

New 'parking' legislation proposed

Justin Kerr

New legislation dealing with the problems encountered by various Dodge Street and West Dodge Road businesses with youth trespassing in their parking lots is slated to be in the works of the city government soon, said City Council Member James Cleary.

According to Cleary, current legislation dealing with these youth parking problems is insufficient for controlling the

problem. "Right now, the property owner needs to personally ask the trespassers to leave," Cleary said. "Then, he can call the police."

This policy is ineffectual, he stated, because after the property owner asks the trespassers to leave, they simply come back after the owner has left the scene.

The new policy would basically consist of "allowing property owners to register with police and post a 'No Trespassing' sign," stated

Cleary. "The police could then issue a ticket [without the owners being present] if they saw people on property which had a sign."

Although Cleary said he could not predict the cost of the tickets, he guessed "somewhere around 10 to 15 dollars." He added that the offender would probably also have to pay court costs and that the total fee was entirely up to the judge.

In order for businesses to register for the

sign and the police supervision, they would "need to show that they have had a previous problem with trespassers," Cleary explained.

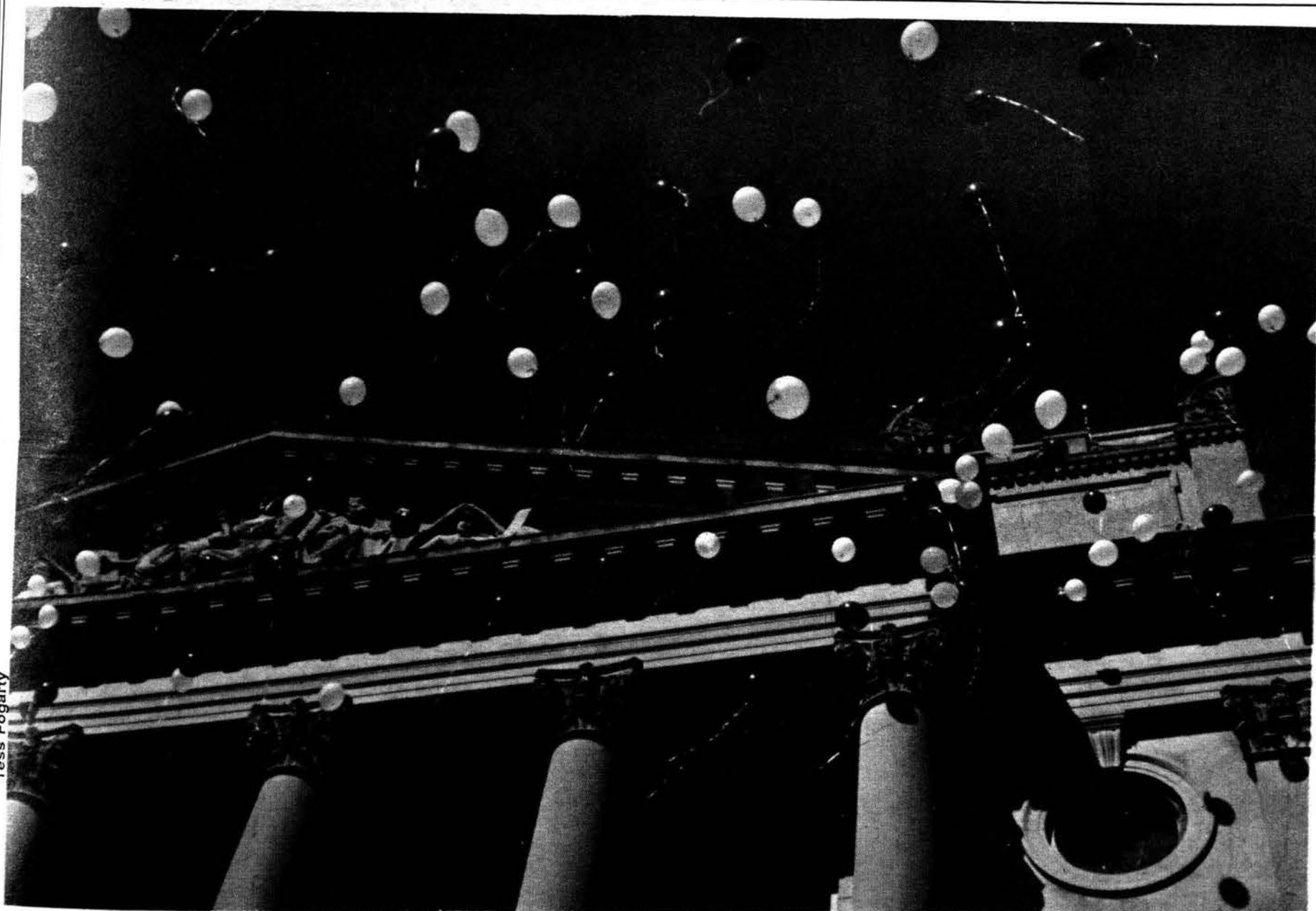
He added that the public safety director would decide the need of the businesses to register and designate the areas which would be affected by the new legislation.

The idea for this legislation came "both from the shop owners and myself,"

stated Cleary. "It was the idea to involve the police, but what I didn't want was the situation where police would go out and haul people in jail."

Cleary did not believe that the proposed legislation would call for more police to do the job, exactly the opposite would be the case. "This will save the police some time.... They won't have to run out [on Dodge] with every call. Now, they can patrol as they go by."

Continued on page 7



Up, up and away! The balloons from Purple Feather Day drift away from Central's East porch after being released by some 300 students. The surprise festivities honored Centralites who posted a 3.5 grade average or higher, automatically inducting them into the Central Honor Society.

Prom theme causes some controversy

Under African Skies boasts large turnout

Emily Rasmuss

The Central High School Student Council hosted the 1988 spring prom on May 7 in Central's courtyard.

Record-breaking turnout

A record-breaking number of students purchased tickets for this year's prom festivities. Students purchased over 420 tickets, the majority of these were for couples. At first only 350 tickets were available. However, after the increase in demand, Student Council increased the number of tickets. Mr. Semrad, Student

Council sponsor said that the council "has no way of anticipating demand except the previous year." In the past few years, student council has not sold over 350 tickets.

According to Mr. Semrad, limiting prom to juniors and seniors was an idea expressed last year. He added that such limitation did not seem necessary when tickets did not sell out and he still feels the change is unnecessary. Bruce Lovgren, Student Council president, disagreed saying, "Next year should be a junior and senior prom, because freshman will be at Central."

