

'Gym is not enough'

by Barbara Richardson

Whether Central will acquire new land or improve the present practice field remains unanswered.

The proposal, which may include a new practice field or improvement of the old field, is still in the discussion stage of the plants committee, one of three committees of the Omaha Public Schools, said board member Chris Cornett.

On December 5, the committee will vote on the proposal. If passed, the proposal will go before the Omaha School Board for final approval.

"The gym is a good start, but it's not enough."

— Chris Cornett

Mr. Cornett, in favor of a land addition for the practice field, said, "We are trying to equalize the athletic facilities at other schools with those not available at Central." Mr. Cornett added, "The gym is a good start, but it's not enough."

"Any acquisition of land would enhance the athletic and instructional program of Central High," said Doug Morrow, Central athletic director.

"We must obtain maximum use of current land whether Central acquires more land or not," Mr. Morrow added.

Owen Knutzen, superintendent of Omaha Public Schools, said, "If land is purchased, the exact location is presently unknown; however, Central parents are talking about a block of land bordered by 24th and 25th streets, Capitol Street, and Davenport Street."

According to Dr. Knutzen, the land will probably come from private landowners and could

involve "quite a bit of money."

The "Omaha World Herald" (November 9) recorded Attilio Rindone, a Maenner Co. representative, as estimating the cost of the one block of land near Central at \$285,500. Mr. Rindone, when contacted, refused to confirm or deny the estimate. He did not have the authority to release the information, he said.

Pat Gerringer, School Board member and chairman of the plants committee, said "Mr. Rindone made a very rough estimate and the committee has many estimates," she added, "The actual cost figures will be available December 5, when the plants committee meets again."

"A PTSA committee will attend the December 5 meeting of the plants committee to represent Central," said Becky Means, co-chairman of the PTSA.

Mrs. Means explained that the PTSA wants to improve the present practice field, with or without land.

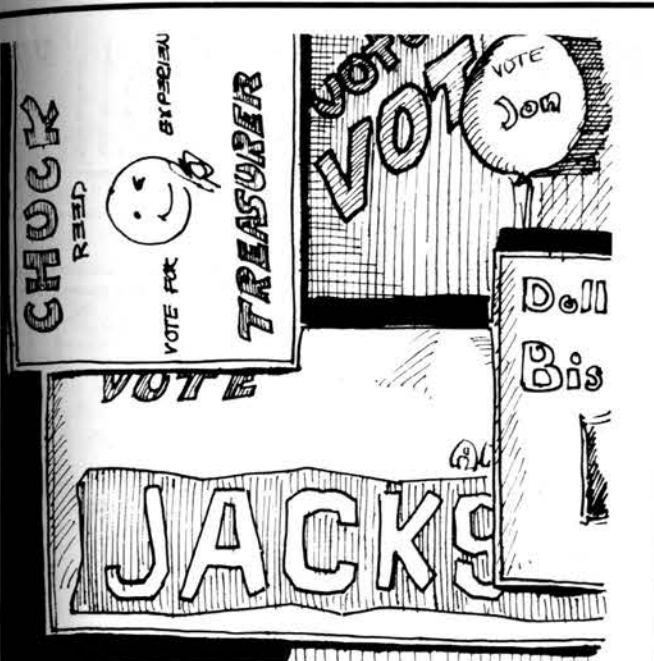
The Future Central Committee, said chairman Gail Koch, presently has no active part in

Will Central get a new practice field? Will the old field be re-modeled?

the practice field proposal, but is backing the PTSA committee.

Dr. Knutzen said, "Purchasing more land was thought about in the 1950's, but the cost was too prohibitive." Dr. Knutzen also stated that land purchases like the proposed practice field have occurred frequently at other schools in the past.

"Assuming the cost is reasonable, around \$200-300,000, the project will probably pass the final board approval," said Mr. Cornett.



graphic by Patrick Whalen

inside:

AMBROSE JACKSON won the senior presidential election. Also elected were Jean Rivard, vice president; Dollie Bisbee, secretary; Chuck Reed, treasurer; Milton Fowler, boys' sergeant at arms; and Gayla Chambers, girls' sergeant at arms. See page 3.

SEVEN RETURNING LETTERMEN lift Central's chances for a successful basketball season. See page 6.

NO, THAT BIG blue thing in front of the City County Building is not junk left by construction workers. Also, senior David Martin expresses himself through painting. See page 5.

BRUCE JENNER, Olympic decathlon gold medalist, stresses the mental aspect of sports competition. See Kiki Seitzer's column page 4.

A NOVELIST, advertiser, and journalist tries to attract students to Central. See page 4.

"OH, GOD!" GOD is good God. See Chuck Reed's column on page 2.

central high

register

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Activities program grows

by Kelvin Anderson

"I didn't write my theme," said the student, sincerely, "because I was rehearsing for the musical the last two nights, till ten thirty."

"I understand," said the teacher, calmly. "Hand it in tomorrow."

"I'm leaving for State Music Clinic today. I won't be back till late tomorrow night. And Saturday there's a debate tournament."

"What about your test?"

"I've been meaning to come in and take it, but I'm bogged down with the first yearbook deadline . . ."

With more emphasis being placed on extra-curricular activities, has the traditional classroom education taken a back seat?

"The whole activity situation has mushroomed to unbelievable proportions," said Jack Blanke, social studies department head. "We are here to teach students, not to entertain them."

There are over 15 clubs and groups. This year, there are a total of 17 sports programs. Last year alone, over 280 students participated in the sports activities. Extra-curricular activi-

Assistant Principal Al LaGreca agrees that activities help the students. "Every student should be involved in an activity because it gives that student a feeling of belonging to the school," Mr. LaGreca said.

With more activities come more problems, however. Teachers have complained about students missing class because of activities. According to Mr. LaGreca, attendance in the classroom is extremely important. Mr. Blanke agrees. "Every day is important to me."

Another problem is that students who miss school are privileged, feels Mr. Blanke. Mr. LaGreca said students are not "privileged," but that they should not be punished for being in an activity.

Also, many students' grades suffer when they join activities. As one student said, "The activities may be hurting too much, but it's my fault." According to Mr. Marsicek, students should re-evaluate when activities conflict with school time. Mr. Blanke concluded, "A student cannot dedicate himself to participate in an honors or A.P. class when he is involved in activities."

