

OUR ONE-HUNDREDTH YEAR

## More than 60 participate in spring play

Don Benning

Spring, a time of chirping birds, blooming flowers, and the Central High School play.

This year's play is "The Worst High School Play In the World," written by William Gleason. This year's performance times will include a student matinee 2-4 p.m. on April 25, and evening performances on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. and April 27 at 3:00 p.m.

The play is a comedy set in the land of Saxonia in the year 1243 A.D. It is the story of King Isadore who is off to fight in the Crusades. The king leaves his brother Prince Viscera, a villain, played by junior Scott Jensen in charge of the kingdom.

Under the rule of Viscera the kingdom is in turmoil. Saxonia's only hope is the King's son Ivanha, played by sophomore Chris Morris. The themes of love and revenge run throughout the play.

This year, as always, the play has generated a lot of interest, according to Ms. Pegi Stommes, Central drama instructor and director of the play. "Over 90 people tried out for the play this year," she said. Auditions were held the first week in March.

"I wanted to be in the play, because I want to gain the experience of being on the stage," said sophomore Jennifer Gottschalk.

**"The most important part is that the students have a good time and it gives them a chance to be a little crazy and imaginative."**

Ms. Stommes said she felt it was a great play for high school students. "The play has a big cast list so many students may be involved. The play also is a comedy. It will be interesting for the audience and the actors will have a good time performing it," she said.

Ms. Stommes feels it is important that the students have a good time and also learn something from a experience of being in a play. Sophomore Amy Buck-

ingham agrees. "By being in the play I am learning a lot about drama and having a great time," she said.

"The Worst High School Play in the World," is a really fun play and I really enjoy being in it," Jennifer added.

"The most important part is that the students have a good time and it gives them a chance to be a little crazy and imaginative," Mrs. Stommes explained.

## Adoption: married couples encounter long waiting lists for children; private, public agencies help pregnant teens weigh options

Margi Shugrue

"My husband and I were unfortunate in that we're unable to have children. We're lucky that adoption is available otherwise an indescribable joy would be missing from our lives," Mrs. Elisa Thompson said.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson of California, like many families, want to adopt children. Their reason for adopting was infertility, but others want to adopt because the woman can no longer become pregnant or because the family simply wants to adopt rather than going through the entire birth process.

Jo Krell, senior, remembers when she was told she was adopted. No emotional reaction was involved because she was so young that she didn't understand adoption too well. Six of the seven children in Jo's family are adopted. The children come from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

"Since my parents took the time and love to care for me, I really don't want to find out who my natural parents are," Jo said. Jo's parents offered to help search for her natural parents yet Jo assured them that she had no desire to do so.

### Waiting list

The Thompsons are currently on many adoption agencies' waiting lists, but the waiting time involves a minimum of five years. They believe that through a private one-on-one adoption the waiting period would be reduced to the last few months of the pregnancy.

The Omaha Child Saving Institute Adoption Service offers counseling to those who have encountered unexpected pregnancies. They serve 300-400 clients, ten percent of

whom choose to place their children up for adoption. "However," family service supervisor Ms. Pam Wilson explained, "our purpose is not to try and persuade families to give up their children but rather to give information, counseling, and options."

### Surrogate mothers

Currently at the Child Saving Institute there is a waiting list of four years. She explained that for each child 40 families are waiting to adopt. Once the agency starts working with the family, an additional 12-18 months is necessary before the family finally becomes parents.

The law requires a home study before the adoption process can be completed. A social worker inspects the home and speaks with the prospective parents to verify that the child will live in a safe environment.

Mrs. Wilson explained the differences between private and agency adoptions. Private adoptions, she said, involve the interaction of the couple wishing to adopt and a lawyer. Although private adoptions usually take a shorter amount of time, Mrs. Wilson felt agencies were safer.

"The agency becomes a neutral party willing to speak with the families involved regardless of what their final decision is," Ms. Wilson said. The birth parent relinquishes its rights of the child to the agency before the birth in contrast to the independent adoption in which the natural parents have six months after the birth to change their mind.

The age in which the adopted child can seek its natural parents in Nebraska is 25. Currently legislation is pending to change it to 21. The adoptee can go to

the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lincoln and look up his birth certificate. If the natural parents sign a consent form to release their name, the adoptee has the right to see the certificate. Otherwise, Ms. Wilson said, the information is withheld.

Julie (not her real name), a Central student, became pregnant at 15. Julie's mother told her she could keep the baby or give it up for adoption. But if she decided to keep it, her mother warned Julie she would be thrown out the door.

Julie never contemplated abortion. Her friends encouraged her to keep it and thought her mother would accept the baby as soon as she saw it. "I didn't look at the facts realistically. I thought the father would propose to me and everything would work out," Julie said.

### No way home

Unlike the Child Saving Institute's policy, the agency Julie worked with did not require her to sign papers to turn over the rights of the baby before birth.

Julie never regretted her decision to give up her baby girl even though it was a tremendous emotional stress. "I knew I couldn't support it alone. I had no job, and I barely had a driver's license. I had no way home from the hospital if I decided to keep her," Julie said.

The agency allowed Julie to choose the family. She picked a family that already had three boys and wanted a girl.

Julie has kept in touch with the family that adopted her baby. They send pictures of the baby twice a year. "The family is very appreciative. They always say how thankful they are. Adoption was the right decision," Julie said.



According to the Omaha Child Saving Institute, for every one child put up for adoption there are 40 families waiting to adopt that child. Artwork by D.C. Pulliam.

## Viewpoints

What do you think about the new proposal to start school at 7:45 a.m. next year?

**Cory McGruder, junior**

"I think that's stupid; we need our sleep. They can't do that. It would make you want to skip, and more people would be tardy."



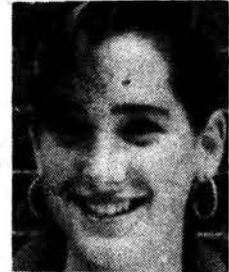
**Tracy Nettles, junior**

"In a way it is good because we get out early, but it would cut out our time for early-morning activities."



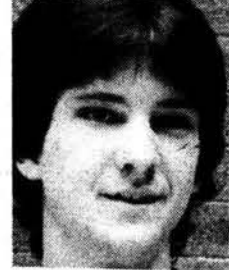
**Beth Scott, sophomore**

"I think it would be okay. In junior high we started that early. We would get out early and have more time after school to go to work."



**Frank O'Connor, junior**

"I think it is a good idea. We will get out earlier and that would make fewer people skip classes."



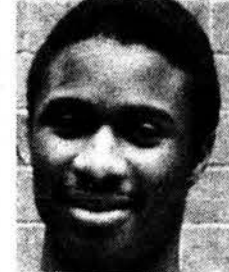
**Amy Havelka, sophomore**

"I don't like it because we might lose zero hour classes. If we did have zero hour, it would be too early in the morning."



**Melvin Jones, sophomore**

"I think it is all right as long as we get out early. It would mean getting up earlier but that isn't too bad."



photos by Mary Turco

# REGISTER

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# Early start saves money

editorial

In order to save an estimated \$1,000,000, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) plans to combine elementary and senior high bus routes next fall. The early start plan will allow bus drivers the 45-minute "turn-around time" needed between bus routes. By reworking both the starting and dismissal times of high schools and elementary schools the school district will decrease the number of vehicles used to transport students.

Although the OPS administration may hear a lot of complaining about the early starting time from parents and teachers, the administration must remember that everyone complains when there is a change, any kind of change. "You must realize that regardless of the time the schools start, kids will be there or be tardy," OPS superintendent Dr. Norbert Schuerman said.

Perhaps it will be easier for the parents and students to accept the change if they recall that

their junior high started at 7:45 a.m. also. Starting the junior and senior highs at the same time will provide more continuity for future students. Currently students are going to a junior high school for three years with one starting time and then having to rework their personal schedules for a high school that starts at a later time than they are accustomed to.