Not only were ticket sales a cause of conflict, but the prom theme, Under African Skies, also sparked a controversy. Dr. G. E. Moller said that the first theme that the Student Council proposed was An African Safari. Dr. Moller said, "We [Central's administration] felt that some members of the black community would be offended by any African theme."

No objections

Dr. Moller added that a heavy majority of the Student Council members including most black members voted for the African theme, and after

members consulted classmates and discussed the theme with administrators, there were no objections to Under African Skies.

Three students had a conference with Dr. Moller before prom and voiced objections to the theme. However, Dr. Moller said that after prom, "no one has expressed any offense over the theme, and prom was highly successful."

Candidates for prom queen were Tanya Hoffman, Sevrin Huff, Joan Jorgenson, Sarah McWhorter, Pia Mugerud, and Kim Outlaw. Prom king candidates were

David Chambers, Rob Glasser, Doug Howland, Rich Vogel, Drew Weiss, and John Williams. The Central student body elected Rob and Sevrin as prom king and queen.

'A good time'

After the dance a group of about 30 parents hosted an after prom party at the downtown YMCA. "We want the kids to have a good time after the prom," Verdell Temple, a member of the parent group said. "Parents' minds will be at ease if they know where their kids are," he added. Students attending the party were able to

Continued on page 7

Forum

What has been your biggest gripe or praise about Central during the school year?



Jocelyn Humphrey, senior: "I don't think that we get enough respect as adults from the administration. Let us eat outside and we'll clean up the mess. Let us grow up."



Wesley Loon, senior: "I think that Central should have an open campus for lunch for seniors."



Jason Weyerman, junior: "I hate it when we come back from vacations and the floors are slippery because they've just been waxed."



Darin Karstetter, junior: "I hate it when the drinking fountains are clogged with paper and when they squirt in your face."



Amy Edgren, sophomore: "I've had a lot of neat experiences, and I've learned a lot about people because of Central's variety."



Kelley Browne, sophomore: "I like Central except for the fact that we can't sleep in study hall and that the courtyard is closed after school."

Karen Smith

Central ends another perfect year

Blooming flowers, sweltering heat, and the state track meet can lead to one conclusion: that yet another school year is drawing to a close.

And, of course, it does not end as an unproductive one, for throughout the year, Central High School has added numerous awards and trophies as a tribute to our reputation as the finest high school in the state.

Athletically, the 1987-88 season was another fruitful one. Most notably: senior Joe Salerno capped his high school tennis career with his fourth Class A State Championship. Joe paced the tennis team to a fourth place finish at Metro and a fifth place showing at State.

Brecke Houston, senior and Central's star gymnast, took the all-around title at Metro en route to second place team finishes at both Metro and State.

And most recently, senior Mallory Ivy won her fourteenth gold medal as the Lady Eagles track team repeated as state champions, and the boys' soccer team qualified for the inaugural state tournament.

Academically, Central teams again topped most categories.

The Decathlon team won the state championship and again qualified for nationals. The team, competing in San Antonio, Texas, finished fourteenth out of 39 schools, the best showing for a Central team to date.

A Cappella Choir and CHS Singers received another Superior or "1" rating at the Worlds of Fun Festival of Choirs, "payment" for their dedication and devotion throughout the year.

The Central math team ended the year well as they won numerous competitions and, quite possibly, supercomputer which, regrettably, will not be located in Room 315 next year. Sorry Stuart.

DECA racked up many awards this year, finishing with fourth place at nationals, demonstrating that Omaha is indeed a marketing leader.

And, of course, the *Register* and the *O-Book* received numerous awards throughout the year for their commitment to high journalistic ethics.

But what's a year without controversy...?

September began with a closed courtyard during the lunch periods and a policy of no sleeping in study halls. Principal Dr. G.E. Moller finally caved in with the courtyard policy, but the study hall rule still lives.

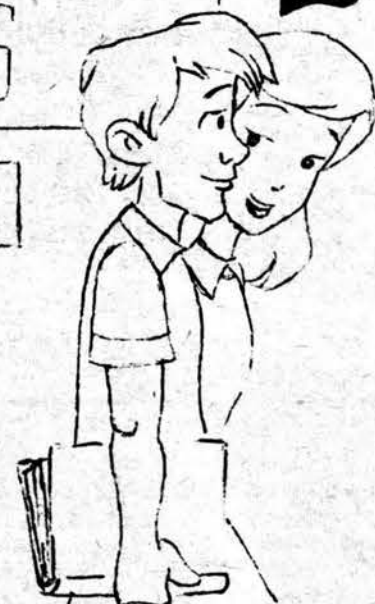
Battle lines were drawn earlier this year as Omaha was faced with the decision of whether to become economically productive or remain in the financial dark ages. Thank goodness our leaders wisely saw the benefits of becoming prosperous.

And who could ever forget the most pressing problem with which the nation was faced: Nancy Reagan and her horoscopes? Maybe if she had paid more attention to WhamoScopes we could have avoided Iran.

But in the end when all's said and done, it was a pretty successful year. It's all fine to practice 20/20 hindsight and wish to do things over again, but Central's about the closest thing to perfection that we of the *Register* staff have seen, and we will future generations the same.

FRESHMEN
AND
SOPHOMORES

PROM TICKETS →



Time for prom's return to the past

Central's 1987-88 spring prom, in keeping with past traditions, included underclassmen along with the seniors.

Including the whole school is a commendable effort, but the *Register* staff feels that changing the dance to a junior-senior prom would be a wise move on the part of next year's student council.

Ticket sales this year topped those of last year by about 80 tickets and the year before by close to 100.

With incoming freshmen, ticket demands will surely continue to soar if the whole school is eligible to attend prom. This would boost the number of prom-goers to about 800, far too many for Central's courtyard.

Many people believe that a change in location would

solve the problem, but the increased cost and the need for simpler decorations are reasons that this is not a plausible solution.

Students now start decorating in the courtyard during study halls and immediately after school the Friday before prom. Also, rental for a new location would drastically increase ticket prices.

