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'Social theories,' 'cultural bias,' and hormone levels question math genius. Are boys smarter than girls?

by Sarah Thalling

Why does the number 2.71828... mean the mathematical constant "e" to some people and "about three" to others? The people in the first group are boys, eggheads who wear beanies and thick, black-rimmed glasses, boys who stay home on weekend nights to write computer programs. Those in the second group are flustered, illogical, and emotional girls who just don't understand math. Right?

"I don't like generalities," said Mr. Dan Connelly, Central math teacher, of possibly differing math abilities in males and females. "Everybody's different." Vina Kay, a Central sophomore taking Honors Geometry, said, "I don't think there's a general rule."

Beliefs like "it depends on the individual" and "a person's sex doesn't have anything to do with it" are appropriate if you're talking about an individual's mathematical talent — or any ability — because individuality is what's important. However, individuals make up groups, and although these groups are divisible, they are also whole in a very real sense.

Are boys better?

The belief exists that females — as a group — tend not to be as able to reason mathematically as men. "Girls on the whole aren't quite as mechanically inclined as boys are," Mike Tyler, senior, said. "Girls have trouble dealing with [mathematic] concepts. Guys do, too, but it's just more noticed in girls." This social theory has support in several cases, but the evidence is not completely one-sided.

For instance, according to the summary report of Central's college-bound juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT test in 1983, 31.3 percent of the males scored between 60 and 80 on the math section, while 13.5 percent of the females did.

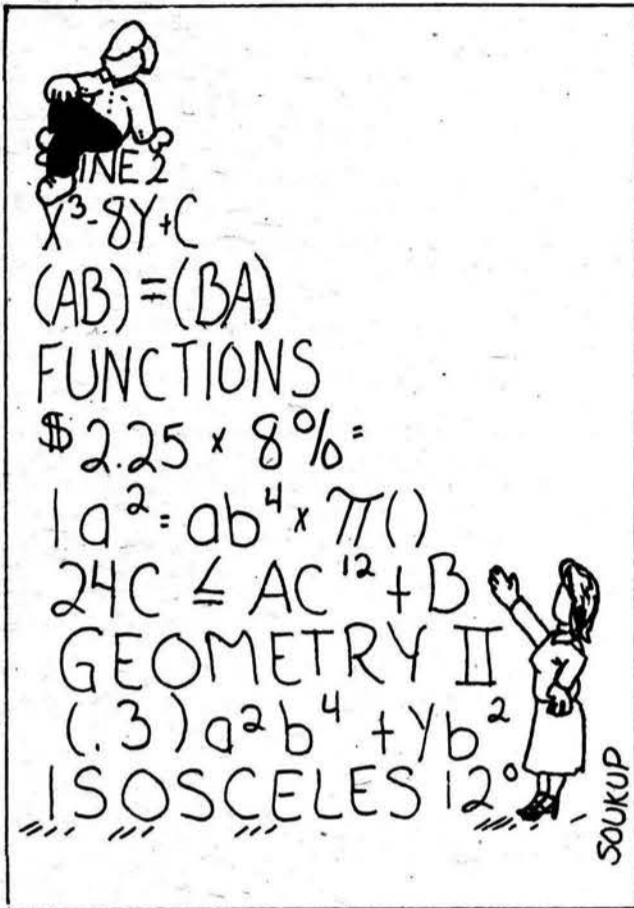
In contrast, of Central's sophomores who took the 1983 PSAT, 10.9 percent of the females and 8.1 percent of the males scored between 60 and 80. Conversely, 23.9 percent of the females and 16.2 percent of the males scored between 20 and 39.

'When will I ever use this?'

Girls probably have mathematical talent, said Tracy Coleman, a senior who takes precalculus, but "they're just not interested in it. Boys tend to study harder, especially if they're in a higher math class. They tend to want to know why; girls just want to get [math] over with."

"I think they [girls] probably feel it's not important for them. Most jobs boys get deal with math. With girls, it's more important to have technical skills," Tracy added.

Rod Hauck, a Central senior who last took math in tenth grade, said although society once restricted females from



pursuing math as a career, "Women can do almost anything now."

However, according to Mr. John Waterman, Central's math department head, although it appears that "the male population is more quantitatively endowed" from scores like the ones from Central students' recent tests, "the way kids are raised has a greater influence on their talents. You can't separate societal factors from statistics."

According to Mr. Waterman, the first woman mathematician was stoned to death by Christians — they thought she was a witch. Cultural attitudes have clearly changed since then, but a "cultural bias" remains, he said.

Male hormone linked to math genius

According to "Math Genius May Have Hormonal Basis" in the Dec. 23 issue of *Science*, Norman Geschwind, a

neurologist at Harvard Medical School, has discovered a link between excess exposure to testosterone during fetal life (usually during that of a male baby) and dominance of the right hemisphere of the brain, the one associated with mathematical ability.

Because of this exposure to testosterone, "males are more likely than females to be left-handed, to have immune system disorders, to stutter, to be dyslexic, to have autism, and... to have high scores on the math portion of the SAT," according to the article.

Another theory attempts to explain women's apparent deficiency in math by blaming the number and type of math classes women take, according to "Sex Differences in Mathematical Reasoning Ability: More Facts," an article in the Dec. 2, 1983, issue of *Science*.

Central gives little supporting evidence to this theory. Females comprise 53 percent of Central's student body, 49.8 percent of the entire math student population, and 54 percent of the population of regular, Honors, and AP math.

However, in AP Calculus there are two females and ten males; and only 35.5 percent of those taking computer programming, computer literacy, or consumer, industrial, or enrichment math are female. Otherwise, the number of females in math classes at Central is equal to or greater than that of males.

Society closes, opens doors

Mr. Waterman said the way society raises its young greatly determines what career areas males or females can enter. "This eventually has to change. We're wasting a lot of talent," he said.

The summary report for the 1983 PSAT listed intended areas of study for Central's test-taking juniors as well. While only 6.9 percent of the males intended to major in "mathematics, statistics," zero percent of the girls did. Nineteen percent of the males responded with "engineering" — a mathematically-g geared field — as their intended major, whereas only 2.9 percent of the females did.

"Getting Women Into Math and Science: Who's Responsible?" an article in the Aug./Sept. 1983 issue of *American Education* pointed fingers at teaching methods and parents' and teachers' attitudes toward women in math. "Most girls are raised in a stereotyped fashion," one researcher said. "Parents should try to involve girls in the maintenance of the family car or repairing the toaster cord."

According to a recent survey of students in Honors Algebra IV, Honors Precalculus, and AP Calculus, 57 percent of male students and 41 percent of female students in these classes plan to enter math, science, or medicine as careers.

Eaglette suffix 'discriminatory'

The Central High School Eaglettes have changed their name to Pom Squad.

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR), in an investigation of the Omaha Public School System, which started in 1979, found several OPS schools guilty of sexual discrimination.

According to Dr. Norbert Schuerman, Associate Superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools, the name change is a direct order from OCR, and many schools which have not yet changed still must.

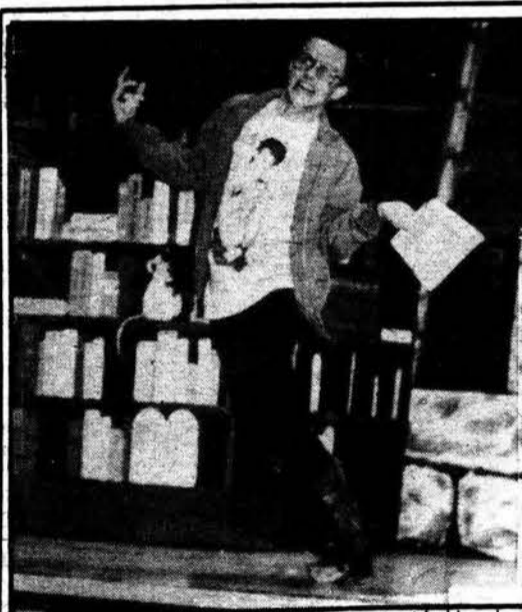
Eaglette co-sponsor Ms. Therese Bender said that the name Pom Squad was decided upon by the Eaglettes themselves by voting.

Central principal Dr. G.E. Moller said, "I think that having to change a name with the suffix 'ette' is an absurdity, especially because 'ette' means, according to the dictionary, small, not female."

