

Tide of mediocrity' threatens schools

ka Herzog
sociate editor

During the end of last year, a report by the Reagan administration's National Commission on Excellence in Education created a lot of new coverage over the public education system of America. A promise of a "rising tide of mediocrity" in the public schools was answered in ways that could change the education available at Central in the future. On the other hand, the answers may not be needed at Central. In previous interviews, Dr. Gailord Moller, Central High principal; Mr. Maliszewski, Central High guidance director; and Mr. Dan Daly, head of the Central High English Department, set forth the views that the report by the commission may change things at Central when it may not.

"It takes leadership..." President Ronald Reagan claimed in his May 17th news conference printed in the May 18th New York Times. "[I]t takes some return to basics, it takes having students that now have to learn what they're supposed to learn in class before they're moved on to the next class just because they've come to the end of the year. . . . It also takes required courses in English, in the basics, in mathematics, in science—particularly in high school."

But though Dr. Moller does agree there is a drive for a back-to-basics curriculum, he says "we have never left basics here for the last twenty or forty years."

Dr. Moller explained what he feels is a back-to-basics curriculum. "A back to basics curriculum essentially means back to the fundamental reading, writing, and arithmetic. This means good solid English and being able to use figures. Good basic science, social studies. They are things all persons have to know if they want to be moderately successful."

Statistics concerning success in the future might deal with test scores from the

Downward trend in college entrance exam scores apparent in 1983 report

College Board's verbal and mathematics aptitude tests. In verbal results, there was a peak in average scores from 1955 to 1956 and then a downward trend to the present. The margin has slipped to 53 points. On the mathematical scores, the average scores peaked in 1962 to 1963 and then dropped 35 points to the present. These figures were published in *The National Journal* of July 9, 1983 in an article entitled "The Riddle of Declining Test Scores."

In this same article, an explanation for the decline of scores was explored. A panel appointed to search for an answer said that "a variety of possible factors" could be the answer. They were listed as follows: students watching too much television; grade inflation; parental abdication of teaching responsibilities; lower school standards; and a drop in academic course work in

high school.

From the more local point of view, Mr. Maliszewski listed two main reasons for declining test scores. "Teaching in the last ten to fifteen years has used a different approach called the 'Inquiry Approach.' It was more away from the 'Rote Memorization'. Tests now reflect [a measure of] the old method while teaching uses the new method of inquiry."

Mr. Maliszewski's second answer to declining test scores is the fact that "more students are encouraged to go on to college. There are more people taking the tests." He went on to say that counselors no longer point to one student and say he or she is college material while pointing to another and saying he or she is not college material.

"...[E]ducation is not the prime responsibility of the Federal Government," President Reagan contended in his news conference last May. This statement by President Reagan has created controversy shown in other New York Times articles.

Walter Mondale, in a May 10th article asserted that President Reagan had "turned his back on the country, its children, and its future."

Mr. Daly here at Central asks, "Did he [Reagan] do anything? He has only deplored the commission's findings."

"Few things are done because of the cost," Dr. Moller said. "It is not likely that Reagan will approve funding." He went on to say "Reagan's basic, overall philosophy is anti-education when it comes to money."

Education costs money. It is expensive."

In "A Census of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1979 to 1980" from the National Center for Education Statistics from the Education Department, published in *The National Journal* (July 9, 1983), Dr. Moller's words are put into statistics. Out of an enrollment of 240,226 students, the amount of money spent per pupil was \$2,403.

Mr. Daly said that questions about the quality of education "come around like a merry-go-round." He called it "cyclical" and compared the problems in education to the same problems found in the ancient times of Socrates and Aristotle.

'Socrates and Aristotle'

On requirements, Dr. Moller said, "We could require more, but an increase in basics might not be wise. Capable students get basics plus more because of their own desires. Less capable students get the basics." Dr. Moller considers that they are walking a "successful middle line."

Dr. Moller also credits the quality of education at Central by saying, "I feel Central is continuing to maintain a good school. Tradition is immeasurably invaluable to a school. To be good, we must believe it. That goes for teachers and students." He feels that there is "much better quality here because we ought to believe that our school is the best. If we don't, we aren't worth a tenth of our salaries."

Central Register

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Computer age creates revolutionary time-fillers

In September, summer fades into autumn, a phenomena that many students serve through classroom windows. In fact, many young minds tend to wander out the window, among the autumn leaves. Competition with homework, either nature-provided man-made, abounds.

Study distractions other than school- or community-sponsored activities, which encourage social interaction, may be harmful to student if used improperly. Television, video games, and personal computers are among the chief offenders.

"Television is the best source of mind-control," said Lorraine Hemenway, Central senior. Others worry about the adverse effect of television violence. But do most students really watch an excessive amount of television?

Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance counselor, said that outside influences cannot be eliminated. He also said that while students "definitely forgo homework to watch a program on TV," it's not necessarily the television causing distractions but rather the "self-discipline and maturity" of the individual.

Mr. Maliszewski also said that television has, on a positive note, "increased self-

awareness and shown available options — such as college — to many students."

A second, younger form of distraction is the playing of video games. Dr. Joseph Lavoie, a professor of child psychology at UNO, said that there is a lot of research being done on the subject of video games, and although "no real answers" exist now, reports should be appearing soon. "The shortcomings of video games are that they have no creative work. A person receives set instructions and responses," Dr. Lavoie said.

On the positive side, Gary, the manager at the Old Market Gizmos for eight years, said, "Coordination actually improves for the younger kids. Because of that, pinball machines are used at schools for the mentally retarded." He said that although some Centralites flock to Gizmos right after school, high school students are not allowed into the arcade during the day. At Gizmos, an establishment that "draws every kind of person," the average player, according to Gary, spends \$2 a session.

When used in moderation, video games do appear to have a purpose. As Lorraine said, "It's a non-violent relief from pressure — peer, parent, and school." Video games also represent a "fun and easy first introduction to computers for younger children," according to Mr. Maliszewski. Dr. Lavoie said that video games also can be a possible alternative to alcohol and drugs for some teens.

A necessity in the learning process is a wide attention span. Has the computer age reduced attention spans in students? "What...?" is the reply of Peter Lankford, a Central senior and owner of a Commodore 64 personal computer. Personal computers are the most recently marketed distraction to high school students. Along with Peter, Charlie Liakos, Thad Ware, Erik Rogers, and Roxanne Gryder, all seniors, own personal computers.

One negative effect of computers according to Mr. Maliszewski is the loss of social interaction, since computers are basically an individual project. He also said that personal computers might defeat their purpose through excessive game-playing and cheating, but that depends on the individual. And as Pete said, "Computer literacy is becoming a necessity in the modern world."



photo by Roxanne Gryder
Mark and Anita exhaust Central's supply of math courses.

Accelerated students 'Golden age' reborn

Central's "golden age" may be gone, but the students are still outstanding, said Mr. John Waterman, math department head. Mr. Waterman said about 20 years ago during its golden age Central dominated Omaha school academic circles, especially in the area of mathematics.

But Miss Virginia Pratt, former AP Calculus teacher at Central, said at that time Central had "a larger number of exceptionally talented students," but that the school's golden age "has no beginning or end, but continues in its own way."

Exceptional Students
During its period of extraordinary success, Central's math classes were filled with Anita Barneses, Mr. Waterman said. Anita Barnes is taking AP Calculus and enrichment math as a sophomore.

After taking the SATs at Nathan Hale as a seventh grader and scoring in the 600's in math, Anita attended a summer residential program at Duke University with other high scorers, where she said she took courses in geometry and second-year algebra in three weeks.

Then Anita skipped eighth grade and took trigonometry and precalculus at Northwest High School as a freshman. She said the only subject she worried about missing was 8th-grade science but figured chemistry would compensate for what she missed.