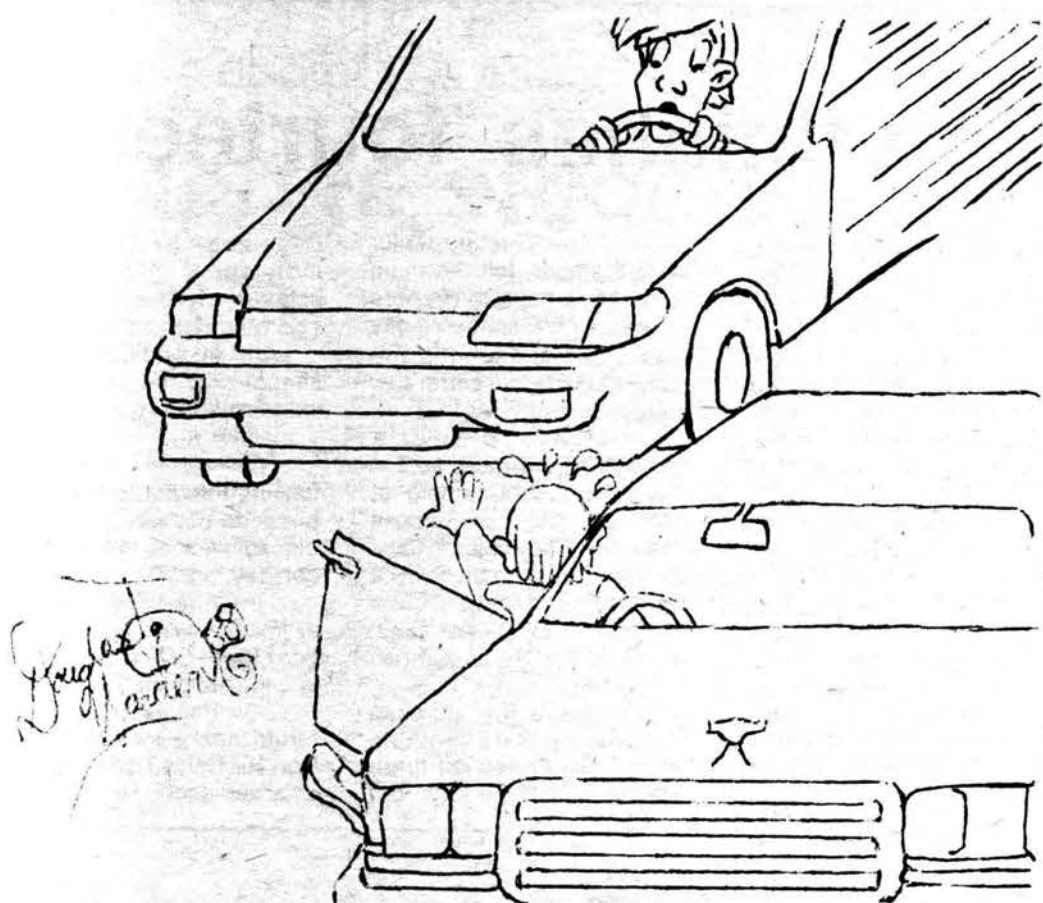
Another suggestion is that of opening ticket sales to seniors first and then selling the remainder to underclassmen on a first-come, first-served basis.

However, excluding only a part of the underclasses simply because of ticket shortages is unfair, and if the format was changed to a junior-senior prom, the problem would be remedied.

Perhaps an informal freshman-sophomore dance separate from the junior-senior prom is the answer. Including both dances during the year would enable all students to participate and allow for use of Central's courtyard without over-crowding.

Student Council spends well over a semester organizing prom. Granted, another dance would take more time, but a small informal to include all students and to raise extra money which Student Council could eventually give to the school via scholarships may be worth a few extra weeks of planning.

The *Register* staff appreciates the effort and time Student Council gives to the spring prom organization. We hope the Council will consider limiting next year's prom to juniors and seniors.



'Dodge Street Loiterers' plaguing Omaha, disturbing teenage peace

The warming trend that annually occurs about this time each year signals the end of yet another school year.

Yet the rising temperature has also unintentionally encouraged another unfortunate mishap: the congregation of hundreds of cars along Dodge Street.

While some might view the sight as tremendously entertaining and culturally enlightening, the gross display of loitering teenagers along Dodge Street from 72nd Street to 90th Street detracts from neighboring businesses and embarrasses the city.

In light of the increased traffic, City Councilman Jim Cleary has drawn up a proposed ordinance designed to curb the Friday and Saturday night gatherings, and the *Register* staff backs Councilman Cleary on his stand.

Almost without exception, literally hundreds of Novas, Dusters, and Gremlins descend upon the Dodge

Street parking lots every Friday and Saturday around dusk, rain or shine, for what appears to be no useful purpose.

Granted, remaining idle or just "hangin' out" has its

And quite honestly, these "trespassers" are little more than a blemish on the face of our society, a downright embarrassment to the city.

time and place, but when it interferes with the rights of another, such action, or inaction in this case, has to go. Such is the case with the Dodge Street Loiterers.

Cleary's proposed ordinance is aimed at prohibiting "trespassers" from gathering on private property, the numerous cars and drivers being the guilty party having little if any reason for congesting the area.

Many business owners cite a definite loss of revenue associated with the parking hassle. They fully believe that many patrons are unwilling to deal with the uncivilized behavior of the loiterers.

And quite honestly, these "trespassers" are little more than a blemish on the face of our society, a downright embarrassment to the city.

Such a law would not infringe upon anyone's rights, for it would merely prevent the teenagers from hindering the pedestrians and customers. After all, are they not the ones guilty of infringing upon another's rights?

With luck, the City Council will act quickly and turn Cleary's proposal into law, a move lauded by the *Register*.

Gangs a problem in Omaha, but blown out of proportion by parents

Recent alleged and confirmed gang activity in the Omaha Metropolitan area has given rise to fear and distrust not only of the Central High School administration but of other administrations as well.

And as parental distrust continues on the elementary, junior high and senior high school levels, groups of concerned parents have begun to gather for the purpose of calling for some type of protection for their young children.

While the *Register* staff concedes that the city's youth deserve the protection of school officials, we also realize that fear resides in ignorance.

Several weeks ago the fear of gang activity appeared to reach a peak when

an unidentified individual or individuals assaulted several male students. This fear increased with rumors that gang members would visit Central.

Officials stepped up security, and many parents were soon calling the school to learn details. However, some refused to believe reports that the injurious incidents were not gang related. They seemed to think that the administration was lying to them.

The *Register* staff believes that some fear is justified. But a great many Omaha citizens have gone beyond that to the point that their feelings are bordering on hysteria.

Granted, "just saying no" to gang violence will not get

this city anywhere, but if we must take action, we should do so by rational means. Only when we understand the situation can we dispel the fears and take steps to correct the problem.