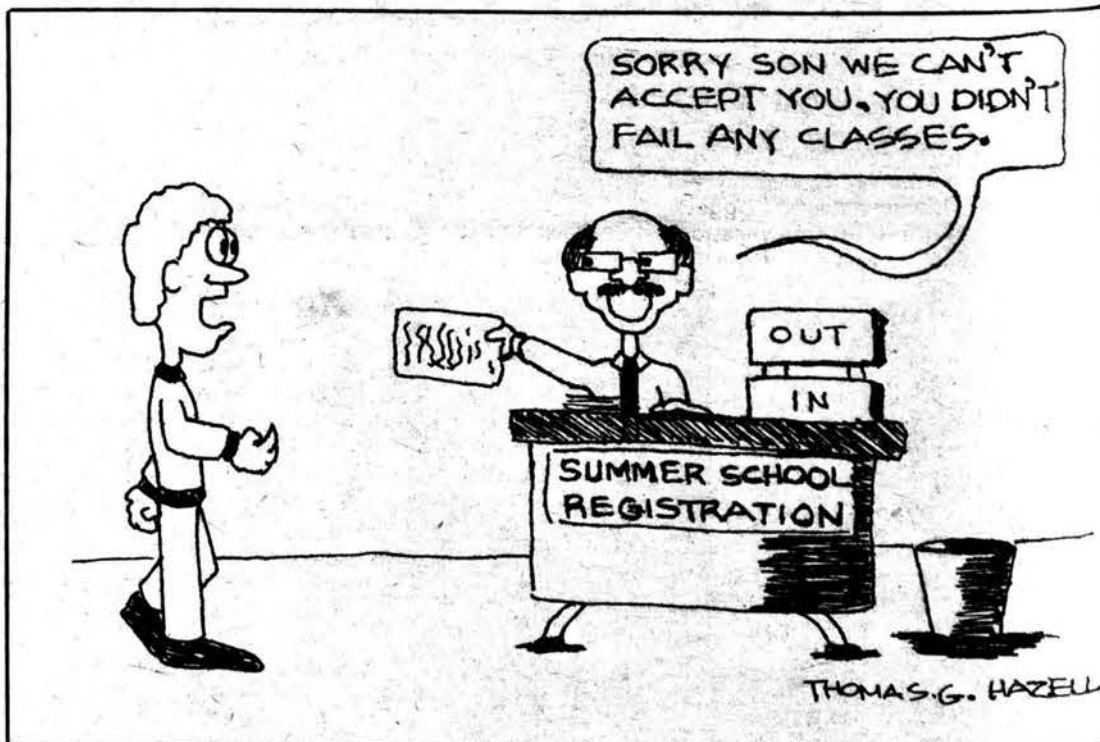
The early start plan has advantages for students, employers, and even Central's administration. By getting out earlier, students have more time to participate in extracurricular activities like plays, sports, and clubs. The students will be able to go to these activities and still be home early enough to finish their homework.

Working students will find the plan advantageous too. A student holding down a job will be able to arrive at the job earlier and in some cases arrive home earlier. School administrators will also profit from the early start plans. Students who are

getting out earlier and arriving at jobs earlier will not need many shortened days. No longer will school administrators have to sort through a stack of shortened day forms.

It is obvious that students benefit from the early start plan but perhaps more importantly will their taxpaying parents according to OPS administrator Dr. John Smith, school district's 1986-87 budget is headed for a five percent spending increase. "With the early start plan we will be able to make up the money we're losing state aid," Dr. Smith explained. Therefore, he said the taxpaying parents will be able to bypass any tax increase because of the millions of dollars saved from the transportation budget.

The early start plan, just like any other plan that involves many changes, has some technicalities to be worked out. Zero-hour classes and band practices will need to be rescheduled because a one million dollar savings is just too hard to ignore.



Summer school

# Students need chance to pay

editorial

Have you ever thought about taking a summer school class to graduate a semester early or make room in next year's schedule for an elective class? If so, then it is time to stop; unless you have failed a required class, it isn't possible anymore.

Many students have taken such classes as history, English, or math in summer school so they don't have to take them during the school year. This makes graduating early or an easier schedule possible.

**Budget cuts**

When the state recently cut the amount of money that it gives to the school district, after the district made the 1985-86 budget, it had no choice but to cut back on summer school.

Summer school will only be available to students who have failed a class and need the credit to graduate or are currently failing a class. According to Dr. Rick Werkheiser, OPS director of secondary education, the school district has had this policy for several years, but this is just the first year that they are enforcing it.

**Money shortages**

The money shortage is definitely not the district's fault, but completely cutting out summer school, unless a student is failing is definitely not the answer. Because money shortages have forced the district to cut back on summer school over the past several years, the public has forgotten how much summer school can offer. Summer

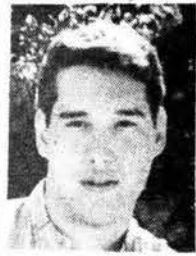
school not only provides time for high school students to take required classes, it can provide a variety of enrichment classes for all ages.

**Pay for classes**

Students should be given the right to pay for classes, like driver's education. Many students would be willing to pay \$90 or \$100 if it meant a less hectic schedule or graduation early.

Instead of merely telling students that they have no choice, students should be given the opportunity to pay for summer school. It works for programs such as driver's education and some physical education classes, and it will work for the school.

# Peppers' Promise' Fast food has dangers



**That's the Way It Is**

by **Todd Peppers**

sauce" that was wiped on my burger looked strangely like shoe polish. I jumped from the table and ran out to the car, leaving my parents stunned because my hamburger was untouched.

The next morning was much better. I convinced myself that what had happened in the restaurant was a fluke, probably brought on by the lower altitude of the city. We had a busy morning of sightseeing and when my father suggested we stop at McDonald's for lunch I was all for it.

Everything seemed fine till I walked up to the counter to place my order, but as "Judy" cheerfully offered to help me I broke out in a cold sweat. I tried to think straight, but the only thing that kept running through my mind was a stupid sixth grade limerick I remembered: "Hold the pickle, hold the lettuce. Shut up mister you upset us. That's why we say, don't have it your way." My mind just snapped.

**"Hold the pickle, hold the lettuce. Shut up mister, you upset us."**

Before the counter girl had time to react, I grabbed her microphone and shouted "where's the beef," and then broke down in tears as I spotted a life-size cardboard cutout of Ronald McDonald grinning at me. As my parents carried me out, Judy yelled, "Have a nice day," to which I replied, "Oh go dunk your nuggets."

After four days of eating normal food like corn, meatloaf, steak, and chicken soup, I became a human being again. The doctor told me there was no permanent damage but warned me that if I over-dosed on fast food one more time I would turn into a giant french fry.

Now it is my turn to warn you. If you want to live a normal life, stay away from fast food. But if you decide to ignore my warning and walk into McDonalds, would you please get me a "Happy Meal"?

# Hazards distract driver



**Afterthought**

by **Vina Kay**

In front of an entire room of people, the judge declared that "judging from the diagram," I was totally lacking of any driving ability. He sentenced me to a day in driving school, positively the most boring day of my life.

Much time has passed since then, and experience has made me a new person. I've gained a new self-confidence, and I now feel capable of judging the driving habits of others. I, of course, pay close attention to my driving, but a few really annoying habits of other drivers have caught my attention.

Have you ever noticed someone singing in his car? I mean really singing — alone. It's funny at first, but after awhile I begin to feel a little embarrassed for the poor guy. I mean there he is bobbing his head up and down, his arms flying all over the place, and people are laughing at him and he doesn't even realize it.

**Overactive hormones**

Another rather annoying habit is seeing people do an entire makeover at a red light. It's best in the morning on the way to school. Everytime they stop, these ladies pull out their lipstick or mascara or hairspray. It's funny until they don't notice that the light has turned green. Vanity has always bothered me, but vanity in the middle of an intersection is unbearable.

The grossest, most disgusting habit I've ever noticed is making out at red lights. I don't know if it's boredom or overactive hormones or what, but I can't stand it. There is a time and a place for everything, and the 20 seconds at a red light is neither the time nor the place.

Driving is a wonderful experience, once you get over the bumps. But it's people like this who destroy the concentration of attentive drivers like myself. It's up to us to keep these potentially hazardous drivers off the road. The road just isn't wide enough for all of us.

There are certain laws of our world that simply cannot be changed: Man cannot travel faster than the speed of light, mass cannot be created or destroyed, and the three sides of an isosceles triangle are equal.

Now I plan to rock the world with a new law accidentally discovered by myself, a law never before thought of by mankind. I call it the "Peppers' Promise," and it states that "man cannot eat fast food for more than seven days without going insane."

I made this shocking discovery during family vacation over spring break. Now, I'll be the first to admit fast food and I are old friends. I can't imagine life without "Happy Meals," and the lady who works at the Burger King near me always knows to put extra ketchup with my fries. So when my family pulled into a McDonald's at Washington D.C. my stomach growled with envy, and within no time I wolfed down a "Big Mac," large fries and a diet coke. I was in heaven and I knew that an endless stream of hamburgers, chicken nuggets, and shakes awaited me on this vacation.

It was the third day of our trip when my world caved in on me. I just ordered my second "Whopper" when this strange feeling came over me, sort of a cross between nausea and hatred. I looked down at my plate and my hamburger stared back. For a moment I thought I heard a cowbell. It was then I saw that my hamburger had "Made in Japan" written on the side, and for the first time I noticed that the "special

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## In Brief

Senior Lisa Tubach won second place in the Omaha Realtors Association essay contest on the topic of "What My Home Means To Me." She will receive a cash prize at a banquet at the Ramada Inn on April 16.

Senior Vina Kay won first place in a journalism contest sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment for the Handicapped. Vina won the Nebraska contest last year and placed in the top ten in the national contest.

Junior Kristi Plahn won the "World Herald's" February "Opportunity for Writers Contest." Her essay dealt with the small details many people overlook.

Senior Princess Hampton placed second in the Omaha's Chapter of the Executive Women's International Scholarship competition. At the Business Career Development Awards Banquet Princess will receive a check and other presents from the local chapter members.

