treat them as a result," said Mrs. Pegi Stommes, Central drama teacher.

This year's spring play, "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch," has started rehearsals and is coming along very well, according to Mrs. Stommes.

In the play Sneaky Fitch, played by Vince Orduna, starts out as a coward, always wondering if he will live through the rest of the day. Then, according to Vince, he apparently dies and at his funeral, comes back to life. After Sneaky "rises from the dead" he finds that all of the other townspeople are now scared to death of him. This gives him confidence and in a matter of days he has taken over the entire town.

There are two main reasons for the selection of this play, according to Mrs. Stommes. One is that Mrs. Stommes' first year drama students have read it for a long time and really seem to enjoy it, Mrs. Stommes said. Secondly, the play can be added to, and because the author has placed no restrictions on the play Mrs. Stommes has added several variations. According to Mrs. Stommes, "It is really hard to find a play that has been set with characters that you can change or add to."

Male roles

Traditionally there have been more male roles in plays than female roles. This is also true about "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch," states Mrs. Stommes. The major problem with this is that every play more girls try out than guys. In an attempt to remedy this problem, Mrs. Stommes says that she has created a cast of 20 saloon hall dancers. Originally Mrs. Stom-



Tess Fogarty

Seniors Kristi Plahn and Raquel Ahlvers practice for the spring play "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch." The spring play will be put on Friday, April 24 (student matinee) second, third, and fourth periods, and Saturday April 25 at 7:00 pm, and Sunday April 26 at 3:00 pm.

mes had 70 girls try out to be dancers. Mrs. Stommes planned to only have 10 dancers, "but there were so many good ones," she increased the number to 20 saloon hall dancers.

Three student directors help Mrs. Stommes with the play. Mindi Dloogoff is in charge of publicity. Raquel Ahlvers is in charge of props. Nancy Price is in charge of make-up.

The cast for the Spring Play "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch" is: Vince Orduna-Sneaky Fitch, Jay Standifer-Rackham, Scott Jensen-Doc Burch, Julie Kliever-Singer, Mark Brandl-Mervyn Vale, Kristi Plahn-Mrs. Vale, Lori Pendleton-Maroon, Rob Holtorff-Sheriff Jack, Tom Davis- Rev. Blackwood, Raquel Ahlvers, Mindi Dloogoff-Mrs. Blackwood, Jason Flott-Joe Carter, Kirk Woodington-Bob Wilson and Bartender, Mike Frey, Drew Weiss-Vales Assistants, David Brown-Jeb, Amy Schriener-Schoolmarm. The cowboys include: Mark Anderson, Stephan

Dietrich, Chip King, Adrian Petrick, Randy Porter, Jason Truman, Melvin Jones, Alex Young, and Jerry Standfield. Townspeople: Echelle Brooks, Kate Brower, Vicki Charles, Kristi Covalciuc, Kim Gossin, Tina Fonter, Michelle Macdissi, Nancy Price, Esther Sinnapoo. Townskids include: Samuel Davidson, Tina Fothoven, Tory Guinn, Christmas Reed, Pari Smart, Mary Szynskie, Chris Turley, Debra Tyler, Jodi Worden. The Saloon Band is Jon DeLaCastro, Joe Montequin, Kurt Rohn, Jim Schalley, and Terry Thies.

The Saloon Dancers include Monica Backens, Amy Buchingham, Dondi Caviness, Cliffetta Davis, Susie Donelson, Nicole Douglas, Delicia Edwards, Trevian Franklin, Jennifer Hendricks, Sevrin Huff, Joanne Kosowsky, Kam Kuhlman, Jenny Leu, Andria Lewis, Donna Lloyd, Colleen Mell, Michelle Roth, Nancy Sempeck, Holly Stommes and Gina Weberg.