Young people do indeed deserve protection; they should be able to walk to school without the fear of being molested by anyone.

But they should also be able to observe their mothers and fathers, teachers and law enforcement officials setting good examples for them.

In order to achieve this, the *Register* staff suggests that the people of Omaha use fear to their advantage rather than let it take advantage of them.

Letters

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the *Register* for the great picture and article pertaining to *Rehearsal for Murder*, this year's Spring Play. I would also like to thank and congratulate the cast and crews for an EXCELLENT production. What is it we say in the legitimate theater? I love you all and BREAK-A-LEG!!!

Mrs. Stommes

Addition - Treble Choir also received a rating of superior or "1" at the district music contest. Due to a Register error, this was omitted from the April 29th issue.

BEST WISHES!



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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 except for vacation and examination periods. 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.

Team 'worked hard' at nationals

Academic Decathlon finishes fourteenth

Jennifer Andersen

Central High School's Academic Decathlon team, representing Nebraska at the national competition in San Antonio, Texas, finished fourteenth out of a field of thirty-nine this year.

This is the best placement Central's team has had at nationals since they have been Nebraska's representative for five years.

Students competed in math, science, economics, language and literature, fine arts, essay, interview and speech and the

Super Quiz, a competition on the history of aviation.

Central placed ninth in a separate competition for the three-member alternate teams from the 39 schools.

Mrs. Marlene Bernstein, Decathlon coach and English teacher, said, "I was overwhelmed [with the results at Nationals]. If any team deserves it, they do because they worked so hard."

Rob Hill, junior and the team's only winner of two medals, won a silver medal in social sciences and a bronze medal in fine arts.

"I was very happy about the medals. I was

surprised about the fine arts medal, but I studied a lot for the social sciences," said Rob.

Senior team member John Miller won the Christine Camperton Award for dedication and persistence at the competition.

Lisa Wolff, senior team member, scored the highest from her team with a score of 7,190 points. The team had an overall score of 38,182 points.

The competition at Trinity University lasted three days and included a trip to Sea World and a fiesta for all participants.

Ann Gentle, senior team member, felt the team didn't have days to prepare in Texas. "We needed a day before and a day after the competition in order to prepare and recover."

Next year's competition, nationals held in Providence, Rhode Island, will consist of many changes. They will increase the size of the team to nine members, but only six will compete in the Super Quiz, which is on the American Presidents.

"With the increase of team members a strong school can sweep all three medals in a category, but

this can be unfair to individuals from other schools who worked hard," said Mrs. Bernstein.

In addition to the changes in the team size, the testing will also change.

"I'm really looking forward to next year because our alternate team did so well at the national competition."

She added, "I'd like to involve more people next year and get sophomores into the program."

People planning to return next year are juniors Rob Hill, Mike Lawler, Karen Lee, and Jenny Hendricks.

Guest speakers highlight DECA experience

Ann Kay

DECA, by now, is widely recognized as the largest club at Central High School. Along with all of their activities, DECA has a series of guest speakers.

DECA speaker inform the students about their types of marketing and management in the various fields.

The most current was Nicholas Flager, Omaha Congressional District II campaign manager for Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis. Mr. Dukakis recently won the Nebraska primary election for the democratic party.

Mr. Flager spoke to 150 DECA members on Thursday, May 5, not to influence potential voters, but to explain the marketing technique of a campaign.

"Mr. Flager explained the reasoning and

rationale behind the campaign, what messages to market," said Ms. Alice Bunz, marketing teacher.

"There are a lot of things we assume, but he explained why they choose a 30-second spot or a 60-second spot for television," added Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing teacher.

"We did learn a lot about the marketing technique, but we also learned a lot about the candidate," said Mr. Gaylor. "The speaker was not to support him, but about the money that goes into a campaign."

Every year, DECA campaigns a student for an office, the Nebraska DECA State Office. "We found that our campaigning is highly sophisticated also," commented Ms. Bunz.

Central has had a student in office each of the past four years. This year they campaigned two

students to office, one for state and one for district.

"In DECA, we have 50 students who are active campaigners; the speech was really helpful to those students," said Ms. Bunz.

Recently, more and more businesses find that a knowledge in marketing is essential with the continuous changes in technology.

Hospitals, doctors, and lawyers are starting to market their skills. "The key item they lack," said Mr. Gaylor, "is knowledge and practice of marketing."

A few of the other speakers that the club has had are Sandy Douglas, WOWT Advertising Account Executive; Ken Nielson, sales presentation from Phones Plus; and David Sanders, Omaha World-Herald Advertising.

Gaherty completes twenty-fifth year of 'immeasurable' career

Rob Glasser

"He is journalism," said Mr. Dan Daly, Central High School English teacher, with a look of complete conviction. "He's never missed a deadline." And that about says it all when you speak of Mr. T.M. Gaherty, English and journalism teacher.

Mr. Gaherty is in his twenty-fifth year at Central and each year has brought him more valuable experience and esteem.

He first came to Central in 1963 to teach English and journalism. He published his first yearbook, with the work of his students, in 1964.

Mr. Gaherty was one of the prime originators of *Dimension*, Central's annual poetry magazine. It first appeared in the *Register* as a specialty section, and then printed it in magazine form when he became the creative writing instructor.

His current duties now consist of teaching journalism one, creative writing, *Register*, and *O-book*.

Mrs. Marlene Bernstein, English teacher, described Mr. Gaherty's

work as "immeasurable." She went on to say that "every year he's so enthusiastic."

According to Mr. Daly, "what's impressive is [that] he's very determined that students produce the newspaper and yearbook. And they do."

"He's always in control," remarked Mr. Daly. Mrs. Bernstein also noticed his steadiness of character. "He's always been the rock when everyone else is goofy," she said.

Mr. Gaherty has amassed a long list of awards and accomplishments, including the Gunnar Horn Journalism Advisor Award, the Gold Award for meeting yearbook deadlines and innumerable Creighton and UNO journalism awards.

The outstanding feature of his workroom is the plaque-covered walls. "The awards speak for themselves," said Mr. John Keenan, English teacher.

Mr. Keenan said that Mr. Gaherty is the "ideal teacher" because he is "gentle and has a lovely Irish sense of humor." Mr. Keenan is impressed with the way that Mr. Gaherty has "maintained a high standard. He demands quality in output of students."

Self-assurance, appearance 'very important' in job hunt

Robin Leavitt

"In the wide world of job hunting, the most important part of being successful is to sell yourself," according to Central High School Marketing teacher, Mr. Harry Gaylor.

