

Four-year high school could become reality

Amy Buckingham

On Wednesday, November 25, an internal task force presented to the Omaha Board of Education's planning committee the options and its recommendations concerning four-year senior high schools for the 1988-89 academic year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Norbert Schuerman said, "We want to do everything we can to maintain the level of excellence of the seven high schools in this district." He feels that the best way to do this is to enroll ninth grade students in the senior high schools.

Currently, three high schools in the Omaha area host ninth grade students: Benson, Bryan and South. These schools, according to Dr. Schuerman, are achieving great success. "All reports are positive," he said. "The parents like it, the teachers like it and the students do not seem to mind either."

Dr. G. E. Moller, Central High School principal, supports the policy that brings ninth graders into the senior high schools. "I think that there are enough ninth graders who are ready for the competition and challenge of high school [so] that it would be beneficial to all students."

The first part of the proposal recommends the closing of Horace Mann Ninth Grade Center. This, according to Dr. Gary Bennett, Assistant Superintendent, General Administration and Staff, will allow the students who would normally attend Horace Mann as ninth graders to attend their attendance area high schools

and "cut down" the number of mandatory reassignments in the school district.

Mann would then become the home of the Omaha Public School's Science Magnet Program, now at the King facility.

The proposal also states that three junior high schools will continue to host ninth grade students: Lewis

and Clark, Hale and Norris. These students would have options to attend Benson, North and South respectively as ninth graders if they lived within these attendance areas.

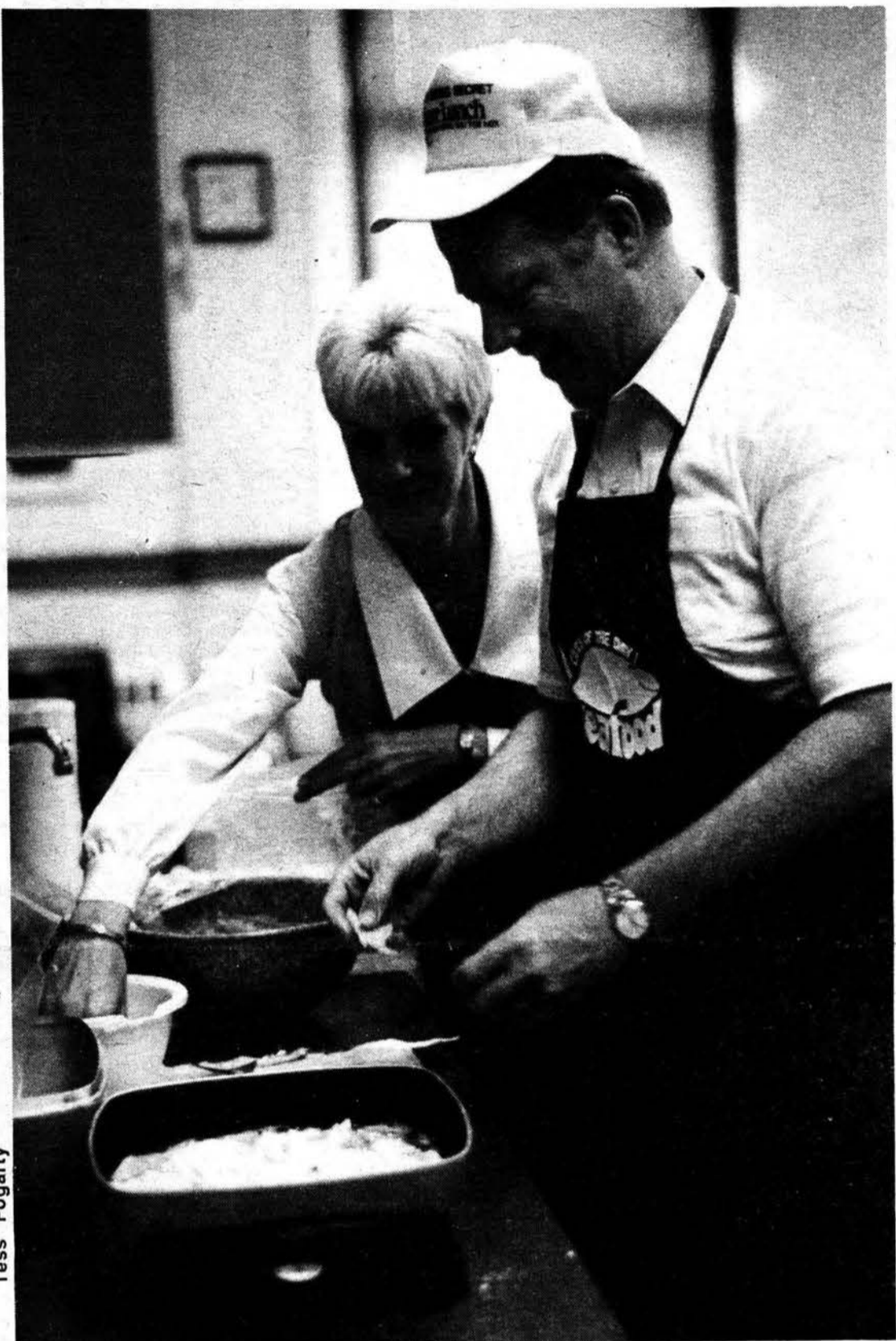
The projected ninth grade enrollment for Central, as stated in the proposal, is 176 students. This is significantly smaller than those at any of the other senior high schools.

However, only 86 of those students will be from Central's attendance area. "The other 90 or so students," said Dr. Bennett, "will come from outside the attendance area."

"We do not anticipate any decline in enrollment at the tenth grade level," he said, "because the two main feeder junior highs, [Lewis and Clark and Norris], will still host ninth graders and send them on to Central at the sophomore level."

The task force feels that to move from three-year to four-year high schools would enhance integrative effects, more effectively utilize classroom space and broaden educational opportunities for students.

The planning committee intends to present the issue for voting by early January.



Tess Fogarty

Mr. John Georgeson, physical education teacher, and Mrs. Pegl Stommes, drama teacher, ready to partake in an unannounced faculty fresh fish fry in the teacher's lounge.

Register follow up: students, Councilmen discuss curfew plan

Jennifer Andersen

Walt Calinger and Allen Dinzole, Omaha City Council members who requested a draft ordinance to discuss a curfew, came to Central High School on Thursday, November 12.

The proposed ordinance would require teenagers under eighteen to be home by 11:30 p.m.

The Student Council-sponsored discussion lasted approximately an hour. Over 250 students attended, the largest number of students out of the five Omaha high schools.

Students, many of whom would be affected by the curfew, prepared questions for the Council members, including why the City Council started to discuss the possibility of a curfew in the first place.

"Last summer, a number of problems on West Dodge, mall areas, and the Old Market area prompted us to present a curfew," Mr. Dinzole explained.