Eaglette Gina Verscheide, senior, said of the name change, "It's been Eaglettes for years. If a guy wants to try out, that's the time to change the name. You just show me a guy who has enough nerve to try out."

According to Central sophomore Bill Moreland, "I think that just because the name was Eaglettes doesn't scare guys from trying out. The name doesn't make any difference. The whole idea of it is feminine. I don't think any guys will try out just because the name is different."

Dr. Moller said on this subject, "I'm very doubtful that any guy will try out. It's just another case of our federal government carrying things to an inconceivable extreme. It's idiotic. The Eaglettes are a tradition, and almost everyone knows what we talk about when we say 'Eaglette.'"



photos by Jackie Hynek
David Rhodes as the character Malforce dramatizes his untimely death.



Princess Prince, played by Jill Anderson, unknowingly sits on the Clumsy Custard Monster played by, from left, Linda Rock, Tracy Glass, Linda Andrews, and Gillian Coolidge.

'Kabongi' noises, wind, whistles, and birds Participation makes 'mellerdrama' fun

"Everyone is guaranteed to get a laugh," junior Leanne Lovings said. The *Clumsy Custard Horror Show* Central's spring play, is a "mellerdrama" according to Leanne, who is student director. "It's different than Central's ever had. It has a villain, a hero, a damsel-in-distress — it's over-dramatized."

"The title intrigued me," said drama teacher Mrs. Pegi Stommes. "I loved it when I read it. This play involves a lot of students — it has a cast of 40. It's hard to find a well-written comedy with a large cast." Adding to its uniqueness, this play is Mrs. Stommes' first production with au-

dience participation. "It's to help the story along," she said. According to junior Jeanine Trim (who plays an usher) the narrator of the show asks the audience to whistle, make wind, bird, and "kabongi" noises, and call out words. Jeanine said, "If the audience participates, it'll be fun. It'll be a real comedy." Leanne said at one point, the actors go into the audience and "ad-lib".

A May 4th student matinee will begin 2nd hour and run through 4th hour. The matinee "encourages students to actually attend. If they come and see it, they might ask parents and friends to come see the

show." According to Leanne, financial reasons are important too. "We make most of our money out of matinees." Production costs and copyright payments take "the profits". Admission for the Friday matinee is \$1.50 for students with SA tickets and \$2.00 for those without.

Showtimes	Sat. May 5	8 p.m.
	Sun. May 6	3 p.m.
Tickets: \$2.50		

2 Littering threatens lunch privilege

Most students at Central would agree that the courtyard is an attractive and important aspect of the school. Without it, Central would be just another four-story, brick educational facility; it would lack character.

The courtyard is not only a place for students to congregate socially, but it is also the first place administrators take visitors. It also provides room for many different functions throughout the year. Surprisingly enough, although Central's courtyard is such a positive asset, students this year have an obvious attitude problem about it. According to Central principal, Dr. G.E. Moller, eating in the courtyard is a "seriously abused privilege." He said, "When we bring visitors through the courtyard during the lunch hours, I am appalled at the amount of trash and food lying around. How can students treat the facility in that way? They must be under a delusion that they don't have to worry."

The courtyard is used to quite an extent by students, and many would be very upset if student use of it were cut off next year. Said junior Paula Syznskie, "It would be awful to try and cram all those people into the cafeteria at lunch if the courtyard was closed! But, it's our own fault — people should learn to clean up after themselves."

Editorial

Students have been given various warnings over the intercom during homeroom, but afterwards, although the courtyard will be clean for a few days, it "always deteriorates again," Dr. Moller said. The administration has considered other possible ways to keep the courtyard clean. For instance: student clean-up crews. As a punishment, cleaning up the courtyard after the lunch hours would be impossible for students in In-School Suspension because of the isolation theory behind I. S. S. For other students there is a time problem with possible tardiness to 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th hour classes.

Providing a "responsible" group of students to clean up is another solution. But Dr. Moller also rejects that idea because a provided clean-up crew would possibly "encourage more littering and laziness."

Apparently, closing the courtyard to students during the lunch hour is becoming a real threat. "I am seriously considering closing the courtyard beginning next fall although it would most likely result in brief warfare," Dr. Moller said. The attitude will have to improve this spring in order to continue use of the courtyard next year. It's time for students to wake up and smell the garbage.

Senior testaments require signatures

The 1984 Seniors' last will and testaments should be rolling hot off the ditto machine and coming on sale in a few weeks. This annual legacy inspires fear in some, laughter in many, and, unfortunately, hurt feelings in others.

Editorial

Because the idea behind the Senior Wills is one of fun and supposed good feeling, the rules for selection of the "bequeathals" are very lax. Only seniors are allowed to submit wills, and the proposed wills are then carefully censored by the senior class officers. Prior to the printing of the selected wills, Mr. Moran, a counselor at Central, makes sure nothing overly cruel is included. But, a few nasty remarks invariably slip by. Although the purpose of the wills is just fun and some of the slightly biting comments should be taken in good humor, maybe a signature requirement would cut down on the amount of personally hurtful comments.

Surgeon General's Warning:

P.E. is hazardous to your health



Rocky Road

Linda Rock

Spring, in all of its blooming glory, brings multitudes of sights and sounds to the thawing world. Trees bud, flowers blossom, birds sing, and gym classes groan. Yes, gym classes do groan for they know that this is the time of the year for the dreaded semi-annual physical education test.

Gym was always hard enough for me without having to worry about tests, so I can completely sympathize with those who are struggling to try to master the basics of badminton and table tennis before the end of the year. When I took gym my sophomore year, gym classes were not specialized as they are now. We took a few weeks on each unit: track, bowling, gymnastics, team sports, archery, etc.

I particularly remember the gymnastics unit. Nadia Komenichi I am not, but I felt particularly daring on the fateful day. Meditating, I stood at the end of the "runway" anticipating my turn to jump delicately on the springboard and fly gracefully over the brown vinyl object. An object which is so flippantly named a "pommel horse." (Personally, I never

did see the connection between a four-legged farm animal and this mass of metal, wood, and plastic.)

I took a deep breath and ran with the speed of a marathon inchworm. I leaped on the springboard and placed my hands on the horse's back, just as the teacher had instructed. But that's where my education of gymnastics failed me. As I leapt, somewhat less gracefully than that same inchworm, over the synthetic animal, my knee hit the horse. I, sent sprawling to the mat below, was not injured, but my pride was bruised.

'...my pride was bruised.'

After that traumatic encounter, I felt that there could be nothing worse that could happen to me in gym class. That is until the physical education test was announced.

Common sense urged me to stay in bed that morning, but I didn't listen. Foolishly, I entered the gym thinking that this test would be like any other. The mile run was to be the final part of our test. We were told that we could run, jog, or walk, as long as we completed the one mile course under our own power. Sounds simple enough, right? Wrong.