"Part of selling yourself involves the attitude with which you approach the potential employment position. In fact, 85 percent of job success is in one's attitude," Mr. Gaylor elaborated.

He went on to say that, in addition to attitude and the willingness to work, self-assurance is very important.

"Being confident and looking confident gives the potential employer a positive impression, which is extremely

important," said Mr. Gaylor.

Marketing teacher Ms. Alice Bunz pointed out that appearance and grooming are also potentially gigantic assets for creating the proper impression.

For example, girls should always wear a dress or a nice skirt and panty hose, and they should never wear anything sleeveless.

Boys should always wear dress pants, a tie, and socks. Also, one should be prepared and carry a pen.

In preparation for the 'real world,' an important facet is experience in the field of work. Commitment, time management and rewards for

success are all part of the jungle known as life.

Mr. Gaylor said that adding some business education to one's curriculum is also a very good idea. "Business education is the number one subject in school in terms of transferability to real life," he added.

In terms of a "job," there are two different phases one can enter.

The first phase is simply a job or an employment position.

The second phase is a career or a career position. A career is long-term employment with possible opportunity for advancement.

John Casablancas

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Now, just 'one of the gang'

Exchange students experience America

Amy Buckingham

They were strangers in a strange land when they first came to Central High School. Now, they are just "one of the gang."

Seniors Pia Mugerud of Norway, Melker Sandberg of Sweden, and Marcus Stephani of West Germany chose to sacrifice a year of schooling to see America.

limited view

Pia arrived in Omaha just three days before school started. "I didn't even know where Nebraska was," she said.

"Even when I got here my concept of the United States was really limited to the Midwest. But after being here, and traveling during vacations, my concept of the United States is so much larger."

She felt very out of place in "such a big school. I didn't know anyone when I got here. But as I made friends it got a lot easier."

prom candidate

Pia made enough

friends throughout the year to become a Prom Queen Candidate. "I was so shocked when I heard my name over the intercom," she said. "My jaw dropped to the floor. I never expected anything like this."

Pia feels that her American experiences have been both valuable and fun. "Being here has answered a lot of the myths that I had about the U.S.," she said. "And I think all in all that this was a wonderful learning experience for me."

Melker had a hard time convincing his parents that coming to the United States was a good idea. "They didn't want me to come at first," he said. "But I talked them into it. Now they think it was a good idea."

baby sitters

Melker found the school system here very different from the school system in Sweden. "Here it seems more like [the teachers] are baby sitting the students," said Melker.

In Sweden, he attends a school called gymnasium. It is in between high school and college and,

according to Melker, the classes offered are at "higher level" than those offered at Central.

But an added class load also brings added responsibility. "If you want to skip classes, well, then that's up to you," he said. "If you fail your classes because you don't go then that's your responsibility too."

more freedom

Along with more freedom in school, Melker has discovered that teens in Sweden also have more freedom in other areas.

"The drinking age in Sweden is 18," he said. "There are no MIP's (minor in possession of alcohol) or DWI's (driving while intoxicated). As long as you take care of yourself, it doesn't matter."

He is looking forward to seeing his parents at graduation for the first time in nine months. "We get to go through the ceremony, but we are not considered official graduates."

Marcus has enjoyed his stay here, but he is ready to start the long, 6,000 mile

trip home. "I am very anxious to go back home," he said. "I have enjoyed my stay here very much, but it's time to go home."

'different' environment

"The culture is different. The environment is different. The social patterns are different," he said. "I have found that I am very European, too European to live here."

But not too European to enjoy the different activities that the Omaha Public School System has to offer. "In Germany we have no extra-curricular activities, no clubs, no sports or anything like that," he said. "So for me it was fun to participate."

government exchange

The exchange program with which Marcus is involved, Youth for Understanding, is organized through the governments of both countries. "It was created," he said, "to promote better understanding of the governments between the two countries."

Because Marcus is in this kind of program, he will have the chance to visit Washington D.C. and to view the workings of our government in action.

Although many things about the two countries are different, Marcus found that the "West German Government and the United States Government are very similar."

"This is because after World War II, the United States assisted the West Germans with the formation of our governments," he said.

return home

Thousands and thousands of miles away from their native countries, these students all look forward to returning home to family and friends.

However, as Pia concluded, "my trip to the United States is an experience I'll never forget."

"Being so far away from home for so long helped me to learn more things about myself and the world around me than I'd ever imagined."

Marketers uphold 'tradition of excellence'

Emily Rasmuss

Central High School marketing students upheld Central's tradition of excellence at the national marketing competition this year. In the largest contest, a group project called the Pepsi Management Competition, Central finished fourth in the nation.

Seven of the eight

participants from Central received various awards.

Seniors Jason Lips, Jocelyn Humphrey, Renee Ryan, Chris Johnson, and Patrick Hairston, and juniors Jennifer Hausman, John Kozak, and Todd Beam attended the competition in Salt Lake City, held the last five days in April.

To qualify for nationals, these students had to compete at the district and state levels and place in the top three in at least one of 26 categories. Eight thousand competitors from all fifty states and four territories qualified for the marketing nationals.

"It's really gratifying for me that in recent years Central has been competitive on the national scale along with the state level," Mr. Harry Gaylor, Central marketing teacher, said.

Mr. Gaylor also said that Central's accomplishments at deca nationals this year are "the best that Omaha Central or any other Omaha Public School has done in the national competition in the twenty years I have been involved."

Jason directed the Pepsi Management project, which was the fourth place national winner. The award for this win was \$1250 of Pepsi stock to add to the marketing club's fund. According to Todd, co-director of the Pepsi project, the group working on the project researched and composed a forty-page manual on business management and goal-setting.

Todd was also one of eight state officers from



Jeff Howard

Patrick Hairston, senior, junior John Kozak, senior Renee Ryan, junior Todd Beam and seniors Jocelyn Humphrey and Jason Lips admire one of their many trophies.

Nebraska. "The officers meet officially about six times a year to decide what [the deca organization] will do during the year and to set goals. They also help at nationals," Todd said.

Renee placed second in the nation overall. Mr. Gaylor said that this was a significant award which added to his belief in Central's success at nationals. "It's something I'm good at," Renee said. She was surprised by her award.

Jocelyn won one event in her category, general merchandising, and received a certificate of excellence. The top twenty in each category receive a certificate of

excellence.

John and Patrick also received these certificates. In the general marketing and the finance and credit areas, respectively.