Mark Lupas, another advanced Central math student, is a freshman from Norris who comes to Central via MAT bus from his junior high to take afternoon classes in advanced computers, enrichment math, and algebra III-IV. Mark would regularly get out of Norris at 2:15, but stays until 3:20 at Central for his classes.

'Yeah, I am bored'
Mark now takes regular algebra—"Yeah, I am bored," he said — to avoid being in the same honors class as his brother Matt

Kelley, a Central junior, Mr. Waterman said. "It's good enough, and Mark can relax a little. The enrichment course will give him experience in high-level math," the math department head said. Mark and Anita are the youngest in the enrichment class of juniors and seniors, and both admit to being somewhat confused. "It's hard," Anita said, "but it's easier to learn new things."

Mr. Waterman thinks today's students are as capable as those 20 years ago, but their time is divided between too many extracurricular activities so they do not have enough time to spend on "things like calculus and physics."

"Gifted students should compete, not in the football sense of the word, but to stimulate interest and to bounce ideas off each other," Mr. Waterman said.

"For the last 10 years public education has emphasized the quality of special education, and now it's time to pay attention to the gifted students—bus them if we have to," Mr. Waterman said.

What Next?

When Mark and Anita, as well as junior calculus-takers Harold Adcock, Dan Mirvish, and Arthur Kosowsky have exhausted Central's supply of math courses, they can advance to college classes while still in high school.

Dr. Derek Fuller, a Creighton math professor, said laughingly that a sophomore taking AP Calculus was "good enough." He explained that a registered high school student can enroll at Creighton as a "special student," taking one or more advanced-level credited college courses if the student received a score from a 3 to a 5 (5 being the best) on his or her AP Calculus exam. Dr. Fuller said about 90 percent of all colleges accept the transferred credits, "depending on particulars."



Early dismissals pose heated questions

Sitting in study hall one hot, sticky Monday afternoon, Johnny Centralite pauses to calculate how many hours, minutes, and seconds are left until he can once again exist in the cool comfort of his home or nearest video arcade. Why this desperation to get out of a healthy, learning environment? Part of the problem is due to the oven-like atmosphere in which he is learning.

Many students at Central these past few weeks have had similar attitudes and are feeling frustrated by the School Board's seemingly callous and unusually cruel lack of consideration. They are asking questions such as "Why are we being let out at 2:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 p.m.?" and "Why do air-conditioned schools get out also?"

Editorial

In response to these questions, Mr. Ralph Bradley, Director of O.P.S. public affairs said there are ninety school units and only twenty-seven out of the ninety are air-conditioned. If the air-conditioned schools stayed in session, buses would have to make special runs.

As to the 2:00 p.m. dismissals, Bradley added that the School Board calls the National Weather Service before making an early dismissal decision. They receive temperature predictions for both 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Their decision is based on these forecasts and how much school students can safely miss. So, as you sweat through school day cursing your benevolent superintendent, remember he has your best interests in mind!

Education crisis

Solutions varied

As high school students, education is a large part of our lives; after all we spend seven hours a day, five days a week in school. It follows that we should be very concerned about recent reports on the poor quality of the education we're receiving.

According to one report by Senator Edward Zorinsky, "One out of five adults in the United States has been found to be functionally illiterate. Our public spends more money on education than anywhere else in the world, yet the United State's literacy rate has already dropped to the level of Burma and Albania and is approaching that of Zambia."

Editorial

This problem isn't one that can be solved simply by raising the teachers salaries or by thinking of new ways to pay them, although increased pay would be an incentive factor. Teacher education also needs re-evaluation. Senator Zorinsky's report states that Colleges of education have heavily weighted their programs with education methods at the expense of courses in subjects to be taught. As a result, many teachers have not mastered the basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and other subjects that they are required to teach. Numerous studies have found that the Colleges of education now attract the least capable students, and those who go on to teaching jobs are among the lower-scoring graduates.

Solutions to this problem boil down to three basic areas. First, higher pay is needed to attract the higher scoring high school graduates to the education major; secondly, the Colleges of education need to raise their standards of education to insure that students are being given solid backgrounds in the subjects they will be teaching; and last, as high school students, we need to communicate with our parents and teachers to let them know about our complaints and the improvements we feel are needed. Don't just receive an education, take part in it. After all it exists for our benefit.

Study halls brain-child of psychopath



Rocky Road

Linda Rock

I am convinced that the person who thought up the idea of study halls must have had a warped sense of humor. Now, we all know that study halls are supposed to provide time for students to work on homework, but what really goes on behind those doors during the forty-two minutes of allotted study time?

Well, for one thing, study hall provides an excellent opportunity for "people watchers." Besides the bus depot, this is probably the best place in Omaha to find a wide assortment of people. Just the other day in study hall, I looked up from my English assignment to find a girl with a cherry-red face and lime-green hair! Dismissing the idea that is was a bit early for Christmas spirit and deciding that the colors were all wrong for the latest in fall punk rock fashions, I decided that she must have been a leftover casualty from the summer sun.

Seeing this girl aroused my curiosity to watch for some other interesting people. Until that time I had never seen anyone experiencing "M-TV" withdrawal symptoms. Actually it was somewhat frightening. He just sat there staring straight ahead and mumbling incoherent bits of obscure songs.

Out of the corner of my eye, I then spotted a clockwatcher. This is the type of person who wears a digital watch that tells everything except the flight schedule for Ozark airlines. Yet, the clockwatcher still insists on looking at the clock on the wall every fifteen minutes to see if the hour is over.

The person who designed study hall chairs must have been related to the person who invented study halls. Although I'll have to admit there was a bit of thought put into the design of these miniature torture chambers. Even though they don't prevent students from napping, they do leave the student with enough kinks so that he will think twice before he naps in study hall again. The size of the desk top must have been an effort to deter students from playing monopoly.

Study hall chairs 'miniature torture chambers'

Boredom is possibly the main cause for the increasing number of study hall evaders, those who do everything in their power to get out of study halls. They will do everything from skipping class, to aiding for teachers, to avoid contact with the dreaded "hall." On the other hand, there are (in this world, no doubt) study hall fanatics. These are the students whose schedules include three or four study halls at the beginning of school. These are the same students who are in Mr. LaGreca's

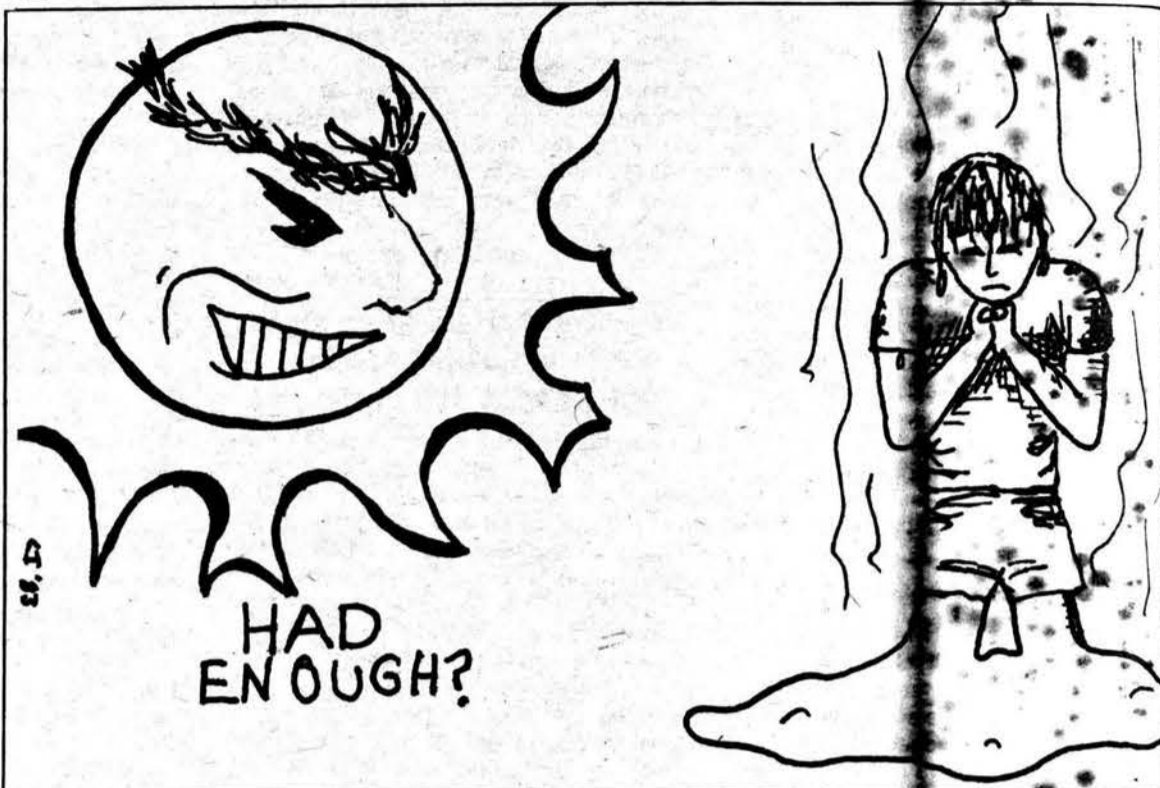
office on the second day of school begging for another study hall. ("But Mr. LaGreca, I NEED another study hall! How am I supposed to finish my assignments for advanced locker fashion designing without it?")