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Absence policy vital for regular attendance

Kelly Penry

According to the Central High School Handbook, poor student attendance is one of the greatest problems facing most schools today. Policies concerning absences and tardiness have continually been revised and re-established within the Omaha Public School System every few years. The reason for the revising is the school's efforts to stress the importance of regular maximum attendance to all students.

Central's present ten-day absence policy has been in effect for two consecutive years; however, the previous policy of twelve-days ended during the 1984-85 school year. Dr. G.E. Moller, principal, said that the reduction to ten days hasn't really solved anything.

"We went from twelve to ten days when the matter came up in an OPS principals' meeting...the colleagues wanted to reduce the amount of absences in an attempt to keep poor attendance under control. I didn't vote for the ten-day policy because twelve days were working just fine for Central," he said.

Approved activities

Whether the school activity is related to drama, athletics, marketing, or music, a student must acknowledge that they are approved activities before that particular day will not be counted within the ten-day limit.

If a student does not come to school at all, the attendance office will usually attempt to call the parents of each student who is absent. According to Mrs. Francis Welch, attendance office secretary, if the parent doesn't know of the student's whereabouts, his or her classroom is checked for attendance. If the student is truant, then a conference is scheduled right away with the administrator.

Mrs. Welch said absences have been more common during the spring season. If students decide to just leave school to be outside, without signing out or having an administrator-approved note, then a blue card, an Unexcused Admit Card, will be issued by the attendance office. One important factor of an unexcused absence is that any homework issued on that day will be recorded as grades of "zeros" or "fives."

Postcard

The attendance clerks also issue a postcard to the student's home if he has accumulated five days of absence, excused or not. This is an attempt by the school to make sure parents are aware of how many days the student has missed. Teachers are also informed to warn the students how many days are left within the ten days in order to keep their attendance continual. Cards are sent home on a student's third tardy and/or fourth absence.

Mrs. Geri Thomas, school nurse, likes the ten-day absence policy because it makes students more cautious about the days they miss. She explained that if a student has a doctor or dentist appointment, he must take it to her office right away so she can exchange it for a mimeographed medical excuse form. The form is the only way a student can get back into class and indicate an excused absence.

Forgeries

Some students will forge notes, however, if they want to skip or miss the entire day. "Many times, students have been known to steal the doctor's pad from their office and forge a signature...and many times, they are caught. If I know it is forged, I'll call the doctor's office and report the student. Because forgery is an offense, I have to write a referral to the administrator, which might lead to suspension," said Mrs. Thomas.

Accident reports are another form of excused absences if a student has had surgery and must remain at home for a certain amount of days. Mrs. Thomas said students must bring the copy to school so she can verify absences. The same procedure as for doctor's notes is used for accident reports if the student relies on forgery, she said.

"I think the absence policy could be more enforced although the attendance office does an excellent job calling parents and checking students' records everyday. We work hand in hand with information to help eliminate poor attendance and excessive tardies at Central," said Mrs. Thomas.

PEP promotes involvement

Karyn Brower

PEP has been very instrumental in many of Central's activities, said Mrs. Jennifer Pansing, co-president. PEP (parents, educators, and pupils) started in 1979 as a branch of the PTSA, (parents, teachers, and students association). PEP was established to get parents involved in school activities and to promote communication between Central and parents to see how parents feel about the school's curriculum and activities.

One of the ways PEP tries to open up communication between parents, students and the school is by the monthly newsletter. PEP shows its support of Central also by helping with Central's public relations, the appreciation of school staff, and the recruitment of new students.

PEP is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. PEP raises money by selling memberships to PEP and by selling refreshments at both the Road Show and the fall musical. With

this money PEP pays for half of the mailing of Central's monthly newsletter, refreshments for Open House, College Night and 9th grade Open House. PEP also donates some of the money to school departments with a need.

Volunteers

Their activities also include Purple Feather, the NHS brunch, Teacher Appreciation Day, and the After Prom Party. "It is relatively easy to get parents involved and interested to help out," said Mrs. Pansing. Parents simply volunteer their help and leadership to such activities.