The number of activities probably could be cut down if teachers would complain, said Mr. Blanke. Activities probably will not diminish, he added, since they have become a part of school. Mr. LaGreca would like to see an increase in the number of clubs since they do not interfere with school. "We should experience everything there is to experience," he said.

see editorial on page 2

Activities on the high school level are important, agreed teachers Dan Daly, Arnold Weintraub, and Tom Marsicek. "Sitting in a class and reading a book is not the only way to learn," said Dr. Weintraub. Mr. Marsicek also feels that activities educate students. "Education is something that develops the mind, the body, the attributes, and sportsmanship. Extra-curricular activities are as much a part of education as classes," he said.

A strong activities program should have a good effect on academics, according to Mr. Daly.

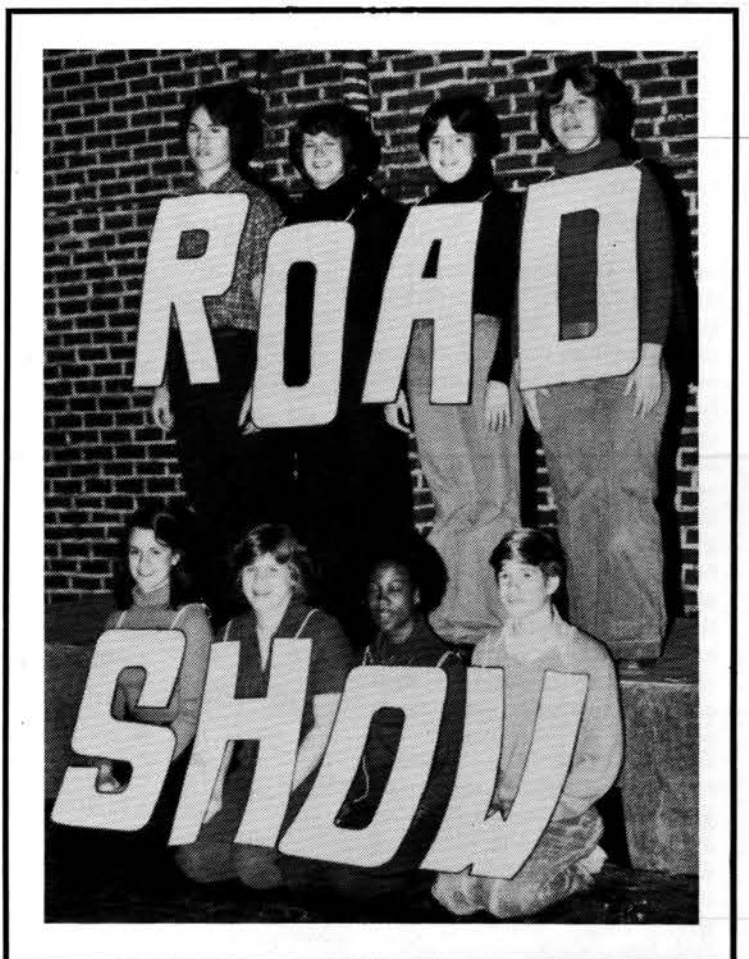


photo by Howard K. Marcus

Preparation begins

To encourage students to audition, the Road Show managers are presenting a skit in an auditorium homeroom today.

Practicing above (standing from left to right) are Jim Jespersen, sophomore; Kathy McCallister, Nancy Haley, Barb Heineman, all managers. Kneeling (from left to right) are Holly Herman, Amy Farwood, Marcelle Webb, managers, and Bob Schuerman, junior.

'South Pacific' deserves appreciation

The "South Pacific" participants, from the directors to the stage crew, a group of more than over one hundred, deserve praise for an outstanding performance, a mirror of intense effort and immense tal-

editorial

ent, an affirmation of the abilities of young people, abilities sometimes questioned and overlooked amid the "back to basics—our failing schools" movement so popular today.

The musical also supports our belief that education should not be limited to the

classroom. Activities like the musical—teaching patience, discipline, cooperation—encourage students to explore, to grow, to meet friends, to have fun. So we ask teachers to tolerate, temporarily, classes missed for performances and homework delayed for rehearsals.

Unfortunately, some students booted, screamed, and laughed (loudly) during the student performances, especially the kissing scenes. But we refuse to allow such behavior, somehow synonymous with student audiences, to detract from the musical's success. And we wish success to the participants of the next big production, the Road Show.

CHS conferences need improvement

What was expected to be a dreadful experience turned out to be a worthwhile day when parent-teacher conferences were recently held at Central. As usual, the program had its good and bad points.

Conferences were a valuable experience. Hopefully they will continue.

One such good quality that resulted from the conferences is obviously the direct involvement of the parent with the school his/her child attends. The parent, therefore, can provide a new influence for the student in hopes of improving his/her grades by semester.

A problem results when some parents take too much time discussing their respective student's progress. In one case, parents were forced to wait nearly half an hour for one conference to come to an end. Perhaps an additional and private conference can be scheduled for a later date if the teacher foresees a lengthy discussion.

Another problem with the conferences is the time of year in which they take place. By the time the parent realizes the extent of the child's grade, the quarter has already passed—too late to attempt

to improve the situation (provided the grade leaves room for improvement.)

The last, and most prominent, defect in the conference program is the distribution of report cards. Students have been taught to be mature, act their age, and, above all, be responsible. Now that we have reached the senior high school level, we are suddenly faced with being treated as first graders.

For students near adulthood it seems almost ignorant to lower them to such a state as to request that their parents receive their report cards.

We're aware that students whose parents didn't visit the school may attain their report cards in the days following the conference.

For the most part, teachers and parents readily admit that the conferences were a valuable experience. Perhaps they were, and hopefully they will continue.

editorial

However, there are a few desperately needed improvements. Maybe, next time, instead of our parents receiving our report cards, we can pin them to our sweaters and take them safely home to mommy and daddy.



"Oh, God!" is heavenly

by
Chuck Reed

A common man portraying God and his ideals? . . . in a major, nationwide motion picture?? Shun the thought!

Unless the common man is the uncommon George Burns.

And in this particular instance, none other than George Burns stars as the title role in the Warner Brothers' hit, "OH, GOD!" now showing exclusively at the Fox Twin Theatres, Westroads.

for saturday night

"OH, GOD!" is blessed with the superb talents of the 81-year-old Burns, singer temporarily turned actor John Denver, and Terri Garr of YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN fame. Even the members of the supporting cast, from crooked minister to Denver's AMC automobile, turned in a better than average performance.