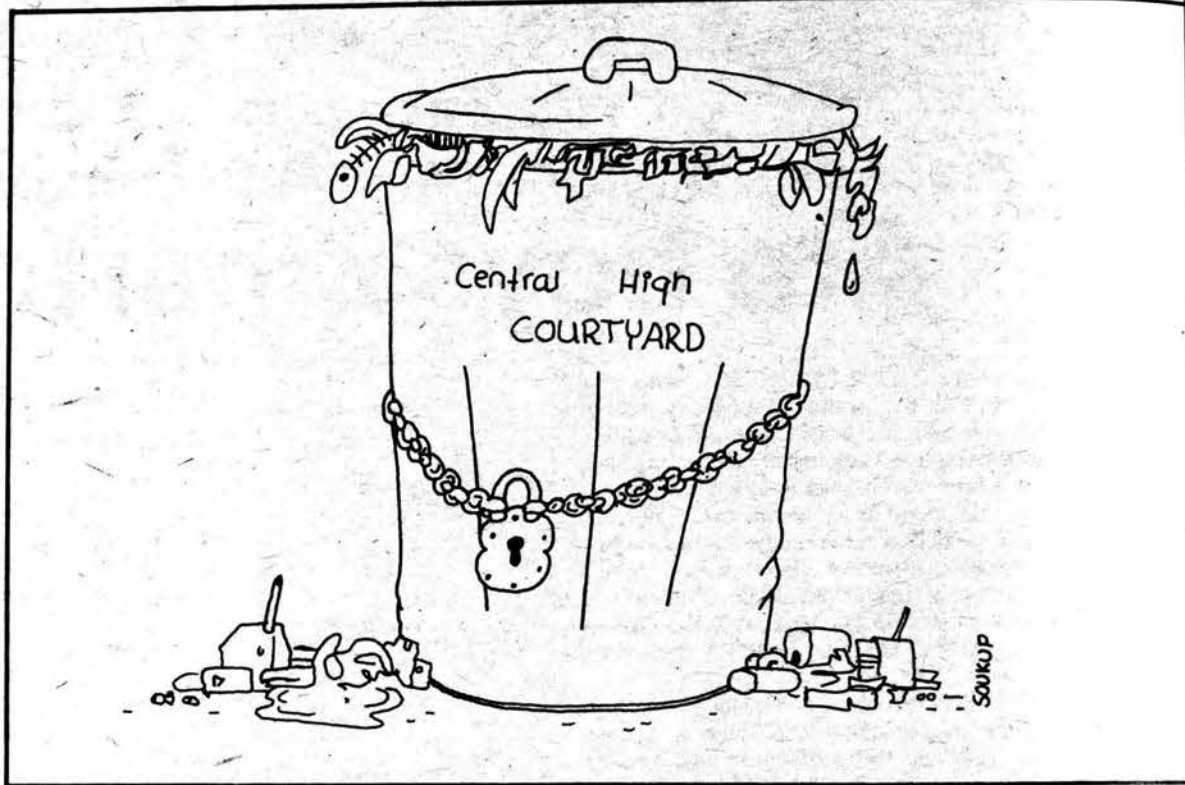
Several other elements come into play

P.E. testing 'a traumatic experience'

besides physical fitness and endurance when one is running at 8:45 A.M. . . on a full stomach. The first of these is obvious. It's pretty embarrassing to wolf your cookies all over the guy running in front of you. Two years ago, the track was not completed, so we had to run around Joslyn and its parking lot. Running in coordinated blue-striped jumpsuits along Dodge Street during rush hour traffic led to some rather obscure comments, also.

I am of the belief that mile runs cause permanent damage. Just listen to a study hall full of students who have just had gym class. You'll see (er. . . hear) what I mean. The variety of noise level is tied between the coughs of those who just aren't in shape and snores of those who really care not to be in shape.

Another part of the physical test which I don't understand is the tricep measuring. For this, the gym instructor places a large, white, pincher-type instrument on the student's arm and squeezes as hard as possible. Now is this really necessary? I mean, why do they care how much fat we have on our elbows?



Registered Opinions Wills provoke comments

Students in this issue's opinion poll were asked if they feel that changes are necessary in the Senior Will publication.

Ray Johnson-Junior (pic at right)

"No, I think everyone takes the Senior Wills in good humor - it's an amusement."

Amy Agosta-Senior (pic at right)

"The Wills wouldn't be fair if people weren't allowed to say what they wanted; they're just for fun."

LeAnne Lovings-Junior

"Yes, I think that at least signatures are necessary because a lot of people get hurt by the Senior Wills. If you're big enough to make a remark about someone, then you should be big enough to sign it."

Guy Duncan-Senior

"If anyone has something to say they should sign it, otherwise the wills are fine."

Linda Frazier-Junior

"The Senior Wills are funny - they are revenge, or whatever the seniors want them to be."



photos by Bryan Hildreth

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Working to recovery:

by Leslie Johnson

On October 14, 1983, Central senior Shaun McGuire left school with the intention of spending a fun-filled weekend in Lincoln, celebrating the wedding of her boyfriend's brother. By 1:00 a.m., Todd Shlegenmilch (Shaun's boyfriend) was dead, and Shaun's life was hanging in a lethal balance, as a result of a head-on collision 13 miles east of Lincoln. A weekend, and a year, intended for joy were overshadowed with grief in a matter of seconds.

A brain injury impaired Shaun's memory to the point that she needed to re-learn many basic items.

Shaun remained in a coma for six weeks after the accident, and according to her mother, Mrs. Richard Barry, is "still somewhat in the coma." Due to extensive injuries, including a bruised left brain, Shaun's memory of anything was virtually erased, making it necessary for her to relearn many things.

When Mrs. Barry received the "dreaded phone call," she said that she initially "didn't know if Shaun was alive or dead." When circumstances of the accident were clarified, and the alcohol factor came into view, Mrs. Barry said that her emotions changed. "First I felt concern, then I was angry — I still am." Her word of caution, as a result of Shaun's accident to all drivers is: "Use your head and common sense before you destroy yourself and everyone out there."

On November 20, 1983, Shaun was moved to Immanuel Hospital. After steady healing and progress over the winter months, Shaun returned home to stay on Friday March 23, 1984. During weekday mornings, Mrs. Kathy Atkinson, a registered nurse, stays with Shaun. In the afternoons, Shaun returns to Immanuel to continue with her therapy.

According to Mrs. Atkinson, since her return home, Shaun has "improved a lot. She could not walk without a walker at first." Shaun can now walk by herself, or with the aid of a hand. Shaun said that one of her goals is to walk completely by herself in time for Central's May 24, 1984, graduation.

Mrs. Atkinson said, "For the damage that she had, she's made amazing progress — whether because of the intensive care at Immanuel, her family, or that she was really in-shape athletically, plus she's independent and stubborn."

Emphasizing a need to "re-learn" things, Mrs. Atkinson said, "Her intellect seems to be back, but she needs to re-learn to control her emotions."

On a typical day, Shaun basically decides for herself what to do. "She more or less needs someone around," said Mrs. Atkinson.

Injured Shaun McGuire begins rehabilitation as walking, graduating become ultimate goals

At about 1:30, Shaun begins therapy at Immanuel. She might begin the day by playing computer games, which, according to 1977 Central graduate Mr. Jim Stober, a therapist, evaluate reading ability. The games range from "Tic Tac Show" to "Rhyme, Riddle, and Reason." To further evaluate abilities, tests are taken periodically.

After a computer workout, Shaun goes to Communicology (Speech) for a half-hour. Ms. Holly Wallfred supervises Shaun in these endeavors. In this half-hour Shaun does reading, writing, and arithmetic problems, which sometimes involve homework.

"She's made a lot of improvements," said Ms. Wallfred. "Initially, she couldn't talk. She's made tremendous improvement in all areas."

According to Ms. Wallfred, Shaun still has difficulties with short-term memory, humor, and abstract language. But, Shaun said, "I have an excellent vocabulary!" Shaun also said she likes Communicology the best of all her therapies.

Therapy, which Shaun attends from 1:30 to 4:00 on Monday-Friday, consists of computers, math and reading homework, and physical exercise.

Shaun's last stop is at Physical Therapy. Ms. Jackie West, Physical Therapist, monitors Shaun in a half-hour special program. With a goal of independence, Shaun works on repetitions of leg lifts, bridges, situps, and pushups.

Ms. West said that the exercise program is for strength, coordination, and balance. After the exercises, Shaun practices walking. She can walk alone, but her "balance is a little off and she gets a little scared," Ms. West said.

According to Ms. West, when Shaun first entered Immanuel, she could not hold her head up. Now, she is able to walk down the hall alone, and she can ascend and descend stairs with aid.

After Physical Therapy, Shaun's brother, Central senior, Matt McGuire, is waiting to take her home to her family. According to Mrs. Atkinson, Shaun's family has been extremely instrumental to her recovery, "because of their support and attitudes."

Of the effect on the family Matt said, "Shaun and I have gotten a lot closer. When I first saw her the day of the accident, I probably reacted the most."

Central sophomore Denny McGuire, also Shaun's brother, said, "It's brought us closer together, because we see how easy it is, how suddenly we can lose one of the members."

According to Mrs. Barry, Shaun will probably finish her senior year at Central next year so that she can graduate. Shaun lists graduating and becoming an interior decorator as her long-term goals.



photo by Leslie Johnson

Shaun smiles as she puts the finishing touches on her Communicology homework while she awaits a rigorous workout in physical therapy. According to her therapists, Shaun is progressing at about twice the rate that was expected.

Although Shaun said, "I don't even remember starting school this year," she does remember being a cheerleader and having "fun."

The general consensus of Shaun's family seems to be that immediately following the accident, many of Shaun's friends were afraid or nervous to see her. Mrs. Barry said "at first they were afraid of the way she looked. Her blank stare frightened them. Some were afraid to talk to her because she didn't talk back." But, she added that some of Shaun's friends were "super."