PEP has over 300 members and a board of 29 families and five staff representatives and Dr. Moller, principal of Central. The board meets monthly and discusses current and future activities and their progress. In the fall memberships are sold and new officers are elected. Mr. and Mrs. Gottschalk are the co-presidents for next year.

"Some join PEP because they can't be active elsewhere, some are very active, others help with

school activities that are not necessarily PEP's," said Mrs. Pansing.

Parent participation

Mrs. Pansing said PEP has always been a strong parent support group, though there is always the feeling that they could be doing more or have more parent participation.

PEP is not part of the Omaha/Metro area school board. They do not attend school board meetings unless Central is involved in the discussion. PEP's role is to support the school, said Mrs. Pansing. "PEP was very instrumental in giving advice to the school board about Central's recent remodeling. They helped tell what was needed," said Dr. Moller.

Parents and teachers are not PEP's only members. Some students from student council also attend the meetings. Student representation is very important to PEP, said Mrs. Pansing. "They help with suggestions, advice, and assistance in PEP and other school activities."

Central teachers auctioned as date package at MS fundraiser

Elaine Williams

Rent-a-Gent was what the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Foundation called its most recent fundraiser. The foundation received \$14,600 in donations from women who bid on bachelor men and proposed date packages, according to Miss Kay Ahrens, MS official. Central gym teachers Mr. John Georgeson and Mr. Stan Standifer were two of the bachelors on the auction block.

The event took place March 5 at the Holiday Inn on 72nd and Grover. Following a cocktail party where the men and women got a chance to meet each other, the men were auctioned "just like they do at any other auction" except that the announcer read what the men said they were looking for in a woman, said Mr. Standifer.

Mr. Georgeson said that he looked for "someone generous and kind with an interest in sports, who didn't mind getting her hands dirty."

Standifer and Georgeson were auctioned as a pair. They offered their dates a fishing trip followed by dinner at The Great Wall.

Dr. Karen Proberts, surgeon, and Kate Cutler, a corporate lawyer from Mutual of Omaha, bid \$300 for them, said Standifer.

"We were the first two up and the bidding was a little slow at first. The ladies were kind of waiting to see how high the bidding would go," said Georgeson.

Doctor and attorney

Dr. Proberts said, "One thing I remember distinctly about the evening was the looks on their (Georgeson's and Stan-

difer's) faces and the way they shook their heads in disbelief when they found I was a doctor and Kate was an attorney."

Standifer and Georgeson agreed that the man and the date package played equal roles in determining the bids. "Hopefully for us they were bidding on the date package," said Standifer.

Dr. Proberts disagreed. She said that the bidding was directed "definitely more at the men."

She and Miss Cutler chose Mr. Standifer and Mr. Georgeson because "they were fun to talk to. They're also 'older' than some of the 25-year-olds they were auctioning off. We both appreciate someone a little more mature."

"Soft spot"

"Kate used to be a school teacher so she has a soft spot for teachers. I just like getting to know someone outside my field because I spend so much time around doctors and hospitals," said Dr. Proberts.

"I told the guys to pick something they like to do so they would have a better chance of finding someone with the same interests. They have six months to follow through on the date package," said Miss Ahrens.

Georgeson explained that he was not sure if the women who bought him and Mr. Standifer shared their fishing interest. "These two ladies, I doubt have ever been fishing before. We're going to have to teach them how to get into the boat and how to hold the rod. We'll bait the hook for them so they won't have to put their hands on a leech."

The Omaha MS foundation borrowed the idea for the fundraiser from a chapter in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The event, Miss Ahrens said, "appeals to the population group of single females from 25 to 40 who do not have many events targeted for them."

She said that while a lot of social gatherings emphasize couples, Rent-a-Gent tried to give single people a chance to make new male and female friends. "There are a lot of very professional women who don't have time to meet new people."