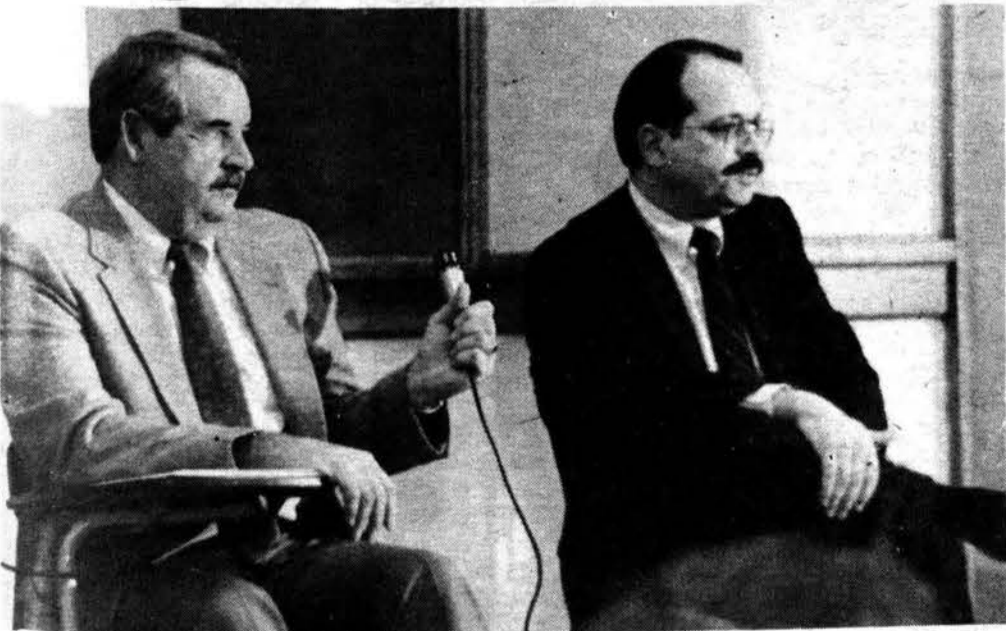
Other questions the students raised dealt with time, age, constitutionality, and parental responsibility.

"Students approached [discussion] with a serious attitude, which is important because the purpose is to influence the City Council members," said Mr. Paul Semrad, Student Council sponsor.

When junior Peter Festersen asked the Council members how they felt personally about the curfew, Mr. Dinzole said that it may be too big a price to pay.

In addition, three major television stations and the *Omaha World-Herald* attended.

"I think it gave Central a good impression, showing that the students are concerned about community matters affecting them," said junior Dondi Caviness.

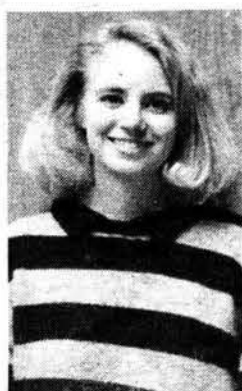


Jill Ogden

Councilmen Allen Dinzole and Walt Calinger respond to student concerns during a question and answer period regarding the proposed curfew.

Forum

Would Central High School benefit from the addition of ninth grade students?



Jill Cornman, senior: "Considering that other schools will be having freshman, Central has no choice but to admit them to Central. The administration will have to battle the problem of overcrowding."



Jim Smith, junior: "I think that it's stupid. There are too many people as it is, and the Central building is too small to handle the ninth graders."



Noah Carr, sophomore: "No way! There is not enough room, and we would be mentally scarred for life."

Chelsea O'Hara

Pulse

Would Central High School benefit from the addition of ninth grade students?

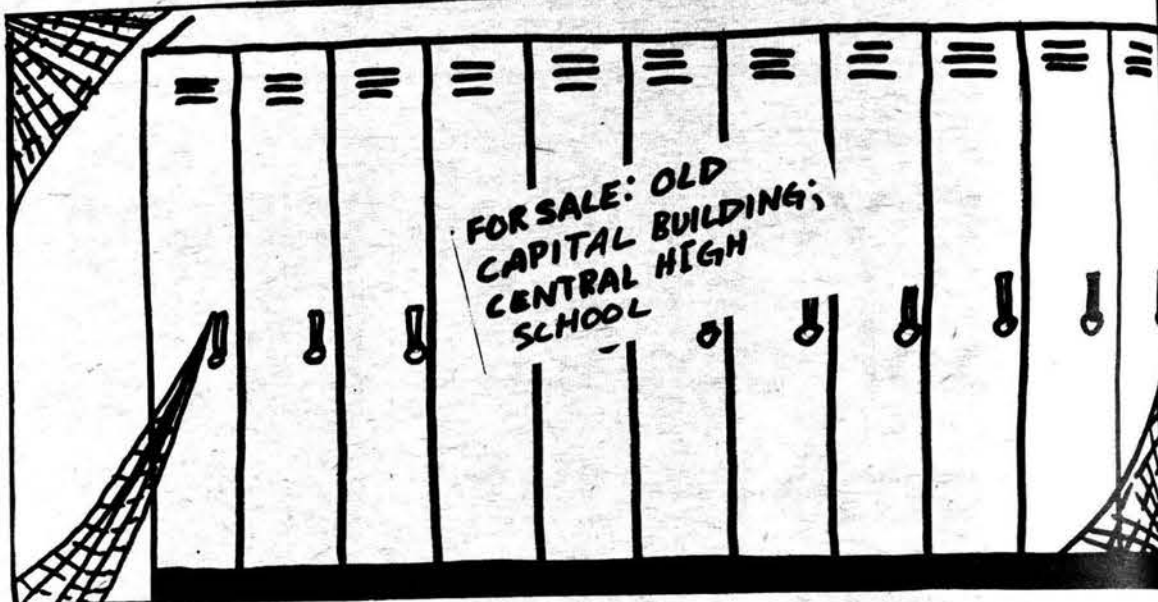
Yes 20% No 80%

Total Questioned: 204 Students

Register

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The Central High Register seeks to inform its readers accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance. Letters to the editor are welcomed. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Students publish the Register semi-monthly at Central High School. Subscriptions are \$3 per year. POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Register c/o Central High School, 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102. The Register pays second-class postage at Omaha, NE USPS 097-520.



Excellence demands freshmen

The Omaha Board of Education is currently hard at work trying to decide whether Central High School, along with every other public high school, should have a ninth grade beginning in the 1988-89 school year. Some high schools, including Bryan, South, and Benson, began admitting ninth graders this fall to increase their enrollments.

The debate as to whether or not Central could or should have a ninth grade will probably go on for years, but all evidence points to the fact that if Central wishes to maintain its excellence, it must enroll a ninth grade class.

The proposed plan calls for all high schools to establish a freshman class beginning next year. Not all ninth graders will attend high schools, however, for Lewis and Clark Junior High, Norris Junior High, and Nathan Hale Junior High will retain a ninth grade class. Everyone else will be given their choice of high schools, the same choice that they already have under the current system. The ninth graders at the three junior highs will have that same choice for their sophomore year. Central's freshman class is expected to number about two to three

hundred students.