Senior Kelli Pritchard was crowned the 1986 Miss Cotillion on April 6. The Omaha Chapter of the Links sponsored the event. Senior Lynne Patten was named second runner-up in the competition. Twenty-six Central girls participated.

Poster contest winners for the competition sponsored by Internorth and Central's student council were sophomore Tim Earl, first place; senior D.C. Pulliam, second place; and junior Mary Nilius, third place.

Senior Brad Barth was selected to represent Nebraska in the Food Marketing master employee division for the National Distributive Education Clubs of America national convention April 23-27 in Atlanta. Junior David Havelka was selected as the district vice president.

Senior Kurt Hubler won an award from the National Quill and Scroll Writing Contest on News Story Writing. This award will allow Kurt to compete for a national scholarship.

Senior Christina Applegate won first place at the Nebraska College of Business "Business Skills Competition Day" winning a \$500 scholarship to the college. Senior Kathy Hellsbusch won second place and a \$300 dollar scholarship.

## Anderson, Hausman claim OEA offices

Laura Murray

The Omaha Education Association (OEA) elected two Central teachers to the OEA board on April 2. Mrs. Vickie Anderson, Spanish teacher, is the new OEA president and Mr. Larry Hausman, art teacher, is the new high-school representative.

The offices will be two-year terms, unlike the previous one-year terms.

Mrs. Anderson has been a member of the OEA for all of her 17 teaching years and has been actively involved with OEA for 11 years.

## Political action

Mrs. Anderson ran for the presidency this year because she felt that she had the experience necessary.

"I ran because I felt ready to accept the challenge and felt that I had a lot of experience in a wide variety of areas from bargaining to political action," said Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. Anderson does not know if she plans to run for the board again. "It depends on how this year goes and how worn-out I am after the two years," she said.

As president Mrs. Anderson said her duties will include being the OEA spokesperson at Omaha School Board meetings, running the OEA meetings, and informing the public and news media about their decisions.

Mrs. Anderson plans to do a lot as the president of the OEA board.

"I hope to improve the salaries of teachers, secure more elementary plan time for teachers, improve relations with

other teacher organizations in the state, and improve the communications with the community and the School Board," commented Mrs. Anderson.

Mr. Hausman has been active in the OEA for 23 years and has been elected to the OEA board several times. This year will be his seventh time at the national convention.

As the senior-high representative, Mr. Hausman said that his main job is to act as a spokesman for teachers and listen to suggestions on which direction they want to see the board go.

At the board meetings, the discussions usually revolve about such topics as salaries, fringe benefits, insurance and retirement. As part of the OEA board, Mr. Hausman helps in making decisions about proposals in those areas.

## Teacher's obligation

Mr. Hausman became actively involved because he feels that it is part of his duty as a teacher. "It's my obligation to my kids (students) to be a voice to better education by helping the teachers," commented Mr. Hausman.

As the decision makers, the board members decide on the issues for "the betterment of teachers in Omaha," Mr. Hausman said.

Both teachers feel that being on the board gives them a sense of responsibility towards the development of society by bettering the education of Omaha's youth.



photo by Shanda Brewster  
Newly elected president of the OEA board, Mrs. Vickie Anderson, accepts her position with seriousness, while Mr. Larry Hausman, senior high representative, maintains a sense of humor.

## Working students use, abuse shortened day policy

Don Benning

"I'm going home to get some sleep."

"How? It's only eighth hour?"

"I know, but I have a shortened day."

With conversations like these, one could think Centralites were abusing the shortened day privilege. But under current Omaha Public School policy, students with a shortened day must have a job and parental permission. "The parent must come to school and request and complete a shortened day form for his or her child," assistant principal Mr. Jim Wilson explained.

According to Central's handbook, a certain number of credits must be on record before a shortened day will be approved. Seniors may be eligible for a two period shortened day, but juniors are only eligible for one. "If a student receives one or more quarter or semester report card grades of '5,' the student must request a new shortened day form. This must be signed by the parent in a conference with the student's counselor."

A senior must earn 18 credits prior to receiving a one period shortened day. For a two period shortened day, a senior needs 19 credits before the first semester. A second semester shortened day for seniors requires 22.5 credits for a one period shortened day and 23.5 for two period shortened day.

A junior needs 21 credits for a first semester shortened day and 26 credits for second semester shortened day. Sophomores are not eligible for the shortened day privilege.

Approximately 150 students at Central have shortened day privileges, according to the attendance office. In addition, 70 students participate in the marketing lab which allows the students to earn credits through work experience.

Some of the students are released after sixth hour, marketing teacher Mr. Harry Gaylor said. He added that students are monitored

"I really have a job, and I am earning good money. If it weren't for a shortened day, none of this would be possible."

closely to insure the program is not abused. "I contact the employer often to find out how the students are doing and if they are showing up to work. I must do this because the student is receiving a credit for this work experience."

Students seem to appreciate the shortened day privilege. "A shortened day gives me time to have a job that I really need," senior Eric Jones said.

Jane, a senior, said, "I really have a job, and I am earning good money. If it weren't for a shortened day, none of this would be possible."

Frank, another senior, said, "I'm now a manager at my job, and all due to the hours I can work because of my shortened day."

But another student admitted that he goes home early to catch up on sleep. "I do have a job, but I don't go right after school," said one senior. "I use the time to do homework and sleep because I work at night really late."

Other students would rather have a shortened day instead of sitting through study halls or taking an elective class. "I just want to get out of school instead of wasting my time in another study hall," said a Central junior.

"There are a few incidents of abuse of this privilege, but for the most part there are very few problems," Mr. Wilson commented.

# Decathlon posts top 20 win in California

Peppers

Most think of California as a place to get away from the pressures of work and school, but academics were on the minds of Central's Decathlon team members when they left Tuesday, April 1st, for the national Decathlon competition in Los Angeles. When the team returned on April 4th they brought with them five medals and a national ranking of 20th in a field of 41 schools.

"I set a goal to finish in the top ten and was disappointed that we didn't meet that goal," said Mrs. Marlene Bernstein, Central's English teacher and Decathlon coach. "Overall, though, I was absolutely happy with our performance. The team was really good; this team was better than the team we had last year. What surprised me is how many medals we won."

Five seniors won medals in individual competitions. They include Wendy Novicoff, silver medal in Essay; Anita Bernstein, bronze medals in Essay and Language and Literature; Gordon Pioreschi, gold medal in science; and Bill Carmichael, gold medal in Essay.

Other Decathlon team members included seniors Chris Swanson and Denise Novicoff; juniors included Eric Severin, David Suttle, David Pansing, and Shelly Zykowski.

"Mr. Daly is the one to thank for all the medals in the essay competition," said Mrs. Bernstein. "The weekly personal essay he asks students to write made all the difference in the world."

The state of Texas won first place at the national competition, a fact which Mrs. Bernstein thought made students feel it was a declaration that Texas was the best academic state in the country.

"Saying that one educational system is better because they won is simply not true," Mrs. Bernstein said. "The original reason for Decathlon was to spotlight academics for the first time at many schools, but Central has always highlighted academics."

"Schools from Texas and California have an actual Decathlon class that meets during the school day; for me that would put too much pressure on the kids," Mrs. Bernstein said.

Senior Wendy Novicoff agreed with Mrs. Bernstein that many schools put too much pressure on their teams to win. "I talked to kids whose teachers use scare tactics. The teacher will purposely give the student a lower grade so the student's grade point average will drop," Wendy explained.

"Then the student can compete say on the 'B' category of the team, when really

**"The faculty and office staff were very supportive of the team. That's not true in other schools."**

they are an 'A' student," Wendy said. "The students are also forced to give up extracurricular activities, which isn't right."

Mrs. Bernstein felt the team would have fared better if they had two local competitions instead of one. "There was too much time between the local and national contests; many schools came into the national competition right after their local one. I also feel the teams will place higher in the future if the school district spends more money and offers scholarships for team members. It gives them a goal to work towards."

It wasn't all academic work for the Decathlon team, however. Between studying for tests they were invited to a beach party, went shopping, and attended a movie premiere.

"The movie was about a girl who wanted to be a guy and was pretty bad," said Bill Carmichael. "I did enjoy going to Chinatown, even though it was closed, and

if I was going to be here next year I'd do Decathlon again."

Senior Gordon Pioreschi would also join the team again if he could and joked, "But first I want to get over my jetlag and take my midterms."

Mrs. Bernstein attributed the team's success to hard work by the students and the efforts of Central's faculty.

"There was a real team effort by the faculty and office staff that's not true in other schools," Mrs. Bernstein explained. "They were supportive of the team, and it was really a positive experience for the school because of their caring. They gave a lot of their time for the benefit of the kids."

"The one person Mrs. Bernstein is not mentioning is herself. If it weren't for her hard work and energy, the team wouldn't have done as well, and we wouldn't have had so much fun," Wendy added.