Jennifer Hausman was a medalist and received a trophy in the entrepreneurship category.

Taking marketing and attending the national competition caused the students to consider a future career in business.

Since the judges at nationals are people from the business world, "a lot of judges offered students jobs after graduation," Jocelyn said. She added that she "never wanted to go into business because 60

percent of college freshman enroll in business."

However, after marketing classes and her success at nationals, she decided that she had the ability to do well in a business related career.

Renee said that her experience with the judges at the contest taught her "basic business skills and how to deal with customers and buyers." Renee plans to use these skills in an advertising career.

All eight of the students who attended the competition in Salt Lake City expressed an interest in using their capabilities as business people in the future.

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School is nearly out; little things mean a lot

ED: The following are some depressing, sadly twisted, "I've lost my will to live"-type reflections made by CV in the second-to-last week of his illustrious High School career:

I think I've just about had it. School isn't just bothering me anymore; no, no it's gotten much, much worse than that - it's now a festering sore in the back of my head, growing larger and larger everyday.

Some of the people that I'm forced to endure everyday I can no longer exist with peacefully, and my absence situation is, well, critical.

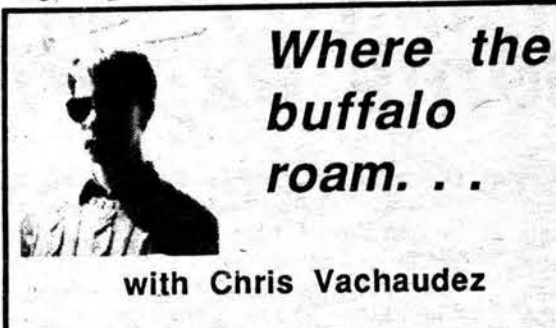
So what's a guy to do?

Well, I suppose there are several choices at my disposal, none of which are really that pleasant, really, but one of them simply must be enacted. Why? Well... I'm not really sure, to tell you the truth, but I'm sure it's important - to someone, anyway.

Anyway, on to my main point. Ah ha - a main point! Yes, that is precisely what this piece of columnation really needs after all, now isn't it? Why? Why am I asking you - someone who I'm sure really doesn't care in the least bit - all these questions for which there are no apparent answers?

Why? Well I'll tell you why: it's simply because I want to go home - away from here and everything involved with school, including this boring column...

To a land where everything is free and easy - a place where automobiles don't crumple up when you



**Where the
buffalo
roam. . .**

with Chris Vachandez

crash and where journalists make more money than anyone else. . .

It's not likely to happen, of course, and I'll tell you why: it's all because of those damn communists; or was it columnists? I can't really read my notes so I'm not sure. But that's important, at any rate.

School, as I'm sure you all know, is dangerously close to over - and none too soon, I might add.

What does this mean, you may ask? Well, for underclassmen it means summer and then more school next year, but for "Seniors" it takes on a whole new meaning - one that looks good, but not too tall, so that we can set it next to this one. . . with a path running through the middle.

A path, yes a path! (Neigh.)

(One moment, please, while I scoop my brains back into my skull.)

Right. . . I'm back and feeling much better now, thanks.

What I was really trying to say - in what I'm sure ranks as one of my worst attempts to think and act like a real, normal human being - is this: School (once this is in print, understand) will be a very nearly distant memory - and for that all this depressing gibberish will have gone down the drain and we'll all be happy once again.

In fact, on this day there will be no depressing thoughts allowed. (Except, of course, for sentimental reasons and for underclassmen who, on this very day, will go through the rough equivalent of hell, watching their Senior buddies running and jumping through the halls - frolicking. I know - it happened to me a couple times. . .)

So, keeping this in mind, I wish to everyone a very happy summer (Ah, yes. The matter at hand.) and a good future - and don't get any funny ideas about trying to imperialize the world, or anything. I'm working on a plan myself, and you just might botch the whole thing up. No-move hair, I'm thinking, will be the key to the future. . .

And take pride in whatever you do - even if its only a quick trip to hunt buffalo out on the back forty. Little things mean a lot.

And above all, NEVER take advice from me - That would be a very bad idea.

Seniors embark on Mexican mission

Justin Kerr

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy...." For most Central High School students it means sleeping late and worry-free days, vacations and long, restful nights. However, for seniors Jill Ogden, Karen Smith and Sara Siebler, summertime means something extra. They are participating in a mission program in Mexico.

The mission will take place in a small community named San Quintin, Jill said. It is located "about five and a half hours south of Tijuana."

Helping people

Karen added that the town was "really small, with about 600 people." In the town is a hospital where the missionaries will do much of their work.

"We'll go to the hospital [to work]. It's the only one in that area and the only place that the people can go," stated Karen.

Having participated in the program during previous years, Karen said that the group had previously built such things as "a septic tank and a waiting room."

Sara stated that she became interested in the program through Karen: "We went to a youth rally. . . I am also going to Europe and that will work well in my schedule."

Affiliated with the Baptist church, the group of 15 high school students will work with other missionaries from throughout the Midwest. "People from all over Nebraska come with us," stated Karen. "There are other groups down there all the time."

Raise funds

All of the people going on the trip are doing it voluntarily, Jill said, adding that they had to raise money, around \$470, in order to go. "We raised the money through church donations," she stated.

Karen explained that they "are planning to leave right after graduation." Normally, the program is from June 1 through June 12, but they will

miss the first few days of the mission because of graduation. Because of this, they will miss the first order of business through the mission: a visit to an orphanage located in a garbage dump.

Work, work, work

According to Karen, they will stay "in an airplane hangar, with everyone sleeping on the floor." Jill explained that the living conditions, for Americans, would be hard, but that the experience is still fun. "It is just like camping," she said.

While they are in the town, they will adhere to a rigorous schedule; working on the hospital, helping the children and conducting Bible study and craft groups.

Why volunteer for all of this hard work during their summer? According to all of them, the reason for this mission is "first and foremost, to serve God." They also cited such reasons as an interest in Spanish and the possibility of pursuing missioning as a future career.

Possible profession

Said Jill: "I'll probably do a couple more things like this . . . I want to go into it as a profession."

Sara is also considering missions as a profession, even though she "has never done this before."

According to Karen, the things she has experienced in her previous mission work make the trip worthwhile. One experience was especially important to her. "This one little girl, about seven years old or so, was sitting on my lap in Bible school. . . She gave me her ring; it was all that she had. It was so neat, because that was all she had, and she gave it to me."

Karen added that, when they leave, "the kids don't want you to leave. They really enjoy it a lot."