The plan comes equipped with many benefits. Four-year high schools are attractive to colleges and other establishments. Students who attend Central as ninth graders will get a head start on such programs as our English program. And the Central freshman, who basically come from outside the Central attendance area, will have an extra year to adjust, to get a feel for high school life before the "locals" come.

Should the school board veto the plan or allow ninth graders to attend all high schools except Central, the effect would be devastating. Since it is the board's goal to eliminate ninth grade from the junior highs, all of the freshman would be attending a high school for ninth grade; where would we get our sophomore class? How many people would actually want to leave their first high school choice with all their friends, their established base to attend Central?

What would happen to the ninth graders at Lewis and Clark? Perhaps the board could allow those who live in Central's attendance district to attend Central, but only the residents. In a sense, this would nullify our

open enrollment policy, a policy which has always guaranteed our much-valued diversity.

The reputation of Central High School would literally "go down the drain" if our source of students was cut off. Our academic, athletic, and extra-curricular excellence does not just come from the residents, but from all over the city. How many of our athletes, our musicians, or our editors have come to Central as a racial balance transfer? Clearly, the Board of Education must allow ninth graders to attend Central in the fall.

Certain people point out the supposed flaws with the plan such as overcrowding and the immaturity of the freshman class. According to Dr. G. E. Moller, Central's principal, Central can accommodate well over 2,000 students and that the change will barely be noticed. And seriously, as to whether or not ninth graders belong in high school, the sophomores would love to have someone to lord it over.

Despite all the objections and complications, it is imperative to Central's survival that we have a ninth grade class in the fall. Central's proven superiority is due largely to our open enrollment policy, and if freshmen must be added to preserve our excellence, it must be done.

Year round school creates havoc

This fall, several California school boards enacted a form of year-round school. Within two weeks, the boards reversed their decisions. The reason: the residents were unwilling to abandon the established tradition of a nine-month school year, and with good reason. (What is it that you

cannot teach an old dog?)

In the case of the California schools, the board members were bowing to the numerous reports of the apparent international superiority over the United States with regards to education.

Secretary of Education William Bennett is fond of saying that America has lost its educational edge to the Japanese, Germans, and the Soviets because they spend more hours in the classroom. Bennett claims that we are years behind (?), and that year-round schools are the ticket to success.

However noble and honorable this sounds, the plain and simple truth is that the majority of America's students and parents will never accept year-round school.

The most notable flaw of year-round school would be the abolition of the summer break. While a very small minority feel that this would "keep kids out of trouble," the absence of the summer recess would create havoc.

Each year, hundreds of teenagers use the vacation to pursue part time jobs. Whether they are saving money for college or for new clothes, the three months of summer provide an excellent opportunity to earn money.

Year-round school would eliminate all of this. It would prevent many from going to college, and it would also hurt businesses such as fast food restaurants, which depend heavily upon teenagers to staff their edifices.

Another complication with year round school would be the removal of summer school. Many students use this time to either pursue new avenues of study or to catch up on graduation requirements. Year round school would throw the proverbial "monkey wrench" into the status quo.

The problem with year round school that most people are

oblivious to is that of the teachers. Teachers would be required to work extra hours for little, if any, additional pay. (OPS can barely afford to pay its teachers as it is; what would happen if...?)

Most teachers would not consent to giving up their summers because they use them to supplement their salaries with part time jobs. Others just like having the time to themselves. Prospective teachers still in school might think twice about their chosen profession. Such are the results of an "honorable suggestion."

The loss of summer vacation would not be the only flaw of year-round school, but it emphasizes the insurmountable problems of the idea.

While the Omaha Public Schools are not currently considering a year-round school proposal, it is important to note the fiasco in California and the impracticality of the plan.

Americans, especially Nebraskans, are a steadfast bunch and could not, would not settle for year-round school. No just to be like the Russians anyway.

Sand, ants highlight Boot Camp

Rob Glasser

Physical conditioning, rifle training, bayonet training, chemical warfare, m-16s and live fragmentation grenades, three Central High School students recently endured these rigors in Army National Reserve basic training.

Seniors Jeff Howard, Kristi Rogers, and Joe Schlesselman have all enlisted with the Army National Reserves under the Split Option Program.

With this program the enlistees have their training divided into two portions, basic training and advanced individual training (AIT). By doing this, they can attend basic training one summer, attend school as planned, and then return for Advanced Individual Training where they learn their Military Occupational Service, or MOS.

Jeff's MOS will be light vehicle mechanics, Kristi is training for Military Police, and Joe is training to be an administrative specialist.

The recruits leave for basic training in the summer after they receive their orders. They then proceed to the military base to which they

have been assigned; this could be almost anywhere in the country.

"I was given cab fare for the ride to the airport, a plane ticket to the base, and payment for the service," said Jeff, who was stationed at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, for nine weeks.

"There was no drinking, no smoking, no clubs, and no sex. There was only sand and ants," said Jeff of the base. Joe was assigned to Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, and Kristi to Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

The worst part of the training, according to Jeff and Kristi, was the gas chamber used for training the recruits in the use of protective masks. "They called it the 'disco hut' because you dance and jump, and you can't breathe," she said.

Why would they put themselves through such trials? The Reserves can give an individual many advantages.

For Kristi, who wishes to secure a full-time Army career, it created such advantages as already being trained, earning more money, and enlarging the possibilities of promotions. Kristi said that the best part of the whole



Laura Grillo

Army recruiters Sergeants Adron K. Hester and James E. Taylor pose with recruits Kristi Rogers and Jeff Howard. Kristi and Jeff spent the summer in basic training.

experience of boot camp was the discipline.

"We were stripped of our individuality and taught to work as a team," she said. "We learned to depend on others and also to be depended upon." Jeff said that the first two weeks of the training were difficult, but after that it got better.

The Reserves can also offer such items as financial aid for college, a decent paying job one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, and instruction in a

trade that may come in useful, or even be a career.

All three students are paid regular wages for their service in the Reserves and have or will take advantage of financial aid programs that will go towards their college educations.

Kristi, who is training for Military Police duty, is on the GI Bill which will pay for seventy five percent of her tuition. Joe likewise is on the GI Bill, and Jeff plans to get on the loan repayment plan. The Reserves offer other benefits

as well as the monthly allotments, aids, and training.

The Reserves also gives these volunteers reduced air fare on military flights, inexpensive life insurance, and use of certain facilities on Military installations such as the theatre, clubs, and PX at Offut.

Be warned, according to these students, the Reserves are not for everyone. "If you have second thoughts or are joining just for money, you might not (want to) join," said Joe.

College spectrum wide

Steve Likes

NUMBER TWO IN A SERIES

To go or not to go; that was once the question on the lips of high school seniors as they pondered whether or not to go to college.

Today, the question has changed slightly. They no longer worry about whether or not they will attend college (for, of course, they will), but rather, where they will attend. "To go away to school or..."

The selection of an adequate school can be one of the most important decisions adolescents will ever make. To aid them in making a decision, students allow factors of size, location, cost and type of school to influence them.