## High tobacco chewing use leads to potential dangers

Hubler

Through television, radio, and billboard marketing projects, chewing tobacco has become the leading alternative to smoking cigarettes.

The tiny pinch that a person puts usually between the lip and gum can provide a satisfying taste and feeling for an entire day. "It was in my mouth constantly," said Mr. Brian Watson, social studies teacher and former tobacco chewer. "Chewing first became popular with movies like 'Urban Cowboy' and also by watching the baseball players do it."

"It reached the peak it has because people that cannot smoke in certain areas chew instead," he said.

"I chew sometimes without even thinking about it," said senior Mark Driscoll. "In a way I do it on habit."

Reports show that chewing tobacco can be habit forming like cigarettes because both contain the harmful ingredient, nicotine. Mr. Amil Kubat, pharmacist and part owner of Kubat Pharmacy, explained that the ideas people have about chewing tobacco being less harmful than smoking are incorrect because the amount of nicotine taken in from chewing is more harmful.

"Nicotine is a constrictor of the blood vessels which causes the arteries and passages in the fingers to close," Mr. Kubat said. "You get 50 percent more nicotine intake from chewing than smoking because the heat in a lighted cigarette vaporizes some of its nicotine. With chewing tobacco you suck in a full load."

Mr. Kubat explained that nicotine is an addictive drug because it serves as a stimulus to its user. "Nicotine helps relieve tension," he said. "It is almost comparable to alcohol, but the effects are not noticeable."

Mr. Kubat also said that chewing makes the heart work more because the tobacco removes oxygen from the blood stream and irritates the layers of skin inside the mouth which can eventually lead to open sores.

"The best care for the wounds inside the mouth is to wash them out with peroxide," Mr. Kubat said. "But of course that person has to stop chewing."

The Kubat Pharmacy sells chewing tobacco at its novelty counter, but employee Mr. Ken Rutt said that he would not sell any tobacco products to anyone under 18 years of age.

At Central, Mrs. Udoxie Barbee, vice principal, said that any student caught chewing tobacco would face the same penalty as smoking on school grounds.

"The treatment would be the same because it is tobacco," she said.

While it appears that chewing tobacco can be as harmful as smoking, there are no health warnings on any tobacco packages like the ones on cigarette packs.

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*Architectural beauty*

## Joslyn serves as education device

Vina Kay

“When visitors come to Joslyn from out of town, they are astounded at the architectural beauty of Joslyn and Central,” said Mrs. Audrey Kauders, associate director for administration at Joslyn Art Museum.

But what many visitors don’t realize, according to Mrs. Kauders, is the beauty of the relationship between them. “Both buildings have a very long history, both of people and of architecture.”

Joslyn was opened to the public in November 1931. Its construction was financed by Mrs. Sarah Joslyn who wanted to memorialize her husband, George, who had died in 1916. Because of their love of music, as well as art, the museum includes a concert hall seating approximately 1,150 people.

The museum has been the victim of occasional vandalism, including paint thrown on the marble walls which is, said Mrs. Kauders, “very difficult to remove.” Another incident was when “someone burned ‘84 in the grass just past the east portico of the building. I’m assuming it was the work of students, whether they be from Creighton or from Central.”

Despite these problems, the relationship between Central and Joslyn is a good one, said Mrs. Kauders. One of the more recent activities between the two institutions was the exchange of property to build a practice field for Central and a sculpture garden for Joslyn. “The school district felt it was important for Central to have a field in order to benefit from the same facilities other high schools have,” said Mrs. Kauders.

*“The school district felt it was important for Central to have a field . . .”*

For five years Joslyn, Omaha Public Schools, Creighton University, and city officials negotiated the property exchange. The land along Dodge Street which had once belonged to Central was given to Joslyn in exchange for the land along Davenport Street. Central’s practice field was completed in the fall of 1983.

Joslyn also provides students with several educational programs. The Joslyn education department, according to Mrs. Betty Munch, education assistant, has an art history workshop for junior and senior high school students. The program is a series of six Saturday afternoons where students study works at the museum.

The education department has recently started a program called Artward Bound/Nebraska for teachers to learn how to incorporate artwork into their curriculum. The museum also sponsors film series and concerts which are open to the public.

With its close proximity, Central teachers are finding the museum a valuable learning device. Mr. Larry Andrews, art teacher, occasionally takes his art students to Joslyn to view special exhibits or go on tours. “Sometimes the trip relates to class, or sometimes it is just a way of teaching art appreciation. It’s important for students to develop a knowledge and a background of art,” he said.

## InterNorth lends financial support for excellence Adopt-a-School partner pushing for excellence

Todd Peppers

“Improving the quality of public education is the most important investment this nation can make.” This was the assessment of the national report “Investing in Our Children: Business and the Public School,” that HNG/InterNorth instills in its Adopt-A-School Program with Central High School.

“Business in general knows it is wise to have interaction with schools because the products of those schools will enter the business world,” said Mr. William Moore, manager of community development at HNG/InterNorth. The other half of the partnership team is Mrs. Wanda Utecht, Central business teacher and coordinator of the Adopt-A-School program at Central.

“Central and the old Northern Natural Gas have always had a mutual interest before the program started because of their close proximity,” Mr. Moore said. “It was a natural partnership, and when the program was started in 1983, we, of course, wanted Central High as our adopted school.”

### College workshops

Central students are aware of the essay and poster contests that HNG/InterNorth sponsors, but the interaction between InterNorth and Central goes far beyond that. Projects completed in the first six months of the 1985-86 school year include:

HNG/InterNorth printing the monthly PEP news letter for Central. HNG/InterNorth hosted the brunch for National Honor Society inductees, parents, and guests. HNG/InterNorth and CHS Student Council offered a scholarship to aid or encourage a social studies student to participate in the Close-up Project in Washington D.C. Central’s guidance department invited HNG/InterNorth’s employees to participate in college workshops. And for the teachers, HNG/InterNorth sponsored Teacher Recognition Day.

Mr. Moore, when asked how large HNG/InterNorth’s financial commitment was to Central, said, “The company spends a lot of

money on education; however, it is the time and interaction that makes the program a success.

Not everyone agrees that it is important but feels it doesn’t get a lot more in the public schools. In the PEP newsletter, it is highlighted. Our goal this year is to get more interaction between Central and HNG/InterNorth. The program is a team that wouldn’t want to be broken up.

Mr. Moore stated that of course, HNG/InterNorth employees have common goals and what business schools, Mr. Moore said, “The company would say that high school communications skills for the business of discussion.”

Large role of discussion. The program is time-consuming. Mr. Moore enjoys the Adopt-A-School program because it is a pleasure to have contact with the school since said Mr. Moore.

“I enjoy working with Mr. Moore that Central receives. Every day, Mrs. Utecht explained, “It is extremely urgent for public schools,” said Mr. Moore. “Our future depends on it.”

## Missionary work provides satisfaction for Oblates

Jennifer Katleman

"People really don't have the slightest idea what this place is," said Creighton student Jim Flemming.

"There was a time when a girl from Central asked us if this place was a gym because all she ever saw was guys carrying gym bags and raquetball stuff in and out of here," said Creighton student Dick Conroy.

"Another time," Dick said, "someone left a cat on our doorstep with a note that read 'Dear sisters' thinking this place was a convent or something."

The brick building on 2104 Davenport is neither a gym nor a convent. It is the Oblates Missionary of Mary Immaculate. The 14 Creighton students who live there will someday become Oblate brothers or fathers.

As Oblates they are expected to participate in volunteer work for the Francis House, St. James Manor, Vincent House, and the Boy's Club. Other than attending these functions, Mass, and mandatory morning prayers, these students live like any other college students.

### "No house rules"

Creighton student Greg Gallagher explained that the students are self-policing when it comes to conduct. "There are no house rules and what time you come in is up to your discretion," he said.

The students said in order to live at the house they must pay nominal room and board fee. "My parents couldn't house me for that price," Greg commented.

As long as the students grade point average meets Creighton's minimum standards and the students continue to participate in community activities, the Oblates students cannot be forced to leave.

Oblate Missionaries help the poor in locations around the world. Each of the students from the Oblate order will be eligible to work in developing countries when he becomes a brother or father. "I would really like to work with the poor in South Africa, but you also can work in countries like Brazil, Canada, and the Phillipines," said Creighton student John Luby.

"Missionary work sounds real-

ly exciting because you get to work with a foreign government and help the people improve their lives," Jim said. "The only drawback is that you only get to come back for three months every four years, the only exception being a funeral maybe."

"I didn't tell many people in high school what I was going to do after graduation because becoming a priest wasn't all that popular, but as you get older your friends become more supportive," said Creighton student Tony Wroblewski.

### Smoking cigarettes

The Oblate students said living next to Central has its advantages. "Central has a great track, and we use the field all the time for softball and frisbee," Jim said.

But they said living next to Central has its disadvantages too. "In the afternoons some Central students use back steps to smoke cigarettes and pot, John said.

Jim added that they have found some occasional graffiti on their back wall. However, he explained Centralites who use their parking lot are the ones who inconvenience them the most. "It really bothers us when they block the parking access," Jim said.