Jill summed up their coming time in Mexico: "It's more than a vacation; it's a time [with which] to work and to grow."



Seniors Jill Ogden and Karen Smith prepare for their mission trip to Mexico. The two leave for San Quintin, Mexico shortly after graduation.



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This is toast. . .till we meet again

**Oompadity
mau
mau**
with Rob Glasser



Reflecting on this year and the strange journeys we've taken into the warped recesses of the human mind, I notice that we have covered a substantial amount of material. You should all be very proud for withstanding one more year of this crash course called "Life". I applaud you all. But, before we all go whooshing off on our own merry ways there is one more little point we must touch on, (scream this with patriotism) the AMERICAN RAINDANCE!!!

The American raindance is a rather mystical occurrence that you all may have noticed in your day to day struggles with consciousness. Millions of Americans wash their cars everyday. Ironically, it rains somewhere in the U.S. everyday. Coincidence? No. This is no coincidence but rather it is the result of the American raindance. The American raindance was developed from the ancient traditon of the native Americans.

Because they were ignorant of Indian ways, people from all over the nation failed to appease the gods with the traditional "raindance". With a dollop of assistance from the "Great Spirit," the ancient Indian raindance ritual was transformed into the car washing ritual (unknowingly performed by Americans every day).

Thusly, everytime you wash that shimmering sports car you are invoking a serious thunder storm. The fury of the storm will be directly proportional to the amount of work you put into your "American Raindance". If you wax, expect a hurricane to come and strip it back off. If you do everything that can be done to tidy up your auto, expect a malestrom to come and wipe it off the face of the Earth. It's that simple.

Have you ever called somebody on the phone and right when they answered you forgot who you were calling and why? This is a strange condition called phonamesia (fone-am-nee-shja). It is generally caused by either a lack of brain cells or a short burst of rather startling stimuli. 100,000 volts of electricity is usually an adequate amount of stimulus.

Now that we've stumbled onto appliances I'd like to ask a really silly question. Who in the world thought up the concept of toast? And who dreamed up a machine to toast bread? If you want your bread dry, just wait a few hours. I think if someone would have been thinking the "untoaster" would have been invented years ago. Just think of all that dry bread lying around the house. If you could make an untoaster to revitalize your crunchy wonder bread,

you would make millions. The crouton was the obvious answer to the whole situation, but I think it actually ducks the real problem of untoasting bread by simply marketing dry bread. I know what's going on.

Along with the American raindance comes an assortment of small, yet bizarre quirks of the American culture.

This strange tid-bit is intrinsic to only a select group of people; those being overweight, immature, non-menial labor types. Of course, I'm talking about the wearing of those fingerless driving gloves. You've seen them on those smooth, unbuttoned shirt and gold chain wearing middle-aged macho-man dudes. These are the guys that get blisters shifting gears in their gas guzzling street machines. I really don't know what else to say about a group of folks that use the phrase "the whole enchilada" continuously.

Here's a strange one that belongs to the refrigerator worshippers of America. This phenomena causes people to pattern their afternoon around the ice-box. The person looks for something to eat in the fridge, doesn't find anything, and returns every five minutes to see if anything edible has procreated in their absence. This is one of the strangest behaviors pertaining to refrigerators, not to mention the people that still try to get the dumb things open before the light comes on.

And, in conclusion I'd like to say...Ar ar ar ar ar ar ar. "til we meet again, ciao, hasta luego, auf wiedersehen, aloha, adios, au revoir, see ya later, take it easy, goodbye.

West Dodge Road trespassing legislation 'in the works'

continued from page 1

Said Cleary, "The police have been receiving complaints for years." He added that most of the trouble was not due to the parking itself but to the vandalism and littering which occurred in the parking lots.

However, "most of the kids who are out there are good," he stated. "I know it is a main argument [against the legislation] that all would be punished for the crimes of a few, but something has to be done."

A public hearing on

the legislation is tentatively scheduled on June 7 in the city-county building at 2:00 and everyone is welcome. "We would like to see as many people as possible come," Cleary said, "especially youth."

Cleary stated that there has been no overt opposition to this bill and that he would welcome it. "I haven't recieved any mail or phone calls, but I wouldn't mind seeing some." He especially would like to hear the views on the subject from the young people of Omaha.

**This proposed
legislation
"hopefully
won't be
construed as
anti-youth."**

This proposed legislation, stated Cleary, "hopefully won't be construed as anti-youth. I went out [on Dodge] last summer and spoke with the people there. Most of the kids were not making problems."

Said Cleary: "I hope that kids will respect the rights of property owners." He added that he thought that the proposed legislation would be an active deterrent to the problems in the parking lots.

Cleary stated that he hopes to find "an acceptable alternative" to parking on Dodge for the young people of Omaha. "All we need is a place, well lit, with room for parking and cruising."

He added, however, that this "might be too structured to catch on."

Whatever the future may bring, Cleary plans to keep in touch with the Dodge street parkers. "I plan to go out there again."



From Queen Sevrin Huff and King Robert Glasser pose after their crowning in the Central High School courtyard. Prom was held May 7.

Prom festivities considered 'successful'

continued from page 1

utilize the whole YMCA facility.

Dr. Moller at first denied the parents permission to advertise for and sell tickets to the after prom party during school. His reason was that CEP, Central's parent teacher organization, had already voted against an after prom party so that it would not be a school-sponsored activity. He did not want "to be legally liable for any kind of lawsuit."

Dr. Norbert Schuerman, superintendent of Omaha Public Schools, encouraged Dr. Moller to allow after prom party ticket sales in school and assured him Central would not be liable since the party was not school sponsored. "I was pleased that he (Dr. Schuerman) made that decision," said Dr. Moller, who favored the after prom party.

As a whole, students who participated in prom festivities considered them successful.