According to Matt, even now, "Not many come to see her. She'd like to see new faces. Every once in awhile people will ask about her." Those who do visit are "more receptive to her," said Mrs. Barry.

Mrs. Barry said, with regard to the future, "We're not going to stand for anything short of general recovery."

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of Central importance



Junior Classical League members Dan Mirvish, Krissy Smith, Julie Sutton, Linda Rock, and Whit Whitney display some of their many trophies from past conventions.

photo by Roxanne Gryder

Junior Classical League 1984 Convention May 4-5

The Junior Classical League (JCL) will hold its 1984 Convention on the Creighton University campus on May 4-5. JCL is Central High's Latin club and is sponsored by Miss Rita Ryan, Latin teacher.

On Friday, May 4, the convention will begin with Latin and English oratories, followed by volleyball, swimming, and a slave auction. The slaves will serve at the banquet. The proceeds from the auction will go to a relief fund for Italy. The banquet will take place shortly after the auction, followed by the Certamen, which is a type of college bowl. The final event of the day will be a movie.

On Saturday, students will take written tests; the Certamen finals will take place; and elections will take place. A keynote speaker will appear on Saturday and the convention will end with projects and awards.

Last year's convention was held at Bellevue East High School. According to Linda Rock, senior counsel of Central's JCL chapter, "It's really a good activity to bring everyone together."

Present state officers from Central are Linda Rock, vice-president; Larry Anderson, parliamentarian; Krissy Smith, state historian; and Chris Swanson, treasurer.

Participants play in Hastings high school competition

At the beginning of this semester two Central juniors, Jennifer Hazen and Kathy Fritz, received an honor for their participation in instrumental music. The two girls played with other Nebraska High School students at Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska.

According to Jennifer, the girls auditioned in December. After the two girls found out they made it, they went to the college and spent a weekend practicing with other students. Jennifer said that the competition was like all-state but she said that she could feel more competition here.

The girls stayed with a Hastings family, which sponsored them. Jennifer said that most students stayed in the dorms, but many did go to private homes.

Jennifer, who, like Kathy, plays the viola, said that she was surprised about making it: "Last year I auditioned and was an alternate, but this year I made first chair. I didn't think I played that well."

On the last day in Hastings all the students performed in a complete orchestra with family and friends in attendance.

Three Central seniors place high at Links Cotillion

The 25th anniversary Links Cotillion was held on Sunday, April 8, at the Peony Park Ballroom. Belinda Mays, senior, became Miss Cotillion. Beretta Smith, senior, was runner-up and Jozette Boone, also a senior, was second runner-up.

According to Jozette Boone, one becomes Miss Cotillion by selling the most tickets. The ladies also receive money for being in the top three sellers of tickets. Belinda Mays sold 705 tickets; Beretta Smith sold 524; and Jozette Boone sold 435.

The Cotillion dance is an event where young ladies are presented by their fathers. According to Jozette, the first formal dance is with the fathers and their daughters. Then the ladies' escorts take them for a second dance. The next three dances occur for each group (ladies, escorts and fathers) with their own separate dance.

The money from the ticket sales goes toward the Links scholarship, which one can apply for.

Omaha Area Youth Orchestra members 'Play-a-thon'

On March 30, the Omaha Area Youth Orchestra (OAYO) participated in a "Play-a-thon" which lasted 24 hours at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Central's OAYO branch is sponsored by Mr. Warren Ferrel, music instructor. At the Play-a-thon, the OAYO raised \$5000, which will be used for funds for the orchestra.

According to Jacques Fason, OAYO member, "There are two orchestras: the high

school symphony and the junior high school philharmonic." Next year, the orchestra may travel to Europe and see Scotland and England.

OAYO members are Arthur Kosowsky, cello; Jacques Fason, violin; Sara Mason, violin; Cathy Fritz, Viola; Jenny Hazan, viola; Phil Lavoie, clarinet; Mitzi Markese, violin; and Heather Hammans, oboe.

Nebraska State District Contests involve Centralites

It is that time of year for all the music students at Central to gather up their instruments and warm up their voices to prepare for the Nebraska State District Contests. These contests are held annually. Area choirs are judged by professional conductors from Nebraska and Iowa. The groups are judged on pitch, tone quality, phrasing and other musical values.

The soloists for the vocal music department are Wendy Novicoff, sophomore; Pete Holmes, sophomore; Mike Rheiner, junior; and seniors: Sheila O'Hara, Ann Ostermiller, Amy Thomas, Lessa Sundt, and Annie Welty. The CHS madrigal and swing choirs will perform as well as the Sophomore Ensemble. A

Cappella Choir, with ninety members, will perform a repertoire including pieces from the Classical, Baroque, and Modern periods.

Central's concert band will play a classical piece and a march. The orchestra will perform two pieces by Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Several ensembles and soloists from Band and Orchestra will participate in the contests on Saturday. These include flute ensembles, clarinet duets, brass and percussion ensembles, and orchestra quartets and duets.

Flutists Lisa Shere, senior; Liz O'Keefe, junior; Heather Short, junior; and Melissa Meares, senior; tuba player Ernie Olson, senior; and harp player Natalie Brown, junior, are among the many soloists to perform.

1984 senior will, senior testaments are 'all in fun'

"Most likely to succeed." "Prettiest eyes." "Most musically inclined." "Best partier." These are just a few of the categories for which seniors nominated fellow classmates for the 1984 senior testament. According to Tom Zerse, senior class president, the nominee sheets were tallied and the top four students in each category were those who were included in the final election. Tom expects to announce the recipients (both male and female for each category) of the titles at a special senior auditorium homeroom.

Student opinion of the testament "labels" is generally positive. "They promote school spirit," commented senior Keith Kramer.

The only problem that senior Shawn Claycomb foresees with testaments is that "the people who will probably win already know that they'll win."

Senior wills, another tradition of the

senior class and also sponsored by the senior class officers, will soon be hitting the presses. Seniors have the opportunity to thank a favorite teacher, say good-bye to a special friend, or just make general comments in the wills. At 50¢ per message, any senior can submit up to four separate messages.

Class officers accepting the wills will screen them for profanity and cruel remarks. The messages will then be screened by Dr. G.E. Moller, Central High principal. If a message is discarded by Dr. Moller, however, the 50¢ fee will not be returned to the person writing the message. Anyone may buy a will once they are printed and go on sale.

Senior Laura Reimche said of senior wills, "They can be a lot of fun as long as they don't put anyone down."

"It's all in fun," said Keith.

Parking fee to be discontinued, new system next year

According to the April 23 OPS Board Bulletin, the \$5 per semester parking fee in secondary schools will be discontinued next year.

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, said that a new type of system of distributing parking permits will have to be developed. Some reasons for discontinuing the fee, according to Dr. Moller, are complaints of poor protection, students parking in unauthorized areas to avoid paying the fee, and the difficul-

ty of collecting the fee — "an administrative headache."

Previously, Central received 20 percent of the money collected and used it in the activity fund, mainly for parking lot maintenance. The other 80 percent went to the Board of Education.

Dr. Moller said that money, approximately \$100, will have to come out of another fund to pay for the cost of student and employee parking stickers.

Central chess team number one in state, second year

Central High's Chess team is again the number one chess team in the state. This is the second year in a row that Central has been in the number one position in the state, according to Mr. David Martin, Chess club sponsor.

In the metro tournament, Central High came in second place, missing by only one point the number one position which South High took, said Mr. Martin.

Looking toward the future of the Chess team, Mr. Martin said most of the team is

made up of juniors; therefore, Central High stands a good chance of being number one in the state next year.

Mr. Martin said that the team needs "more sophomores for next year to replenish the Central High Chess club tradition."

Mr. Martin said a foreign exchange student from Germany, who has a great interest in chess, may come to Central High. Mr. Martin commented that the Central High Chess club is probably the only Chess club to "recruit" a student from Europe.

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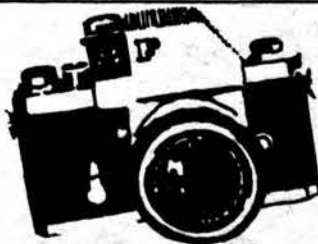
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Amusement park miniatures fascinate student

James Mayo, a junior at Central High School, spends his spare time creating unusual things with toothpicks, straws, and "stuff around the house." Using tools he brings into existence are masterpieces. He has made scale models of the Epcot Center, a stadium and Disneyland as well as many other structures of national fame. He started this hobby five years ago and has learned much from the experience.