Have you ever wondered what teachers do during study hall? They want you to think that they are busily correcting tests and preparing future assignments. Little do the students suspect that the teachers are really inventing new football plays, reading the latest issue of *Glamour*, balancing their checkbook (with a negative balance), and devising intricate ways to make their least favorite students suddenly "disappear."

Like every other segment of life, fads abound in study halls. Teachers like to refer to them as "toys," but I prefer the term "recreational devices." There was a time several years ago when study halls were filled with students wearing miniature earphones attached to tiny tape recorders. Japanese visitors to the school must have been overjoyed to see how well Sony was doing!

Mr. Rubik also made a profit off of study hall time. But no matter how many new "recreational devices" come and go, the fine art of doodling will always live deep in the hearts of study hallers everywhere.

Logic is definitely not a strong point of study halls. (For example, why do they have study cubicles in the back of room 215, but won't let you use them?) But who is going to argue logic with a person who puts one-hundred teenage students in one room and actually expects them to study?



Registered Opinions

Students suggest changes

Students in this week's poll were asked the following questions:

"Do you think there should be a back-to-basics change in our curriculum, including more math and sciences?"

"What do you feel has been lacking in your education up to now, and what could be done to improve it?"

Cheryl Schlegenhauff - Senior (at right)

"We need to expand more towards computers in our curriculum, and teachers need re-education to expand their knowledge of the basics."

Joe Snipp - Senior (pic at right)

"The problem now is getting teachers motivated and interested — not a change in curriculum. If you give teachers more incentive to teach, the basics will come along."

Adam Haecker - Senior

"A more basic curriculum is needed for college. More homework and more testing are also needed."

Nathan Else - Junior

"I think teachers need a straight-forward, fun approach. It makes learning easier."



Editorials are the majority of the *Register* staff. They do not necessarily represent the opinions of the faculty and administration. Editorials that do not represent majority opinion of the staff will be by-lined. Signed letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Central High *Register* Staff will print anonymous letters and reserve the right to edit or correct letters for grammatical errors. Space may vary letter length. All letters should be placed in the letter box inside room 315.

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Joslyn's park-like look

Sculptures bloom

For more than five years, the Omaha Board of Education negotiated with Joslyn Museum for a land exchange arrangement. Joslyn agreed to let Central High School use an area on the west side of the school to build the astro-turf practice field. The school board then allowed Joslyn to use an area east of Joslyn for a sculpture garden.

What exactly is the sculpture garden? According to Mrs. Audrey Kauders, Associate Director for Administration at Joslyn, many people believe the sculpture garden is just a plot of land where flowers and plants are located. However, the sculpture garden will have not only flowers but also the main ingredient, sculptures! Already a yellow art work has been placed in the garden and is a memorial to one of Omaha's great leaders, Mr. Leo A. Daly, Mrs. Kauders said. This piece, called "Yellow

Ascending," was funded by businesses and companies of Omaha. This large piece was designed by George Sugarman and can be seen from Dodge Street. "Eventually lights will be placed next to the sculpture making the effect even more spectacular. This sculpture complements both Central and Joslyn," Mrs. Kauders said.

Two other sculptures are definitely going into the garden. One piece designed by Kenneth Snelson is temporarily placed on Joslyn's east steps. A New York artist, Scott Burton, will be coming at the end of the month to look at the Joslyn site and design a sculpture suited for the garden.

"Besides the sculptures accenting both Central and Joslyn, the garden will have an overall park-like look to it, making the two institutions even more complementary," Mrs. Kauders said.

Million-dollar project complete

Central bade a farewell to the Linde Construction Company as the four-year, million-dollar renovation project came to a close last week.

Electrical systems, including the fire alarm, should be working normally "when all bugs have been worked out," said Dean Mac, foreman of the project.

The library and the auditorium topped off major renovation for the project.

The unavailability during the start of the

year especially of the library has caused many teacher complaints. Teachers have had to postpone research papers and other material until the library opens.

"I don't know when we'll be ready," said Mrs. Betty Majeski, librarian.

The carpenters' strike that lasted about eight weeks this summer has a "tremendous effect" on the renovation schedule, according to Mr. Al LaGreca, assistant principal. It put Central that much behind.



Central - 'Lites'

Uniqueness and ethnicity favored for dining

by Cathy Wendt

Do you like Italian specialties and dining in a chic atmosphere? If the answer is yes then La Strada '72, 3125 So. 72 St., is an excellent choice for an original evening.

The unique decorating of the dining room and patio gives anyone entering the feeling that an excellent choice has been made. Either a dressy or a casual evening would find the restaurant comfortable.

The homemade food is delicious and diverse, starting with the soup of the day, which each of my visits have proved to be a creamy, smooth bowl-full of delight. However, if you are not a soup lover, there are many other hors d'oeuvres available.

Next, there are spaghetti dishes and meat dishes prepared to perfection in consistency, taste, and texture. But you can not be full yet, gelatto ices and puffed pastries that are delicate and handled with care are available to complement the meal. Each bite of the pastry realizes the potential of any dessert, when handled properly in cooking and serving.

Coffee drinkers: La Strada's Espresso and Capucino are brewed hot and topped off with cream. Non-coffee drinkers should not miss these delightful drinks either.

I feel La Strada is worth the money; the pricing is moderate to expensive, depending on what entrees are ordered. No date should be unhappy or unsatisfied with atmosphere, food, or price.

by Ann Ostermiller & Roxanne Gryder

It is Saturday night and you have ten minutes to decide where to take that special girl or guy of yours to dinner. If you want to have a really enjoyable evening, stop taking them to that burger joint and head on over to the Caspian Restaurant.

Caspian is a convenient, centrally located establishment at 140 S. 40 Street in Omaha. Specializing in Shish Kabob, this restaurant is tops on our list of good eating places.

Ali Tagheschian, owner of Caspian, broiled two marinated filet kabobs with burgundy wine sauce, garnished with green peppers and mushrooms. This entree along with the Teriyaki Chicken (breast of chicken broiled with teriyaki saucer), and the ham kabob (chunky pieces of ham on a skewer with pineapple and sauce), is served with a special rice and crisp salad with Caspian dressing.

The food is basically Middle Eastern in nature. A cup of warm Caspian tea is a perfect complement to any meal.

This quaint restaurant has an ethnic atmosphere to it. The clean area is furnished with neat tables and delicate flowers in vases. Paintings of various artists hang on the walls, and Greek music playing in the background really makes you feel as if you are eating along the banks of the Caspian Sea!