A variety of choices

Aspiring collegiates have a wide spectrum of schools from which to choose, such as large public universities in small towns or old private colleges located at the hearts of major cities. From the 3,000 plus institutions of higher learning, the high school graduate must somehow narrow the choices down to just one.

Of all the factors, one seems to be of major importance to many of Omaha's teenagers. While many seniors in the 1960's once flocked to small, state-run schools to avoid the Vietnam War, students of the 1980's are expressing their desire to be somewhere else. According to recent statistics, Nebraska colleges and universities have not fared well with the natives as of late.

A spokesperson for the university of Nebraska at Omaha stated that, with some exceptions, UNO has had trouble

recruiting top-notch students. 96% of UNO's students are from Nebraska, but only 55% of the 1985 freshman class were in the top 50% of their high school classes.

Creighton University has had trouble luring native Nebraskans. Of their 1985 freshman class, only 37% were from Nebraska.

Colleges and universities

When choosing a school after graduation, one must decide between a college and a university. A college is traditionally a school for undergraduate study, often offering a basic liberal arts education. A university is an institution composed of several "colleges" for undergraduate and graduate students.

Names can be misleading, however, for Boston College, which is located in Chestnut Hill (not Boston) is a full fledged university with a law school. Both types are essentially the same; it just depends upon individual preference.

Karen Williams, a Central High School senior, said that money will dictate the distance that she will travel to college. St. Olaf College, Baylor University, and Rice University are her first choices, but Karen knows that she will require some kind of financial aid to see her dreams come to fruition.

Karen says that she prefers a small, private college in a rural setting instead of a "mammoth" public university in a bustling metropolis. She said that "the people are all there (at a private school) for the same reason: to get an education. Because it's a private school and they had to pay extra to go there, it means that they're willing to put forth some effort."

Continued on page 4

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Forced to enjoy Burl Ives Christmas carols

Well, it came and went again, Thanksgiving, and, more importantly, Thanksgiving Vacation. You probably couldn't ask for a better one, or could you? For God's sake, it only snowed 5 inches - what do you want?

What, indeed. Things like this simply are not tolerable during a sanctioned school vacation. To make matters worse, the brainless scum directing snow removal didn't think to let any of the trucks out until it became absolutely clear that hundreds of people would flock to his house (via snowshoe, '63 Buick, etc.) and snatch him from his warm flannel sheets and drag him away to be publicly flogged the next morning.

Anyway. . . Thanksgiving. Yes the time to be thankful for what you have and time to raise serious havoc with large quantities of food. The feast, as usual, was a devious work of gluttony. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing - it brings tears to my eyes just thinking about all that tender, juicy white-meat just steaming away, waiting for gravy. And, of course, there's the holiday atmosphere - just how many shopping days 'till Christmas? Wonderful, I can picture being thrown into Westroads for several weeks and being forced to enjoy Burl Ives Christmas carols. I'd rather rot in Hell.



Where the buffalo roam. . .

with Chris Vachaud

This year there was an unexpected guest at dinner, Doctor something or other. I'm not really sure of his exact name because I simply referred to him as "Mike," which seemed perfectly acceptable at the time. We stood around watching the Nebraska game (which, actually, was one of my main reasons for being there in the first place since that [choke] thing with the Sooners. I desperately needed to see the Buffaloes get the holy hell stomped out of them, even though I don't really mind Colorado that much) and, grasping for conversation, I casually mentioned that, "Oh, you *do* know that it is

customary to hang foreign guests upside down over the table for the first half hour of dinner, don't you?"

"What?" he said with a start, after soaking in only part of my hideous prank since he was watching Steve Taylor drop the ball on the ground as several guys in black jumped on it.

"Never mind," I said, "you'll find out later, anyway." He then looked around for a moment, perhaps casing the area for possible escape routes: third story windows, balconies, etc., and returned his attentions to the game, apparently either unaffected by the incident or prepared for whatever treachery might befall him.

But what holiday can be much fun when you harbor the thought of school and the torture that is always right behind? I remembered it all too well: the crowded halls, those strange little people, and, of course, the Tardy Patrol hounding me - always at my heels. Or perhaps a regiment of ROTC students gone amok - roaming the halls, quizzing sophomores with the butt of a rifle. . .but this, of course, could never happen. And even if it did, well, they aren't *real* rifles anyway, so why worry?

Why, indeed. . .

College choice involves numerous factors

continued from page 3

Cost is perhaps *the* deciding factor for most students. Over the last few years, the price tag on a college education has skyrocketed to the point that very few people can outright afford to send their children to college. Ivy League schools run about \$18,000 per year, and most other prestigious schools are on par with them.

State-run schools generally have lower tuition rates than private schools, but students attending public schools in other states will pay considerably more.

Financial aid

Financial aid is a term common to most collegiates

for over 70% of today's college students. Traditionally, the more expensive private colleges award the largest financial aid packages, enabling more students to afford tuition.

Bob Fuglei, senior, said that, although state schools present a "more relaxed, less snobbish" atmosphere, he plans to attend one of two private schools, Yale University or Macalister College. Bob's mother is fully supportive of his decision but hopes that he will receive scholarships and financial aid to help deter the bill.

Though many people do not realize until too late, the size of a college's host city makes a difference. Certain people feel that they "need" to be surrounded by cars, buildings, neon signs, etc.,

and therefore would better appreciate a large city. Karen, on the other hand, who would be better served in a rural setting. Again, it is a matter of personal preference.

Specialty schools

Another consideration is a specialty school, one that provides instruction or emphasis on certain areas. Music schools, technical schools, theatrical conservatories, dance academies, and science schools are among the more popular specialty schools.

Students must still fulfill basic requirements, but, for the most part, they concentrate on their majors. Former guidance director Dr. Stan Maliszewski said

that it is quite normal for students to want to leave the state.

Recently, he said, many graduates have attended such prestigious schools as Princeton University, Rice University, Carleton College and Duke University. "Students," he said, "hear of these students and want to follow in their footsteps."

He encouraged this kind of thinking, but he added that he "wants everyone to know that Nebraska has some very fine schools."

'Perfect college'

The factors of size, location, and type, not necessarily in that order, are guidelines to follow, yet the individual student must ultimately decide what is important to him or her and what is not. Choosing the "perfect" college can be almost short of impossible, but with some careful planning, it can be and has been done.



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**Oompadity
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with Rob Glasser

Have you ever wondered what society would be like if the species known as the Homo-Sapiens had not completely evolved physically? What if man still did not walk fully erect? This morning after I celebrated climbing my 300,000,000,000,000,000,000th stair, that question popped into my head. I looked up; people were rushing here and rushing there. I pictured them all walking stooped over like apes. A smile stretched across my face; this was far to amusing to simply dismiss. It must be pursued further.

Picture this (wavy lines indicating the movement from the accepted perception of reality to the land of Rob Glasser), man has not evolved to the fully erect human he is now. He never will walk upright, and you are the only person who does not walk stooped over like an ape. I have placed you in this world, my world, and your quest is to survive.