"In the fall everyone gets up at 6:30 a.m. because Central's band is practicing. But after the first three weeks it really isn't so bad," Dick said.

### "Not a shelter"

In addition to inconveniences caused by Central's location, living in the downtown area causes problems for them. "Sometimes bums will come by here asking for a sandwich and we'll try to help them out, but we have to tell them we're not a shelter," Jim said.

"In the five years I've been here," Father Joe Pitts said, "we've had some relatively minor incidents of people walking through our corridors out of the blue." He added that a video cassette recorder was stolen from the house once.

"This house is really just an inter community formation that works with common problems," Jim said. "It's definitely not for everybody."

## Creighton shares classes, facilities

Gerry Huey

Almost two years ago Central joined Creighton University in the "Partners in Excellence" program. Since September, 1984, representatives from Central and Creighton have exchanged ideas on ways to better education.

In November of 1984 a proposal was made to offer college credit courses to high school seniors at a cost of \$20 instead of \$150 per credit hour.

"The professor didn't treat us like children," said senior Toni Koob. She said that there was some pressure on going to two schools, but she enjoyed the course. The high school students were not graded on a fixed scale but in competition with each other.

Senior Bill Moreland felt that the college classes were better than high school classes. He said that the college classes were more personal and more students contributed to discussions.

"The instructor was really good," senior Randy Underwood said. Randy said that his grades at Central were affected by the college course. "I definitely noticed the pressure, but I would do it again," Randy said.

The course cost on the average was \$110. The fee in-

cluded tuition, books, a student identification card, and a parking permit. The program also enabled Central seniors to use Creighton's library.

In addition to sharing resources and information, Creighton is involved in program with ten other schools, both public and private. "The main aim of the program is to increase mutual-enrichment between the schools," Mrs. Gretchen Schutte, Central German teacher and "Partners in Excellence" coordinator.

The program enables Central students and teachers to use the Creighton library and attend lectures and films. In return, Creighton is invited to Central's plays, musicals, and athletic events.

Another way that Mrs. Shutte takes advantage of the program is to copy German materials from Creighton to form a library for her classes. Creighton also has a satellite hook-up that enables them to receive programs from foreign countries. The programs are taped and then used by foreign language teachers in their classes.

Creighton has also formed a speaker bureau which gives Central teachers the opportunity to ask Creighton professors to lecture in front of their class. The professors volunteer to lecture.

DR. PULLIAM

## Tutor helps Indian students adjusting to city environment

Matt Pospisil

When Indians leave the reservation and go to a large city, adapting to a new environment is difficult.

"Most Anglos have grown up in a big city environment. Comparing the reservation lifestyle is like comparing day to night," said Mr. John Stankiewicz, Indian tutor at Central.

He explained that the way of life on a reservation usually takes place within the confines of a 30-mile radius of the reservation. Mr. Stankiewicz described the lifestyle as "sheltered" and "laid-back." When an Indian leaves the reservation, he is thrust into a "multicultural environment where it is difficult to adjust."

In order to deal with the obvious problems of adjustment, the government created the Office of Indian Education. The Office of Indian Education established the use of Indian tutors in schools. To qualify for help a person must be one-fourth Indian.

Omaha Public Schools has approximately 10 to 12 tutors who work in grade school through high school levels.

Mr. Stankiewicz first started teaching at the Navajo Reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico. "I've been working with Indians the seven years I've been teaching," he said. As a tutor Mr. Stankiewicz makes sure students get to their classes and makes sure students are handing in their homework.

"The most gratifying thing is seeing a student who was doing '5' work come up to '1' or '2' levels."

Most of the Indian students that attend Central stay with relatives in Omaha. They come from reservations of Macy, Winnebago, Santee. In the past students have come from as far away as the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

"Students tend to view Indians in the typical television stereotypes. We view all Indians by what we have seen — people who cannot control their own destinies. Central teachers have gained insights into Indians and their culture because of the tutoring program," said Mr. Stankiewicz.

Guidance counselor Dr. Stan Maliszewski said that the individual attention the program stresses makes Indian tutoring a success. "The tutors are good role models. In a large school a student needs one person he can go to on a one to one basis," Dr. Maliszewski said.

Although part of his job is academics, Mr. Stankiewicz said that another part is being a human being to deal with non-academic problems. "Total assimilation into white culture would be harmful; the students must maintain ties to their own cultural background. We discuss

maintaining your own identity and cultural heritage," said Mr. Stankiewicz.

He feels that there will be an ongoing expansion because of the awareness by Indians to get the best for their sons and daughters as students. Mr. Stankiewicz said that the "fact that you lose some kids, even though you've made a 100 percent effort bothers me. I feel as if I have not completely fulfilled my obligation. I wonder 'What could I have done to keep him?'" he said.

He explained that the students need access to the help they need, someone who cares about their life in general. "Some would sooner be anywhere than in school," Mr. Stankiewicz said.

"Although 60 to 70 percent of Indian seniors go on to technical school or college without help the avenues of secondary schools would go unnoticed. If there is nothing to kindle the interest, the interest will die," he said.

"The most gratifying thing is seeing a student who was doing '5' work come up to '1' or '2' levels. The Indian students are an excellent bunch of kids who can succeed in whatever they do," said Mr. Stankiewicz.

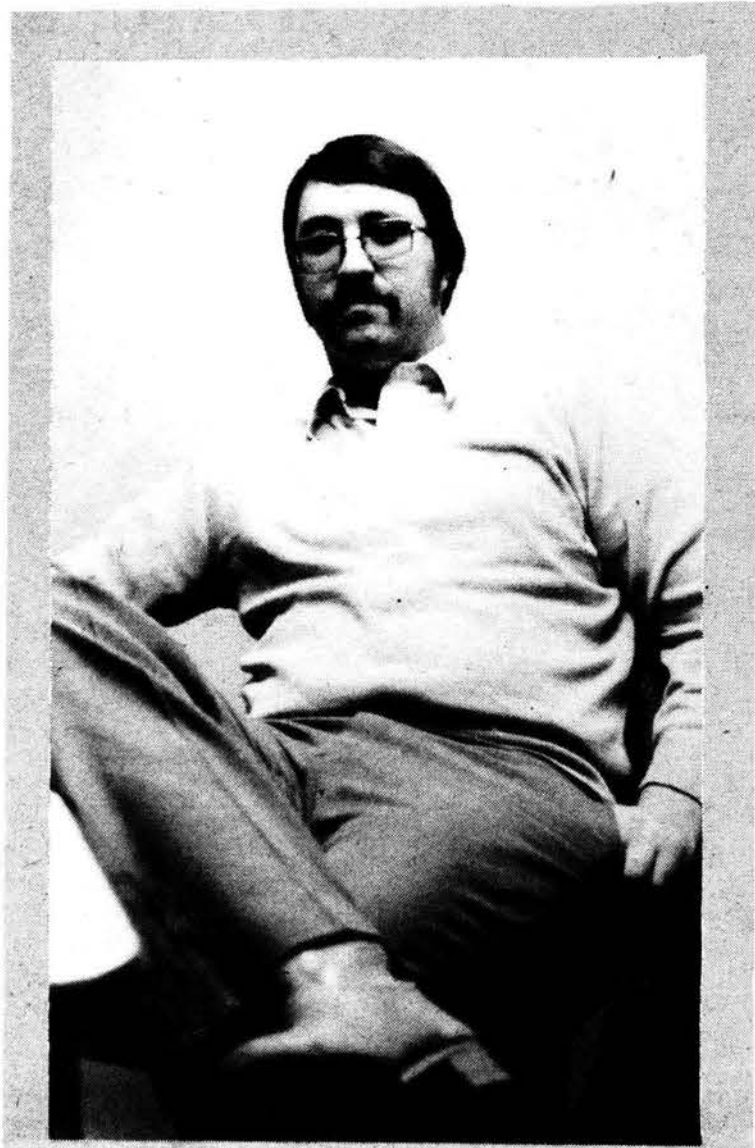


photo by Shanda Brewer

"I've been working with Indians the seven years I've been teaching," said Mr. John Stankiewicz, Central's Indian tutor. Omaha Public Schools has approximately 10 to 12 tutors who work in grade school through high school levels.

## Three musicians write original works in hopes of being published

Gerry Huey

When most people listen to a song on the radio, they don't think about the time it took to compose the song.

For seniors Tim Kilgore, Kurt Devine, and George Davis the time and effort of composing music has been an experience they have all shared.

Tim's composition, "The Dance of Fire" was featured at Central's Road Show 1986. Tim admits that he did not think about entering his composition in the Road Show until school started in September. Tim said he composed his song during the summer out of boredom.

"I was surprised that it was okay," Tim said. Since the Road Show, Tim has added a slower beginning which gradually picks up speed.

### Music competitions

Tim has entered "The Dance of Fire" in many music and writing competitions. He hopes to find out the results from an ACT-SO competition in May. Tim also plans to enter his song in the Broadcast Music Inc. contest in New York.