"Worthy cause"

Standifer agreed to be auctioned because, "I qualified. I'm a bachelor. I thought it was a good idea for a worthy cause, so I volunteered."

Dr. Proberts said she attended Rent-a-Gent because some of the men being auctioned were her suggestions and because she thought it sounded like an interesting way to meet new people.

Mr. Standifer doesn't think the date will get beyond the initial obligation of a fishing trip and dinner. "It's just a friends thing. The ladies are friends, and Mr. Georgeson and I are friends. We haven't split up and decided who's with who."

Next year the MS foundation plans another Rent-a-Gent fundraiser. "We hope to have a lot of the same guys back. Stan and John were really nice. They should be commended as volunteers. It wasn't easy for them to do all the things we asked. Some had to take special time out from their day to get it all done," said Miss Ahrens.

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A Cappella keeps tradition as excellent choir



Valerie Spellman

Steve Likes, John Pavel, and Leland Mickles rehearse a number in A Cappella. A Cappella has a long-standing tradition as an excellent choir.

Israeli teens spoke at school assembly

Niki Galiano

In March, two Israeli students, Orit Gidron, 17, and Ofer Shtricker, 16, came to Central and spoke to about 250 students about teenage life in Israel, according to Mr. Jack Blanke, social studies department head.

According to Orit and Ofer, teenage life in Israel is much like teenage life in America. Their music and clothes are basically the same, and they go to parties on the weekends. However, they said, teens do not drink as much in Israel, despite the fact that there is no drinking age. There is hardly any drug use there, either, they said.

In Israel, according to Orit and Ofer, every male and female must serve in the army when they turn eighteen. Males must serve at least three years, and females must serve at least two.

All Israeli schools are public, and their school week lasts six days, with Saturday as their day off, they said. Every student is required to take three languages: Hebrew, English, and Arabic. English and Arabic are more or less second languages to them, they said.

Not worried about war

Israeli teens are not terribly worried about the war in the Middle East reaching them, they said, because "it is so far away." Compared to Nebraska, the war in the Middle East would be in the next state, they said.

After the presentation, Central students were able to ask any questions they had. At the end, Ofer put on a record of Israeli rock music.

Mr. Blanke said the presentation was "excellent." This group was the smallest group to ever come to Central, he said. "Usually, about three or four come," he said.

Orit and Ofer were selected to tour the U.S. with about 60 other students, according to Miss Sara Jaffe, youth director at the Jewish Community Center. The Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Israeli Ministry of Education organized the tour, she said. About 20,000 students were competing for a place in the tour. Each student had to be recommended by his or her teacher, and then go through a series of tests and seminars, which eliminated them down to the final group, she said.

The Jewish Community Center and the A.D.L.C.R.C. sponsored Orit and Ofer's tour of Omaha. Each stayed with a host family, who offered to house them during their stay.

Miss Jaffe said that compared to American kids, Israeli teens are a little bit more mature. "The fact that they have to serve in the army has a sobering effect. When we get out of high school, we go to college. When they get out of high school, they go into the army," she said. She also said they are much more patriotic.

Miss Jaffe said that the best part of the tour for Orit and Ofer was meeting American kids. Ofer, she said, loved the wind-up walking toys he found in America, especially the walking footballs. "He bought a whole collection of them."

However, she said they were surprised at the amount of money teens have in America. "They just don't have that kind of money over there. And they were surprised at how many kids have their own cars over here, too."

Julie Ashley

"The thing that sets A Cappella apart from other high school choirs is a long tradition of good singing," said Mr. Robert McMeen, vocal music teacher. According to Mr. McMeen, Central's A Cappella Choir was the first high school choir in America with men and women singing unaccompanied music.

A Cappella began some time in the 1930's, though the specific year was not recorded. "We think it started around 1934," Mr. McMeen said. "We get different reports from old graduates."