Everyone is looking at you like you are Paul Anka at Spike Death's Emporium of Nose Piercing and Definite Instruments of Pain. Running would do you no good. You would be the only person who didn't sprint like George Jefferson with a back ache. Thus you would stick out like a vegetarian at a beef-packer party.

Okay, this little world is not wild enough for me. Let's spice it up a bit. The normal color of the sky has been transformed (by me) to giant splotches of psychedelic pastel green, orange, yellow, red, avocado, fuchsia, and every other putrid color you can imagine. The hunched-over version of our

unevolved people all consider the "in" clothing style to be the fashion of Liberace coats, Elvis hair, and Elton John sunglasses. The popular mode of transportation is not the automobile, but the rocket-powered pogo-stick. Popular songs of the day are all created by Barry Manilow disciples and broadcast from every speaker available. There, that's a bit better; I'll add more as necessary.

Here is another little twist. You are still in the world of the hunched-over people except now they are no longer people. They are giant iguanas with Liberace coats, Elvis haircuts, and Elton John sunglasses. This is really scary, but picture it anyway. The biggest, meanest, flashiest Elvis Iguana comes up to you and says:

"My name is Electric Louis, do you want to dance?"

"The only dance I know is the Watusi," you say calmly, so as to avoid a scene

"The Watusi!" The lizard is roaring with laughter. "That dance went out with...with..." he scratched at the greasy mop of jet black hair trying to remember what exactly the Watusi went out with.

"The solar powered hoola-hoop," interceded an unknown lizard with a blinding, sequined coat. He approaches. When he is standing directly before you, he introduces himself with a low, sweeping bow.

"Good evening, my name is Lazer Lance. I would be highly honored to dance with you. Do you belly dance?"

You say "AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH," as you sprint away into the kaleidoscopic sunset. Oh, no, it's not a sunset; it's a sunrise. You have a whole day left in my world, so I am going to have to add sex and violence to our already delicious brew of ingredients. Electric Louis has accidentally ingested a gigantic amount of aphrodisiacs and Lazer Lance has a really itchy trigger finger (combined with his anger towards you for not dancing with him). I will leave you here in limbo. You must escape by your own design and natural

cunning. I'm leaving (wavy lines to represent my departure from the completely warped and ultraviolet world of Rob Glasser).

In briefs

Cornhusker award

The 1986-87 *Register* was named a Cornhusker recipient in competition with other schools all over the state. The Cornhusker award is the highest state honor given to high school newspapers.

Century Three Competition

Inga Soder, senior, is the Century Three Scholarship competitor from Central this year.

Former Central student receives honor

Raschelle Serghini, class of '84 and former O-Book editor has been selected as one of nine interns at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the 1988 spring semester. Raschelle is a speech communications major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

JROTC Inspection

The Annual Formal Inspection of the Central High School JROTC, conducted by the United States Army Officers, will be held on December 8 in room 020 beginning at 7:45 a.m.

Best Legs

Mallery Ivy won the "Best Legs Contest held at Younkers at Crossroads November 14.

Winter music concerts

Winter instrumental music concert has been scheduled for December 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Winter choral concert has been scheduled for December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

A Night with A Cappella

A Night With A Cappella will be held December 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral at Capitol and 18 streets.

Food Drive

Foreign language food drive winners are first place French Club, and second place Spanish Club.

Senior class officers

Senior class officers are President Jonas Batt, Vice President Bruce Lovgren, Secretary Sarah McWhorter, Treasurer Pete Pirsch, Boys Sergeant-at-arms Doug Howland, and Girls Sergeant-at-arms Robin Levitt.

Beautillion "spotlights achievements of senior men"

Ann Kay

The Eleventh Annual Beautillion was held on November 29 at 6 p.m. in the Peony Park Ballroom.

"The event is sponsored by the Urban League Guild," said Mrs. Faye Johnson, Central counselor. "The function spotlights the achievements of senior minority men," she said.

Mrs. Helen Patterson, chairperson of the Beautillion, explained that 25 young men from all of the Omaha schools participated in the pageant. Participants from Central were seniors Richard Ventry and Julien Fitzgerald.

According to Mrs. Patterson

and Mrs. Johnson, the winner of the pageant, who received the title 'Mr. Beautillion,' was determined by the amount of money a participant raised. Each senior sold tickets to the Beautillion and also sold ads for the program booklet.

Richard explained that a lot of the money raised went to help the poor and to help support the Urban League Guild society.

According to Mrs. Johnson, along with this, the group of men attends college fairs, workshops on future careers, and church functions.

The rehearsals for the pageant lasted 8 to 10 weeks. During this time, the group of seniors along with their mothers,

developed an act.

At the Beautillion, the Urban League Guild awarded scholarships to the two top academic competitors with the highest grade point average.

Richard and Julien both thought the pageant was a good experience which allowed them to meet new people. "We got to dance with our mothers. It was a night to be dressed up and look good; it was the senior boys' night," said Richard.

The winner of the Beautillion was Dwayne Holmes, a Senior at Omaha Burke High School. Among the Central participants, Richard Ventry won "Mr. Personality."

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The stage of dreams becomes real

Joël McCulloh

Did you ever "play house" when you were a kid? Or get the shivers when you found out that you had a one-liner in the 6th grade play?

Acting can be the stuff that dreams are made of, but everyone doesn't get that chance, only a lucky, fortunate few.

Seniors Thom Davis and Jennifer Shepard are two of those lucky few who display their skills in drama on local Omaha stages. How does one become an actor?

"It all started when I was shopping at Bakers Supermarket one day. I was standing next to the Haagen Daas ice cream, just about to grab the coffee flavor when a nine foot Jesus stepped out from behind the Weight Watchers frozen yogurt and said to me, 'My child, you must act,'" said Jennifer, her eyes misty with the memories.

"No, seriously, I've always been interested in acting. My mother says that I used to imitate the T.V. when I was a kid, and now the dining room-table is my stage away from stage."

Thom, who is also the president of Central's Thespians, began his acting career when he was in the 6th grade.

"I was taking classes at the Emmy Gifford Theater. My first show was in ninth grade; I was the crocodile in Peter Pan," he laughed. "They gave me the



Thom Davis and Jennifer Shepard pose amid the flora of the Old Market Passageway. You'd never guess they were in Nebraska.

part out of pity. For two years I auditioned there and never got cast." Thom is now trying to recover from Central's musical *Grease* and still burning energy after school by rehearsing for the Exploring Drama Post production of *Matchmaker*.

Matchmaker, the stage version of *Hello Dolly*, is a comedy about a woman in New York who finds fun in matching couples. "I'm playing Horace Vandergelder, which is the male lead. The Post uses the Golden Phoenix theater and all the work

is done volunteer," said Thom.

Like Thom, Jennifer spends most of her evening hours engaged in dramatic rehearsal. Right now, Jennifer is *Walking Through Walls* at the Magic Theater.