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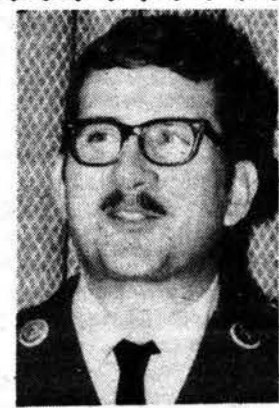
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"America is Paradise!" is a common French expression according to Veronique Pioppo, 17, of Anancy, France. She, along with Christine, Serge, Marc, Didier, and William visited a corner of paradise.

of Central importance

The computer is available for student use for up to one period a day. To reserve its use, a person may sign up on the sheet in the guidance office.

As well as counselors and a computer, the guidance office contains volumes of information on the bookshelves about many colleges.

Leaders see schools

A breakfast for Omaha community leaders and a flag-raising ceremony, both at Central High School, will begin Omaha Education Week on Monday, October 3, which will spotlight education in Omaha.

The breakfast, being sponsored by the Omaha Schools Administrators Association, will be prepared in the Central cafeteria and served to 250 to 300 community leaders and Omaha Public Schools' administrators at 7:00 a.m. in the Central Courtyard.

Following breakfast, the flag-raising ceremony, on the south porch, will feature several speakers, including Terry Moore, a labor union official; Sam Segner, Chief Executive Officer of InterNorth; and Bernie Simon, City Council President. The Central ROTC will conduct the ceremony.

According to Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, holding these activities at Central, will "show the value, effectiveness, and quality of education to the community. Most people take public education for granted. It needs community attention and support."

According to Mr. Al LaGreca, Central assistant principal, the Central courtyard will not be available for student use from 7:00 to 9:00 Monday morning. Mr. LaGreca said the need for the community leaders to see what happens in a public high school far outweighs the student need for the courtyard because, "So many people in the community think that all high school students are bad because that's all they hear from the media, and we want them to see the good side of education and high school students."

DECA/FLBA Convention

Seven Central students will attend DECA's Fall Leadership Conference. The conference is being held in conjunction with Future Business Leaders of America (F.B.L.A.), at the Holiday Inn on 72nd and Grover Streets, on September 28th, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Over 600 students from eastern Nebraska will attend to be trained for leadership positions in DECA. They will learn how to manage their time and how to motivate people and learn leadership styles. "When they completed they should be able to guide the local chapters," said Miss Harris, a market teacher.

DECA's Nebraska state officers will install Central's DECA president. Dan C... from the Leadership Development Institute in Austin, Texas, will be guest speaker.

"I am glad to have the opportunity," said Kathy Snowden, one of the attending students. "We hope to gain a lot of experience."

Students learn last summer

Though Central does not have a summer school program, many Central students participate in the classes offered.

Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance counselor, said that the enrollment of students for summer school has decreased over the years and that only a few courses are offered, so curriculum is low.

According to Mr. Maliszewski, the summer school classes, taught by teachers from all over the city, move at a more rapid pace. The classes are not able to cover all material in-depth. Mr. Maliszewski feels there is generally less emphasis on discussion.

Mr. Maliszewski thinks Central may get a summer school program because of the lack of air conditioning.

Shiela Shonkwiler, Central senior, took three summer courses because she wanted to make her senior year easier by having a smaller class load.

She felt some of the courses were more difficult and some easier than classes at Central. "It just depended on the teacher and the course," she said.

Monica Murray, another Central senior, retook a class in summer school.

Monica was in a class of seven people so she felt the teacher was better able to give help individually.

Monica spent two hours a day in the class. She said that she was able to accomplish in a day what it had taken her a week to accomplish in regular forty-minute classes during the whole school year.

"It strengthened my understanding of the class," Monica said.

United Way donation drive

The United Way Fund Drive held an organizational meeting on Thursday, September 15, to discuss the Omaha Public Schools involvement with the organization. The meeting was held at the office of Dr. Jack Taylor, superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools.

Mr. Larry Hausman, art teacher at Central High School, will be this year's teaching staff coordinator. Sarah Thailing and Jozette Boone, two Central seniors, will be student organizers for the fund raising drive.

"The United Way Fund is a sharing pool of money," according to Hausman. Educators and Omaha businessmen attended the morning meeting. The purpose of The United Way is that a group, such as Central, can donate money for one large cause instead of individual groups such as the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. These smaller organizations can go to the United Way to receive their funds.

New members on faculty

Central has thirteen new faculty members this school year. In alphabetical order they are: Mr. Larry Andrews, an art teacher; Mrs. Theresa Bender, a special education teacher; Mr. Daniel Connelly, a math teacher; Mr. John Frakes, a foreign language teacher; Miss Elizabeth Hug, a science teacher; Mrs. Faye Johnson, a counselor; Mrs. Lynette Johnson, an English teacher; Mrs. Rozanne Knight, a business education teacher; Dr. Darrel Lahmann, an English teacher; Mrs. Diane Martin, a business education teacher; Mr. Moseph Perina; a science teacher; Maj. Richard Yost, a R.O.T.C. teacher.

Central has made quite a favorable impression on its new members. John Frakes, the new foreign language teacher said, "Central's great!" and that he had "no problems."

Maj. Richard Yost is very pleased with the students and said, "The facilities are fantastic!"

Larry Andrews, an art teacher, "was impressed, right away, with the positive attitudes of the students," and was "Glad to be here."

Computer as guide

A computer is now available for use by Central High students in the guidance center. It is an Apple II-E given to Central High School by the PEP Board.

The computer contains PSAT, SAT, and ACT software packages which are very helpful to students preparing for tests. Besides the benefit of test preparation, the computer's software will soon include a college planning package able to list over 6,000 colleges in the U.S., enabling a student to choose with less effort the best college for his or her needs.

Mr. Stan Maliszewski, guidance director at Central, explained that besides these advantages the computer can help with career planning and contains a "Personal Filing System." A scholarship package may also be available later in the year.

In a recent homeroom, seniors at Central were asked to fill out forms regarding their interests in colleges. The information from these forms will be fed into the computer. When a scholarship is made accessible to Central students, the computer can be checked to find out which students are eligible for and interested in the scholarship.

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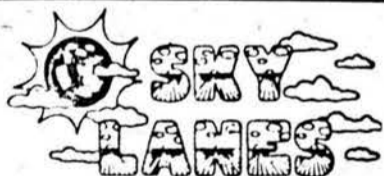
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Student radio plays 'oldies,' current hits

Most kids around twelve and thirteen would think only about softball, bubble gum, and their favorite teen idols. But not Paul Krieger. About three years ago, Paul invested in what would become a considerable responsibility, owning and running a radio station.

KREG FM 95.5, just over three years old, covers the Dundee area and most of the Central area. However, Paul says, "You'll probably need a good radio or you might not pick it up. Car radios do the best job of it." KREG is on the air seven days a week from 4 to 10 o'clock p.m.

Paul launched into his career when he started broadcasting in 1980. "I've always loved music and always wanted to be a disc jockey," he said. He has since recruited five of his friends for on-the-air time: Rodger Hill, Fred Conti, Kelly Davis, Dwayne Hanson, and Mike Fox, a Central alumnus. The format for the station includes mainly the forty hits. However, KREG tries to have a mix of current and older hits. "The type of music we play is a mix of hits and 'golden oldies,'" Paul said. "We may get as many as nineteen requests in a night."

Paul's plans for the future lie in a career in radio broadcasting. Ten years from now, he wants to be a personality for a major radio station comparable to a major Chicago radio station.

Paul expressed no particular interest in



photo by Jackie Hynek
Paul jams at KREG FM 95.5

the field of journalism because he does not like reporting. "I just read it," he said.

Among other things he does for the station, Paul airs taped advertisements for record stores. In return, he may pick up free records from the stores. Activities of the station include a top 30 count-down and record give-aways.