The tale begins with a young, hard working, grocery store assistant manager (Denver) getting a summons to meet with God in a suburban office building. What appears to be a hoax turns out to be no laughing matter for Denver, as he is asked to spread God's word on earth. Confused, abused, and refused, the young success story becomes the neighborhood nut.

For nearly thirty minutes, the voice of George Burns suffices as "OH, GOD!"'s title character. But when He shows up to

dispell Denver's doubts on validity, God arrives in a unique form. He materializes in Denver's bathroom wearing a red-plaid shirt, sneakers, a fishing cap—certainly different.

"OH, GOD!" combines several basic emotions, flawlessly. It is tender and heart-warming. "OH, GOD!" contains a serious thought-provoking opinion on God and his ideals. Such material may be considered blasphemous to some, but yet really a believable and realistic point-of-view.

"OH, GOD!" may appear to be complex, but the dialogue really stands out as being relevant and to the point. Example: "But why me?" asks Denver. "Why not?" replies Burns. Simple as that.

With all the talent and acting ability that went into Carl Reiner production, "OH, GOD!" is one of the top movies of 1977. Unfortunately, quite a number of people know of the film's quality. Go early! In fact, I saw it on a Monday night, and it was nearly sold out. It may be crowded, but by all means, see it.

"OH, GOD!" is heavenly. INTEREST IN VIETNAM

There have been a great number of movies concerning possible aspects of war, most every war fought, and, within days of one other's releases, come two nam related flicks. The character in each movie recently released Vietnam era, one from a prisoner, the other as a mentally tormented basket case.

William Devane (best known for his uncanny likeness to F. Kennedy) portrays a released war veteran with vengeance in ROLLING THUNDER. Armed with both a off shot-gun and the point of his artificial arm, Devane brings down those responsible for a brutal attack on his wife's daughter.

Henry Winkler, armed with a box of worms, searches for old army buddies in HEAVEN now at the Six West Theatres. Westroads. Sally Field appears in Winkler's company in a search for extinct friends. Winkler's disturbed Winkler's evening nightmares, Miss crying a lot on the way.

Both Vietnam-based films in most respects, worthwhile

letters

Actions inexcusable

One of the great and unanswered questions that men will ponder about for years to come is, "Did the Juniors and Seniors at Central High trade their brains in for Student Matinee tickets to 'South Pacific'?" If so, they were unjustly cheated—they should have traded in their MOUTHS! The conduct of the "audience" (if you dare call them that!) at this performance was not only rude and distasteful, but they put their complete and uncensored ignorance in bright lights! I'll never comprehend why people insist upon insulting themselves by disregarding and disrespecting an art form. (Remember dislike and disrespect are two different things.) The catcalls that bil-lowed frequently from the students directly exposed the inexcusable immaturity surprisingly possessed by the juniors and seniors. (This is not intended for those of us that are intelligent enough to recognize a good dramatic musical production when we see it.) I have yet to hear a valid reason for such behavior. Really, are we afraid of expressing honest emotions?

Marty Nisi

Procedure questioned

It has recently been brought to my attention that only members of a C.H.S. instrumental music program are eligible for the position of Road Show manager. This is a biased and totally unfair restriction of possible talent in the management area of Road Show.

There are two strong arguments in favor of my stand. First, Road Show is an all school production, as far as acts are concerned. Why, then, aren't the management positions open to anyone in the school, with proper qualifications of course? Opponents of this argument may argue that an excess of applications will pour in, many from unqualified people. This is a distinct possibility, and also brings up my second point.

If the number of applications received from an all school application procedure was too many to handle, why not at least open the position of Road Show manager to members of A Cappella Choir and the Drama Department? Any member of these two organizations would have as good, if not better, qualifications than any member of an instrumental music organization.

Bruce Elder

Individuals immature

I would like to congratulate the senior class of Central High

School, the students the school looks up to and is proud of, the students who will soon be graduating and starting lives of their own, raising families and making their marks in the world; I would like to congratulate this class for their three year, unbroken record by once again lowering themselves to an immature level and unappreciative manner. I am referring to the recent junior/senior matinee for the annual school musical. I cannot think of a more selfish act than to talk and laugh during a performance that fellow students have worked on for months and for hours after school is out. Not only does this audience insult the actors and their excellent work, but they keep the audience who paid to see the show (not to get out of class) from enjoying the performance. Finally I would like to confess that I believe our senior class happens to be one of the best Central has ever had; but it only takes a few to spoil it for everyone.

Suzanne Claassen

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President anticipates change

Removing the library's pass restrictions and motivating student support for a lounge are the main goals of Ambrose Jackson, the newly elected senior class president.

"I won't be able to change a lot in the next six months," said Ambrose. "But my goals are within the realm of what the student body can accomplish."

Other goals include music piped through the intercom system, extra funds for clubs, doors on the toilets, and a frisbee club.

"I see my role as the voice of the student body," Ambrose said. "The only power the president has is to organize student support."

Through discussions with the librarian and the principal, he plans to "reopen the library in the mornings." Presently, students must get a pass to come to the library in the morning.

"With the support of the students we could have the library reopened," he said. "Students need an atmosphere conducive to studying in the mornings."

"Student support will also encourage the building of a lounge, he said."

Central Principal G. E. Moller is reviewing plans which locate the lounge in the hallway of the 1 side, near the doors to the courtyard, Ambrose said.

"I will try to organize the students supporting the lounge, helping the administration make the lounge possible for the class of '78," he said.

"The class of '33 has money and would like to do something for the school. They would provide ninety per cent of the funding," Ambrose said. "The only thing needed is a decision from the administration and approval from the class of '33."

Ambrose stressed the need for communication between the senior class officers and the stu-

dents. "After the president is elected," Ambrose said, "the student body forgets."

To communicate more effectively with the students, he proposes to send out a bulletin once every two weeks "stating what the officers are doing." He also proposes to establish a "cabinet," representatives of the different groups of students at Central.

The election winners were announced in a senior auditorium homeroom Friday, November 18. Also elected were Jean Rivard, vice-president, Dollie Bisbee, secretary; Chuck Reed, treasurer; Milton Fowler, boys' sergeant of arms; and Gayla Chambers, girls' sergeant of arms.

Asked to speak after the announcement, Ambrose said, "I want to thank all those who supported me. And for those who didn't I hope I can change your minds."