James admitted that friends often ask why he took up this hobby. He said, "I have so much patience from this that it comes to do other things well."

James holds many plans for the future. He wants to go to amusement parks to find out

how the miniature characters work because he wants to build some of them. But that would be a big step because of the transition from paper to metal. Other projects he is thinking about are perpetual motion machines and air cars or even a robot.

As part of a Creative Writing assignment he wrote a nonfiction article on his hobby. Included in the article is an eight-step plan to a miniature roller coaster. He sent his article to American Crafts Magazine in hopes of its being published.

"My parents are very proud of me," said James, "They tried to get me to be an architect, but I didn't like drafting. Now, I'm thinking about going into electronics since I'm already used to working with miniatures."



photo by Jackie Hynek

Junior James Mayo proudly displays his model of the Sears Dome which even includes a miniature football field.

Papers: methods vary, purpose same

rika Herzog

For all students planning on college, research papers, in form or another, are inevitable facts of life. Central's college prep curriculum and traditional standards, has a research paper requirement: seniors have to write a research paper for American History classes. But it seems because of the course or the teacher, many students do a lot more than one research paper during their time at school.

Bruce Lockwood, senior, said that he had five research papers this year. Broken down, that meant two in A.P. English, two in A.P. History, and one in A.P. French.

Bruce said that he spends some time on his research papers, but not a lot. "I wait till the last minute. I know I don't, but I do."

Karen Kalkowski, senior, on the other hand, said she spends quite a bit of time on her two research papers for A.P. English. "Right when he gave us the assignment, I sent away for information, but when I let the information lay there until six days before the paper was due."

"The first weekend after the paper is assigned," said Anne Festersen, junior, "I try to go to the UNO library and get a good supply of source cards. I look for an angle and an idea. I end up spending a lot of money on copies, though."

Mrs. Carol Gebhard, history teacher, said that this year's first semester research paper has been put off by some students because the Central library was under construction. But she added the research paper is a "departmental requirement."

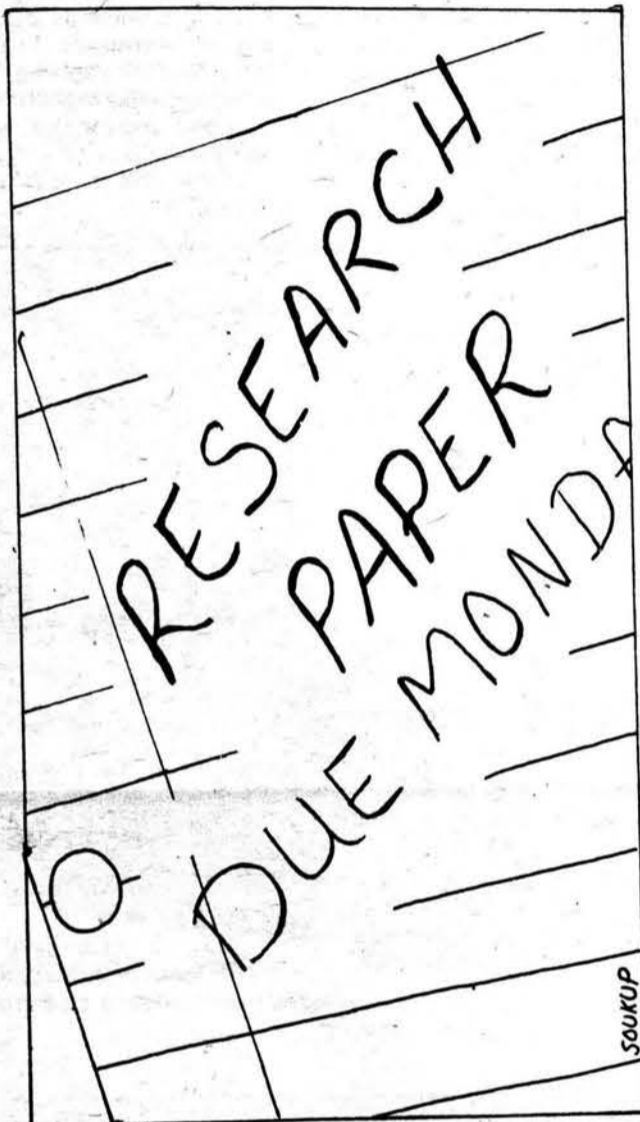
"I try to be as fair as possible with grading," Mrs. Gebhard said. "I figure if they do it and follow instructions, they will be able to complete it while being inducted in it."

In Mrs. Gebhard's classes, students are given a research paper schedule where periodically, the students hand in things like their topic selection, rough outline, bibliography cards, notecards, and final outlines. "It is a method that is set up to correct the tendency to procrastinate," Mrs. Gebhard explained.

With that method, Mrs. Gebhard said that most people loved it. "I think that some kids even found it to be a pleasant surprise to find that it wasn't that bad."

But as Mr. Paul Semrad commented, there is a certain element of fear involved in writing a research paper. In English, for example, the second semester research paper is required and replaces a theme, which is a necessary part of the English course needed to graduate.

Mr. Dan Daly, A.P. English teacher, said that students know how to write a research paper by A.P. English." His



method, as he calls it, of "policing the various steps," is very similar to Mrs. Gebhard's method. Periodically another section of research and/or the paper is due until the students have a three week "hiatus," as Mr. Daly called it, to rewrite their rough draft and to type the paper.

Bruce commented that he liked having that method of

policing in his English class. "It helped a lot to get set in the right direction."

Mr. Paul Semrad, world history teacher, commented that research papers "involve self-discipline." This seems especially true for debate students.

According to Mrs. Ellen Pritchard, students in debate have to be researching two kinds of research at one time. "I expect them to do ongoing research throughout the season to better their affirmative case. Also, when assigned, I expect them to do negative research."

Those two types of research take, averaged off and approximated by Mrs. Pritchard, about "four hours a week from November to February."

Mr. John Waterman, Honors Trig/Pre-Calculus teacher, gives his students a choice of twenty-five topics. "They pick the one that they want, and then they are expected to present their findings to the class along with a research paper explaining the same things they present."

"I expect high quality work. I give them a minimum of a month and expect them to be well organized and the paper nicely presented," Mr. Waterman said. The paper counts for two-thirds of the grade while the presentation counts for one-third of the grade. That overall grade is considered to be equal to a test grade. "If you don't do it, you receive a zero for a test grade," he said.

In both papers, Mr. Waterman said that he wants to see hard digging into sources and books. "I want to know if they have understood what they have found."

For A.P. American History, instructor Jack Blanke requires one research paper per semester. "The first one is approved historical research where students research an event in history or a person in history with the topic being approved by me," he explained.

"For the second one, students do a position paper. They select a topic that is two-sided and choose the side that they support. Then they research it. That does not have to be approved, but many students do come in and talk to me about it."

Mr. Blanke stresses communication. "I stress that if students have any problems whatsoever, to come in immediately." He also stresses excellence. "I expect an outstanding job."

Mrs. Valdrighi, history teacher, said that a "research paper is supposed to answer a question. The point is to know enough to take a position."

Bruce summed up his feelings: "When it is all over and you have turned your research paper in, when you did an okay job, you feel pretty good. Mostly, though, you're really glad it's over."

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Anachronisms tournaments and medieval crafts are a normal part of David Long's life

by Nani Soares

Chivalry is not dead. Watch out Arthur, the Society for Creative Anachronisms is here to whisk away romantic delusions and replace them with medieval realism in the club's own "twist."

David Long, sophomore and member of the Society for Creative Anachronisms (SCA), said the Society is a sort of "international club." The Society has members in every country except Antarctica. However, David claims that the Society is much more than just a club.

The SCA is a highly structured organization. Its purpose is to educate people about life in the Middle Ages. Members do research, as well as have their own kind of fun. The time period is between 600 to 1800 A.D. According to David, the club "has its own government system, but like other clubs, you can do as much or as little with it as you like."

Locally, Omaha is within the boundaries of the kingdom of Calentir. There are currently two of four knights in the whole kingdom who reside in Omaha. "The kingdom of Calentir encompasses Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas," David said.