KREG's listening audience covers a radius of one mile from Paul's house, where the station is located.

Family turned around

Centralite recipient of kidney

Cathy Wendt
Assistant Business Manager

She did not feel good. Her mother noticed she was not herself. After seven to eight months of her mother's concern, Audrey's trouble was discovered: both of her kidneys had failed at age thirteen.

Audrey Tucker, a Central junior, reflected how her life was then changed. Dialysis three times a week after school, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Medication became a main part in her life. She said she did not find it difficult to start; however, her mother said Audrey complained, "It was so time consuming." Because of this fact Audrey said it put limits on her life.

The situation also put limits on her parents' lives. The "cab service" Mrs. Tucker jokingly referred to was the day to day planning between her and her husband on who could drop off and pick up Audrey.

Dialysis, Audrey explained, cleans out the blood which the failing kidneys ceased to do. She was attached by two needles to the dialysis machine, one carrying blood into the machine to be cleaned and one carrying the blood back to her body cleansed. So, while she sat at this time-consuming task, she pondered, "it would be a two year wait for a transplant on a donor recipient list." I was tired of going up there (St. Joseph's Hospital)."

"It (Audrey's problem) turned the whole family around," Mrs. Tucker said. "The whole family was concerned, and the whole family was centered on Audrey." John, her oldest

brother, wanted to donate one of his kidneys. Also, her mother made sure someone could be home to care for Audrey, and she added, "Everywhere I went I left a number where I could be reached." Everything was done in an effort to keep her alive.

The menu changed in the household to high fiber, no salt, and less red meat; in exchange for this was more chicken and fish. "We changed the way we ate totally," Mrs. Tucker said. She also changed her shopping habits. She did not just buy anything; she read ingredients and preparations.

When Audrey found out she was to have a transplant, she felt, "scared at first," and she explained that there could be some weight gain and some water retention in her face. "I didn't want that, but I was kind of glad I was getting it."

And so was her father. But Mrs. Tucker said, "I felt negative. I didn't feel it was going to work." She was afraid of rejection of the transplanted kidney. "I'm very proud she got it now," She continued on, "She's a happier person."

Audrey's only worry right now is that she must be careful because she can catch illness easily after such an operation. In fact, she was not to be around others until 4 months after her operation, which was in July, but her doctors said all was going so well that it was all right for Audrey to start school.

Her future plans at Central include hopes of being a cheerleader next year and pursuing a career in computers.

Counselor had odd job

Mr. Stan Maliszewski, counselor, must have been a bit "Goofy" to accept such a "key Mouse" job at Disneyland (pardon the pun). For the past several summers, most people swarm to their favorite vacation spots, Mr. Maliszewski has gone to Disneyland....to work. No, he didn't work as a costumed character; he worked with the Toy Story at Disneyland as a career development consultant.

In the past years, he has also worked on counseling programs for the Epcot Center in Florida and resource counseling for Disneyland in Tokyo. This past summer, however, Mr. Maliszewski made a small adjustment in his summer work schedule. He began a similar career counseling program at Hughes Aircraft in El Segundo, California. Hughes, the largest employer in California, develops and manufactures radar and weapons. Mr. Maliszewski, keeping Central in mind, asked some of the teachers at Hughes what they considered the best engineering schools in the country. They consistently name Purdue University, Illinois, Michigan State, Rice University, Berkeley, and Stanford. The University of Nebraska at Omaha was named the best school for engineering technology.

Mr. Maliszewski, who is originally from Omaha, said that he is going back to Omaha over Christmas vacation to check up on the program.

National Merit Semifinalists continue Central tradition

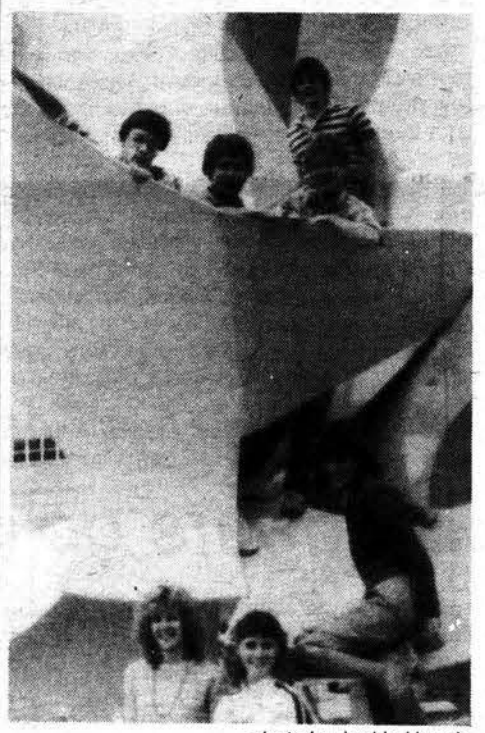


photo by Jackie Hynek
Scholars "ascend" to new heights at Joslyn.

"They've got it made!" said senior Andy Mac-Cashland about this year's semifinalists. "They'll have a lot of advantages when they apply to universities."

Monday, September 12, 1983, found seven Central seniors anxiously sitting in Central principal, Dr. G.E. Moller's office. After an opening quip, Mr. Stan Maliszewski, head guidance counselor at Central, told the students that they were National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

The seven students are Thad Ware, Sarah Thailing, Valerie Sterck, Mike Pankow, Jeff Olson, Pete Lankford, and Leslie Johnson. They qualified as semifinalists on the basis of their respective performances last October on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

To become finalists in the competition, the Centralites must complete several forms concerning their high school record and demonstrate further academic excellence on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Finalists will be notified in February, 1984.

Dr. Moller said, "Central has had at least one winner each year since the start of the program in 1956, except for one year, 1974." Hoping to continue the tradition, the seven semifinalists have three potential sources of scholarships (if named finalists), including The National Merit Scholarship Corporation itself, various colleges and universities, and corporations who sponsor children of employees.

Salary incentive a possibility for teachers

by Bernstein
Editor-in-chief

Parents, students, and educators alike demand high quality education. But the number of special school board meetings that are held and the development of social programs, the burden for maintaining high academic standards suited to the needs of the pupil lies most heavily on the shoulders of the individual classroom teacher.

This widely-recognized fact has inspired proposals encouraging teachers to excel in classroom performance. The most publicized of these proposals, which is currently in effect in some areas and greatly speculated in others, is "merit pay."

According to a July 1983 government report from the Office of Senior Specialists, the traditional definition of merit pay refers to a system under which a teacher receives additional funds on the basis of his or her performance in the classroom and/or school.

In an article on Tennessee's "Master Teacher" program, it says, "If you do a better job you get more."

The government report also states the following premises for the current discussions on merit pay:

1. Teachers should be individually recognized for excellence in performance.
2. Techniques can be devised to measure differences in levels of performance.
3. Financial incentives based on teacher performance can be used to improve the quality of teachers and classroom instruction.

While the good intentions behind merit pay may be fundamental, problems have already been foreseen and encountered which serve to cloud the issue. For example, if the merit pay program is put into effect, who and what should make up the evaluation process?

One method of teacher evaluation, as explained in the government report, is the use of input and output variables.

The problem with the "input-output" method is that it may become "a series of impersonal checklists" that fail to fairly judge the panorama of teacher performance in a

standardized fashion.

Even if the evaluation process were refined, who would be the evaluator? Typically the administrator and/or department head is designated for this position. A problem here may arise in that often these people are not trained evaluators. And then, even if they were capable of the position, do they have the time to complete their evaluation duties in addition to their normal responsibilities?

This raises the obstacle of perhaps needing more funds to hire others to defray the responsibilities.

Also, is it possible to create a totally objective evaluation that will eliminate cries of "patronage and favoritism" among evaluators?