Mr. McMeen, who has directed the choir for 20 years, said that he enjoys teaching A Cappella. "I feel very fortunate to have this position," Mr. McMeen said. "I know it's not your average high school program. I think we have a very warm relationship between director and musicians, yet we accomplish a lot."

Directors

Senior Joe Montequin, A Cappella president, said that the directors, Mr. McMeen and Mr. Terry Theis, are mostly responsible for the success of A Cappella. Joe said, "I know that we have the best directors in OPS. The directors, even when we're struggling with difficult music, always keep a positive and helpful attitude. They keep our spirits up."

This year's A Cappella consists of 94 students. Mr. McMeen said that about 60 percent of the choir's membership is female and 40 percent male. Mr. McMeen said that he has high

expectations for this year's choir. "I think we've been gradually improving over the last four years," Mr. McMeen said. "This is a better, more capable choir than we've had for several years." Mr. McMeen attributed part of A Cappella's recent success to improved junior high instruction. "In the last 5 or 6 years we've been able to recruit fine singers into the program as sophomores and then have them grow into A Cappella."

Few conflicts

"I think we have fewer conflicts this year," Joe said. "Everyone gets along. With such a wide range of people, it's great to see how we can work together. I think this year's choir has tremendous potential."

An A Cappella Choir Council is elected early in every school year. The purpose of this group, according to Mr. McMeen, is "to unify the group, give members a say in what goes on, and to assist the director in social and musical matters." Mr. McMeen said that student leaders are important to the choir. "I know we have been fortunate to have not only good singers but students who are leaders in the school," said McMeen. "They provide a strong leadership core in the choir. We are lucky because we usually have active, involved students in A Cappella."

A Cappella performs many times each year. Annual performances include winter and spring choral concerts, Road Show, the Worlds of Fun Festival of Choirs in Kansas City, and participation in the All-City Music Festival. Last year A Cappella also sang at the state

meeting of the Nebraska Choral Directors and was the honor choir for a choir competition at Wayne State College. A Cappella competes annually at district contests, where it traditionally has earned a one rating. The 1984-85 choir won the Worlds of Fun Festival as the best large-school choir.

Social interaction

In addition to singing engagements, Mr. McMeen encourages social interaction between A Cappella members. "I think it's important that a choir be more than just a musical organization," Mr. McMeen said. "Just sitting down and singing with a group of people is a social process as well as a musical process. It helps that the members of a choir know each other and have positive feelings for each other. When we're in class, it's mainly a musical rehearsal, but I'm a strong believer in the social aspect being brought out and encouraged."

Joe said that social activities are necessary because they "reinforce the unity of a choir. You need that to help blending and to agree on pitch and tone. When you know each other, it's quicker and easier to get things done."

A Cappella's social activities include a spring picnic, A Night With A Cappella, and a spring trip to Kansas City, when students spend two days in Kansas City and participate in the Worlds of Fun Festival of Choirs.

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Last column brings new perspective



Sports Staff Says:

Sarah Story

I have mixed feelings at this turning point in my life. I feel sad because this is the last column that I will write this year, and at the same time, I am very relieved that high school has come to an end. Instead of focusing on one topic this time, I thought I would reflect back on several issues.

Exceptional athletes

Central has had many exceptional athletes walk through its halls. Gale Sayers and Keith Jones to name but a few, and this year's Leodis Flowers could also be considered an outstanding athlete. But Central also has great basketball teams, a volleyball team, track team, golf teams, tennis teams, and for the first time—soccer teams. Combining all of this talent, it wouldn't be as memorable without the spirit and support of the student body and faculty.

Sports build character

When I look to the future, I realize that many things will change, but hopefully sports events and activities will keep growing and reaching new heights. Academics are also very important, but sometimes the emphasis is too great. People need a release, and they look toward sports. Sports build character and encourage competitiveness. Athletes learn to strive for the so called "impossible."

