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Volume 99 No. 5

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Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central dance director, and member of the National Honor Society (NHS) reform committee, hangs a banner on the locker of Joe Gle, a fictitious newly-elected NHS member. Today, the PEP (Parents Educators Pupils) Board recognized a member of academically-achieved juniors and seniors, who met the revised qualifications.

The revised ruling states that in order to qualify for the Honor Society, a student must possess a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.3, meet character and leadership requirements, have performed at least one community-service or school-related activities.



photo by Steve Berman

Chemical dependency treatment Students share success stories

Gwen Oberman

The average age for a youth to have his first drink is eleven and a half. In fact, 43 percent of the boys and 39 percent of the girls in the 11 to 14 age group have tried alcoholic beverages, according to the Nebraska Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Chemical dependency, being dependent upon any mood-altering drug, is an extremely large problem facing the youth of today. Some adolescents realize their problems and find methods for overcoming them; others ignore their situation. Those who do seek help usually go to recovery centers either on an in-patient or out-patient basis. The simple act of realizing there is a problem is a step in the right direction.

Due to the delicate subject matter, the names of the Central students discussed have been changed.

Mark began drinking at about 8 or 9, he said. Because his parents drank in the house, alcohol was available to him. He said that marijuana was "real easy to come by" and that he first tried it when he was 12. His parents were later divorced which, he said, allowed him to do his own way.

Mark said he also took cocaine, a stimulant derived from coca leaves which produces a powerful feeling of elation; "speed", an amphetamine technically termed methedrine; and came close to trying "acid" which is LSD, that causes irrational and unpredictable behavior. Jane started drinking at age 11 and started smoking pot and taking drugs at 12. She said she was an addict by 13. She tried to commit suicide four times, she said.

Jane said she left home when she was 12, "was picked up by the police, was put in jail, and then was put into a mental institution." She said, "They figured I was crazy."

Pat said he had older brothers who would give him drinks. "My drinking seriously took off at 13," he said. He said he later spent a lot of time living on the streets which meant occasionally sleeping in public houses. He explained that he was completely powerless with drinking.

Fortunately, Pat said that he realized that the "only way to get home was through treatment." Pat said that his brothers had also gone through treatment. So, when he was 16, he went to Eppley. Methodist Midtown's Eppley Chemical Dependency Services is a center for rehabilitation. The Eppley brochure said that the patient is treated through a multidisciplinary approach that attempts to help the patient break through the 'denial'... a hallmark of the disease. Hospitalization usually lasts between 28 to 56 days.

Pat explained that Eppley "gets you into a scheduled day." Jane, who also went through treatment at Eppley, said she spent a week in "hospital pajamas. This was to 'humble ourselves,'" she said. "Usually, though, one goes through 'detox,' detoxification, where they monitor you closely," Jane said.

Guide was the 'Big Book'

Their daily schedules included exercises, school work, and group sessions. They also followed the "big book," Pat said, which is the book of Alcoholics Anonymous. This book includes twelve concepts, twelve traditions and twelve steps. Through learning these steps, one has a type of guide to everyday life.

Jane said, "Fifteen percent of the problem is with drugs and alcohol. Eighty-five percent of the problem is with ourselves." Presently, she is in her fourteenth month of sobriety. She's been home for about 18 months — the longest time in three years, she said. She and her family are continuing to go through family counseling. She also attends Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, which, she said, is "our main support."

Pat feels he no longer has a problem with drugs and alcohol as demonstrated by his nineteen months of sobriety. He said, "The treatment they put you through gives you an education. They give you tools, and it's your choice if you use them. Lots of people have relapses,

since they're just not ready."

Pat said this is his first full year of school in four years. He attends AA meetings three to four times a week and said that fellowship is a big part of the meetings.

Mark, who never went to a treatment center, regularly attends AA meetings and has been sober for thirty-one months. He said, "All AA is for me is a way to patch up things I did in the past and to try not to screw up in the future."

One way in which Central is aiding students who are abstaining from chemical use is by conducting a support group two days a week. The group is led by Mrs. Gerry Zerse and Mr. Kevin Moran, Central counselors.

Central support group helps students

Mrs. Zerse said, "These people know they have to be responsible and maintain their own behavior. They know they have to talk to stay that way." She further said that the students feel good in knowing there are other people like themselves.

Mrs. Zerse stressed the fact that alcoholism is a disease. "If you get hives from milk, you don't drink it. People vomit as well as risk other consequences, but they continue to drink alcohol."

She explained that chemical dependency does not follow any certain pattern. "We still don't know of it's genetic or environmental," Mrs. Zerse said. She said she does know that, if one parent is an alcoholic, the child is 50 percent more susceptible; if both parents are alcoholics, the child is 90 percent more susceptible.

Judy's family situation seems to support Mrs. Zerse's statement. Her parents were both alcoholics, and Judy started drinking at 9 without her parents' knowledge. She also took acid, speed, and cocaine. She said she "emotionally erupted" in eighth grade, so she went to St. Gabriel's Center for treatment.

Judy now goes regularly to AA meetings and plans to continue the rest of her life. She says it's a day-to-day program. "You can't think of the future. It's better to deal with today," she said.

Judy said she feels 100 percent better about herself. Staying straight "is serious business for me or I'll die," she said. She explained that she is through doing what she wants and is, instead, doing what is right.

Judy believes that youth of today are "too caught up in pleasing others instead of themselves." She said that peer pressure is "feeling like you have to fit in, no matter if it's with people interested in school or with the stoners."

Sandy, a student who went through Operation Bridge Inc., didn't feel that peer pressure was a problem, but just getting over everyday obstacles was. Sandy felt that teens have more pressure on them than adults do. She said that an adult must only answer to his boss and to himself while a teen must answer to teachers, to parents, to his boss, and to himself. "There are more people looking down on us," Sandy explained.

Sandy was involved with drugs because she felt in control of the situation with them. "I couldn't control reality, but I could be in charge of my own little world. I was cool because I was in control." Having been through Operation Bridge Inc. Sandy said that "Bridge made me think and realize I didn't need to get stoned."

Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance director, said, "Each person is ultimately responsible for himself. Home life might be an excuse." However, he said, one can't continue to blame home life for everything because everyone has the power to change his feelings and create a life for himself.

That is exactly what these Central students have done. They have realized their problems and have done something to better their lives through treatment centers and AA meetings.

Jane said, "Today I've got friends. Today my family loves me. Today I'm able to wake up and say, 'Hey, I like myself. I'm okay.'"

Tech spirit still alive but students adjust

by Kari Hulac

May 30, 1984. The last day of classes for the Omaha Public Schools for three months. The last day of classes forever for Omaha Technical High School students. After the doors were closed, the halls were eerily silent, and the classrooms were empty, what became of these students?

Graduating seniors of 1984 were lucky enough to be able to finish out the year at the school where they had spent some of the most memorable times of their lives. Juniors and sophomores weren't as lucky. Many left with limited high school choices and, because transfers were basically unattainable, were forced to enroll at Central, North, or South High Schools.

Bertha Matlock, junior, felt angry about the closing of Tech and about having to come to Central. "I was mad. I didn't want them to close. Central wasn't my first choice. I wanted to go to Burke, but they wouldn't give me a transfer."

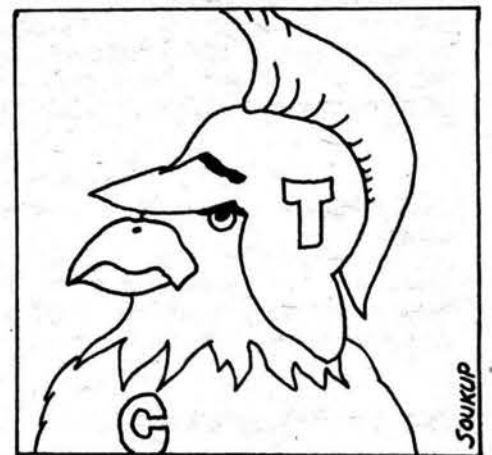
Social reputations

Every school has a certain social reputation or image which it projects. The conflicting impressions Central and Tech students have of each other, whether correct or incorrect, seem to be the underlying reason for some of the negative attitudes which continue to hover around.