Tim's future plans for compos-

ing music are still uncertain. "Let come what may," he said. He plans to major in computer science in college, with a minor in music.

For Kurt Devine it took six months to compose "Nite Flite."

"I wanted to use all synthesizer at the start and some strings," said Kurt. For nearly three weeks Kurt searched for a title for his composition. "I wanted a nighttime effect," he said. Finally with help from friends Kurt chose the title "Nite Flite." Kurt's composition was also featured in Road Show 1986.

At Central, Kurt has taken for one semester Music Study with Mr. Robert McMeen, Central music instructor. He said that the only reason he took the course was to compose music.

Kurt wrote "Nite Flite" for a change from his usual ballet writing. Kurt won first place in the 1984 ACT-SO music competition with "Only You," a ballet. "My trademark here at Central is 'The Beauty of You,'" he said.

The future of "Nite Flite" and other songs composed by Kurt seems unclear. "I really don't

know, I have mixed emotions," Kurt said. Though Kurt has "Nite Flite" and other songs recorded on a demonstration tape, he might wait to send it to a recording company until after he receives his college degree.

George Davis has the talent to be able to play guitar, drums, baritone, and saxophone.

### Studio musician

George has made a demonstration tape of songs that he has written and songs written with the help of Mr. Bob Ives. The average time George takes to write a song is usually a month.

He enjoys listening to 60's music and Bob Dylan, but his favorite style of music is rhythm and blues. "I don't think that I could live without music," said George.

George said he would like to become a professional musician by starting out as a studio musician and playing for other famous musicians as their backup band. "Being a studio musician is a good way to get started in the music business."

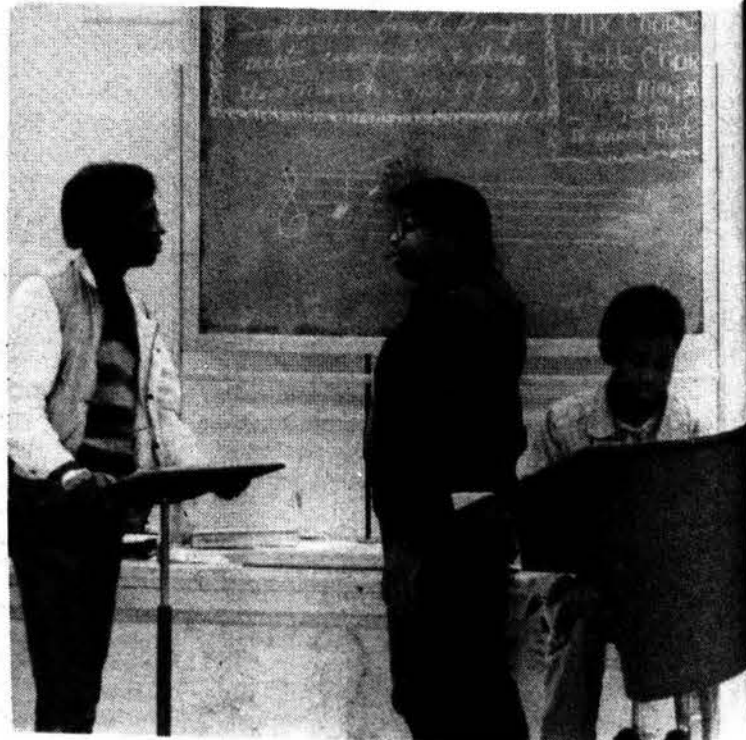


photo by Shanda Brewer

Seniors Kurt Devine, Tim Kilgore and George Davis compose original music. Some of their compositions were featured in Road Show 1986. All three plan to continue writing songs after high school.



# Smoking: a hard habit for teens to break

Meehan

Smoke-filled bathrooms, a crowd of kids lighting up on the porches are some settings for conversations like, "Can you get a light?" or "Can you show one?"

Smoking has been a major concern for some time, but the focus of that concern has been placed on adult smokers. According to national statistics provided by the American Cancer Society, two-thirds of all smokers start before the age of 18. In fact, the statistics show that there are 1.8 million smokers between ages 13-17.

Many students say that their smoking was a result of peer pressure. "I started smoking in seventh grade because the kids were doing it," senior Carlson said.

Senior Sara Lundberg explained that she started smoking in eighth grade because she was nervous about it.

**Two thousand** young adolescents start smoking every day," said Mrs. Cheryl Neil, program coordinator for the American Cancer Society.

"Smoking not only causes lung cancer but also bladder, oral, and esophagus cancer. Eighty-three percent of all deaths caused by lung cancer could be avoided if people quit or never started smoking."

"The statistics didn't bother me but the T.V. commercial with Yul Brynner scared me because he had smoked all his life and he was dying of cancer because he smoked, so I tried to quit. I have quit three times, and one time I smoked a lot of heavy cigarettes

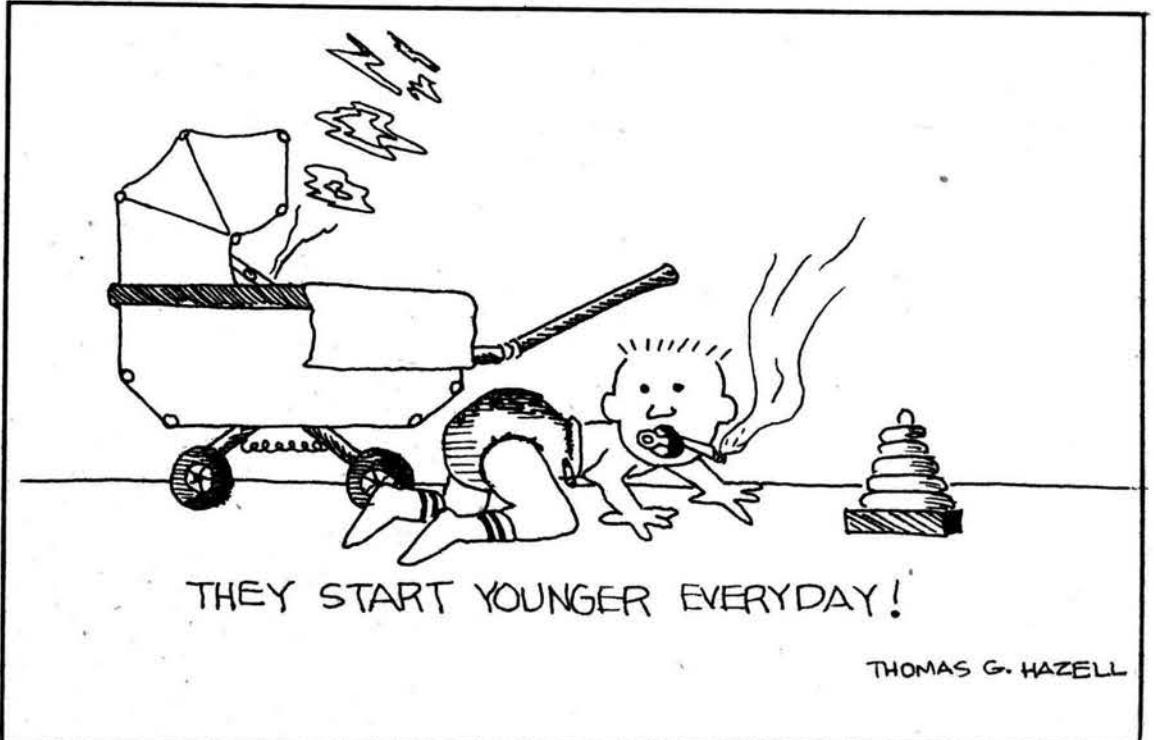
so that I would get sick of smoking," senior Toni Koob explained.

### Support groups

"I quit several times, but when I would start again I would get dizzy and then it reached the point that I decided not to smoke any more," said Vince.

Fresh Start is the name of a quit smoking program offered by the American Cancer Society. The program features video tapes that give support from ex-smokers to those trying to quit.

"There are also programs to quit smoking offered by the



American Lung Association and many area hospitals," Mrs. Neil explained. "If a person wants to stop, they have to identify that they want to stop and then find a support group."

Teenagers and adults alike are getting support not only from these groups to stop smoking

but also from the shrinking amount of places they can smoke in public. The Nebraska Clean Air Indoor Act segregates smokers from other people in such places as restaurants. This ruling has already taken effect in some companies such as Northwestern Bell that have smoke

free buildings with no smoking in the office area.

In addition to these efforts the American Lung and Heart Associations and the American Cancer Society have banned together to achieve their goal of a smokeless society by the year 2000.

# Pianist becomes featured soloist in symphony

Murray

April 6 will not be the last time that Heather Carpenter's name will be on a marquee.

Heather, a senior, was featured as a guest solo pianist at the "Celebration of Youth" concert with the Omaha Symphony at the Cornhusker Theater on April 6. Heather won this opportunity and \$300 in January when she competed in the Omaha Symphony Guild's annual young artist competition. In that competition, she played a memorized concerto and competed with 40 other young pianists.