On June 16, 1983, an article appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* which discussed merit pay in relation to a Pennsylvania school district which has put it into practice. It cited that a major fault of the program was the low ratio of merit awards available to the higher ratio of deserving teachers.

According to the *Wall Street* article, the selection process was criticized by "winners and losers" alike. The morale intention of the

awards was lost as some teachers who did not receive one regarded this as failure, or as one science teacher felt, "a personal rebuke."

A program of merit pay has been implemented locally as well. According to Dr. William Hoyt, assistant superintendent in charge of personnel at Westside Community Schools, their district has used a type of merit pay system since 1971 which is referred to as "incentive pay."

"Two teachers can come into the district at the same time and one can do a cracker-jack job and the other can do an average job. There is a significant difference in their salaries over a few years. This program has attracted teachers who think they can do well," Dr. Hoyt said.

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, equates the pay increase to another advantage. According to him, pay is very significant as money is a symbol of prestige and prestige will attract quality students.

But as Mr. Ed Waples, Central English teacher put it, "Higher salaries are one important step but other improvements are needed."

CHS summers enriched with travel

Linda Rock
Associate editor

Students converge on Europe

If the high point of your summer was watching your plants sweat, maybe you had better talk to one of the many Centralites who took advantage of one of the opportunities open to students and faculty.

Europe was teeming with Centralites this summer. Sarah Stohs, Terri Tesar, Ellen Zinn, Becky Welk, Sue Beagley, Terri Nelle, and Sarah Burbridge, all seniors, went to Germany with a group from Wayne State. The girls received six hours of college credit. The trip lasted one month and included six classes as well as many side trips. Bingen was home for two and one half weeks, but the girls also took an eleven day trip south to Munich, Oberammergau, Zurich, and Innsbruck.

Another Wayne State group went to Spain. Thad Ware and Mary Zinn, seniors, were among this club who earned six hours college credit. They took one week classes in Valencia and then toured for a couple weeks. Among the places that they visited were Madrid, El Ambrá, many cathedrals, and small islands in the Mediterranean. Thad even went to two bullfights. Mary was surprised to find such strict society guidelines for men and women. They obviously had a good time because as Thad said, "I want to go back. I didn't want to come back to the States."

Three German students went on to Germany with the North Atlantic Culture Exchange League (NACL) program. Diane Vazano, Pete Lankford and Charlie Liakos, seniors, each stayed with different families for the four week duration of their trip. Charlie stayed with a family in Traudel, Germany, near Hamburg. One thing he found most different from our culture is that the legal drinking age for most drinks is sixteen.

Charlie added that they don't have a

drinking problem in teens. Pete stayed with a family in North Luebeck, Germany. He found that no German meal is complete without potatoes. Pete found most interesting that there are no speed limits on the Autobahn (a large highway).

Several Centralites went out of the country on their own and with families and friends. Van and John Argyrakis, junior and sophomore respectively, went to Greece for eight weeks to visit relatives. They enjoyed the more popular tourist attractions such as the Acropolis, Delphi, Olympia, and Athens. They toured some of the smaller farming communities and saw the local countryside. For most of their visit, Van and John stayed in Kalamata, a city in southwest Greece. They said it was a definite advantage to know Greek before they went.

Anna Kurtz, senior, met her French pen pal this summer. Anna said that she has written to her pen pal since their sophomore year when she received his name from Mrs. Bayer, French teacher. Going to France for five weeks helped her French, Anna said. She also got to see Germany, Austria, Italy and Luxemborg. Anna said, "It's more than the language. You go over to learn about different cultures and to see how the people live." After her stay in Europe, Anna's pen pal came back to the United States to visit for five weeks. She said that he really liked it here and was sad to leave, but Anna now has a life long friend across the sea.

Krissy Smith, junior, spent six weeks in Sweden on a pleasure trip. She lived with Jessica Roboz, a foreign exchange student at Central. Stockholm was the primary city where Krissy stayed. She described it as a "walking city." Most people just drove in from the country, parked their cars, and walked where they needed to go.

Central faculty survive canoe trip down Niobrara

Several members of the faculty along with family and friends embarked on a journey down the Niobrara River this summer. Mr. Fitch, math teacher, served as the prime motivator and coordinator for the excursion.

Extensive planning was involved including renting canoes, finding out lodging arrangements and informing the faculty of the trip. To accomplish this, Mr. Fitch said he put the "sacred paddle" in a different teachers room each day. He also had an information sheet printed up and announcements in the bulletin.

On June 10 ten faculty members along with family and friends (forty-six people in all) converged on Valentine, Nebraska. Mrs. Bauer, para-professional, said that she and her family took their bikes and biked around Valentine. She commented that Valentine is a very lovely town.

Well, the day finally arrived and experienced and non-experienced canoeists alike, started their journey. Mr. McMeen, vocal music teacher, said that it was a little

"tricky getting in" because of the fast water right at the place where they entered. Mr. Ferrel agreed that the water was interesting teacher, and Mrs. Roehl, homemaking ped.

Despite all the wet bodies, everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Some of the faculty were fortunate enough to see wildlife along the way. The ranch land and people of out state Nebraska interested Mr. Keenan, English teacher. He was also amazed at how quickly one could become a competent canoeist (especially after tipping several times).

Some of the other highpoints of the trip included a visit to Smith Falls and "shooting the rapids" at Rocky Ford. Although there were no major injuries, Mr. Gaherty's wife got some pretty bad bruises. Miss Orr, typing teacher, and Mrs. Rohel, homemaking teacher, also attended.

Everyone agreed that the trip was a good experience and well organized. Mr. Pennington said that there should be more faculty-related activities.

'Sky's the limit' for wider opportunities, Scout activities

Several Central students were involved in Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities this summer. Dan Rock, sophomore, served as Senior Patrol Leader for the contingent of Scouts who went to the 15th World Jamboree in Alberta, Canada. One hundred and twelve countries were represented by 20,000 boys and girls who were affiliated with their countries form of Boy Scouts.

Some of the highlights of the trip included touring Vancouver and Seattle, attending the Calgary Stampede (the world's largest rodeo), and struggling with Royal Canadian Mountain Police's Training Assault Course. The participants also had a few thrills when bears invaded the camp. Dan survived to tell the tale.

Tabitha Stewart, junior, attended a Girl Scout Wider Opportunity in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. "The Sky's the Limit" introduced the girls into the world of aviation. The girls volunteered at an Experimental Aircraft Association convention and Tabitha may now boast of being a member of the EAA. On side trips, the girls explored the Scandinavian culture of Door County, Wisconsin. Tabitha expects aviation to be a life-long hobby.



Dan Rock prepares to leave for Boy Scout Jamboree in Alberta, Canada.



Central Eagle Varsity cheerleaders went to a four day cheerleader camp at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. The purpose of the camp was to teach cheerleading techniques, new cheers, chants, and jumps. 1/2 daytimes were devoted to long hours of practice and evenings were used for evaluations. Varsity

cheerleading captain, Beretta Smith that the Eagle cheerleaders receive blue ribbons (superior rating) and one ribbon (excellent rating). They also received "Spirit Stick," a kind of spirit trophy. Beretta said the cheerleaders learned a lot and were ready for a spirit-filled year."

Locals host exchange student

Just as many Centralites traveled abroad this summer, so did many foreign exchange students live with Central families for the summer. Leslie Johnson, senior, Heather Hammons, junior, and Brooke Rose, junior, each hosted a French student through the NACEL program. The girls and their families tried to do "All-American" activities with their guests.

Heather's family took their foreign exchange student to several state fairs and rodeos this summer and on a vacation to Colorado. Leslie's family visited Texas and went to the circus with their student. There were a few problems with language barriers, but the girls tried to help by speaking French as well as English.

Ray Johnson, junior, hosted a Boy Scout from New Zealand and one from England this summer for a week. All three boys worked at Camp Cedars, a Boy Scout camp near Fremont, for two months. Chris, from England, liked the 'jet set' pace and the movies. Robert, from New Zealand, was more quiet and reserved. He considered the trip here as a learning experience.