As senior Mary McAndrews put it, "The people are totally different." Mary felt that Central and Tech had many opposite characteristics. She explained that the image many people have of Tech students as hard, tough kids is wrong.

"If you were inside the school and met the people, you'd see how nice everyone really was," she said. At Tech, she continued, Central students had the reputation of being "bizarre" people. She said there wasn't a single "punk" haircut at Tech, but, if there had been, that person certainly would not have been disliked because of it.

Deanna Hembertt, senior, feels that Central students look down on Tech students. "Right when we got here, it was like 'Oh no-look they're from Tech!'"



Fine athletic program

On a more positive note, some Tech transfers noted Central for its fine athletic program. Frank Christenson, senior, said, "The atmosphere is more uplifting (at Central). There is more participation in clubs and more turnout for spectator sports."

Rodney Oathout, senior, agreed with Frank's comment about Central having more school involvement and more support for athletics, but he regrets having to leave Tech due to its well developed vocational workshop centers. "It (Tech's closing) was a bad deal. I felt I was going to miss out on all the programs Tech had to offer. That made me mad more than anything else."

Most of the Tech students admitted that they just came to Central to finish out their educations and graduate rather than to become a Central Eagle.

Is Tech gone and forgotten? Mary stressed that she would never forget her two years at Tech. "Tech is alive in each and every one of us. We all know we'll always remember all the good times we had. Everyone was really sad. Everyone was so close. My memories are with Tech."

2 NHS improvements commended

"All dressed up and nowhere to go," might very well have described Central's old National Honor Society (NHS). The students — seniors — had little to do but run after Purple Feather Day honorees in the spring to bring them to the east porch. This year, however, the system is almost entirely different.

Leadership, service, character, and, of course, academics determine which seniors (and this year, juniors) will be honored with membership in the Central chapter of NHS. Eligible students have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.3, great attendance, and recommendations from "at least four instructional departments," according to criteria provided by Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance director.

The new chapter will be active, holding bi-weekly meetings and sponsoring activities. Members will be selected in time for the seniors to send the happy news to the colleges to which they are applying, an improvement over previous years' procedures.

Editorial

As in past years, according to Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, the National Honor Society members will automatically be honored on Purple Feather Day. This honor, which, as Mr. Maliszewski said, is "strictly academic," calls all students with a GPA of 3.5 or above out of class for a recognition ceremony one spring morning. In past years, any sophomore, junior, or senior who met the GPA requirement was admitted — plus seniors of NHS.

Theoretically, however, due to the changes in NHS eligibility and the GPA discrepancy between NHS (3.3) and Purple Feather (3.5), not all NHS members (seniors and juniors) would qualify for Purple Feather. The *Register* staff believes that NHS seniors, as before, should be automatically recognized at Purple Feather Day, but the NHS juniors should be submitted to the same academic criteria as the rest of the students.

By membership in NHS and recognition on Purple Feather Day, seniors are being honored for their academic excellence and their other achievements, two of the final salutes before graduation. The juniors, however, are merely gaining experience for future activities.

The NHS system needed change, and the administration responded, but Purple Feather Day needs no corrections. Let the underclassmen retain some incentive for their senior year.

Future calendars to be chosen

This year, the committee that determines the Omaha Public School calendars will meet to decide the schedule for the next two school years.

The *Register* staff sincerely hopes the members of this committee will remember the "heat days" earlier this year and the schools which don't have air conditioning. Perhaps the "old system" is best suited to Nebraska weather — school beginning after Labor Day, with a two-week break in winter, a one-week break in spring, and any extra days added on to the end of the year.

With a system like this established, the committee would only need to review the school calendar, and the confusing "mini-breaks" in February could be disposed of, or "remediated" at the end of the year.

Registered opinion: Which calendar is better?

This year the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) committee will meet to determine school calendars — when school will open, close, break for vacations, and so on. Central students and faculty were asked which system they preferred — the "old" tradition of beginning school after Labor Day and going on until June, or the "new" system of starting school in August and getting out in late May.

Paul Widhalm — sophomore — above right

"I'd rather start earlier in the fall because in the spring you want to get out of school more."

Teri Michalski — sophomore

"I think we should start earlier — if we start earlier or later it's the same — it's going to be hot at least one time. People would rather start their vacations early."

Steve Simon — sophomore — middle right

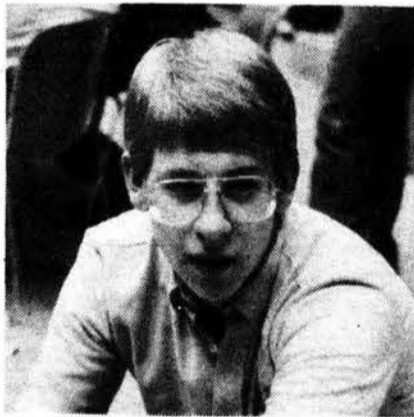
"We shouldn't open earlier because of the heat. I'd rather go into June than start in August."

Mrs. Judy Mahaffey — counselor — bottom right

"I never like it in August, but I like it in June. In August I hate going back, but in May I'm glad we're going early."

Stacey Elsasser — senior

"I like the old system because I grew up with it."



photos by Scott Hoburg



A poetic gift for you

This holiday season, I took great care in preparing a different type of column. The following is a take-off from the poem, "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Moore. With wishes for a great vacation (don't eat too much) this is from me to you.

The teachers came out and
Presented a carol,
Under the direction
Of McMeen and of Ferre

The staff, evidently, has
Treat for this class,
The students were stunned
Completely aghast.

Three weeks vacation instead
Was our treat,
We were all so amazed we
Out of our seats. (Hint, Hint)

Moller presented a speech
Aimed for the heart,
And his final words
Came to us with a start.

"Have a safe vacation
And take care,
Because you are the reason
This school is here."

**From Me
to You**



LeAnne Lovings

'Twas the night before winter vacation,
When all through CHS,
All the students were rowdy
And making a mess.

All the hallways were buzzing
With wintry news,
And the girls were all wondering
Which prom date to choose.

The teachers were crouched
In the corners with fear,
As the students expressed their
Holiday cheer.

My friends were at my table
And I held my lunch,
So I pulled up a chair
And sat down to eat brunch.

When in the courtyard
There arose such a clatter,
We all looked up
To see what was the matter.

And what did I see in front of
My head,
But our jolly principal
And counselors dressed in red.

He smiled so gently
And raised up his hand,
As he cleared his throat
And began to stand.

Now Byers, Now Johnson,
Now Maliszewski he said,
Hand out these gifts
And get out the lead.

The boys received ties of
Tacky orange and blue,
And the girls, Mr. Doctor, recipes
Of Nitric Acid Stew.

CENTRAL Register

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Central team finds 'particular success' Debate demands preparation hours

Computers aid grading process

Anneliese Festersen

Central debaters have enjoyed great success so far this year. Team members have attended or will attend numerous tournaments all over Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, and Illinois.

Senior varsity debaters, Stacey Kinmon and Jane Kurtz, have enjoyed particular success. Most recently, Stacey and Jane won the Marian/Bellarmino Invitational tournament, December 7-8. Stacey was a top varsity speaker.