At the Omaha Symphony concert, Heather played Bagatelles No. 5 written by Alexander Tchernin.

### Fourth grade

Heather started piano lessons in the fourth grade when she was seven years old. In the eighth grade, Heather auditioned for the opportunity to take piano lessons from Jackson Berkey, and she has been studying with him since then. Jackson Berkey is a faculty member at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is the keyboardist for the music group Mannheim Steamroller.

"I'm really lucky to be able to have the opportunity to study with him; he's a great teacher," said Heather.

Before this year, Heather said she practiced only a half an hour a day, but now she practices three hours a day, one hour just on technique. She contributes this dramatic change to the music camp at Rocky Ridge, Colorado, that she went to this summer.

"The Rocky Ridge music camp is what made me serious about piano," commented Heather.

### Music camp

Heather won a scholarship to the music camp that lasted for three months.

Because of all the time Heather spends practicing, her school schedule is "limited" to three Advanced Placement courses and to her role as the accompanist for the Central Singers which, according to Heather, is a lot of work.

Next year, Heather plans to major in music at the Michigan State University in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Heather hopes to go to school in Salzburg, Austria for her first year of college.



photo by Val Spellman

Senior Heather Carpenter played with the Omaha Symphony on April 6.

Exercise, adventure

## Bicycling popularity lures students, staff

Thatcher Davis

One of the fastest growing sports in the world today is biking. Even though forms of the bicycle have been around since it was invented in 1816 by Karl von Drais, it has only been within the past few decades that the sport has become popular.

Biking has been popular in Europe for many years and it is only until recently that the biking craze has hit the United States.

Central science teacher Mr. Allen Roeder explained what he felt some of the contributing factors were to the American bicycle awakening. "First of all, you can now buy a bike that was once \$700 and handmade for \$250 because they are now mass produced." He said, "Bikes are also a lot more practical for some people. And, everyone is more fitness conscious these days."

Japanese mass production has definitely lowered the price of excellent touring bicycles. This has allowed more people to participate in the sport of biking, Mr. Roeder said.

Although there are still bikes available for over \$700, these are generally for the serious biker who plans to compete in races and tours, Mr. Roeder said.

"You don't really need an excellent bike," said senior Bart Lovgren, "an average bike will work fine, there is very little difference between the average bike and the expensive bicycle. However," he added, "there is a large difference between a cheap bike and an average bike."

The most common bicycle is the 12-speed touring bike. This is excellent for long tours and racing on clear smooth ground. However, since all ground is not clear and smooth the all-terrain bicycle is rapidly becoming the most popular bike on the market.

The "mountain bike" as it is often called, is heavier than the touring bike. The tubes it is constructed with are stronger and thicker. Its wheels are thicker and instead of the touring curl-under handlebars, the mountain bike has large horizontal handlebars.

Besides the bike very little equipment is needed. The equipment that is needed is purely for the safety of the individual.

Senior Pete Brocker explained that wearing a helmet is

**"The only things you have to depend on are your legs and your bike."**

essential for a biker. Gloves, padded shorts, and even biking shoes are other accessories Pete wears while biking. Both Pete and Mr. Roeder stress the wearing of safety equipment because both have been in accidents while riding in the city.

The number one reason why people seem to be getting involved with biking is because they enjoy it above and beyond the fact it is good exercise.

"I wanted some exercise and I hate running," commented Mr. Roeder on why he started biking ten years ago. "Now I just enjoy it," he added, "it's much funner than driving a car."

"I bike for the exercise and the adventure of being out on your own," Bart said.

All three bikers have participated in long tours, either organized or just for a personal "adventure." Pete's average tour during the summer takes about 30 miles. He also participated in a centennial, a hundred mile tour during the course of one day.

For five years Mr. Roeder has participated in the Bike Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN) tour. He has also taken a 700 mile tour for his own enjoyment on another occasion.

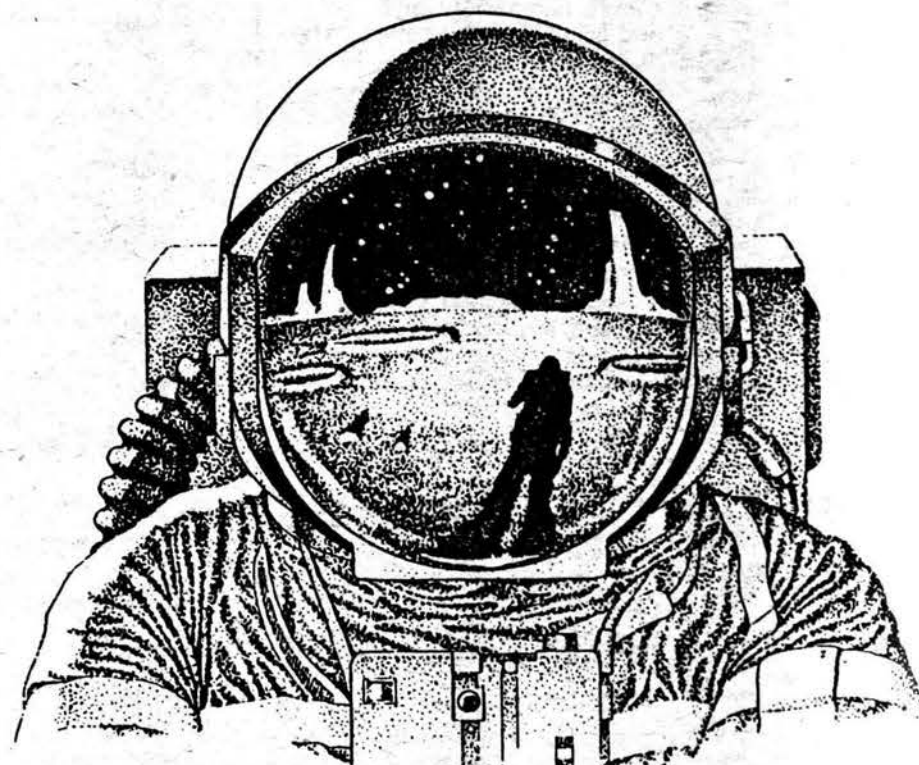
Last summer Bart and a friend biked from Minneapolis to Thunder Bay, Ontario, a 500 mile journey in ten days.

A biker often sets goals for himself and continues to experiment with new ideas and challenges. Mr. Roeder dreams of biking the perimeter of America. However, closer to the future, he is thinking about participating in a bike ride across China.

Bart and Pete are both planning to bike long tours this summer. In addition to tours, Pete is interested in racing and is thinking of competing in the near future.

"I love the sense of independence you get from a bicycle," said Bart. "The only things you have to depend on are your legs and your bike."

## Pickles' Prices Are Out of This World



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# Funny moments add to all-around attraction



## Extra Point

Travis Feezell

probably weighed around 160 pounds.

I threw two great fastballs, both for strikes, and let my forthcoming heroism begin to sink in. I then threw my best pitch of the day. This monster deposited my best pitch over the left field fence. I felt empty. We had lost.

But just as sports are filled with sad, tension-filled moments, athletics also have their funny moments. Without these pressure-relieving situations, athletics would be no fun. And in the past three years at Central, I have seen or heard about some pretty hilarious moments.

### Pinned wrestler

There was a wrestler here at Central who had always done pretty well. He was strong, quick, and filled with the prowess of an upcoming star. On one certain day, this wrestler happened to be mauling another guy. Several times the Central wrestler came close to pinning his man. But suddenly the Eagle wrestler turned on his back and cried to his opponent, "Pin me, please!"

The opponent stood there stunned for a few seconds but soon did as he had been told. The instant the referee had called the pin, the Central star sprinted to the locker room with a look of terror on his face. The coach was bewildered and dumbfounded as to how a sure win had turned into a pathetic loss. A few minutes later the

wrestler emerged from the locker room. The coach demanded to know what had happened.

"Coach, I'm really sorry," replied the grappler in a sickeningly sincere voice. "I just couldn't hold it any longer. I had to go to the bathroom."

At the Metro swimming meet a few years ago, one Central swimmer conducted a race all by himself in front of hundreds of spectators. To say the least, he was graciously embarrassed.

The event was the 50 yard freestyle. All of the swimmers were lined up on the starting blocks anxiously awaiting the sound of the starting gun. Our Central swimmer flew into the water easily beating the other opponents.

The Eagle competitor maintained his steady pace, always keeping the constant rhythm of the hands and feet. Yet, he didn't happen to notice the rope beginning to tangle at his legs. At the turn, he noticed no one was ahead of him.

One of our maniac linebackers was feeling crazy on this Friday game night. He felt like no one was going to gain excess yardage on him tonight. If a running back came his way, his helmet was going to land five yards from the point of contact.

The play developed slowly with the quarterback faking and the offensive line pulling for the sweep. The quarterback pitched

to the tailback who cut back quickly and found himself starting into the Eagle linebacker's eyes. The sound of the hit was earth-shattering as the linebacker shoved him out of bounds. With the pitch of the yellow flag, the referee called a penalty for illegal roughness.