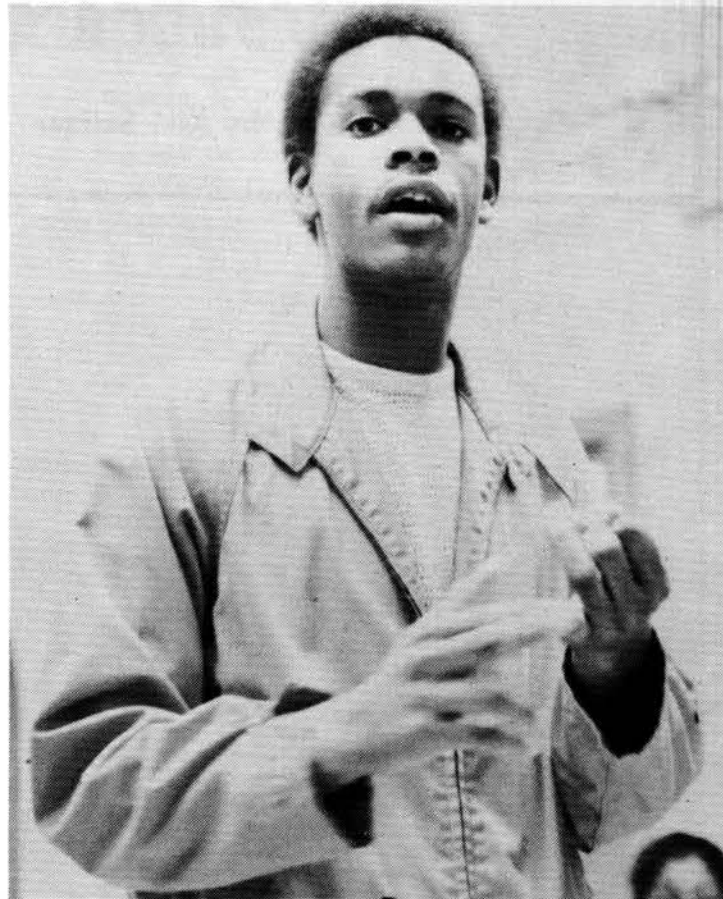


photo by Howard K. Marcus

President Jackson outlines goals.

Patron drive underway

A total of 2,800 people received a packet from Central principal G. E. Moller asking them to become "Patrons of the Performing Arts." Approximately 1,400 were parents of Central students. The other 1,400 were Central Alumni living in the Omaha area.

The packet contained a letter

"We don't feel it's just a donation; it's actually a savings."

explaining how the adult audiences were becoming sparse and that there was a need for parent and alumni support. It also reminded the people that the productions were of excellent quality and deserved their support.

Ten dollars was charged to become a patron. For this fee the patrons receive tickets to the musical, the Road Show, the spring play, the instrumental music performances, and the vocal music performances.

"We don't feel it's just a donation; it's actually a savings," said Tom Marsicek, assistant director. "In fact it would cost you twelve dollars to see each performance sep-

arately, and we're only charging ten dollars," stated Mr. Marsicek. The patrons will also have a separate table to get their tickets and will be given preferential seating.

"The main objective of the patron drive was to get more people in for the kids to perform for," said Al LaGreca, assistant principal. "We also wanted to get some more funds into the different performing arts," Mr. Marsicek said.

"The publicity you get when 2,800 people know what's going on really should help," said Robert McMeen, vocal music director. "We have the students to thank for the packets getting

"The main objective of the patron drive was to get more people in for the kids to perform for."

out on time," Mr. McMeen said.

Five students regularly worked on stapling, folding, and addressing the packets. A total of twenty students helped including the voice classes.

"The office was kind enough to type up the information to

go into the packet and run off the mimeos," Mr. McMeen said.

The idea for the patrons drive came from Mr. Marsicek. "I heard Bryan High School was selling patron memberships for the fall musical, and we at Central just went on from there,"

"I'd like to see all the seats filled, and I think we've taken a positive step towards this goal."

Mr. Marsicek said. "This way all the departments will benefit," he added.

The patron drive will be held annually from now on. "I feel it was as successful as we had anticipated," Mr. Marsicek said. Memberships are still being sold.

"I was pleased with the size of the audience for the adult performances and I'd like to think the patron program helped," stated Mr. Marsicek.

An exact count of how many patrons were present for one of the performances is unknown. "I'd like to see all the seats filled, and I think we've taken a positive step towards this goal," Mr. Marsicek added.

"Snow days"

Cancellation a process

"Snow days," cancellation of school because of inclement weather, involve certain guidelines.

"Staff designated to observe weather conditions in different parts of the city report the conditions to the superintendent. After evaluating this information plus information from weather services and the city, the superintendent makes his decision," said Joe Hanna, associate superintendent of Omaha Public Schools.

Radio and television stations will begin announcing any school closing at approximately 6:00 a.m. The OPS calendar is made with some leftover days as a cushion in case of many "snow days."

Basically the policy is the same as last year except the information is more detailed in the pick up of transported students when unexpected weather de-

velopments call for early dismissal of classes, said Dr. Hanna.

Special guidelines for transported students are: elementary students will be taken to their neighborhood school and will stay there until a parent comes to pick them up; secondary students will be returned to their residential pickup points; and special education students picked up at their homes will be returned to their homes.

"School attendance of students under abnormal conditions is the right and responsibility of parents. They are to judge whether or not their children are fit and able to attend school in bad weather. Parents may also, in bad weather, pick up their children from school at anytime during the day. The child will be marked absent, but it is an excused absence," said Dr. Hanna.

of central importance

Debaters win again

The Central debate team maintained its winning tradition.

The team travelled to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the Hoover High School Fall Classic, a five state regional tournament held November 4 and 5.

The senior team of Barry Epstein and Pat Gibson successfully debated their way through preliminary rounds, accumulating a 4-1 record. Creighton Prep stopped them in quarter finals.

At Hoover, junior Tim Martin, one of six, won his way into the final round of extemporaneous speaking, an event where students speak on current events.

The next tournament will be held December 2 at Creighton University.

Five members of the debate

team were named as national point leaders in the "Rosstrum," the publication of the National Forensic League. The debaters were Barry Epstein, Pat Gibson, both varsity debaters, and Charles Fishkin, Jon Krogh, and Barb Richardson, former debaters.

Latin Club competes

Members of Latin Club competed in the Junior Classical League chariotathon held at Berquist Stadium October 22.

Rita Ryan, Central Latin teacher, said the event was sponsored by JCL to raise money for the regional convention held later this year.

The chariotathon consisted of a 24 lap relay on a 440 yard track. The Central "chariot," a modified garbage can, was made by sophomore Grant Geir.