Sophomore Joel Johnson was the top junior varsity speaker. Other debaters that did well in this tournament were juniors John Krecek, Shelly Bang, David Weill, and Matt Carpenter.

Stacey and Jane also won the Millard South Invitational Tournament held November 16-17 after seven rounds, about 100 hours of debating.

Class like a workshop

Mrs. Ellen Pritchard, who is in her seventh year at Central, teaches debate as a full-credit course tenth hour. Mrs. Pritchard, a speech major in college, said there are 10 novice debaters and 13 junior varsity and varsity debaters this year, including transfer students.

She said her debate class is a lot "like a workshop," because it is quite individualized. The students do work together, though, as they stage practice debates, share recent developments on the topic, and discuss different judging philosophies.

Mrs. Pritchard said the busiest time for debaters is between November and February. During this time, Jane explained, "We try to go to a tournament every weekend."

In traditional two-man debate, one gathers evidence and prepare cases for both affirmative and negative sides of a year's topic. According to Jane, the affirmative case is the most difficult because you have to make up your own interpretation of the resolution and present your own case for a solution."

Summer preparation

Such work requires a lot of effort. Jane and Stacey began preparation for this year's topic ("Resolved that the federal government should provide employment for employable United States citizens living in poverty") during a five-week summer program at Northwestern University. The two attended seminars, workshops, lectures, groups, and classes during the day and spent three hours every night at the library. Stacey, who started debating as a seventh grader at Lewis and Clark Junior High, said the program taught style, theory, and research methods. Though such programs are voluntary, she said, "If you want to be good, you have to go to camp."

Other debaters went to summer programs in Kansas, Kentucky, and South Dakota.

These summer programs mark only the beginning of the debater's work, however. Jane, who started debating as an eighth grader at Norris Junior High School, said, "The week before a tournament, we spend one and a half hours per night practicing, plus four or five hours the night before."

She explained that most of this time is spent library researching, filing and organizing evidence, writing out arguments, or formulating strategies.

'Cool' people

Jane and Stacey agreed the element they like most about debate is the acquaintances they have made. Jane said, "You get the coolest people."

Stacey said, "You have to be a different kind of person to really enjoy debate, you meet people who are a lot like you."

The thing Jane said she likes least about debate is "bad judges." She also received a complaint. She said she would like



photo by Krista Lanphier

A delegation of Central debaters prepare for the Marian-Bellarmino Invitational Tournament with suitcases of information.

to see more support for debate through the school — both monetary and spirit-wise. She said, laughingly, that one school in Minnesota holds pep rallies for its debate team!

As for debating in college, Stacey said if she does participate, it will be "just for fun." Jane agreed saying, "If you debate seriously in college, you don't have time for anything else."

One-man debate

One Centralite, senior Dan Mirvish, participates in another form of forensics — more of a "one-man debate" — called Lincoln-Douglas (LD), modelled after the 1858 debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

According to the March 1984 issue of *Progressive Forensics*, LD debate, though considered a secondary event in speech tournaments, "is a unique event because the individual has no partner, no good literature to draw from, and no emotional subject matter to depend upon. The event relies entirely on the student's talent to produce both informative and enjoyable competition."

According to Dan, LD debate is different from traditional debate because it is

not "theory or policy oriented." He said, "LD is more concerned with the persuasion, logic, and value sides of an issue." He said he uses philosophical and general arguments laced with examples from the real world in his presentations.

Unlike the year-long topic of traditional debate, LD topics change about every month. Recently, the topic was: "Resolved that revolution is an unjustified response to oppression."

'Most evidence, least time'

Dan said he started LD debate at the end of his junior year basically because he had no partner for two-man debate. However, he said, "I didn't like two-man debate — it was too much of a game. The team that won was the one which presented the most evidence, by so-called experts, in the least amount of time."

He said, "I like LD because it gives me experience in being able to think on my feet and in being able to express myself in a clear, logical manner."

Regardless of the form, Mrs. Pritchard said the benefits a student derives from debate are "too numerous to list," but they include the development of research abilities that "90 percent of today's college students don't have."

The computer age has brought some changes to Central. A number of teachers have begun using computers to figure grades for their students. Only two Central teachers used computers extensively for grading purposes last year, compared to twelve this year.

Mr. John Waterman, math department head, uses an Apple II+ in computing grades. He said, "The benefit of using the computer is that I can post grades periodically and inform students of how they're doing. This can motivate them at times. That way they don't find out right at the end of the semester. I can get the grades done early with the computer."

Mr. Waterman began using the computer to do grades five years ago. He says that it is more attractive to be able to post weekly grades on the wall with the printout sheets than to simply keep a gradebook.

The science department heavily advocates the use of the computer, too.

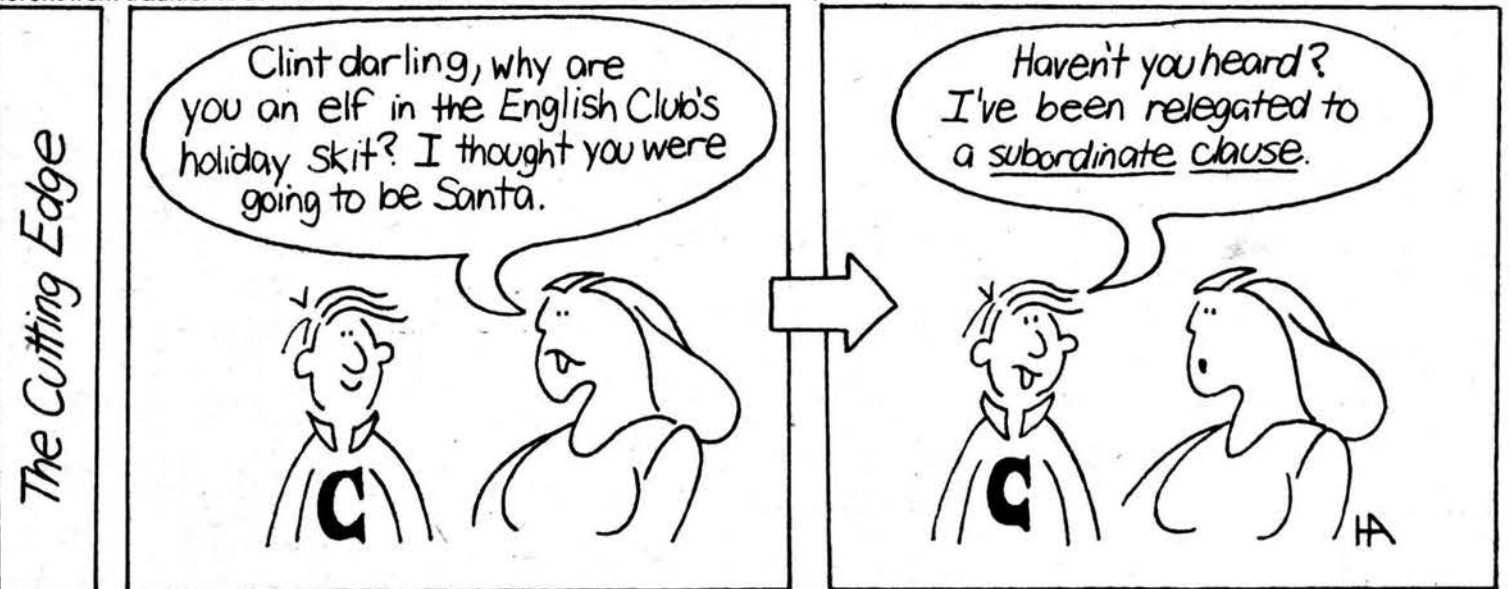
The science department, of which Mr. Gerry Brown is the department head, uses the computer for grading purposes even more than the Central math department. Mr. Brown, Dr. Robert Wolff, and Mr. Jerry Doctor, all science teachers, use the computer extensively.