"*Walking Through Walls* is an environmental piece, meaning they change the entire environment of the stage. It is about love relationships and communicating; all the subversive acts in America," said Jennifer. "It really interferes a lot with my homework, considering I have to rehearse from 5:30 on and stay sometimes as late as 2:00 in the morning."

Thom also finds himself without leisure time on his hands. When it comes to school though, "the theater is first." Thom added, "This is what I'll be doing for the rest of my life, hopefully, so I may as well put forth all my energy."

But Thom gets used to it. This summer he performed with the American Entertainment Production, a group of professional entertainers that does shows for amusement parks. Thom worked with the group out at Peony Park.

"It was good experience, but I wouldn't want to do it again," he commented. Thom was the only Omahan to participate, and he was also the only high school student in the group.

Jennifer went great

distances this summer with the Magic Theater tour group. They took *Sea of Forms* and *Family Talk* on the road to Grinnell College and various Nebraska towns.

What does an actor do for the future? Act? "Naturally I intend to keep acting," said Jennifer. "I'll probably stay in Omaha for another year or so, and then possibly get a scholarship to a college in Connecticut for a summer acting program."

Thom is thinking a bit differently than Jennifer. "I want to go to Emerson in Boston, but that might be a little far-fetched right now. Tarkio is also a strong possibility."

When Thom does decide on his college, he plans to take a different angle to acting; theater management or directing. "It's something I can fall back on," he explained, "and still keep acting with a secure future."

Now that we know all about actors and how their lives are spent, there must be a lot they worry about.

"I really worry about finishing my A.P. English paper and how much 'white out' I'm going to go through," said Thom.

Jennifer had bigger things to worry about, though. "I seriously worry about whether or not I have ingrown toenails," she said, "and if I do, what will happen to me?"

Register Review

Flowers in the attic tend to stink

Ann Kay

"Oh my God!! V.C. Andrews died. What are her readers going to do?" whined a girl who had just finished reading *Dark Angel*, the second book in her second series.

V.C. Andrews became known for her series beginning with *Flowers in the Attic*. The series consists of three other books and certainly cannot be contained in a 1 hour, thirty-nine minute movie.

Although, the movie *Flowers in the Attic* is only one book of the first series, the producers concluded the movie in such a way that the series cannot be continued.

The books are masterpieces, leaving the readers waiting impatiently for the next book to come out. All her books in the *Flowers in the Attic* series are unique and full of excitement, the kind of book you just can't put down.

Major disappointment

The movie is a disappointment, however.

It changes the plot and makes the theme of the novel seem insignificant. Realize that the movie is only based on the novel. It's not a good idea to read the book and then go see the movie. It's far better to see the movie and then read the entire series. This way you can appreciate literary works to their fullest.

Powdered doughnuts anyone?

If you've already read the book or the series, remember that it doesn't follow the same plot, and it's missing the impact that the book had. It's nothing to cry over; don't pull out your hair, and don't ever eat powdered donuts.

By the way, a new book just hit the stores by V.C. Andrews, mysteriously. Andrews did die didn't she?

Jennifer Andersen

Do you remember the time you were so mad at your mother you wanted to slap her?

Maybe it is an every day occurrence but, hey, give her a hug instead or, (twilight zone music) she might lock you in the attic and start digging a grave for you in the backyard.

This happened in *Flowers in the Attic*, a movie based on a novel by V.C. Andrews.

The movie brings out fears that hit close to home. It is not the kind of slasher movie that is all blood and gore, but it is something that seems possible, a nightmare from your childhood coming true.

Don't leave me alone!

The fear of isolation acts as a device to capture the audience's attention and to make them wonder how such an injustice could happen.

Another source of fear comes from the grandmother and her ever-present *Bible*. You never know when she will appear, causing many people to hide behind their hands, peeking through their fingers.

These fears combine to form a great movie, keeping you on the edge of your seat.

Take a breath of Fresh Aire

Are you an avid fan of the Omaha area group Mannheim Steamroller, the geniuses behind the cool sounds of Fresh Aire? If so, this is for you.

Pianists Almeda and Jackson Berkey are performing a Mass that they wrote, "The Glory of His Majesty," on December 8 and 9 at the Central Church of the Nazarene, 8206 Blondo. Show time is at 7:30 p.m. and admission to the concert is free.

Also, the entire group will be performing its annual concert, *The Electronic Fantasy Tour* on December 22, 23, 26 and 27 at the Orpheum Theater. For more information on tickets see Tix, Younkers or the Civic Auditorium Box Office. Tickets are going fast!



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Three point shot is added to high school basketball



Over
time

with Lance Grush

The three-point goal has been in the NBA for years. When you think of great three-point shooters in the NBA you think of Larry Bird (Boston Celtics), Craig Hodges (Milwaukee Bucks), Michael Cooper (LA Lakers), Byron Scott (LA Lakers), or maybe Detlef Schrempf (Dallas Mavericks).

Last year the NCAA brought the three-point shot to college basketball. The line was placed closer to the basket on the college level, 18 feet and 9 inches away compared to 21 feet in the NBA.

The new goal brought mixed reactions from college coaches. Some teams greatly benefited from it (like UNLV and Indiana), while others were affected little.

For the most part the coaches liked the changes it brought to the game.

Some states around the country have been using the three-point shot in high school play for several years. It will be used in Nebraska's high schools for the first time this year.

Mr. James Martin, head boys' basketball coach, has mixed feelings about the new shot in Nebraska. "It's going to revolutionize the game," said Coach Martin. "I'm scared to death how it might affect us."

He added, "The biggest change is that it will be easier to catch up in a game. A

twelve-point lead could vanish in a hurry if a kid on the other team gets hot."

Coach Martin doesn't believe it will affect his team that much. He said we played Abraham Lincoln last year in Iowa, where the shot was used and it didn't change the game too much.

Senior Gary Wilson likes what the shot does for the game. "I'm glad they put it in," said Wilson, "because if we're losing it could help us come back quicker."

Eric Gilmore, junior, also likes the idea of the new shot. "I like it because it adds more to the game."

Coach Martin feels that a few of the players will probably benefit from the three-point shot. "I think the kids are anxious to shoot it," he said.

Wilson said the coach has talked about using the new shot. "He wants us to use it every now and then," said Wilson, "but not go crazy with it."

Gilmore said Coach Martin wants the team to use the shot a little more than they have. "He's encouraging us to use it more," he said, "because recently the guys have been afraid to shoot it."

After seeing a few college games last year, I really began to like the new shot. I feel that the change brought to college basketball last year by the three point goal made the game more exciting.

Even though quite a few teams rarely used it, it was still comforting to know it was there if needed.

The excitement it brought to the college game should be equaled on the high school level. I feel that the players who excel at shooting from the outside should be rewarded on the high school level as they are in college and in the pros.

Behrens begins fourteenth year

Andy Haggart

As the 1987-88 basketball season begins, Mr. Richard Behrens, boys' junior varsity basketball coach, starts his fourteenth season as a coach of high school basketball.

Coach Behrens started his Omaha teaching career at Tech High School fourteen years ago. "When I started at Tech, I didn't coach at all," said Behrens.