Ann Welty and Rod Gainer, seniors, were hosts of Japanese students from Shiz-

vokishi, our sister city. They went through the Intensive Language Program. Both students spoke some English. Anna said that her foreign student was very quiet, polite and liked places like Peony Park and Burger King. Rod's student said that people in America are happier and have more fun than in Japan. Next summer Rod's student will visit his friend in Japan.

Tabitha Stewart, junior, is currently hosting a student from Turku, Finland. Sworanta, senior, came to Omaha in June and will stay here until next July, after receiving a diploma from Central. She is through the Youth for Understanding program. Tabitha says that Mika has taught her family many things about life in Finland. Mika is interested in learning about Omaha and is where he will concentrate his efforts the next eleven months.

Karen Pallesen, junior, is also currently sponsoring an exchange student. Larsson, senior, is from Sweden. He graduated with the class of 1988 through the American Scandinavian Student Exchange program. The sponsoring agency for Eva.

Students go back to class

While most Centralites were enjoying their vacation away from school, several Central students went back to class.

Roxanne Gryder, senior, spent five weeks at Northwestern University for a National High School Institute program. Working in the "Radio, T.V., and Film" division, she had opportunities to learn how to run various pieces of camera equipment, to work with "actors," and to make amateur music videos.

Erika Herzog, senior, attended the College of Fine Arts program at Carnegie-Mellon University. She took classes in figure drawing, graphic design, and computer graphics in the mornings. She also received college credit for an English class which she took. The emphasis of the six week program, Erika said, was gaining the experience of college living while managing a college curriculum. Erika said that coming from the upper portion of a highly academic school such as Central, she was surprised to find so much competition. "It made me see how many people are better than me," Erika said.

Phillips Exeter was the site of the summer school program which Dana Stewart, junior, attended. Dana's six week course included: criminal justice, ethics, and philosophy, dreamers, and thinkers." She participated in either water polo or aerobics everyday. It wasn't all fun and games, though, as the students had to write six papers during their time there. Dana said the atmosphere of the dorm living was a good experience for college-bound students.

Melissa Meares, senior, went to Radcliffe Summer Program in Science. Thirty-seven students from all over the country. They took "Frontiers in Science" which required class about the history of science and then had several choices of science-related classes which they could take. Melissa took biology S1 and a responding lab. The students also had opportunities to learn about and to visit research laboratories, as well as other research laboratories.

Dribbling highlights summer

Athletes attain honors

Sports and sports camps played a large role in the summers of several Central students. Jessica Haynes, junior, Sharon Deal, Sarah Stohs, and Maurice Ivy, seniors, participated the American Athletic Union basketball tournament in New Orleans. The girls spent one week there competing and placed "about ninth or tenth" Maurice said. Maurice and Jessica also attended the Sports Festival in Colorado Springs. The best female high school basketball players from the Midwest were the "North" team, and other teams were made similarly.

Jessica and Maurice had to try out for the team to be named to this camp.

Sophomore Dan Sitzman attended a day basketball camp in Lincoln. He was coached and drilled by various school coaches from the area as well as assistant coaches for UNL. Dan plans to eventually try out for Central basketball.

Chris Oien, senior, competed with several hundred high school students at a track meet in Ohio. The competition lasted three days. Chris placed eighth in his event, the javelin.



photo by Roxanne Gryder

Band Performs...Central's band kicked off the opening of Joslyn's newly built sculpture garden.

Government pays 'tab'

The JROTC program at Central High is not completely funded by the Omaha Public Schools. In fact, a great part of the program is paid for by the United States Government.

Major Richard Yost, Military Science teacher at Central, stated that the JROTC program is funded by a combination of two sources: the government and the schools. OPS provides the program with its facilities and qualified instructors. The United States Government is responsible for providing the books and instruction manuals used in the course. The U.S. Army provides all JROTC students with their uniforms.

Major Yost said that the students benefit also by the governments involvement in JROTC. A student with two years of JROTC

may enter the army a rank higher than a student without JROTC experience. This means more money for the student. All students in the school system are eligible to apply for a ROTC college scholarship; however, a student with JROTC training has a much better chance of success for receiving the scholarship awards according to Major Yost. Students who have two years in JROTC and attend college usually may enter college ROTC at a sophomore level, depending on the school.

Yost, who has taught in OPS for the past two years, feels that the JROTC program is adequately funded by both the schools and the U.S. Government.

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Unique field finds many uses

You may not know it, but lying on Central High School's very own doorsteps is something which is entirely unique to this part of the country. What was once a large uneven pile of dirt has now become the only high school synthetic track and artificial turf practice field in the state of Nebraska.

Why was such an expensive facility created when it would appear to be less expensive to construct a simple grass field? According to Mr. Richard Jones, Central

From the Grandstands

Lee Garver



athletic director, a grass field would only be an eyesore. "It wouldn't last a month under the use it will now receive," he said.

According to him, the field will find innumerable uses. In addition to having the football and track teams conduct practices there, both marching band and Central's Physical Education Department will make wide use of it.

Ms. Joyce Morris, department head of physical education, said, "We have designed our entire program around the field. Every class will use it."

In addition to school-related groups, Jones also listed Creighton University's soccer team, a city-wide flag football league, and as many as 10-30 joggers a night as potential users.

But, before anyone set foot on the newly built field, a lot of hard work went into the creation of it.

According to O.P.S. Supervisor of Athletics Duane Haith, two different com-

panies helped construct the multi-purpose facility. Super Turf applied the artificial grass and Pro Turf, a relatively unknown company out of Pittsburgh, Kansas, laid the synthetic track.

In contrast to U.N.O.'s field, Central's field is quite soft. An inch of foam is held under its surface, and according to Haith, "It is designed to be at least as soft as grass."

Central's track, on the other hand, is made of polyurethane, a substance similar to that found in the new gym, and was applied in a series of layers. According to Haith, besides the one found at the University of Nebraska, it is the only synthetic track in the state.

Furthermore, during the school day, physical education classes will be able to play tennis or soccer with the use of portable nets. After school, students playing sport such as football and track will have the opportunity to go straight from the locker room to the field, thereby saving valuable practice time.

But, that may not be the only benefit. Willie Hannah, a senior on the football team, said, "Practicing on artificial grass could be helpful when playing at U.N.O."

Central High's marching band will also take advantage of the field. According to band director Warren Ferrel, one hundred fifty dollars a day will be saved because buses are no longer needed to transport band members to practice. He went on to add, "The neat part of it is that the field is always the same. It will give us an added degree of precision."

Jones believes the field is not only useful, but it is also attractive. "It can be tied to Omaha's downtown beautification," he said. According to him, the school district is even buying a sweeper vacuum to keep it clean.

Jones expects both the track and the field to last between seven and ten years.

Record stands at 2-1

Eagle gridders to test Prep tonight

Central High's varsity football team will be thinking victory tonight when it meets Omaha Creighton Prep at U.N.O.'s Al Caniglia Field. Going into the game, the Eagle's record stands at 2-1, their only loss having come at the hands of number one rated Omaha Gross.

Central opened its season by thrashing Omaha Tech 40-0. The following week, Central went on to defeat Bellevue East 21-14. The game was highlighted by Central's goal line stand on its own one yard line from which in four downs Bellevue could not

Spotlight on Pete Tracey

Senior hopes to win state title

Pete Tracey, whose greatest interest is tennis, is one of the top players on the Central High boys' tennis team. He said that he became interested in tennis while watching his mother play in tournaments.

Other than tennis, Pete is interested in music. He said that he loves to listen to music and go to concerts. He also likes to participate in other sports, especially basketball and football. He said that he hasn't had the chance to participate in other sports because of the time that it takes for tennis practice. Outside of music and sports, Tracey said that he has a great interest in journalism. He is currently an assistant sports editor on the 1983-84 O-Book staff. He said that he enjoys writing and it helps him a great deal in journalism.