Mr. Dan Daly, English department head, said that he really has no practical use for the computer. He said, "I really haven't seen any computers that would fit into my system for grading papers. I use a calculator for figuring grades though."

Mr. Daly said that if he would find the right computer, he would be willing to try it. All of the teachers agreed that someday all teachers will probably turn to the use of the computer.

UPCOMING TESTS

- SAT January 26
- Deadline December 21
- ACT February 9
- Deadline January 11



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of Central importance

Concert is successful

This year's Central winter choral concert, in which all Central choirs participated, took place in the new auditorium on December 18.

According to Tim Gaherty, senior and member of Central High Singers, "It was a chance for the parents to see what we have been doing and how well we have been progressing."

Tim's father, Mr. T.M. Gaherty, Central journalism teacher, said, "It was a very good program in that the music was really diverse. They played a little Christmas music, but not really Christmas carols. It allowed me to see what Tim has been doing all year in Central High Singers."

All of the Omaha Public Schools have winter choral concerts every year.

Japanese visit Central

A team of Japanese educators representing the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, visited the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) December 4-6.

The visitors received a comprehensive review of the district including administration procedures, teaching methods and techniques, working conditions, school facilities and equipment, teacher's union and "life guidance."

The purpose of the Omaha visit, arranged by Dr. Margaret Fitch, OPS assistant superintendent, was to acquaint the Japanese educators with the OPS education system, different from their system, and possibly to adopt valuable ideas to improve their education system.

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, took the group on a tour of Central. He said the visitors asked about violence among students in school, apparently under the impression that American city schools were filled with violence.

Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance director, also spoke with the Japanese educators and was able to communicate some information to them, although the language barrier made it difficult.

Upon leaving, the group gave Central some Japanese gifts, as is their custom when visiting.

Central ROTC inspected

The annual formal inspection of the seven junior ROTC units in the Omaha School District was conducted between December 17-20 by a team of officers from the Creighton University ROTC, directed by Lt. Col. Harold Pierce.

The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the program and to determine how the Omaha cadet units rank among the 107 ROTC units within the Fourth ROTC Region, which encompasses the 15 western states, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa.

"We have an annual inspection for all the high schools in Omaha," said Major Richard Yost, Central ROTC teacher. The inspection officers grade the cadets every second year, and grading took place this year.

During the half-day inspection, officers from Creighton came and inspected the training, recruiting, administrative and supply officers, checking the records and duties of these officers for accuracy and efficiency.

Central's Cadet Battalion Commander, Deborah Carter, senior, was also inspected by the Creighton officers as to how her cadets worked to achieve the goals she had set for them.

Following the officer inspections, the cadets formed in their units to be inspected in the new gym. Central's band participated in a parade after the cadet inspection, where the battalions passed in review.

Central students learn agri-business at center

Some Central students never actually attend classes at Central. These students are not skipping classes, however. They are part of the Two-Rivers Agri-Business Center.

These students are committed to a high school for organizational reasons. They are picked up from Central at 8:20 a.m. and returned at 3:00 p.m.

According to Mr. James English, general administrator for the Adult and Vocational Department of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS), the center was designed to allow students to take agricultural courses along with regular courses and have "hands-on" training.

Mr. John Wiggers, Agricultural Resource Consultant for OPS, stated that many students and parents have misconceptions about the center. "We are not here to produce farmers. Rather, we are here to prepare the students for a career in agriculture. There are a wide variety of jobs in agriculture — including large industry."

There are approximately 75 students at the center, five of whom are from Central: They are sophomores: Donald Brothy, Christopher Brown, Michael Koperski, William Krueger, and Troy McCleery. These students use the 165-acre land laboratory everyday to get that "hands-on" experience.

One of the students, Michael, looks at the center as an "adventure. I knew it would be exciting and not like regular school," he said.

Exchange student teaches

Fritz Felgentreu, a German foreign exchange student at Central, teaches a German literature class Mondays after school in room 130. The purpose of the class is "to make German literature known to German students," said Fritz, a junior.

Kris Lawson, senior, said she became interested in the class when Mrs. Gretchen Schutte, Central foreign language department head, announced Fritz's offer to teach the class to her German classes. Kris feels the class has improved her vocabulary and her understanding of German literature.

Any interested German students may join the group, which will continue for the remainder of the year. The class has covered German fairy tales and is presently discussing Johann von Goethe and Johann Schiller, important figures in German drama and poetry.

"It is a joy to see young students willing and eager to spend these after school hours learning German classical literature just for the pleasure of it," said Mrs. Schutte.

Parents raise trip funds

This year, the Central High Band has organized a band parent booster group, to support band functions and to help fund raising.

They are planning a potluck dinner on January 12, in the Norris Junior High cafeteria, before the Central-Benson basketball game. They are also planning fund raising activities to finance a proposed spring road trip during which the concert band would perform in a national competition.

Mr. Warren Ferrel, Central band director, stated that he was pleased with the parents' enthusiasm thus far. He said, "My original idea was to just have a band parent group to sponsor a band party at the end of the year. The parents enthusiastically brought up the idea of fund raising."

Mr. Ferrel said that he hopes that even more parents will become involved with this endeavor.

Rifle Team is fired up for league competitions



photo by Scott Hoburg

Tom Baker, senior, practices shooting. He is a member of the rifle team which will compete in various competitions.

Student wins Beautillion

The eighth annual Beautillion, sponsored by the Urban League Guild, was held on November 25 in the Peony Park Ballroom. The Beautillion is a ball for black high school senior males in the Omaha Public Schools and surrounding school systems.

This year the following four Centralites entered the Beautillion: Marc Hepburn, Bertrand Turnbo, Brian Gray, and Van Dyke A. Walker, III.

Van Dyke won the Beautillion, for he sold the most ads for the program and the most tickets. He said, "It was more than just the honor; it's a real learning experience. You get to meet new people and see different career opportunities."

The purpose of the Beautillion is to increase the young men's self-confidence and to introduce them to available career opportunities. The participants attended workshops every Sunday to practice the choreography for the actual production. Professionals from numerous business areas came and gave clinics on career opportunities for minorities during the workshops.

The Cotillion, which is the girls' version of the Beautillion, is coming up in the spring. It is sponsored by the Links.

Trip may be enlarged

The annual German club skiing trip may include all foreign languages this year, according to Mrs. Gretchen Schutte, Central foreign language department head. The students plan on going to Trailridge, which is near Gretna, Nebraska.

Mrs. Schutte said that usually about twenty German club members go, so if all the foreign language clubs go this year, she expects approximately eighty students. The cost per student will be \$25, which includes bus fare and ski rental.

Mrs. Schutte said, "The students are very enthusiastic and always seem to enjoy it. It's a lot of fun."

The Central rifle team, under supervision of Sgt. William Middleton, practices every day tenth hour and after school until around 4:30. They prepare for league competitions from January to March, city league. "They have a chance to first place in the city this year," Sgt. Middleton said.

The rifle team captain is senior Walters. "I started when I was a sophomore," Rich said. "It's a lot of work and competition, but, when you win, it's higher than the rest, all that is well worth it."

The team's first meet was the Beautivital on December 15. All the OPS schools competed in this meet. Anyone who auditioned for the rifle team, but, according to Rich, "you have to be pretty good."

Central goes to court

Central's business law classes took a field trip to the Douglas County Courthouse on Tuesday, December 4. They toured the courtrooms, sat in on actual court proceedings and had the opportunity to talk to judges.

"The students had a really good time," Mrs. Eileen Conway, Central business teacher, stated. She said that they were able to enjoy the criminal cases more than the civil cases. One of the cases they saw was a robbery case that had been argued back in November. Mrs. Conway said the suspect had been jailed since April by the end of the trial he was set free because of a double jeopardy. She said cases like this one really interest students.