The Central team placed

first in the contest, finishing ahead of North and South.

Soccer fun, exciting

Are you looking for something fun and exciting to do in your spare time? Theresa Slavin, a junior here at Central, has found something and it's soccer.

For the past year Theresa, Kathy Adams and Karen Ray, both Central juniors, have played on a soccer team sponsored by the National (Olympia) Soccer Association. Theresa said she got involved for fun. But along with the fun came many bumps and bruises.

They practiced every week to get in shape for their games. Theresa recalled one game, a scrimmage match against an eight year old boys' team, which they lost. But they won most of their games.

The team is for girls under 16, which puts Theresa, Karen and Kathy out of that league. But if you are interested just contact Theresa or someone from the team. Central does need a soccer team, commented Theresa.

O-Book sales highest

985 O-Books were sold this year. "It represents a sale of 68 per cent of the student body," said T. M. Gaherty, journalism teacher. "This percentage has been the highest in my 15 years and I suspect the highest ever."

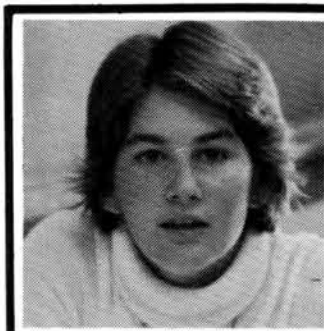
The sale of the O-Books lasted 2½ weeks. The cost was \$7.00 with an S.A. ticket and \$8.00 without. The sale went well at the beginning, but slowed down towards the end. The O-Books will be delivered in the middle of May. No extra books were ordered.

Meanwhile, the 14 members of the O-Book staff are still working after completing their first 52 page deadline, November 15th.

All-State Clinic held

The All-State Music Clinic was held November 17-19 in Lincoln. Attending from Central were Kim Harling, Linda Heise, Bobbie Macek, Martha Murdock, and Cheryl Webster in orchestra; Becki Couch, Nancy Haley, Carol Hamilton, Lynda Madej, and Bob Rumboltz in choir.

The final concert was held on Saturday, November 19, at Pershing Auditorium. Tryouts for All-State Music Clinic were held in October. Requirements for tryouts included solos with fast and slow parts and sight reading for orchestra. Sight reading and a solo were also required for choir.



inseitz

by Kiki Seitzer



photo by Mike Lammers
courtesy of The Creightonian

Jenner speaking at Creighton.

Jenner stresses mental aspect

Bruce Jenner, 1976 Olympic decathlon gold-medalist, at a recent speech at Creighton University, emphasized the mental aspect in sports through two experiences in his life.

"Athletics is 80 per cent mental (concentration and momentum) and 20 per cent physical. Athletes are positive thinking people. Negative thinking can kill you. My mental strength comes from within myself while some people get strength from religion etc," said Jenner.

Greatest experience

In 1972, Jenner attended Graceland College in Lamona, Ia. Jenner went to the Olympic qualifying meet. "I wasn't expected to qualify. I decided to learn from this meet and have fun," said Jenner. He qualified for the Olympics team with a good time in the 1500 meters run (eight seconds faster than his best time before 1972).

"My legs felt like jello in that race. This was the greatest experience I've ever had. I thought positively and if I want it enough and I'm hungry enough for the win, I can win," said Jenner. Jenner's second experience came in the 1975 National AAU meet.

"I was now working harder than ever (eight hours a day), and yet my scores were worse and my timing was off. I was lacking something," said Jenner. Crysty, Jenner's wife, got him back on the right track.

She said his outside commitments were worrying him. Jenner dropped his other commitments and concentrated on just one—winning the Olympics. "At the Olympics the pressure was on me because I was expected to do well, and I was carrying myself, family, friends, and the whole country," said Jenner.

Fulfillment of dream

The slow-motion film of his 1500 meter victory, the last decathlon event, in the 1976 Olympics was the highlight of the presentation. After twelve years of training, he had finally reached his goal and fulfilled his dream.

Jenner then related his recurring dream. "In the dream, the Star Spangled Banner is playing in the background. I'm walking down the steps, and I knew I would never do it again. I must continue on with other aspects of my life," said Jenner.

Jenner is now sportscasting on ABC, endorsing products (Wheaties), heading the Special Olympics, etc. "I enjoy sportscasting. It's fun and challenging. I still run with my dog Bertha and play tennis, but rigorous training is out," said Jenner.

FLOYD'S GIRL



Bromberg on Jewish Board

Efrem Bromberg, Central senior, is the first youth ever to have a seat on the Omaha Jewish Community Center Board of Directors.

Efrem said, "It is a great responsibility to be on the Board of Directors since they are the final decision-makers for the entire Center. I felt that it was very important to have the youth represented because they use the Center just as much as anyone else. There is a special staff just for the youth, and there are also junior and senior high lounges."

In Kansas City, where he formerly lived, students were never

represented on the Board of Directors. He's very glad that it finally happened in Omaha.

When asked how the other members of the Board of Directors felt about his presence, Efrem said, "They have all been very nice to me. I'm considered as an equal voting member. I have my say just like everyone else. The only problem I've ever found was what to call them. They all call each other by their first names and ask each other about their family and kids. I just call them Mr. or Mrs. so and so."

Each member of the board is the chairman of a committee.

Efrem is chairman of Omaha Jewish Youth Council. The Jewish Youth Council consists of a member or president from each of eight youth groups who are voting members, but the meetings are open to anyone.

"Our main idea," said Efrem, "is to aid all youth groups. It's a lot of work, it's worth it. This year we're planning a philanthropic college series with a speaker from various colleges in the area speaking about general aspects of college. Also a play weekend and a citywide dance are big events in the near future."

Journalist recruits freshmen

Many people after a day of school or a long day's work, come home, plop on the couch, and then glue their eyes to the television set. "When I get home, my first reaction is to write instead of watch television," said Bob Reilly, associate professor of journalism at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

At Central November 9 and 16, Mr. Reilly conducted creative writing workshops for ninth grade students from various junior highs. These workshops, part of the mini-magnet program, seek to attract ninth graders to Central. The students are also given school tours and information about the various programs at Central.

"You really have to strive hard to make material interesting to students. I really admire high school teachers. It is much more difficult to keep the attention of high school students as compared to college students. During my workshops, I am trying to make students more aware of their five senses. I am

also helping them learn how to describe objects and people," said Mr. Reilly.