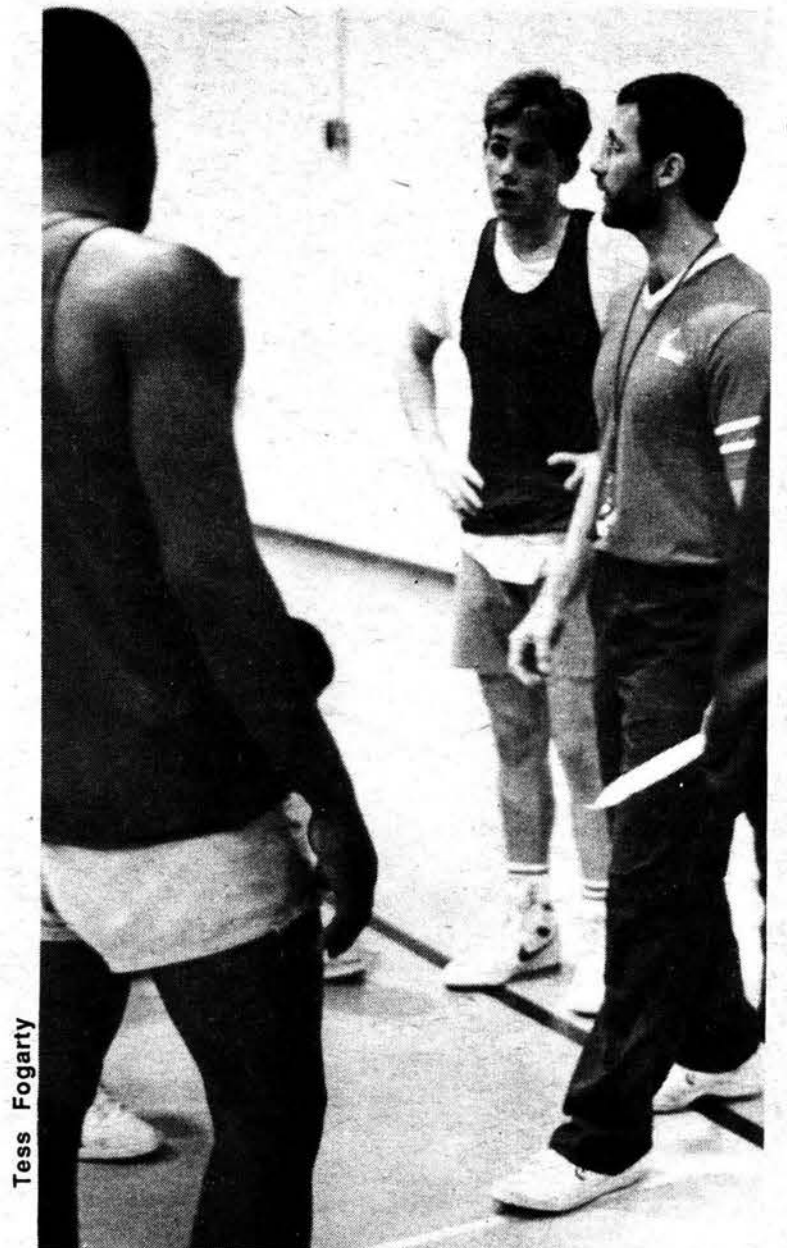
"I used to just work out and run when Gene Haynes (then coach at Tech) needed an extra player and asked me to play. After that I started to coach the sophomore team for Tech," he added.

Coach Martin:
"He works really hard and rarely leaves the gym before me."

This is the fourth season that Behrens has coached at Central. Behrens first worked with the sophomore team, but for the past two years has headed the junior varsity squad.

"Coach Behrens is a really good junior varsity coach," said varsity coach, Mr. James Martin. "He works really hard and rarely leaves the gym before me," he added.

"I would like to coach varsity someday," said Behrens, "but I like the Omaha area and don't want to move just to get a varsity coaching job."



Tess Fogarty

Coach Behrens talks to some of the junior varsity players during a practice. Behrens hopes to coach varsity basketball some day.

"What I like about best Coach Behrens is that if a kid does not come to practice and work hard, Behrens will bench him," said Martin. "This really gives me a good idea of which kids to choose for varsity," he added.

He started to play organized team ball in the seventh grade and continued through his senior year in high school.

During Behrens senior season he led his Abraham Lincoln High School team against first year coach Jim Martin's Eagles. Behrens' team upset the Eagles and Coach Martin.

Behrens started his basketball career on the playground when he was



Stop by to visit with Scott Parker, Midland admissions rep, when he visits Central on Wednesday, December 9!

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Basketball team depends on youth



Scott Drickey

All eyes watch as the ball goes through the hoop. The young members of the team need to work hard to prepare for the upcoming season.

Bridget Buckley

The success of the Central High School girls' basketball team this year depends upon the development of the younger players, according to Mr. Don Knauss, social studies teacher and girls' basketball coach.

"I feel we have a fine nucleus of considerably good young players including three players back from last year," said Mr. Knauss.

Returning starter Johnetta Haynes, senior, is probably one of the best basketball players in the state, according to Coach Knauss. Some publications have called her a pre-season All-American. Seniors Mallery Ivy and Ronnetta Hughes are also returning players.

"The young people have to come along in a hurry," said Coach Knauss. Ivy said, "The newcomers are going to have to get more physical, but after the second week of practice they are playing great."

"All the new girls look good; they are all learning the fundamentals faster than I thought they would," said Haynes. "We need them to produce because their height will help us."

According to Knauss, the team is relying on the help of junior Michelle White, and seniors Rahechel Smith and Kim Outlaw, players who have all had junior varsity experience. He said, "T.T.

Green and Letha Pugh might play both junior varsity and varsity. Although they have a lot to learn," he added, "as they learn the system, they will become more valuable."

Coach Knauss expects Lanetta Shields to play often this year because she "has good fundamentals." He said of Larissa Moore, a transfer letterman from Carmel, California, that it will take her a while to learn the system, but once she does, she will "help the team out." Tamira Anderson is doing well, he said, but has much to learn. He added that her height will be an asset to the team.

"We have to be in good physical condition because most of the teams run us to death," said Ivy. "We need our fundamentals to help us out."

Two of the first teams Central plays are Benson and Gross, according to Haynes. "They are the toughest teams in the Metro," she said. According to Coach Knauss, this will make the early season "a killer."

"If everyone learns the roles they have to play, it will make us a successful team. If we get down on ourselves, we won't be worth much," said Knauss.

"If we strive for success and develop our newcomers, we will win every game," said Haynes.

Sports brief

● Senior Jody Sharpe, an offensive tackle on Central's football team, was named to the Omaha World-Herald's All-Metro football team.

● Seniors Dan Stillmock (tight end) and Ronnie Barfield (I-back), and junior Abe Hoskins (defensive back) were selected for the second team.