Physics class finds

Central's center of mass

One of the most recent projects in Robert Wolff's AP Physics class, was to find the center of mass of Central High.

According to Dr. Wolff, Mr. Terrell (Central guidance counselor) offered to use the origin. Then, when the students found the center of mass of each room in the school, they plotted it on a graph with reference to the origin. Finally, to find the school's center of mass, the average of each classroom was multiplied by the distance the classroom is from the origin and divided by the total mass of the building.

The result of this computation gives the average distance each student is from the origin, thus producing the school's center of mass. This point is in the courtyard, north of center, at about the second level.

"I did this lab about seven years ago," said Dr. Wolff. "The kids get very excited about it."

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON from Student Council

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Tony Avant
Mark Buckner
John Carlson
Vince Carlson
Gia Ciummo
Princess Hampton
Crystal Hearst
Jim Lee

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Washington



photo by Scott Hoburg

Washington returned from studying teaching in Scotland. She plans to return to the Orient in the summer.

returns from Scotland

Miss Marguerita Washington, Central DRC teacher, spent September 1982 to August 1983 learning and teaching in Scotland.

Having received a Rotary scholarship, Miss Washington attended classes at the University of Edinburgh. She also taught a seminar in American special education, her specialty, to Scottish graduate students. She described it as "an enriching experience."

Miss Washington lived in a residence hall with other students and visited the homes of students and teachers on the weekends. She said she found the Scottish hospitality "tremendous" and the people "beautiful." She spent much of her free time traveling around Scotland and the surrounding countries.

Miss Washington encountered several problems during her stay, however. She explained that before she left, she talked to a Scottish counselor from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He introduced her to Scottish life, but said she had to condition herself to Scottish English. This form of

English, according to Miss Washington, is "almost considered a foreign language."

Conditioning for Miss Washington came in a culinary form as well. Sweets are a Scottish favorite, but Miss Washington said, "I only had a little and not very often." Potatoes are also a mainstay of the Scottish diet but not Miss Washington's diet. She said the Scottish even have "independent potato shops," which are similar to fast-food restaurants of the United States, except the entrees are all potatoes.

Teen-age life in Scotland is also very different, according to Miss Washington. She said that private and public school standards are reversed in Scotland. The wealthy attend public schools. She also said all students wear uniforms, so there is little peer pressure.

Miss Washington, impressed by her visit, wants to return to Scotland sometime. This summer she plans to travel to the Orient. She said the trip will be a graduation present from her parents for receiving her Ph.D. in administration curriculum and instruction.

New rating system, PG-13, gives help to concerned parents

A housewife chases batlike creatures with a knife, tossing one into a food processor, and cooking another in the microwave. The tearing of a heart from the chest of a man during a ritual sacrifice, and the lowering of the man into a pit of molten lava.

These familiar scenes from "Gremlins" and "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," together with such movies as "Streets of Fire" and "The Karate Kid," have created an outcry from the public for new movie ratings, according to the June 18, 1984 edition of U.S. News and World Report. This report stated that movies such as these are "packed with violence helping to provoke demands for a new rating system."

ABC-TV critic, Joel Siegel, said the movie ratings are "dumb." Of the 342 feature films classified by the Motion Picture Association of America last year, one was rated "X" (no one under 17 admitted), 207 pictures were given the "R" designation (no one under 17 without an adult), 123 moves were rated "PG" (parental guidance suggested), and 11 were "G" (general).

"Since 'G' movies almost automatically mean a dull film, and 'X' is assumed to be pornography, there are only two ratings to cover a vast variety of movies," according to an article in the June 25, 1984 issue of Time.

Parents opposed a lot of the violence in PG movies. According to Mitchell Bryson, manager of the AMC Westroads 8, "PG-13 was created to satisfy what the public felt was needed to define between 'PG' and 'R.'" PG-13 makes a better distinction between pre-teen and teenage viewers and what they are watching.

Mr. Bryson also explained that the new rating system does not prohibit anyone under thirteen to see the show, but, rather, it acts as a guide to the parents.

Why are these movies still so popular? U.S. News and World Report quoted Dr. Thomas Radecki, a psychiatrist at the University of Illinois, as saying, "Succeeding waves of movies, starting about fifteen years ago, relied more and more on violence to attract crowds. Audiences became numbed to the repulsiveness of each level of violence they viewed, so directors had to enhance the horror in each new film to maintain interest."

English course

Stewart Diemont

In January of 1985 Creighton University will offer a three-credit English course selected Central High School seniors, according to Dr. Wesley Wolfe, dean of the University College of Creighton.

The course is the first major step in the Partners In Excellence program. Creighton set up the program this year to establish a comprehensive partnership with secondary schools in the greater Omaha area in order to effect a mutual enrichment. Secondary schools involved are Central, Gross, Marian, Millard, Northwest and Creighton Prep.

"Introduction to Drama" The English course to be offered is an "Introduction to Drama." Professor Gordon Wolfe, English department chairman at Creighton, will teach the class, said Dr.

The course will cost twenty dollars per hour plus five dollars for registration and materials, a total of seventy dollars. A class at Creighton normally costs \$150 per credit hour, a total of \$460, said Dr. Wolfe.

The class is a gift," said Mrs. Gretchen Schutte, Central foreign language department head.

offered to advanced students

The class will be Mondays from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. during the spring semester. The course will have thirteen or fourteen class sessions. Fifteen to thirty students will be in the class, said Dr. Wolfe.

Central may choose three to five seniors to apply.

Key elements of drama

The students and the teacher will examine the major forms of drama — tragedy, comedy, melodrama, and farce — using plays from classical, renaissance, and modern drama. They will make a study of the key elements of the drama: plot, structure, characterization, stage theory, and the conventions of dialogue. The class will discuss the classical, renaissance, and modern playhouse and their effects on the dramas. The course will present the literary use of language, including denotation and symbolism.

The instructor will show nine plays during the semester: "Second Shepherd's Play," "Oedipus Rex," "Doll's House," "Bus Stop," "Hamlet," "Trelawney of the Wells," "She Stoops to Conquer," "Henry IV," and "Candidate," said Dr. Wolfe.

"It is a marvelous opportunity and will

challenge students," said Mr. Dan Daly, Central English department head.


Basis of evaluation

Professor Bergquist will base evaluation on quizzes, a take-home essay midterm, and a take-home essay final. Also, students will write on analytical paper and a review of a life theater performance.

The credits earned in this course will transfer to most colleges and universities one might attend said Dr. Wolfe.

Creighton University originally established the Partners in Excellence program to collaborate in curriculum planning, promote the sharing of expertise within specific disciplines, cooperate on all levels of advising and career counseling, supplement institutional research projects in the schools, monitor needs that can be addressed within teacher education programs, and enhance the image and emphasize the importance of the teaching profession itself, said Father Thomas Schloemer, assistant to the President at Creighton.

According to Dr. Wolfe, plans are in the making for programs related to other Central High departments.



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HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Clubs spread holiday cheer

by Brooke Rose and
Kari Hulac

Are you saying "Bah Humbug!" to the red and green fever which never fails to descend on us before the turkey leftovers are gone? If the holiday season spirit bores you, you obviously aren't involved in any of the endless amounts of activities going on in various Central High clubs.

Food, fun and helping others seem to be the themes for club events. The French club is holding its annual progressive dinner where the jolly members say "oui" to courses of hors d'oeuvres, a main meal, salad, cheese, and dessert all served at different people's homes.