English department head Dan Daly said, "My Reilly is a reflection of the writing emphasis at Central. Since Central emphasizes writing, we want to have specialists in particular areas who will motivate and inspire incoming ninth grade students."

Mr. Reilly was in the advertising business for 15 years. "Advertising is a job for young people. When you get older you are not as creative because you know the ropes. Advertising is a demanding job," said Mr. Reilly.

Mr. Reilly writes articles and short stories for a variety of national magazines and periodicals. He has seven published books and two awaiting publication. Some of his published books are "Red Hugh, Prince of Donegal," "Massacre at Ash Hollow," "Christ's Exile," Irish Saints," and "Come Along to Ireland." "Prince of Donegal" was released as a Walt Disney

movie in 1966 and television series in 1967. It is translated in seven foreign editions. "Road to Beal nam Bland," a biography of Michael Collins, and "The Lion of Kerry," a biography of Daniel O'Connell, are awaiting publication.

Many of his books have been influenced by his Irish heritage. Mr. Reilly said, "I write in relation to the area because of my heritage. I know the area and like the people in Ireland."

Mr. Reilly has written scripts for many pageants, radio, television shows, and commercial films. For a year and a half he wrote a television show. He also wrote scripts for celebrities Loren Greene, Ed McMahon, and Mike Douglas. Ed McMahon is a former roommate and personal friend of Reilly.

Mr. Reilly's involvements are unending: journalist, advertiser, writer, a father to ten children, and much more—all in a 24-hour day.

Student writes novel

Sara Wilke, a Central junior, recently submitted a manuscript to Carlton Press publishers in New York, hoping to publish her first book, "Fury's Realm."

"Fury's Realm" is a story of a girl who conquers a realm and gains power for her planet, "Arth."

According to Sara, the book took four years to write, and, if published, will be 64 pages long.

"I rewrote it three or four times," admitted Sara, "but everytime I left it for a while and reread it later, I didn't like what I had written."

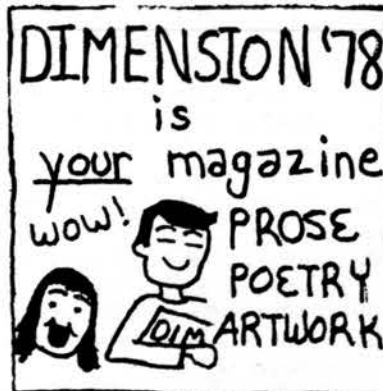
Several forces motivated Sara to write the story. "Everyone has his own fantasy, and I just decided to put mine into words," Sara said. She also was inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien, author of "The Hobbit" and other novels.

Sara expects to hear from her publisher sometime in November. "I have a feeling the

publishers are going to reject this book. I don't even like it myself," Sara admitted. "I'm already prepared to rewrite it if I need to."

In the meantime, Sara has begun work on another book called "Pathon," directly inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's character by the same name.

According to Sara, her main problem while writing her first book was lack of encouragement.



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Art in and around Central

Sculpture on loan to city

Sidney Bucanan, local artist and professor of Art at University of Nebraska at Omaha, created the large sculpture in front of the new City County Building in Omaha.

The sculpture, which weighs 7,000 pounds, is made up of 21 inch "I" beams and shredded metal from the Alter Scrap Yard in Iowa.

The sculpture is on loan to the city from Mr. Bucanan for an indefinite period of time. Mr. Bucanan said, "I hope some civil minded person will buy the sculpture and donate it to the city of Omaha."

Mr. Bucanan used steel for the sculpture because "that's about all you can use for an outside sculpture." Bucanan was assisted with the project by a UNO graduate who helped with the grinding and painting.

Mr. Bucanan also built a sculpture using similar materials located in Pipal Park overlooking Center street in memory of the May 6th tornado.

The sculpture took him approximately 500 hours to construct over a two month period. "I'm basically really pleased with it," he said.

Mr. Bucanan majored in Art at the University of Minnesota and also attended Highlands College in New Mexico. He has been a visiting sculpturer in Manchester, England and has published in "Leonardo," magazine of contemporary art.

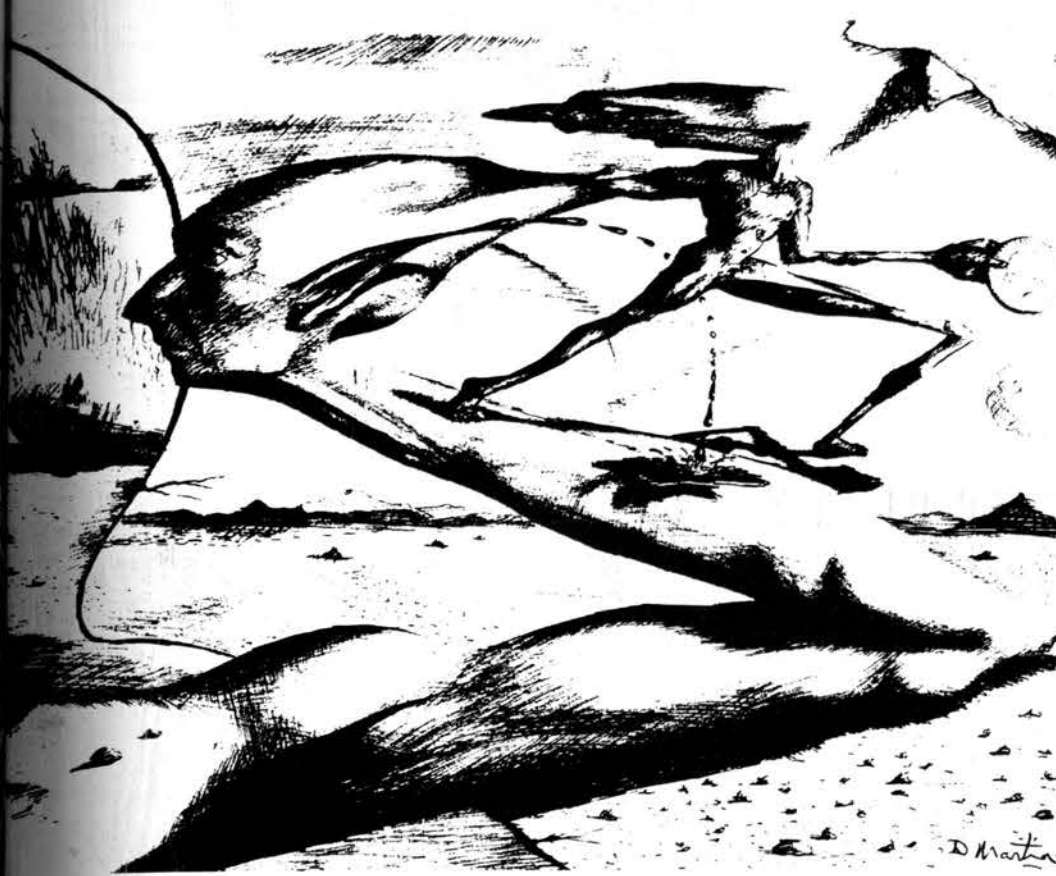
"I don't have to sell my stuff," Mr. Bucanan said, since his UNO job provides a steady income.