Sometimes people over-indulge in football and basketball and forget about those important life-long sports. I'm referring to sports such as tennis and golf. I

remember seeing an 80-year-old man playing tennis down at Dewey Park last year. He turned to me and said, "We're not fast, but we have a great time." It's nice to see people of all ages getting outside and being active. Golf is another sport like that. Many people join leagues and make new friends when they get involved in these long-lasting sports.

The generation of the 80's is overpowered by health and fitness. It's the craze of the 80's as we've heard so many times before. But my question is, what's coming for the generation of the 90's? And in the year 2000, are the letter jackets going to have two zeros on the sleeves? Sorry, I just had to ask!

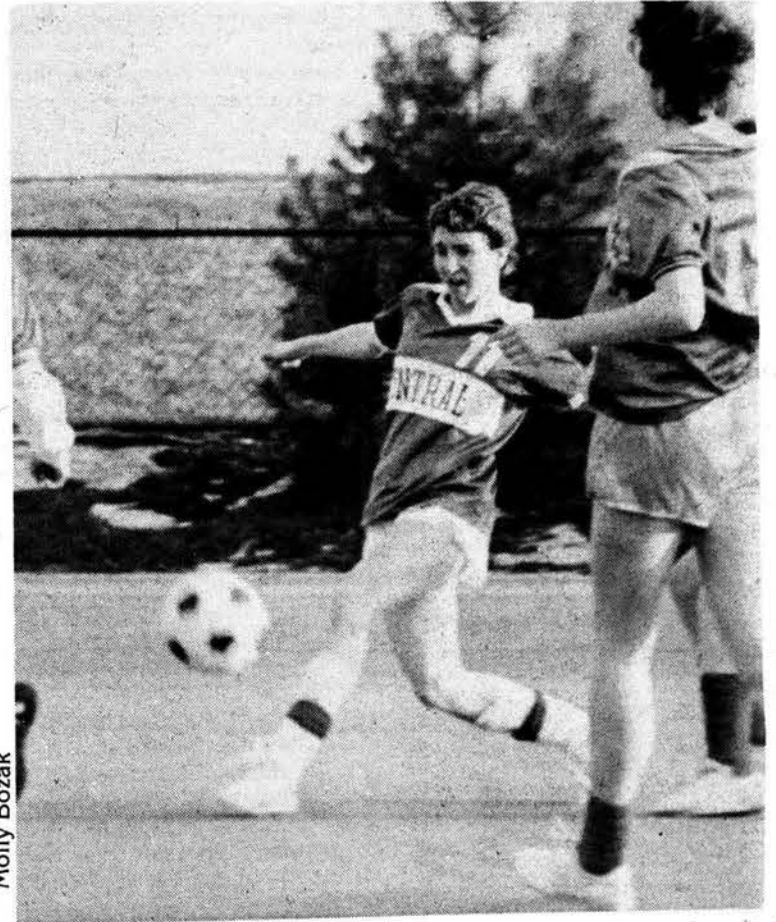
Smoking and sports

I don't understand people from our generation smoking. After all of the warnings by the surgeon general and all of the diseases that smoking can lead to, why would they torture their bodies this way? People who smoke do not realize that lung cancer is the least of their worries. There are so many other organs where cancer can develop. The saddest sight that I've seen was a sixteen year-old who couldn't run the length of a football field without stopping and coughing because he couldn't breathe due to smoking.

I might have wandered away from the basic sports issues, but many of these topics tie in together. These are ideas that we see everyday; they are drilled into our minds by magazines, newspapers, and television.

I personally love sports; I love to compete, and I love the feeling of accomplishment that comes at the end. Sports are a part of human nature; the desire to be pushed to maximum limits and to be the only one or the first one. I salute all athletes on their accomplishments. I respect them and admire them. I hope everyone can experience the feeling of excitement and joy that competition has to offer.