The Central football player trotted over to the sidelines just in time to hear his assistant coach say, "Don't you think you went a little bit crazy on that play? What were you doing?"

### "I don't know"

The linebacker paused, then replied in a maniac sing-songy voice, "I don't know, I don't know, I don't know!"

Funny moments like these help to lighten the tenseness and pressure of athletics. And it's not just at the high school level. Any athlete needs to laugh about sports once in a while. If they are taken too seriously, it can ruin a person. Athletics are meant to be fun. The phrase is to "play" sports, not toil over them as in some kind of needless work.

★★★★★

On another matter, it seems as if one Central High basketball player has been snubbed by the Nebraska Coaches Association. Recently, this group selected the players to participate in the annual summer all-star game. Senior Mike Beasley was not one of the selected 24 all-stars.

Mike had an outstanding year

helping Central to its first tournament appearance in several years. Mike was rewarded with his efforts by his selections to the All-Metro team and the Second Team All-State squad. If he was good enough to make these teams, why wasn't he given this summer's all-star honor?

I know Mike personally having played tennis with him for the last three years. Athletically, he is nothing short of an all-star. Socially, I have never met a more classy guy. He has the utmost respect for himself and those around him. If any of the criteria for selection was based on these things, then the selectors certainly exercised bad judgment.

If the selections were based on performance alone, then Mike's non-selection still makes no sense. Every All-Metro basketball player made the team except Mike. Players from other surrounding Metro schools placed members on the all-star team who had received fewer honors than Mike.

Fifteen players from schools outside of Lincoln and Omaha made the team. The bottom line is that it does not seem at all possible for Mike not to be one of the best 24 players in the state of Nebraska.

In this writer's opinion Mike did not receive a fair shake. There is no doubt in my mind as well as in the minds of many others that Mike Beasley is an all-star.

## Teens sponsor softball leagues; teams enjoy friendly competition

Omaha is known as the soft- ball capital of the world. Students at Central are no exception to this fact. However, the type of softball and the reasons for playing are varied.

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) does not sponsor softball for the area high schools as other school districts around the county do. Because of this most of the 18-year-old-and-under teams are made up of students from three or four schools.

An exception is a team entirely composed of Central students. The team is called the Dudes. "We wanted to play softball, and it's a good way to keep in touch with friends during the summer," explained senior Andrea Peterson, team manager.

The team is a coed slow pitch team. "We don't plan on winning any games, just having fun," said junior team member Bryan Hanson.

Others at Central take softball more seriously. Junior Patty Stodola is planning on earning

**"We wanted to play softball, and it's a good way to keep in touch with friends during the summer."**

a softball scholarship. Her team, the Echoes, is a fast pitch, 18-year-old-and-under team made up of girls from eight schools. The Echoes practice through the winter for their summer season which includes trips to Colorado, Illinois, and Lincoln.

Other Echoes team members from Central include juniors Sara Peterson, Lynn Zealand, and Kaii White.

Junior Angie Pick also is planning on earning a softball scholarship. Angie plays for the Express, an 18-year-old-and-under girls fast pitch team. Angie believes OPS should sponsor an interschool softball league. "They should sponsor softball because softball is a big sport, and in order to get scholarships we need the facilities to be competitive."

Since OPS does not sponsor softball, the teams are forced to either find a sponsor or sponsor themselves by fund raising. The Echoes sponsor themselves. "We do everything from selling M&M's to garage sales," said Patty Stodola.

The Dudes, according to team member Shelly Bang, senior, sponsor themselves also. "Everybody pitches in; they either bring a bat or ball from home to help the team out."

Mr. Dick Jones, Central athletic director, explained, "The state athletic committee has never organized softball, and it's hard for OPS to set up a league when the state has never sanctioned it. There is no equivalent to boys' baseball, but that's because girls sports are so young."

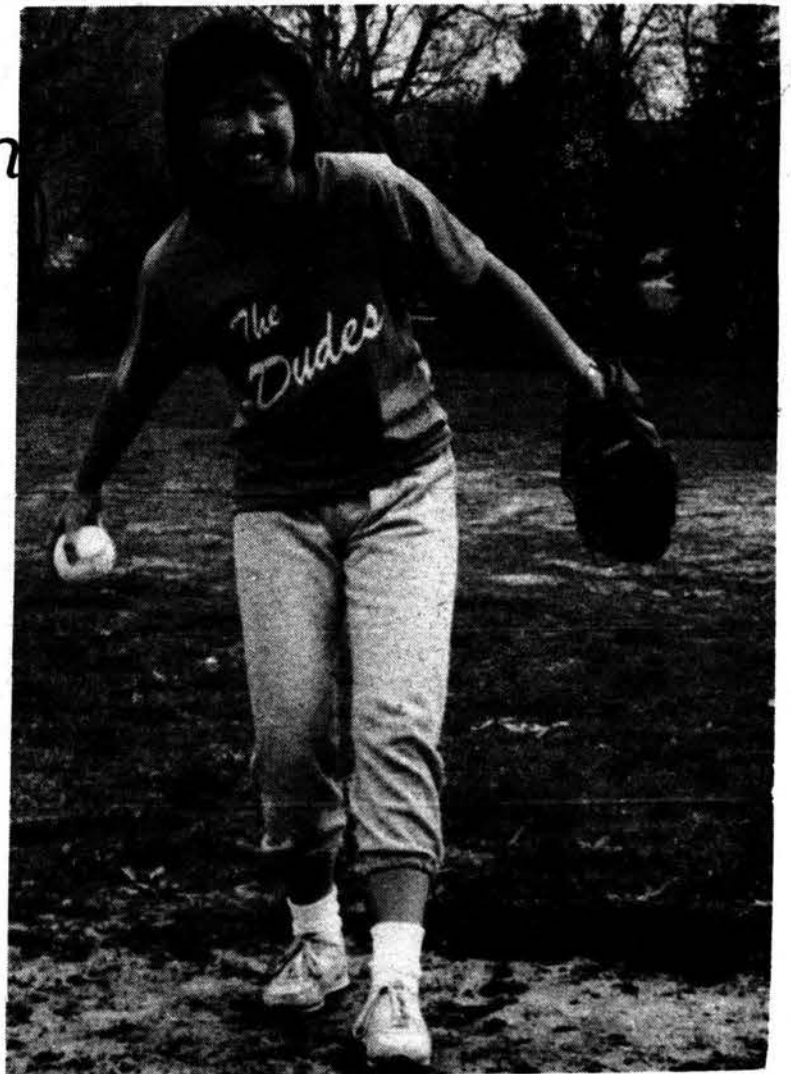


photo by Tim Combs

Senior Andrea Peterson is the team manager for the Dudes.



photo by Phil Berman

Senior Helena Pardos, an exchange student from Barcelona, practices for the girl's tennis team. The team has been forced to practice indoors during the beginning of the season because of bad weather.

## Bad weather kicks girls' tennis inside

Travis Feezell

The girls' tennis team is literally off and running again this spring. Inclement weather has forced the team indoors at Central, the one place where most things relating to tennis cannot be done. Instead, Ms. Sue Gambiana, the team's coach, has turned to conditioning.

"Since the weather has been so bad, I've been conditioning the girls inside. We run laps along with doing sit-ups and push-ups. But we also do some fun things to keep the girls' interest. I don't think they mind the conditioning, though. It helps them get in shape and stay involved."

Senior tennis player Jill Stommes agrees. "I kind of liked the conditioning. It helped me physically, but I also got to know a lot of the girls on the team."

Although the conditioning may be helping keep the team in shape, not having much actual practice outside may hurt the team as the season progresses.

### Second year coaching

"It definitely hurts not to get outside and hit some tennis balls," commented Ms. Gambiana. "Some of the other schools might have an edge on us because they may practice on indoor courts while we're running."

This is Ms. Gambiana's second year as the coach of the girls' tennis team. Even though she has not had much experience in tennis, she does know the basics.

"I teach a lot of the girls who have not played that much tennis," commented Ms. Gambiana. "I'm still learning, though, and that's why a lot of the more experienced girls help out. Junior Gene Huey also helps out by assisting me."

"She's really organized," said sophomore Kalen Anderson. "She helps out the younger people a lot. Gene seems to teach more of the technical aspects. She's doing a real good job."


### Very competitive

Senior Jill Stommes, juniors Kirsten Leach and Sarah Story are the only returning players from last year's team. Ms. Gambiana added that with sophomores Bridget Buckley, Kalen Anderson, Jennifer Urias, and junior Jennifer Plourd the team should be very competitive. She also noted that junior Tracy Edgerton, a junior varsity player who worked very hard to improve her game, would help the team.

"Except for Millard, Westside, and Burke, we should be able to compete with most of the schools," said Ms. Gambiana.

"We should have a pretty decent season this year," explained Jill. "We do have a chance of being pretty good because we have a lot of depth."

"We just hope to be successful," said Kalen. "I think we'll do all right this year."



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