Mr. Bucanan said there is an over flow of capable artists in Omaha and the remainder of Nebraska, but when sculpture is wanted as in the case of the sculptures alongside Interstate 80, the state of Nebraska commissioned artists outside the state.

Mr. Bucanan said, "You have to be a masochist to be an artist in this town. There just isn't any money for sculpture in this town."

But he also said, "Most things you make don't excite you. You never get exactly what you want when you're finished either."

Mr. Bucanan believes in quality not quantity. He doesn't run masses of material that all looks alike just for the sake of selling it.



drawing by David Martin

Martin incorporates surrealism in art

Childhood coloring books and paint by number sets were the beginning of an artistic interest for David Martin, Central senior. But, today his style is quite a bit different and considerably more advanced. His paintings are not the ordinary paintings one always expects to see. They are surrealistic paintings, meaning his paintings subconsciously express his thoughts.

When looking at David's paintings, it is easy to think they are extremely abstract. The meaning in the paintings is not evident at a first glance. The viewer has to look at them closely and observe everything from the basic lines to the detailed prisms. "It is not easy for most people to interpret my paintings since surrealism is symbolic. Social comment is reflected in almost all of my 121 paintings in one way or another," said David.

"It is not easy for most people to interpret my paintings since surrealism is symbolic..." —Martin.

David added, "Painting to me is not as enjoyable as it used to be. I feel like I have to paint. It is sort of like a compulsion. Painting is my way of getting

involved with the world. I am not good with words, so I put my thoughts and feeling into paintings."

David's paintings criticize different moral and religious flaws that he sees in society. David said, "I also criticize myself in my paintings; I am by no means above that."

David does not feel his mood affects his paintings to any great extent, except for the general idea. "Sometimes I might be in a really good mood while working on a hard core anti-society painting," said David.

David wants to incorporate his surrealistic feeling into whatever field he goes into after college. "I want to be an artist while making films and studying poetry at the same time. Most of my films will be surrealistic experiments."

David has entered his paintings in three scholastic shows.

Last year he won a gold key and was a finalist in the Hallmark contest. "I don't make a lot of money selling my paintings. I make about \$10 to \$20 on each painting. I give away a lot of my paintings because making money is not the important factor."

"The whole concept of symbolism fascinated me."—Martin.

David's style developed in ninth grade, when Dirk McNeely, Central English teacher, explained symbolism in class. "When Mr. McNeely talked about symbolism, it really influenced me and started me painting in a surrealistic manner. The whole concept of symbolism fascinated me."



photo by Alan Potash

Christian puts artist abilities to work.



photo by Howard Marcus

Bucanan's loans work of art to Omaha.

Artist aids Central students

The Artists-in-the-Schools Program employed the talents of painter, printmaker, Marie Christian. Mrs. Christian assisted Central art classes from October 7 through October 21.

Mrs. Christian's interest in art began in elementary school. "I worked as a commercial artist earlier in my career," she said. "Later I taught at the college level."

During the morning Mrs. Christian assists classes in a process called collagraphy which involves the making of a print from a cardboard plate made of glue.

"I came to Central with a highly motivating project," she stated. "Although formal class activities stop, the project is related to the curriculum of the class. We will complete the pro-

ject in only nine days."

Mrs. Christian was chosen by Omaha Public Schools partially through the Nebraska Arts Council. OPS receives a list of interested artists from the Council. Then they choose the artist who they feel is most qualified.

"One of the main reasons I think I was chosen," she explained, "is that I have previous teaching experience."

"I don't think many people realize what a fine art department Central has," Mrs. Christian said. It has excellent facilities and is well organized. I get a great response from the students."

Beginning December 2 the Sales and Rental Gallery at Joslyn Art Museum will display Mrs. Christian's material.

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after the anthem

by Jim Zipursky

Team finishes well

Congratulations to this year's varsity football team members and coaches. The Eagles defeated Benson in the season's finale, 28-0, to finish the year with a 5-3-1 record. This is the school's best record since 1960. A mere five points kept Central from a 7-2 season. (The Eagles tied South and lost to Millard by three points). Had the Eagles been able to win either of these games, they most assuredly would have finished in the state Top Ten ratings. Central's other two losses were to Papillion and Creighton Prep, both teams state play-off semi-finalists.

State leaders

Seniors Dan Goodwin and Terry Johnson, and junior Nate Butler finished among the best in Class A in four different categories. Goodwin finished as the Class A's third leading scorer and sixth leading rusher. Butler and Johnson were among the leaders in passing and receiving respectively. Both Goodwin and Johnson were among the state leaders last year.

Leader in another sport

Virgil Miller was also among the state's best, but in cross-country, not football. Miller, a junior, finished ninth in the state competition this year and should place higher next year. Although he was the only Eagle harrier to qualify for the meet, Miller represented the Central squad admirably.

Wrestlers hope for best

Fall is over and the weather is getting cooler all the time. Athletes are hanging up their cleat and getting ready for the indoor activities.

For most sports nuts, basketball is on their winter agenda. But not for the minority on the Central wrestling squad.

New Coaches

Central is returning ten lettermen from a young team that finished 3-8 last season. Despite their losing record the Eagles had a fairly strong team. Many of their matches were decided in the last three weight classes in which sophomores filled the slots.

First year head coach Jim Kimsey, new to Central last year, will be assisted by another new face, Ken Boettcher.

"It's pretty early to tell anything right now, but the guys have a lot of potential," said Mr. Boettcher. "We should really be strong in our middle weights, (between 132 and 155 pounds). That's where the majority of our people are."

State Qualifiers

It's doubtful the Eagles will produce another champion like Terry Conyers, but a winning record does look possible.