Girl's soccer shows competitive nature



Molly Bozak

The girl's soccer team began their first season of sanctioned play with a 2-1 win against Holy Name. Seniors Moppie Roach and Kristi Schiltz scored these two goals for Central while junior Kim Reitz was goalie. Other players who contributed greatly to their win were seniors Nikki Doyle, Shelly Scasny, and Tiffany Boyer. Mrs. Joann Dusatko, girl's soccer coach, was pleased with the girl's performance and is looking forward to the upcoming season. "They are super girls to work with," she said.

Coaching soccer is a new experience for Mrs. Dusatko. "It's a learning process new to me. But new challenges are always fun." Mr. David Martin, boy's soccer coach, is also assisting the team with strategies.

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EVENTS

APRIL

April 10: V. Baseball at South

April 11: Boys' V. Soccer;
Holy Name
Millard South Track
InvitationalApril 13: Girls' V. Soccer; T.J.
V. Baseball Northwest
JV Baseball at SouthApril 14: Girls' Tennis; Gross
Boys' Track; Prep
Girls' Track; Marian
Boys' Golf; South
V. Baseball at Roncalli
Boys' V. Soccer; at WestsideApril 15: Girls' JV Soccer; at
Duchesne
Boys' JV Soccer; GlenwoodApril 16: Boys' Golf; North
V. Baseball Bell. East
Girls' V. Soccer; A.L.
Girls' Tennis; NorthApril 17: V. Baseball Ralston
Boys' Central Track InvitationalApril 20: Boys' Golf; Bryan
Girls' V. Soccer; at Lincoln
JV Baseball Bell. EastApril 21: V. Baseball at
Mill. No.
Boys' and Girls' Track; North
Boys' V. Soccer; Mill. So.April 22: JV Baseball Ralston
Boys' JV Soccer; Memorial
Girls' JV Soccer; MemorialApril 23: Girls' V. Soccer;
Ralston
Girls' Tennis; Mill. No.
V. Baseball at WestsideApril 24: Boys' V. Soccer;
RoncalliApril 25: Boys' V. Soccer; at
Mill. No.
Boys' JV Soccer; Lewis-Central
Girls' JV Soccer; Lewis-CentralApril 27: Girls' V. Soccer;
Mill. So.April 28: Boys' V. Soccer;
Prep
Boys' and Girls' Track;April 29: Girls' JV Soccer; at
Mill. So.
Boys' JV Soccer; at Benson

Boys track team prepares for season

Michael Page

Spring is just around the corner, and the boys' track team is preparing for the upcoming season.

Last spring in the Nebraska State Track and Field Meet, Central finished in second place with 45 points. Fremont won with 49 points and Northwest finished third. Central's 4 x 100 relay finished in first place and also set a new all-time record of 41.9 seconds earlier in the year. Seniors Curtis Cotton, Terry Lee, and Leodis Flowers were all on that relay. Leodis also took second place in the long jump, and he was a member of the 4 x 400 relay along with senior Greg Moore, which received a respectable third place. Senior Michael Page finished in sixth place in the 110 high hurdles.

Keith Logan, who graduated last year, played a big role in Central's high placing in state. He won the 300 intermediate hurdles, and he placed third in the 400 meter race. He also anchored the 4 x 100 relay and the 4 x 400 relays. Keith accepted a track scholarship to Iowa State.

Winter conditioning

This year's team started winter conditioning the first week after winter recess. The session lasted for six weeks. In past years, most of the team's workouts were held indoors, but this year, they took advantage of the nice weather in February and spent a lot of time outside.

Head coach Joe McMenamin works with the shotputters and the discus throwers. Evan Simpson, senior, said, "Practice usually consists of weightlifting and techniques. We usually throw the shot 15 times from the front technique and 15 times with the glide technique."

Coach John Georgeson is in charge of the hurdlers. Senior James Keith said, "In winter conditioning, he tried to emphasize long distance work. We ran a lot



Craig Haimler

Seniors George Anderson, Terry Grandberry, Greg Moore, and James Keith, along with junior Tommy Smith warm up for track practice. They are preparing for the Central Track Invitational on April 16.

of 800's and ten minute runs for endurance."