Tracey hopes to go to college on a tennis scholarship. He has written to some major colleges and universities such as Boston College, Purdue, North Carolina, Baylor and the University of Nebraska. He feels that if he continues to be consistent, he will hear from some of the schools that he has written to.

Tracey said that the most influential person in his tennis career is a man who defected from Romania. His name is Toma Ovici, and he played professional tennis in the Davis Cup for Romanis.

Ovici's doubles partner was Illie Nastase, one of the top tennis players in the world today. He said that Ovici started coaching him at about age 10 and helped him to rank in the top ten in the Missouri Valley in that age group.

Mr. John Waterman is Tracey's coach at Central. He said, "Pete has really improved in the strength aspect of his game over the past two years." Waterman said Tracey has been the number one player on the team since his sophomore year. He has also been



Photo by Andy MacC...

Pete Tracey completes an overhead and races to the net.

the team captain since that time. Waterman said, "He has a good attitude about playing and he possesses some college level talent." Tracey said, "Mr. Waterman is a psychological motivator."

Tracey said that his parents have played a lot of his tennis tournaments and he would like to win the state title for them.

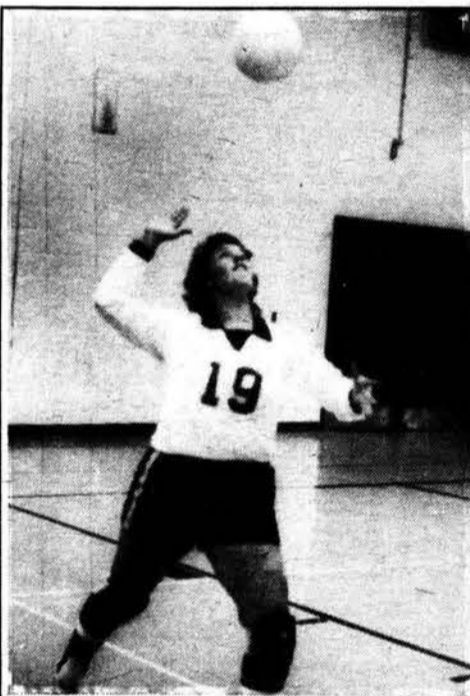


photo by Jacqueline Hynak

Senior Cheri Curran prepares a serve against Marian. Central lost 0-2 to even their record at 1-1.

Cross-country fights summer steam; runners look forward

This year's boys' and girls' cross-country teams have high hopes for a successful season. Despite early season temperatures which sometimes soared into the nineties, both teams managed to have productive practices.

Many runners attempted to fight off the heat by running before school in the cooler hours of the day. Tomorrow's Bryan Invita-

score. Coach William Reed said, "It was a super effort by everyone on the defense. This is the type of thing that can fire up a team."

The Eagles played Gross September 16. The game was a closely fought defensive battle. Central, in its first possession, drove to Gross' one yard line only to lose the ball on a fumbled handoff.

Central threatened again, but after taking the ball to Gross' three yard line, penalties and an offensive mixup forced the Eagles to attempt a 37 yard field goal which failed.

tional meet will be both teams' next test of whether or not they succeeded.

Coach David James believes the boys' team should have a good year. The team, led by senior Steve White and junior Dennis Sheeler, opened the season September 6 by defeating Bellevue East 16-45 and losing to Burke by a margin of only one point 27-28.

The girls' team opened their season

Late in the third quarter Gross scored to make the game 7-0. Central did not score the next series, senior quarterback Mathews hit junior Tony Avant on a 55 yard touchdown strike. The extra point failed and Gross led 7-6.

Central had one more opportunity to score but failed when a 30 yard field goal attempt hooked to the left. Despite having yards of total offense, the Eagles could not win. Coach William Reed said, "I have been involved in a game where we were dominated so badly yet still come up with a short end of the score."

September 3 by grabbing first place at the Abe Lynx Invitational. Following that went on to defeat Burke 23-32 on September 6.

According to James, team leaders juniors Heidi McGee and June Baker, seniors Karina Lathrum and Jodi Baker said, "The girls should do very well barring injuries."

sports shorts

New reserve coach

Central High's Reserve football team has acquired a new assistant coach. Lawrence Allen, a senior at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said that he got the job through the Central High coaching staff. He said that it is easy adapting to the Central football program because he played four years of high school football in Texas and two years at Ranger Junior College in Ranger, Texas.

According to Allen, he and the players get along well and have a close relationship because they are mature and are able to handle whatever the coaches require of them. Allen said, "I don't have any problems with the players and I plan to keep coaching after I graduate." Allen plans to graduate in 1984 with a major in Physical Education.

Girl's golf

Despite a large fall off in the number of girls going out for the sport, coach Edward McDaniel believes this year's girls' golf team can have a successful season.

After winning by forfeit their first match against Benson, the team went on to defeat Ronca 188-222 on September 6.

A disappointing loss to Burke 251-203 on September 8 did not dim the team's

desire for a strong year. McDaniel is hoping the girls will have a successful districts and qualify for state.

Noted for their fine play were Bev Atkins, a recently transferred junior from Ryan, senior Leslie Bowen, and junior Susan Gaffney.

Larry Station

Larry Station, a 1982 Central graduate, has been named as a candidate for this year's pre-season All-American football team. Station, a sophomore linebacker presently attending Iowa University, is also a captain on Iowa's team. As a captain he signals all defensive calls. Approximately 50 hours of his week are spent practicing football. The rest of his time is spent in the Iowa's computer terminal, where he is a student of computer science.

According to the Omaha World Herald, Hawkeye Coach Hayden Fry said, "When Station puts a hit on someone it's heard all over the stadium."

Gymnastics

Central High School's gymnastics team will be aiming high this year. Mr. Kent Friesen, Central gymnastics coach said,

"The girls should be tough, and we are hoping for an undefeated season."

Before the season began, both boys' and girls' teams had practiced for about three weeks. "The boys show real potential, especially seniors Mike Pankow and Bryan Win," said Friesen. The boy's first meet was September 8 against Creighton Prep. Despite losing, Friesen believed the squad tried very hard.

"There is a good balance of old and young on both teams. Jackie Sleasak is the only senior on the girls squad. Even though Jackie has been out with an injury, she and Kris Houltlen [junior] show great potential," said Friesen. Mr. Matsunmi, Central's assistant gymnastics coach, believes that both teams are looking forward to a strong and competitive season.

Boy's Tennis

Central's boys' tennis team is playing another year of great tennis. When asked if there was one outstanding player on the team, Coach John Waterman said, "I consider all of my players outstanding."

Burke, for the past three years, has enjoyed consistent victories over Central. Last year's win ruined Central's perfect record. This year, however, Central was finally vic-

torious over Burke, defeating them 6-3.

Each of the tennis players seems to have obtained their own personal nickname. Here is a list of the players and their less serious nicknames.

Seniors: Peter Tracey (Pistol Pete), Angelo Randazzo (Jello) and Mike Keenan (Bah!)

Juniors: Gene (The Machine) Huey, (E.T.) Hiatt, Dan (The Boy) Schinzel, and Seitzer (only known for his amazingly short) and Jeff Thoerson (Dweeb).

Sophomores: Gene Huey (Young Gun), Travis Feezel (Bodacious), Mike (The Bear) Beasley, Marlin Sykes (Mr. Merlin) and (Dillon) McCormick.

New P.E. teacher

Mr. Darrel Lahmann, who has had various teaching jobs around the Omaha area, is Central High's newest addition to the P.E. department.

This is only his second year teaching at O.P.S. Lahmann has previously taught business education at Omaha Technical School. "This is the first time I've been in a regular classroom in nearly fourteen years. It's just like starting over again," Lahmann said.