The club sponsors many events, some of which are tournaments. Members

who are the do actual lists. Donned the fighters ly carved wood- under the of the judges. very

fighter-warriors combat in the in armor of leather wield their careful en weapons scrutiny "It's not danger-

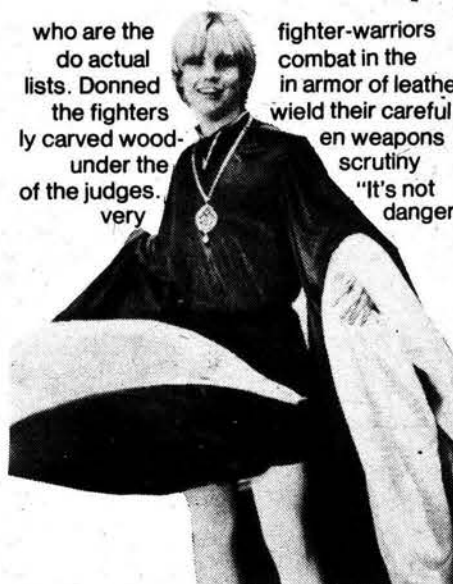


photo by Jackie Hynek

Lord David Long dons medieval dress for an SCA feast.

ous," David said, "In fact, the tournament has very specific rules about the tournaments. For example, all fighting is done on foot. There is no jousting because there aren't any horses.

David said that at an important tourna-

ment, for example, when knights fight for the title of king, everybody in the kingdom comes if they can.

"Everybody comes together from all over," he said. For Calentir, such a tournament attracts people from all over the four-state region.

During the tournament, there is also the Arts and Sciences competition. Competitions include calligraphy, illumination, lace making, and armor making. When the day is over, the Lords and Ladies change into formal medieval dress and begin the evening feast.

"We have real medieval entertainment. There are musicians who are members of the Society who specialize in medieval-type of music."

According to David, these tournaments are sometimes used to attract the Mundanes: "Sometimes we can be a bit snobbish about being in the Society, but we try to discourage that attitude," David said. He adds that it isn't hard to become a member. In fact, there is a listing in the telephone book which interested people may call to find out about activities and where to register for membership.

"Just look under R. T. Lionhearted," David said.

Wantu-Wazuri It was gospel music and 'black awareness'

by Ann Ostermiller

Students often wonder what become of various clubs and organizations that were once active at Central High School. Wantu-Wazuri, a non-existing club. Wantu Wazuri ("be people" in Swahili) began in 1971, according to Mrs. Pat Wallington, science teacher and past sponsor, the group began as to "enhance black awareness and be community oriented." The group worked during leaves, preparing Christmas Thanksgiving baskets, and singing carols. Primary activity for the group was performing for the Black History program in February. "This program was a real need for students. Traditionally, black Americans were taken out of history books; the program gave a chance for student awareness of black culture," said Mrs. Wallington.

Some students were soured by community projects. 'Students were bringing food baskets to needy people who had already been given baskets by ten other organizations.'

Around 1974, the organization began to change. Some students were soured by the fact of community projects. "Students were bringing food baskets to needy people who had already been given baskets by 10 organizations. These people perhaps had more food than the students themselves," said Mrs. Wallington. A group of students from Wantu-Wazuri began to concentrate on music and try out for Road Show. Many community members and students began to relate the club to singing groups. Religious church groups booked Wantu-Wazuri.

Why the group died is based on several factors. The main issue is the fact that students were required to have a ticket. "Before the rule had sort of been overlooked, but the administration made clear that if any club was to participate in a school group, they must have an activity card," Mrs. Wallington said. The number of members in the group began to decline. Some years Wantu-Wazuri started with 20 members, by the end of the last year it was down to ten or twelve. "I felt that the number would be less than adequate at such a small number," said Mrs. Wallington. In 1982, the last year Wantu-Wazuri was in effect, it was going very strong that last year under Janet Washington's direction," said Mrs. Wallington. The group practiced on

'It would have been a poor copy of what Wantu-Wazuri had been, had tried to keep it going.'

days and was concerned with becoming a good. In 1982, the group started in September, but it soon fizzled. "It would have been a poor copy of what Wantu-Wazuri had been, if we had tried to keep it going," said Mrs. Wallington.

When Wantu-Wazuri died, so did the organization for Black History month. Mrs. Wallington said that the first year there was no black history program, a sad occurrence during the month of February.

As for organizing a new group, Mrs. Wallington felt she could not take on the task. "It takes a lot of time and energy to sponsor a group," she said. Brian Gray, junior, has hopes of rekindling a black gospel group. Brian and three friends had a gospel group for Road Show 1984. "People seem to really like it," Brian said. Brian plans to have a group meet after school next year and perform on anthems, spirituals, gospels, and blues. "We don't have to do just religious music," Brian said. Brian said he hopes to find a sponsor for leadership and organization. His dream is to get black gospel music back into the school."

Johnson receives Academy invitation

A free trip has been given to Leslie Johnson, a Central senior, to be present at an awards ceremony given by the American Academy of Achievement.

Leslie's sponsor, Chairman V.J. Skutt of Mutual of Omaha, will pay for her plane fare, hotel bill, and "all expenses." Leslie's selection is related to her involvement in the National Merit competition.

Leslie is one of 350 outstanding high school honor students across the nation to go to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in June who will witness 40 adult guests of exceptional accomplishment receive the Golden Plate award. The three-day weekend's highlight will be the Banquet of the Golden Plate.

To receive this award, one must be an adult achiever who excels in a certain profession or occupation.

Leslie will get to see some of the most honored people in American. Past winners of the Golden Plate Award have been actor Burt Reynolds and model and actress Brooke Shields.

She will go to Minneapolis July 5-7. "Every day they have a symposium — one of the forty people gives a talk," Leslie said. "Every night they have a dance for the kids."

The academy has been in existence since 1961. Over the years it has had over 5,000 students witness this awards ceremony. It brings outstanding students and outstanding adults together "to inspire youth with new dreams of achievement in a world of boundless opportunity."



photo by Roxanne Gryder

Centralites in "Central's honor society" wear elated expressions as they release their balloons on Purple Feather Day, April 26.

No 'popularity contest' Student Council annual elections

The elections were held this past week for the 1984-85 Central Student Council. This Monday, May 7, elections for president and vice-president will be held. According to senior Janet Kent, who is president of this year's student council, any student council member who has been active in Student Council for one full year or two semesters is eligible to run for president.

Janet said that there was a change in this year's selection of student council members. Between April 23 and 27, students passed around their petitions to have 50 peers sign them and have their counselor also sign them. "What's different this year," Janet said, "is that students must have two teacher recommendations; without these recommendations they will not be placed on the final voting ballot."

One of the main reasons Janet said for this election is to put an end to the "popularity contest" that some students see it as. Janet said that this way the group

will get more leaders instead of people who are just in it for the title and don't put a lot of effort into their job.

There will be another change next year for student council. The group meets this year for ninth hour on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each member receives one-fourth credit per semester. According to Janet, next year due to the proposed schedule changes, extra curricular courses such as the student council will not be able to meet during the school day and earn credit. Janet said that next year the group will still meet ninth hour but it will be considered a student council study hall and no credit will be given.

With the elimination of the credit, Janet thought students might hesitate in trying out for student council. Now Janet says that she feels it will mean students who will be involved will be in there to help the school, not just to earn an extra credit.

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Relays highlight track season

Members of the Central boys' track team recently attended an "invitation only" track meet held in Kansas. The meet, called the Kansas Relays, is held annually and is for what the head coach Joe McMenamín called "the best trackmen from the Midwest."

McMenamin said the tough competition the relays helps team members when they compete back in Nebraska. "Mentally it helps them to realize their potential. In past years, when going to the meet, we have come back with some of our best performances of the year," he said.

Junior Tony Avant, a seventh place finisher in both the high jump and triple jump,

said the trip helped him to realize just how far he could jump. "In Kansas I was pushed hard, and that brought up my jumping distance."

Tony said the weather in Kansas was nice, and other competitors have somewhat of an advantage over Nebraskans. "A lot of our times and distances have been behind because of the horrible weather."

With the weather finally starting to get better, McMenamín said he thought times would improve also. He said, "I am expecting some very good times for the rest of the year."

Fielding lacks

Baseball season plagued by errors

Central's baseball team has not taken off to a great start. The team began its season with a record of 2-5.