Of the returning lettermen on the team, four qualified for the trip to state last season. Terry Gargano and Greg Brooks both finished fourth in the metro championships at 112 and 132 respectively. Seniors Dave (138) and Bob Johnson (155) (no relation) were the other two who went to state. Bob, the most notable of the four, finished 1976 with a 22-7 record and also placed third in metro and sixth in state.

"He's really strong, and he wants to go at fifty-five because he feels his chances are better there; wherever he goes he'll do fine," Mr. Boettcher said of B. Johnson.

Rigatuso is ready

Other lettermen from last year include juniors Mark Chambers (98), heavyweight Mike Gross, Mark Rigatuso (167) who is returning from a broken leg suffered during football, and seniors Kenny Hayes (119), Dennis Moody (126), and Joe Scarpello (145). Many of the grapplers will wrestle different weights once the season officially begins.

The first competitive meet for the Eagles will be the North High Invitational at McMillan Jr. High, December 1 through 3.

Experience to strengthen new team

"We have a lot of returning lettermen this year, and I am sure we'll do well throughout the season," said Jim Martin, boys' varsity basketball coach. He added, "Also, we have three starters returning from last year's team."

The team

Brad Bone, Michael Johnson, and Terry Johnson all started for the varsity Eagles last year, while lettermen Daryl Davis, Jeff Goodwin, Grady Hansen, and Scott Henninger all return to this year's squad. Phil Beauchamp, Nate Butler, Dave Felici, Andre Edmonds, Ambrose Jackson, and Ralph Pope are also listed as varsity team members.

Jackson, after starting on the jayvee squad as a sophomore, missed all of last season with a knee injury. He was listed as a varsity team member before he underwent knee surgery.

Second seed

Central has already been seeded second in the Metro Holiday tournament. "With voting on the basis of one point for first, two for second, and so forth, Northwest was everyone's (all team coaches vote) favorite with 24 points. We were second with 65 points, and Prep was third with 68 points. Tech was the fourth place team," the coach stated.

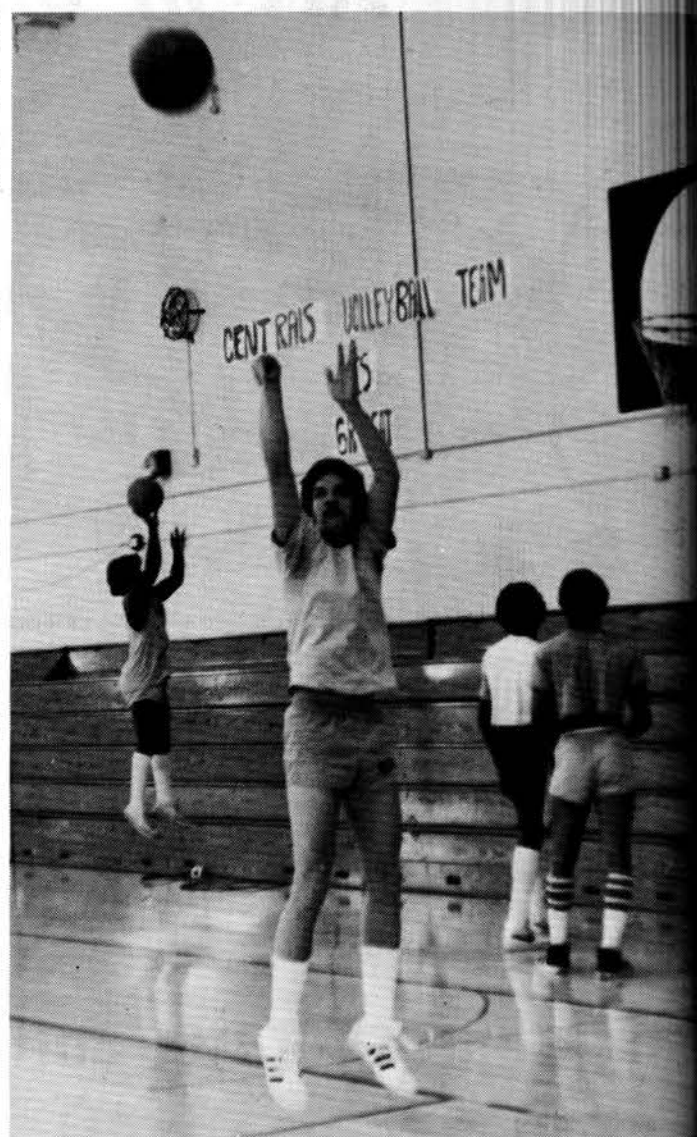


photo by Alan P.

Jeff Goodwin hits from outside.

Miller finishes ninth

When the Central high cross-country team rolled into Kearney for the state championships, their only hope for a title would have been if the other teams didn't show up.

Miller Qualifies

Why throw in the towel before the battle had begun? Because the representative for the Eagles could hardly be called a team.

Junior Virgil Miller was the only qualifier from Central in the district A-3 meet at Bryan. Only the top six runners from each district would make the trip to state. Virgil was fifth.

Team Needed Intensity

For the record, the Eagle team did finish the season with a 5-5 mark. "Our top three runners were quite solid, but you need all five to win the big ones," said coach Dave James. "Even though they were hard workers, I had hoped the team would have had a more intense

attitude. Winning doesn't come by accident, it takes a superb effort," he added.

Miller, who leads the pack of Central Harriers, is followed by Gary Flaxbeard, Jim Labenz, Paul Holland and Bob Kain.

A Close Finish

Coach James went on to comment about Miller's dedication. "Virgil has a strong drive and the ability to get up for the important meets. He really peaked physically and mentally for state," Mr. James said.

On a partly cloudy, overcast day with gusting winds, Nebraska's top high school harriers were meeting for a showdown on the fast Kearney Country Club course.

Miller was a little optimistic before the race. "I knew I could do well on a good day, but I thought I had an outside chance of being in the top ten," said Miller.

After one-fifth of the two

and a-half mile race, Virgil occupied 60th place. He went to finish a close 9th out of 102 man field.

His effort is the second in the past eleven years at Central according to Mr. James. Larry Erwin placed 3rd in 1966.

Likes to Run

Miller ran well all year, placing in the top ten of each invitational meet. Ironically, his worst performance came in Central's best team effort (7th) the Metro Championship. There he finished two places behind running mate Flaxbeard.

"Now I'm looking ahead track season," said Miller. "As a sophomore he turned in a personal best of 4:36 in the mile. His goal for this year is 4:15. When asked whether he preferred crosscountry or track Miller replied, "It doesn't make any difference; I just like to run."

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