Spread goodwill in the senior citizens' community

One club would rather profit from delicious Christmas goodies than gain weight from them. The advanced foods class baked cookies and cakes and sold them for as little as \$1.25 for a batch of butter cookies to \$5.00 for a yummy marble cheesecake.

Another club is also putting holiday goodies to good use. Latin club held a turkey raffle, and \$100.00 of the profits were donated to two needy families from Central.

Many musical events spread holiday cheer as well. A Cappella Choir had students singing carols on MAT-buses over the weekend of December 15-16. Tonight at 6:30, the Central High Singers will debut on NETV, Channel 12, performing various carols.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To the Ladies and Gent. in
5th hour lunch who make it
bearable to eat in the
cafeteria!
Love,
C. Limper

Some clubs preferred to direct their holiday cheer elsewhere. The German club chose to make Christmas cards and to carol at an old peoples' home. Also helping the elderly were the DECA club members who gave their time on December 2, to provide shopping assistance to senior citizens and handicapped people at the Target store on Saddle Creek.

DECA club sponsor and business teacher Mrs. Jerrie Harris said the students' intention was to "spread goodwill in the senior citizens' community."

DECA seemed to be the busiest club this holiday season. They sold musical cards and donated around \$100.00 of the profits to the Goodfellows organization. In addition to these activities, many of the students are spending their time working at the fashion merchandising gift wrap shop at Casual Corner at the Westroads.

Latin, Drama and Spanish clubs are also holding gift exchanges and Christmas parties.

Christmas Prom a "girls ask" dance

The annual Christmas Prom for all area students will be sponsored by and held at Peony Park on Sunday, December 23, from nine until twelve. The band is Bittersweet.

Tickets are twelve dollars in advance, and thirteen dollars at the door. It is a "Girls Ask" dance to create a change in the normal dating arrangements.

The dance has traditionally been at Peony Park, but Peony Park did not always sponsor it. According to Mr. T.M. Gaherty, Central journalism teacher, "The dance used to be hosted by Central students for the whole city."

HAPPY Holidays from the Art Department

C.H.S. Singers
wishes

Central High
A Happy Holiday
Season

(Thanks Mr. McMeen)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all of the people of O-Book, (R
too, I suppose,) Decathlon Team, FC
DECA. Also to Debbie and Jim, Tin
cia (BBP), Art, Sabrina, Jerry, Val,
Andrea and everyone else. Also,
Birthday to Coach McDaniel.
Bev



Tradition The feel of the season

by LeAnne Lovings

During the holiday season, many Centralites uphold traditional customs, but how much do they know about the origin of these customs?

The celebration of Christmas began in the 3rd century. Many customs, such as the Christmas tree, surround the celebration of Christmas. The Christmas tree is said to have started in Germany in the 16th century. German immigrants brought this tradition to America.

Romans began the gift-giving tradition, except their celebration was held during the first of the year. The British are responsible for mistletoe and the burning of the yule log came from Scandinavia.

Instead of celebrating Christmas, many students celebrate the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah. The celebration of Hanukkah began approximately 165 B.C. with the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem. During Hanukkah eight candles are lit; one on the first day, two on the second, and so on until the eighth day when an eight-branched candelabrum is completely lit.

Also during vacation, students celebrate the coming of the new year. This celebration is one of the oldest celebrations in the world as it began in 46 B.C. with the Romans. Since then it has developed into what some may call a world wide party.

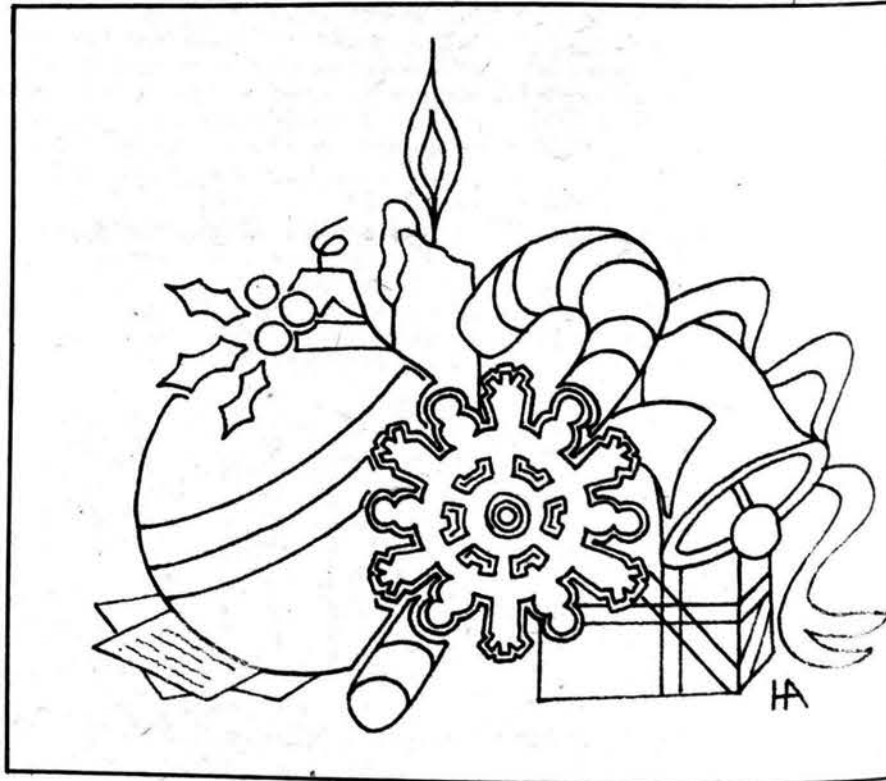
These customs developed in many countries, and consequently the United States celebrates them a little differently. Foreign exchange students must adjust to these Americanized customs. However, many of these students look toward their holidays with excitement.

"I want to know American way of celebrating Christmas."

"I think that there are not many differences, but I do want to know the American way of celebrating Christmas," said Andreas Lullau, senior and German exchange student.

He said the only big differences in celebration are that he must now sing songs in English, and, the jolly old man he called the Christmas Man, became Santa Claus.

Fritz Felgentreu, senior and German exchange student, said, "The agent told me that Christmas is the worst time to be a man exchange student because Christmas is the biggest holiday in many, and many become homesick looking forward to it."



BAH HUMBUG

From the CHS Math Club

The English Department

wishes you a joyous holiday season.

parents, peers

Pressure on athletes result of many factors

Competitive athletics are taking on a prominent role in high schools. As the importance of athletics increases, the individual athlete takes on a more demanding role. Oftentimes an athlete is exposed to the pressures created by various outside influences. Several different factors can create pressure for high school athletes, such as the media, peers, and parents. All these factors seem to be related by the fact that they represent the increasing emphasis that has been placed upon success in competitive sports. William Reed, Central football coach, notes that the emphasis placed on winning has created much of the pressure that now affects high school athletes. "The only way to attain success is by winning, you've gone too far," Coach Reed

Sport burn-out
According to John Waterman, Central boys' tennis coach, the goal of high school athletes should not be winning but maximizing effort. "There is a real danger for young athletes to get burned out," Coach Waterman said. "They should try to win but also try to give the best effort. The pressure should be to maximize potential."

"You have to be serious, not about winning, but playing the game like it should be played. We have a loose atmosphere, but at the same time we concentrate. There is a fine line between being too tight and too loose," said Coach Waterman.

The pressure upon young athletes to win has resulted in an increased fear of failing, according to Jim Martin, Central basketball coach. "We are living in a generation where, because of pressure, there is a fear of failure," said Coach Martin. "We have a number of athletes that are afraid to give full effort, and I think it's because they think they can't make it."

The pressure athletes feel before a game doesn't affect individual performance, according to seniors Mark Buckner and Tony Avant, who both played for the Central state championship football team.