Coach Reed takes control of the sprinters. Terry Lee said, "The workouts are basically the same as last year, but I'm working harder because I'm a senior. I really want to do well in state."

Coach John Geringer coaches the long distance runners. Senior Frank Nuno said, "We, on an average, run seven miles a day."

Burke Relays

The track team opened its season at the Burke Relays. According to Coach McMenamin, the purpose of relay meets is for the coaches to get a good look at a lot of people. Central's team placed in every event except the high jump and the pole vault. Curtis Cotton took the triple jump with

a jump of 45'5", and he also finished third in the long jump with a jump of 21'7". Richard Ventry, junior, transferred from Burke High and ran on the 4 x 100 and the 4 x 200 with Curtis, Terry, and senior, George Anderson. They set a new meet record of 1:31.8 seconds in the 4 x 200.

Seniors Terry Grandberry and James Keith, junior Tommy Smith, and sophomore, Abe Hoskins made up the 4 x 400 meter relay, which took fifth place. Seniors Frank Nuno and Marc Lucas along with juniors Jim Martin and Jeff McCollom finished in fourth place in the four-mile relay with a time of 19:46.7. Seniors John Ford and Mike Gunia along with James and Michael took second place in shuttle hurdle relays. The medley relay finished in fourth

place, and the distance medley finished in fifth place.

New talent

This year's team possesses a lot of new talent. Junior James Sims transferred to Central from a school in Arkansas. Several sophomores are also contributing to the team. Coach McMenamin said, "Roland Brown jumped a 43'10" last week. He will be a big part of the varsity when the invitationals start in a couple of weeks." Other sophomores are Kelley Yancey, Lester Ridley, Robert Drown, and Malcom Weston. Other jumpers are juniors Eric Gardner and Tim Goodman, who is also a transfer from North High.

Important meets coming up are the Grand Island Relays, Millard South Invitational, and the Central Invitational.

Students pay high cost for athletics

Jeff Palzer

Although the school sponsors athletics by providing uniforms, equipment, and a place to practice, this sometimes is not enough to an athlete. Many Central students are willing to dig into their own pocket to buy what the school can not.

"There are individual things that the school can't supply," said senior Mark Ebadi, who plays varsity tennis. He spent \$150 for a new racket and \$65 for new shoes. He stressed the individuality of equipment.

"Advanced players need advanced rackets," he said, "and that costs money." He said the cost of a new racket varies from \$50 to \$250, and the quality of

a racket can easily affect performance.

Mandatory uniform

Senior Kristy Kight, captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, said that she spent \$214 on her uniform, which is mandatory to be a cheerleader. "The school can't provide the uniforms because they are used too much in a year. But they should help us pay for them because that is too expensive," she said. She also commented that the cost might keep some girls from becoming cheerleaders.

One way of keeping costs down, according to senior Mike Buckner, is team discounts. He said that the baseball team gets

a discount at United Sporting Goods. Junior Randy Gilbert bought a new catcher's mitt at United this season.

"The discount really helps," he said. "The mitt would have cost \$125, but it only cost \$95."

Another way of cutting costs is fund raising. According to senior Doug Blasing, the baseball team is selling candy in order to buy new junior varsity uniforms. He personally was not pleased with the idea of fund raising and said, "Football sells candy to get names on their uniforms, but we have to sell candy to get uniforms."

Fund raisers

But many students will pay the

difference for what they want. Varsity basketball player Jim Martin spent \$75 on his new basketball shoes. "I usually buy the latest Nike shoes because they always put a lot of work into them," he said.

Mrs. Sue Paar, girls' tennis team coach, said that many of the girls do not play in their uniforms but in what they want to wear.

"It's important to wear something that makes you feel confident," said senior Marcus Harvey, who plays varsity baseball. "Certain brands are very good quality, and they are usually the most expensive," he said.