● Sharpe, Stillmock, Barfield, and Hoskins were also named to the American Division's first team. Senior Todd Griffith (defensive lineman) and junior Kelly Yancy (I-back) were named to the American Division's second team.

● Seniors Brandon Choice, Wes Vogel, Jonathan Winfrey, Doug Howland, and Thomas Smith, junior Lester Ridley, and sophomores Doug Roper and Todd Reger, all received Honorable Mention in the American Division.

● Junior Amy Albertson received honorable mention on the National Division's All-Division volleyball team.

Former husker and eagle speak at FCA Cornerstone Banquet

Lance Grush

Keith Jones, former Central I-back, and Turner Gill, former University of Nebraska quarterback, spoke at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Cornerstone Banquet on November 19, at the Red Lion Inn.

The Cornerstone Banquet is the main event every year for the huddles (FCA groups in schools) in the

state of Nebraska.

Keith Jones, a senior at Nebraska and two year All-Big 8 selection, told some 850 people in attendance how he has been able to obtain purpose in his life.

Head basketball coach James Martin was honored with the FCA Coach of the Year Award at the Cornerstone Banquet. Coach Martin felt the great turn-out resulted from having the name

recognition of Jones and Gill. "In the past they've had great speakers," he said, "but they didn't have names familiar to kids."

Coach Martin said the first year FCA met at Central was about 1973. John Hascal, an assistant football coach at the time, "really worked hard to get things going," said Martin. "He worked hard to get kids going to the summer camps."

After Hascal left Mr.

Martin felt the responsibility to continue where he had left off. "We've been kind of up and down since then," said Martin, "This year seems to be an 'up' year."

Jay Martin, senior, likes the fellowship that FCA events provide. "It provides fellowship with a lot of kids your own age," said Martin.

Stan Parker, former Nebraska offensive guard, spoke at Central's first

meeting.

Senior Dan Backens enjoyed the pizza night with Stan Parker. "It was a lot of fun," said Backens.

Backens and Martin both appreciated and enjoyed having Stan Parker at the first FCA meeting.

"He was great," said Backens. "He really impressed me." Martin commented, "I liked him a lot; he's really enthusiastic about his job."

Girls swim team hopes experience and depth bring success

Bridget Buckley

Experience and depth are going to help this year's girls' swim team to qualify for state, according to its coaches Ms. Connie Kozak, home economics teacher and Mr. Mark Allner, math teacher.

"We have more experienced people this year so we should have a better chance at beating some better teams such as Ralston," said Kristi Covalciuc, senior.

Returning swimmers include seniors, Debbie VanAckeren and Kristi Covalciuc; juniors, Amy Albertson, Kirsten Glesne, and Cathy Clawson.

Goals

Nicole Gerhard, sophomore, has swum competitively for three years. She said that her main goal was to make it to state.

"Because Nicole is really good at the butterfly, she will help the team's medley relay in its quest for state," said Glesne. Albertson added that Nicole swims well in all events and will qualify for state in many of them.

Albertson said that she

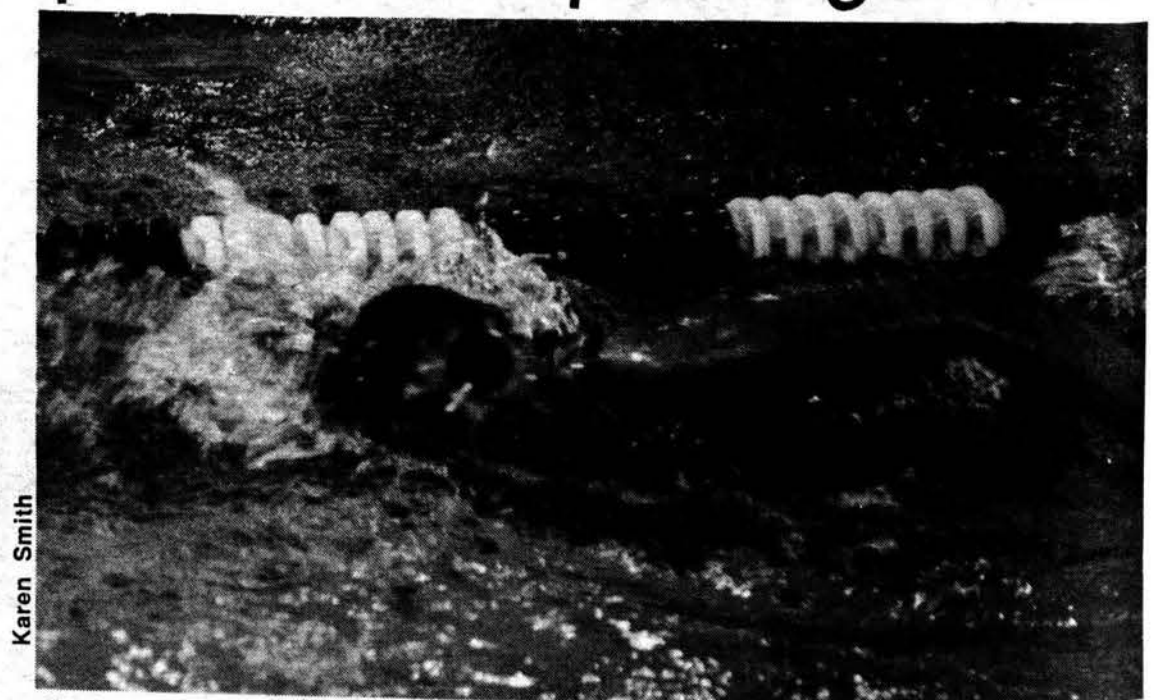
would really like to swim a 25.5 second 50 meter freestyle.

Glesne said that her goal for the year was to qualify for state in the 500 meter freestyle. The qualifying time for state is 5:54 minutes; she also said that her best time is a 6:10. She hopes to obtain this goal by the middle of the season.

VanAckeren hopes to be an Academic All-Metro selection this year. To do this she must maintain a certain GPA and qualify for state with the time she gets in the Metro meet.

Freshman Lisa Frey hopes to qualify for state in both backstroke and diving. She has swum for three years at Cryer pool. She has been diving for about five years with a lot of instruction which enabled her to learn all types of dives, including somersaults and twists.

"We have a really good medley relay this year and, we should be able to place in the top 8 in the state," said Covalciuc. "The relay team consists of Nicole or Kirsten swimming butterfly, I will be swimming breaststroke, Debbie



Karen Smith

Kirsten Glesne, junior, takes a breath as she swims freestyle during a practice. The goal of most of this year's team members is to go to state in their events.

swimming backstroke, and Amy swimming freestyle," said Covalciuc.

Setbacks

During the past four years the Central swim team has had four different coaches.

"It is really hard for our team to have unity if the coach doesn't know who you are or what you can do till the end of the year. Not having the same coach really puts Central's swim team behind. Not to mention the fact that we must

go to Norris Junior High to work out because we don't have a pool," said Covalciuc. "If a swimmer has a positive attitude and will get in there and try, she can do better than someone with lots of talent and no will power," said Albertson.