Dave Mancuso, junior, said, "Our hitting is good but our fielding isn't quite up to par. We're not playing like a team as yet, and we're not really getting the breaks we need." Weather has played an important factor in the performance of the team. Both games practices have been cancelled due to moist weather.

Senior Dan Bye said, "When we're inside

you get clean hops from the ball bouncing off the gym floor. When we get outside it becomes hard to concentrate because the ball bounces differently outside."

According to team members, the team's main goal is to win its district and state tournaments. "We've got a good team, and our team's batting average is real high. But, our pitching and fieldings are bad," said Dan.

Dan said, "Last year we had a lot of strength in catching. This year our strength is in our hitting."

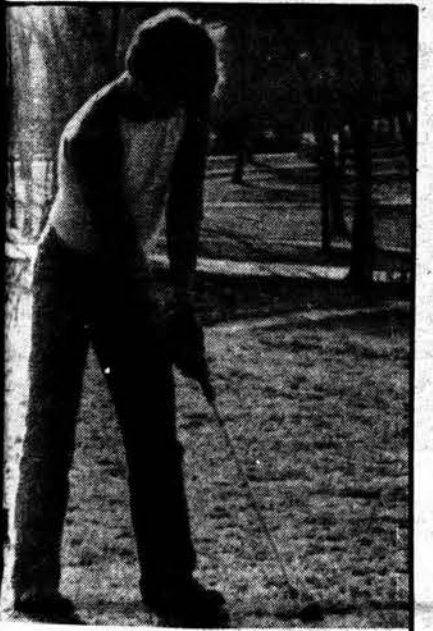


photo by Roxanne Gryder

Angelo Randazzo, senior prepares to catch the ball at a recent practice. For more information see page eight.

Fitness test allows OPS to compare scores

by Glenn Mathews

Physical fitness is something that almost all people have to work to achieve. Fitness is desired by people of all ages and levels of ability.

Some people worry about being physically fit more than others. Most high school students would not worry about fitness if they were not required to be tested. The Omaha Public School System requires that all physical education students take a physical fitness test.

The test is designed to test different forms of fitness. According to Mr. Stan Standifer, Central physical education teacher, the test is aimed at four particular areas of ability.

Standifer said that strength, flexibility, body fat, and the cardiovascular system are the four main areas being tested. The four parts of the test are: sit-ups, sit and reach, skin fold test, and the one mile walk-run.

Mr. Joe McMenamín, another physical education teacher, said, "The test could be better." He believes that the test could be improved so as to show the actual fitness of the students.

Dr. Florence Clous, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education for the Omaha Public Schools, said that the present fitness test is different from the original test. She said that the original test was more related to sports skills. According to her, the test was changed four years ago so that it is now more related to health and physical fitness.

Clous said that the scores are based on a national percentile basis. However, she said that the scores are not compared to other nationwide students.

Scores are compared to other students in the local school district. According to Clous, certificates are awarded to students

for outstanding test scores and for improved scores.

Standifer said the biggest change is that the scores are now done on computer cards, whereas before they were all done by hand. He said there are no push-ups or pull-ups on the new fitness test. "But," he said, "this test gives you an indication of a person's fitness level as compared to other students in OPS or in the same grade level."

Standifer takes his fitness evaluation one step further. His P.E. classes play a game called brisquetball.

Brisquetball is the same as basketball, except there is not dribbling. According to Standifer, a team can have as many players as desired to that everyone has a chance to participate. He said, "Most importantly it is a continuous moving game, therefore giving the students a total cardiovascular workout."



photo by Jackie Hynek

Jessica Haynes, junior, leaps with all her might during the long jump. The girls' track team is hoping to repeat as state champs.

Michael Ask

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Rain dampens teams

Coaches seek to overcome weather

Unseasonably bad spring weather, which according to Ms. Joyce Morris, girls' tennis coach, is the worst she has seen in 16 years, has dampened many teams' and athletes' hopes for a productive season.

From
the
Grandstands

Lee Garver



Mr. Edward McDaniel, boys' golf coach, said, "The weather is horrible. We haven't been able to practice, and we have the potential to be a very good golf team."

McDaniel acknowledged that the weather has affected all high school teams and that it is something that has to be contended with each year. Morris said, "It's just part of coaching."

Muddy baseball fields and rainy days pushed the baseball team indoors. Tom Zerse, a senior on the baseball team, said, "You can bet that our practicing indoors affected our fielding." According to him, the team has not been able to practice trapping pop flies or grounders which have been hit on a dirt surface.

The risk of slipping on a wet track and developing muscle pulls from running in cold temperatures drove most members of the boys' and girls' track team indoors. This, however, was not the case with the distance runners on the boys' track team. Paul Riddle, junior, said, "We go out and run in any kind of weather."

'We are pounding the ball really hard, but as far as the actual mechanics go, we need a lot of work'

Morris said that not only does the weather affect tennis players but that it also affects their equipment. Tennis balls go hard when they get wet, and the strings of rackets can become warped.

As of last week, the team had only been able to squeeze in five outdoor practices. Morris said the girls had concentrated on conditioning, especially the lifting of weights, rather than working on the game itself. She said, "We are pounding the ball really hard, but as far as the actual mechanics go, we need a lot of work."

Joe McMnamin, boys' track coach, has been frustrated by the bad weather and hopes that improving conditions will allow the team's runners to get some better times. He said, "We've been winning our meets by substantial margins, but we are not getting in quality times."

The field event people have worked almost the entire season indoors. According to McMnamin, technique work, including the watching of films, has been gotten out of the way and members of the team are ready to work outdoors.

"The team has pretty much been ac-

climated to the bad weather," said McMnamin. "In past years if the weather was bad, they would ask if a meet was called off. Now, they take it for granted that it will be held."

Mrs. Jo Dusatko, girls' track coach, believes that Central might have a disadvantage compared to other schools in that its strength lies in its sprinters. According to her, weather affects them more than other members of the team.

Girls' track runners, because of the cold and rain, have been forced to travel in and out from the school's track. Having a closely situated running surface which allows the team to do this is an advantage Central might have over another school which does not have its own track. Mr. David James, assistant girls' track coach, said, "It definitely helped us in our workouts."

Missed matches difficult to reschedule

McDaniel said, "With the lack of practice we have had, very little serious work has been accomplished. But, what time the kids have had, they've used well." According to junior Brian Adamson, a member of the golf team, the squad has missed three matches, and he is unsure if they will all be made up."

Central's tennis squad, which has missed many matches, is having problems resulting from the rescheduling of its contests. Morris said that she had to cancel a match against Roncalli last Thursday because the team had conflicts with other teams on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

"I had to cancel the match because the players would have been too tired," said Morris. "Roncalli would have been their most important match of the week."

Acquiring adequate practice time has been difficult for many students. Brian said that he practiced golfing in his backyard, and according to Morris, many girls on the tennis team were able to practice on indoor courts on their own.

Dusatko believes that the weather does more than hinder practices and destroy equipment. She said, "When the sun doesn't shine, it's kind of hard to get motivated." But, James cautions people against getting too excited about good weather.

'Nice weather automatically lures a person into quality workouts too soon'

James said, "Nice weather automatically lures a person into quality workouts too soon." He cautions athletes against getting too intense following an escape from being trapped indoors.

McMnamin believes that the weather has hurt athletes' chances to set records. Because team members have had poor practicing conditions this year, their chances of setting new marks are slim.

"It's a shame for seniors," said McMnamin. "It's really put a damper on the whole season."