Mental preparation
"There is more pressure felt before a game, especially in situations like a state championship," said Mark. "It makes you a little weary, but after a while, you learn to ignore the outside influences."

"I feel it a little bit, but it doesn't bother me," said Tony. "If you are mentally ready, you are going to play well, anyway. I don't think anything should influence the way you play."

Most coaches agree that parents are a major source of pressure on young athletes. The question of the parents' role in sports has been debated, but no definitive answer has resulted. Coach Martin feels that while parents should take some interest in athletics, they should guard against expecting too much from their child.

"They (the parents) start expecting their kids to do great things," said Coach Martin. "I've noticed how parents talk about how great an athlete their kid is, and then I see the kid, and he lacks ability. We have many kids who lie to their parents about being on a team when they've been cut. They are afraid of telling parents, 'I can't make it.'"

Parental expectations
According to Coach Waterman, parents put pressure on their kids to succeed in athletics in order to alleviate the burden of their own failures in sports. "They think the kid is going to be what they weren't and that the kid's performance reflects on them," said Waterman.

With the increased interest in athletics, comes an increase in the media coverage of high school athletics. Major sports, such as basketball and football, are widely covered in area papers and on television. This coverage results in publicity for high school athletes and provides another source of pressure for young athletes. "I think if the press is not used constructively, it can hurt the kids," said Coach Reed.

The football team has a relaxed attitude toward the press, according to Coach Reed. "None of the articles come out without the kids' knowledge and that alleviates pressure. For example, the arti-

cle on Sean Ridley being the second best player in the world, that afternoon it was just something to laugh about."

Because pressure plays a prominent role in high school athletics, coaches have to deal with it in some way. According to Coach Reed, the method of handling pressure depends upon the situation.

Relaxed atmosphere
Coach Reed feels the best way to alleviate pressure, no matter what the situation, is to get the athletes as relaxed and loose as possible. "We try to put the kids in a state of relaxation by offering films of people locked in the heat of games," said Reed. "All that is an effort to take away pressure."

"I spotted how tense they were to win the Creighton Prep game. When we had lost to Gross, Prep was number one, and we hadn't won (against them) in twenty-seven years. To break the monotony, I thought of how loose they were in practice, and I called a practice right before the game."

Coach Martin feels his attitude towards his players is important in controlling the effect of pressure. "I try to be accepting of kids. I try not to get terribly disturbed. My nature is to be pretty patient. I used to let kids sulk in the locker room thinking about pressure that comes after losing."

Coach Reed and Coach Martin agree that controlled pressure does have some good effects. "I think it kind of goes away and becomes something positive," said Reed. "Pressure turns to desire once the contest starts."

"It is testing under fire," said Coach Martin. "Quality usually develops under pressure, if you are going to develop leaders."



Mark Schinzel

We adopted a rule which eliminates the pressure. In the world of sports, there are winners and losers, but you can lose and yet remain a winner when you are truly a winner. Athletes at Central are not losers who lose. We are winners who sometimes don't win. That's just what takes away the pressure of winning."

Swimmers prosper despite problems

Swimming is a sport most people associate with summer months and hot weather. However, winter is the time for the Central swim team to take to the water. Practices began last month, and the team spent two weeks on distance conditioning which progressed to timed workouts in preparation for the first meet.

For the second year, Mr. Mark Allner is the swim coach. Before coming to Central, Allner coached three years at Tech. Allner, who is also an assistant football coach, said, "I like coaching the swim team. There are a couple of kids that make it work and fun." Allner added, "It is not as strict as football."

But Central has a big disadvantage which prevents them from being as strong as state greats like Lincoln Southeast, Millard, and Burke. Central does not have a pool, so the team must practice at

Norris Junior High. "I'd say we lose 45 minutes a day going over there," said Allner. Senior Kari Hulac said, "Monday is an easy workout, Tuesday we have meets, Wednesday and Thursday we have hard practices, and Friday we have to be out of the pool at about 5:00 for basketball games and wrestling meets. Basically, we only have two days of intense practice." All in all, Central's swim team may be getting only half the practice time of other strong teams.

Despite the disadvantages, the swim team progresses. "I want to build something up here, said Allner. "I want to make the team more solid."

Calendar

Boys' Basketball	Jan. 3 Varsity/J.V. vs. Gross (H) at 6:15
Dec. 22, Metro Holiday Tournament at 26 - 29 Civic Auditorium	8 Varsity/J.V. vs. Papio (H) at 6:15
Jan. 4 Varsity/J.V. vs. Burke (A) at 6:15	10 Varsity/J.V. vs. Millard South (H) at 6:15
5 Varsity/J.V. vs. South (H) at 6:15	15 Varsity/J.V. vs. Lincoln East (H) at 6:15
Reserve vs. South (H)	17 Varsity/J.V. vs. Westside (H) at 6:15
12 Varsity/J.V. vs. Benson (H) at 6:15	22 Varsity/J.V. vs. North (A) at 6:15
Reserve vs. A.L. (A)	
18 Varsity/J.V. vs. Northwest (H) at 6:15	
19 Varsity/J.V. vs. Gross (H) at 6:15	
Reserve vs. Bellevue West (A) at 6:15	
Girls' Basketball	
Dec. 22, Metro Holiday Tournament at 26-29 Central	
	Girls' and Boys' Swimming
	Jan. 8 Roncalli (H)
	22 Millard South (A)
	Wrestling
	Jan. 8 Prep (H)
	18 Burke (A)
	22 Roncalli (A)

I.C.L./Latin Club

to Saturnalia

Feliz Navidad

from Spanish Club

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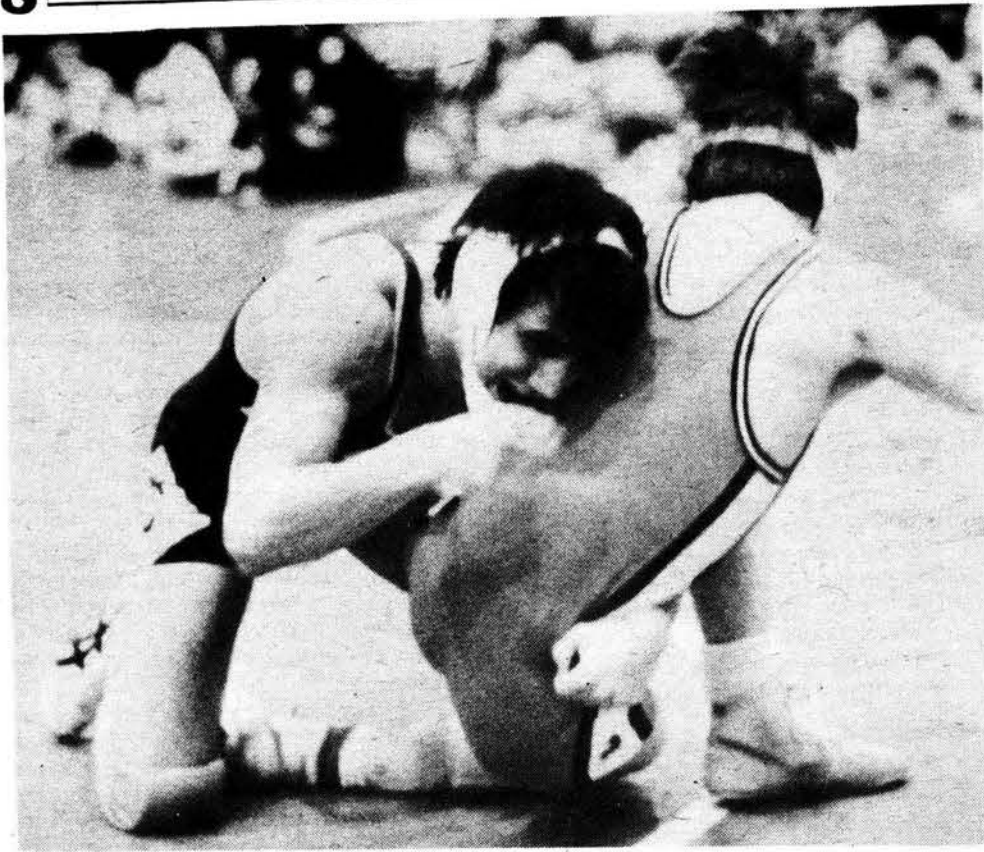


photo by Steve Berman

Junior Todd Abboud makes a move against an opponent. Coach Kubik is optimistic about this year's team.

Outlook bright for wrestlers

The outlook is bright this year for Central's wrestling team. Called by head coach Gary Kubik, "the best team I have ever been associated with in my five years at Central," the team has finished well in its tournaments so far this year.

"We have had a few minor problems with injuries and people reaching their respective weight, but it appears everything is going to start falling in place," said senior Andy Sanchez, who is wrestling at the 145-pound level.

Andy, whose only loss this season came at the hands of the defending state champion, was one of the wrestlers Coach Kubik listed as potential state qualifiers. "We hope to qualify at least six to eight wrestlers in every tournament into the point

rounds," said Coach Kubik.

Although the team has only two seniors (Andy and Frank Albanese), Coach Kubik said the juniors and sophomores on the team are good wrestlers and get the job done. "We are a fairly young team, but everyone has been working out for a long time, and we are in top shape," he said.

The team's biggest advantage over other teams, according to Andy, is the great attitude among the wrestlers. "This team is one of the best I have ever been on, in terms of attitude." Coach Kubik agreed with Andy and said, "The whole team has a great feeling. This has helped us to have some really great practices."

Gaherty participates in table tennis club

by Gia Ciummo

Teaching. Generally, this profession sparks similar ideas in students' minds: long working hours, off-time spent checking papers and preparing presentations, and, most of all, very little social life and few activities.

But here at Central, students are discovering that teaching is not everything in a teacher's life. Examples of this are Mr. Paul Semrad and Mr. Ed Waples' tennis playing, Mr. Allen Roeder and his biking, and Mr. John Geringer and his running. Another of these teachers is Mr. T.M. Gaherty and his table tennis playing.

Mr. Gaherty is a member of the Omaha Table Tennis Association (OTTA). He and his neighbor joined the club six years ago after showing significant interest in the sport.

"I played table tennis in high school and college but then stopped for about ten years," said Mr. Gaherty. He recalled one day hearing his neighbor mention that he also liked to play table tennis. Soon after, Mr. Gaherty's playing days were reborn with the erection of a table in his basement. "We played whenever we had the time, about three to four times a week," said Mr. Gaherty. "We were literally obsessed."

OTTA

He and his neighbor then progressed into a sort of "leap frog" skill development. "We got to the point where we were really pretty good," said Mr. Gaherty. But he realized that something must be done because his wife was "getting upset," and the two of them "were knocking down pictures because there wasn't enough room."

Luckily, Mr. Gaherty found out about the OTTA. After discovering that the club meets weekly at Pipal Park, the two joined the club to get their first taste of organized table tennis. Mr. Gaherty's first encounter was somewhat discouraging with his first

challenge. "That was my first intro to ball spins," chuckled Mr. Gaherty. He recalled that he could not return a challenger's five serves.

But as Mr. Gaherty's participation increased, his skill improved. Several years ago, he won first-place trophies in a "first-timers" tournament, entered several class "B" tournaments, and won a few matches, but he did not win the tournaments.

"When I turned 40 years old," Mr. Gaherty recalled, "I thought it was fantastic being in the senior class. However, Mr. Gaherty's high school days soon let down when he played a senior was "absolutely stomped."

Blocking game

A discovery Mr. Gaherty also made was about the factors involved in table tennis. Many get involved," Mr. Gaherty said of his fellow club members. Members use special bats (the technical word for rackets) of different sizes, weights, shapes, and rubber coverings. Certain rubbers give added spin to the ball and others prevent spin on the defense end of the table. "I play a strange game, but it has been successful," said Mr. Gaherty. He plays close to the table and plays a "blocking" game. Another characteristic of the game is that it is somewhat different from tennis in that only one side of the bat is used.

"I don't think I am going to get any better than I am now," stated Mr. Gaherty. He enjoys the cheap sport, (his bat costs approximately \$25 and the club fee is \$10 a night), and he strongly believes that table tennis has benefited his health. "If I had been playing for the past 14 years, I wouldn't be in the good shape I am in now."

"It is quite an aerobic sport," said Mr. Gaherty. "But now I'm suffering from tennis elbow, and it's hurting my

Haynes family shares basketball interest

by John Carlson

Basketball is a common word in the Haynes family. Not only does the Haynes family have an all-star in Jessica, they also have Jesse and Johnetta, both of whom play on Eagle basketball teams. For Jessica, Johnetta, and Jessie, basketball has become an integral part of life.

The family's involvement in basketball began when Jessica was only six. Jessica met a man by the name of Forrest Roper who was recruiting young girls for his basketball team. Jessica credits this man, coach of the successful Hawkettes youth basketball team, for much of her success. "He developed my skills and had the patience to work with me. He also was the biggest reason I started playing so early."

Unbeaten record

Jessica later went to Beveridge Junior High School where, as a seventh grader, she almost made the eighth grade basketball team. "I heard the announcement for basketball tryouts. After I went out and played, I was told I had to be an eighth grader to make the team," she said.

The year wait was worth it, however, as Jessica guided her eighth and ninth grade teams to undefeated seasons. Her four-year total in Omaha Public School competition is a remarkable 68-0. "I am very proud never to have lost a game in the public schools," she said. Jessica is complemented on the court by her younger sister, Johnetta, a guard. Johnetta, who replaces Maurice Ivy, all-time leading scorer in Nebraska girls' basketball history, said she feels no pressure when in games. "I just go out, forget about everything, and try to do my best."

While only a freshman at Horace Mann, Johnetta said she learned a lot from her older teammates. "Everyone helps me to adjust to the tougher level of varsity competition," she said.

Hawkettes

Johnetta got her start in basketball

much the same way Jessica did — playing basketball under the guidance of Forrest Roper for the Hawkettes. "He has helped me so much in developing my skills," she said.

Jesse, a sophomore, could not pass up the fun he saw Jessica having, so he began to practice with her. By the time he was in sixth grade, he found himself playing in the Y.M.C.A. League and for the Boys Club. Now a member of the junior varsity, Jesse said he enjoys the attention his sisters are getting.

"We're a close family, and that benefits us. I try to help Johnetta, and Jessica tries to help me as much as possible. This makes us all better basketball players."

College prospects

While both Johnetta and Jesse have bright high school careers ahead of them, Jessica is starting to look toward college. Though colleges from all over send her information, Jessica has narrowed her choices down to seven.

"I have already made recruiting visits to San Diego State and Nevada Las Vegas, and I still plan on going to Hawaii, Arizona, and Georgia," she said. While the constant pressure of the colleges does not bother Jessica on the court, it has affected her study time.

"Six schools called in one night while I was doing my homework," Jessica said. She also said that Mr. Paul Semrad, Central girls' basketball coach, has helped a great deal with the recruiting. Jessica explained, "He helps me organize my trips and contacts."

While it appears that all three of the Hayneses will have successful careers on and off the court, all agreed their greatest attribute was having such a close family. Jessica said, "Our unity towards one another will always be there."



photo by Jim

From left to right: Freshman Johnetta, sophomore Jesse, and senior Jessica. Basketball is a common interest among members of the Haynes family.