Tennis team hoping for strong finish

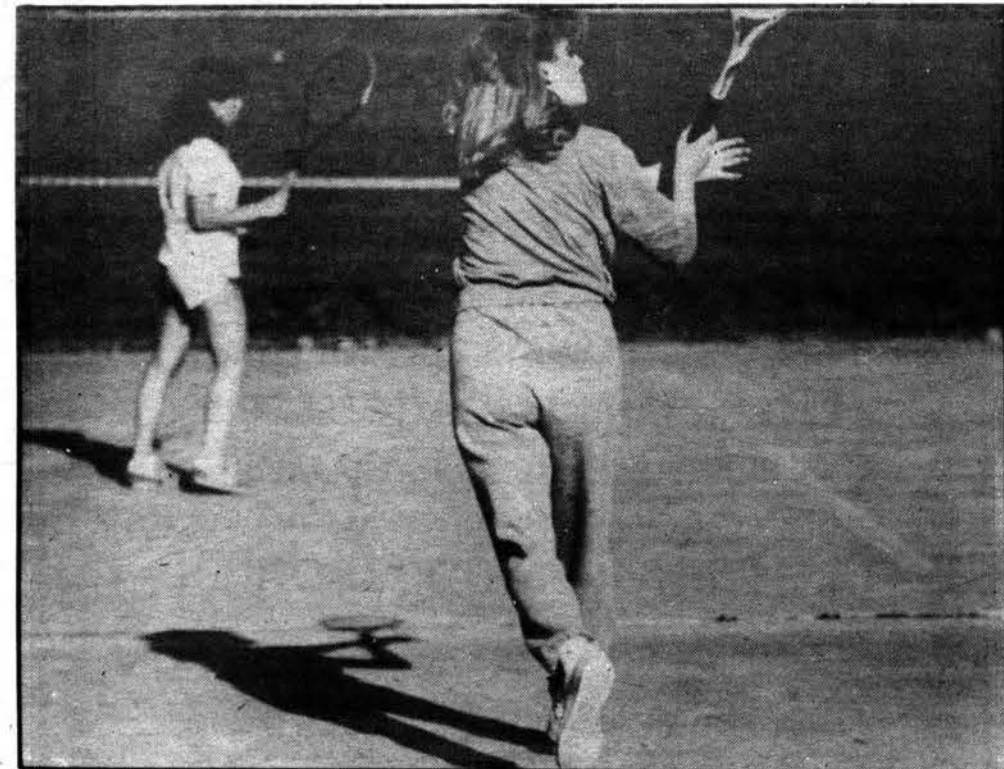


photo by Jackie Hynek

Jenny Foster, junior and the number one player on the girls' tennis team, returns a volley during a practice.

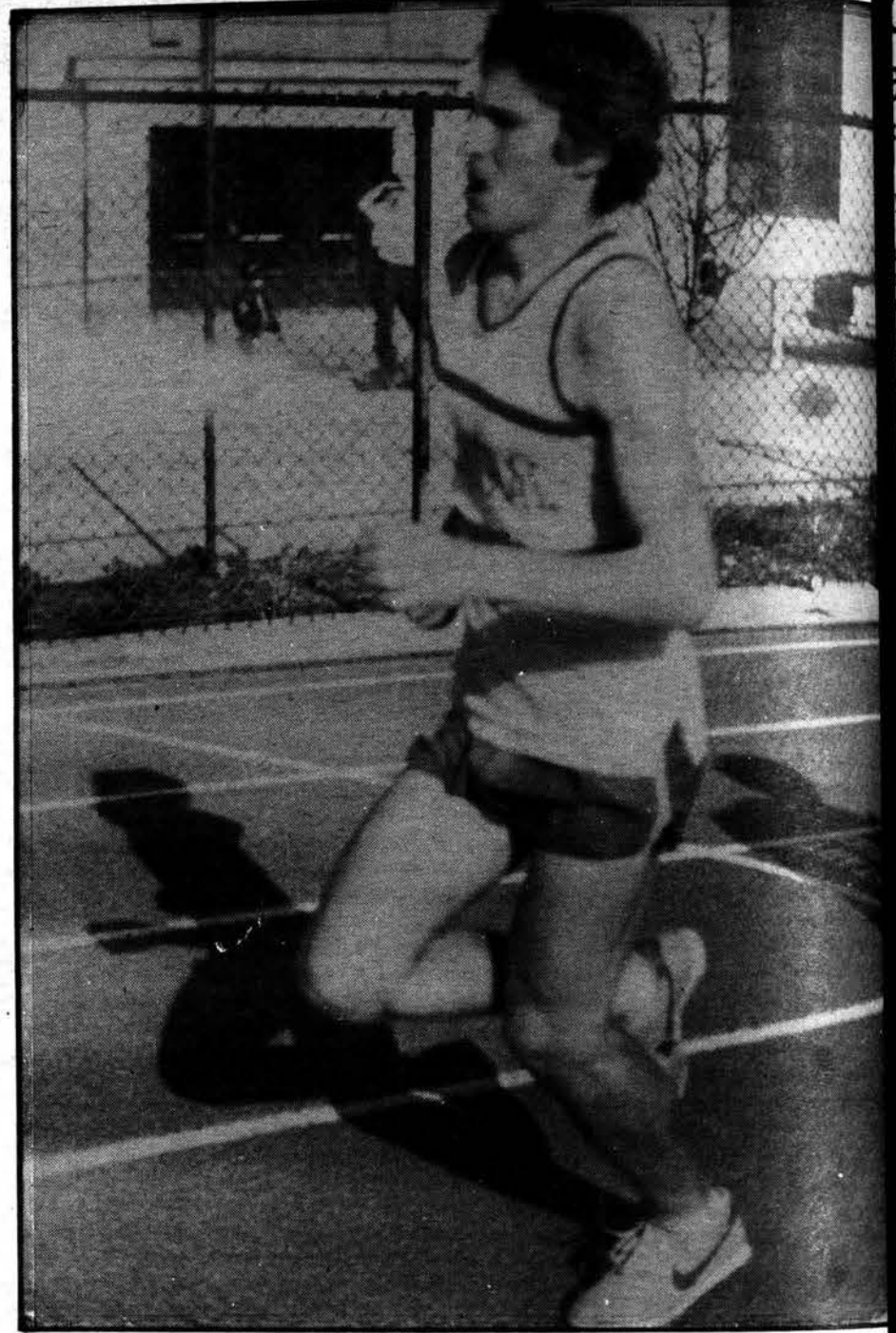


photo by Jackie Hynek

Steve White, senior, paces himself as he runs on the track. Steve, along with Dennis Sheeler, is a distance runner who has become a leader on the track.

Distance runners

Sheeler, White provide new threat

by John Carlson

Central High School's track team has for years been known for its medal-winning sprinters. Their notoriety has often overshadowed strong performances from the team's distance runners.

This year, however, record breaking performances and valuable team points have been logged by distance runners Dennis Sheeler and Steve White.

Steve, a senior, runs the mile, two mile, and two-mile relay and has had several first and second place finishes this year.

Dennis, a junior, participates in the same events that Steve does. He said the competition with Steve has helped him. "We really push each other, and Steve has helped to

build up my pace."

Steve said the mental aspect of running is very important. "Psychologically you have to be able to block everything out of your mind, including pain and other runners," said that when he is able to do this he has prepared himself well for a meet.

Joe McMnamin, head track coach, said Steve and Dennis are his best distance runners. "I am expecting them to finish second or third at metro," he said.

For the future, both plan to keep running in their plans. They are going to run marathons this summer and eventually to run in college. Steve said, "In the long run all the work will be beneficial. I just want to keep striving for the future."

Charles Knight wins golfing tournament; team's aim is State

Charles Knight, junior, highlighted Central's boys' golf team's fourth place finish in the T.J.-A.L. Golf Tournament by capturing first place on Monday, April 16.

Charles ended the tournament by shooting a score of 81. In sudden death play, Charles found victory by outshooting his opponent on the first hole.

The team, which according to Coach Edward McDaniel finished seven strokes out of first place in the tournament, has a dual match record of 2-2. He said that the team has had strong performances from its golfers. McDaniel believes that Brian Adamson, junior, and Mike Keating, senior, are both doing really well.

Most of the team's preparation is geared towards the district tournament. McDaniel said, "Our goal is to finish in the top three at our districts so we can qualify for the state meet which will be held in Hastings, Nebraska, in early May."

Central High's girls' tennis team has finally received the opportunity to compete. Practicing and dual competitions had previously been rained out. Ms. Joyce Morris, girls' tennis coach, is pleased to have the chance to play.

Morris, who compared the 1984 team to the 1983 team, predicted that this year's squad could be better than that of last year.

Last year's team finished its season with a record of 8-3. Morris predicted that this year's team will finish its season with only two losses.

The team has played six dual matches, and Morris' prediction is still standing. The team has won five matches and lost only two.

Morris had said that the team's losses would probably come from Burke, the defending state champs, and Marian, a strong contender for this year's title. That prediction has also held true. The team's two losses have come from those two teams.

According to Morris, four dual matches are left. She believes that the squad should win the last four matches. She said that Roncalli is the toughest opponent remaining.

According to Morris, Roncalli beat Central last year because of a coaching error on her part. This year, though, she hopes to avenge that loss that came on her behalf.