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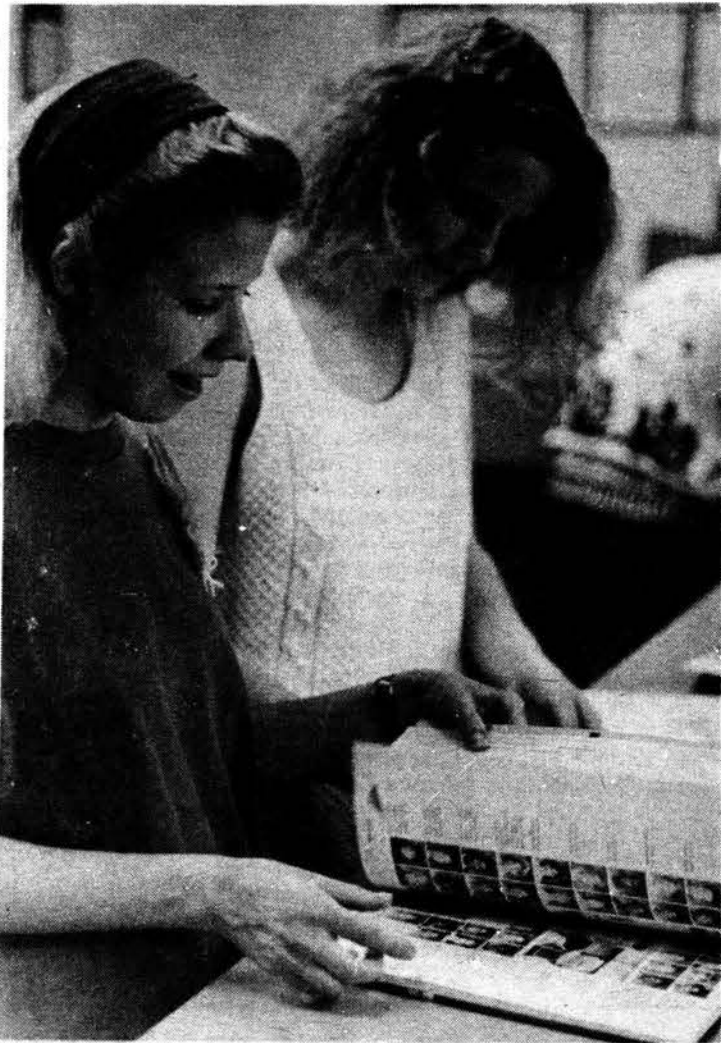
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New staffs experiment during second semester



Shawn Coleman

Alex Zinga, yearbook editor, gives Becky Barnes, next year's editor, some helpful hints on layout.

Ann Kay

As the year draws to an end, new people with new, unique qualities will head the Central High School journalism department productions. Those students eligible for staff positions took a semester of journalism during the past school year.

Writing features, in-depths and news stories; selling ads; and laying out pages are just a small part of what makes the *Register* staff operate. Next year's editor-in-chief is...Justin Kerr. The new staff is much larger than this year's, adding assistant editors as well as more writers.

"I believe in this staff. I think that if we can get together we will be the best staff this school has seen," said Justin. He added that his reasoning is mainly because the staff is larger.

This year, Mr. Mike Gaherty, journalism advisor, added three juniors to the staff for second semester. Those students were Justin Kerr, John Musselman, and Emily Rasmuss. The experience these three students gained will obviously be a great benefit to the newspaper throughout the coming year.

"It's a very valuable asset. I'm really glad to be on the staff this semester, it will be really helpful," said Justin. "I have a good feeling of how

the *Register* operates by watching how people handle circumstances."

The executive editor is...John Musselman. Johnny's attitude is one of excitement and enthusiasm about being on the new staff.

"It will allow me to put my ideas into action," he said. Johnny realized from watching Renee Besancon, present executive editor, how much work the position involves. "People don't realize what has to be done," explained Johnny.

The next editorial editor is...Emily Rasmuss. "I don't think I'll change that much, I'll keep a lot of Steve's style [Steve Likes is the current editorial editor]," said Emily. "But there's always room for improvement," she added.

"Research is really important for editorial writing. I need to keep up-to-date with current issues, and there's also an assistant for next year [Kimberly Gossin]," said Emily.

The new O-Book staff will be responsible for capturing the year through activities, clubs, organizations, sports and classes in pictures. As the current staff knows, making a yearbook takes a lot of time and dedication. Unlike the newspaper, the yearbook is a single production for the entire year, and it takes that long to compile.

The 1988-89 O-Book editor is...Rebecca Barnes. Rebecca also spent second semester in yearbook as a junior.

"I've seen a lot of what goes on, with layout, and other things," said Rebecca. She plans to keep the senior pictures in black and white, and a candid color section. This summer, Rebecca plans to attend a journalism camp at Northwest Missouri State.

"All the people will be fun to work with; it will be a lot of responsibility," concluded Rebecca.

Another important aspect to both the *Register* and the O-Book, are photographers. This year, due to the elimination of a photography class at Central, photographers were hard to come by. The current staff consists of nine photographers, next year's staff has four. Making each person deal with twice as much work.

So, this year's journalists have now retired their positions to fresh, unexperienced and experienced juniors. Both of the former staffs feel that their work is quality and will take some effort to top.

"We set a precedent that, I believe, future staffs will follow," concluded Steve Likes, former editorial editor.

Mrs. Brokaw incorporates teaching with business

Amy Buckingham

She walked the halls of Central High School 23 years ago, but her memories remain vivid and real. Mrs. Meredith Brokaw was an English teacher at Central in 1963, 1964, and part of 1965.

"Teaching more than any other profession, is a gift."

The name Brokaw may sound familiar. Her husband, Tom, was a newscaster for KMTV during their stay in Omaha and is now the anchorman for NBC.

Mrs. Brokaw now lives

in New York City, New York and owns five toy stores in that metropolitan area.

She attributes the success of her business to her successful teaching experience at Central.

"Some people think that teaching and business are two totally different fields," she said, "but they're not. You use the same skills. You relate to students the same way you relate to customers."

She also feels that teaching has helped her to bring up her three daughters. "You teach your children every day. Teaching, more than any other profession, is a gift."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brokaw grew up in South Dakota. "I think that we've had the best of both worlds," she said. "The wholesome values, people and friendships in the

Midwest and the opportunities of the 'big city.'

"The tradition and the respect for tradition at Central [were] powerful."

"Having my own career, and with the line of business Tom is in, I have met some exciting people. New York is such a melting pot of culture and language that it gives one many opportunities to meet new people."

Life in New York, according to Mrs. Brokaw,

goes "too fast," and there is "too much to do." But teaching was a "magnetic field" for her. It gave her a chance to "learn and grow."

Although Mrs. Brokaw's life has taken a dramatic turn since she was in Omaha, she took with her some "overwhelming impressions of Central."

"The tradition and the

respect for tradition at Central [were] powerful," she said. "I think that teaching is a very personal experience."

"Teachers have the ability to have such an influence on their students," she continued, "and when that influence can be positive, I think teaching is such a wonderful opportunity, one that I wouldn't have changed."

Attention Photographers!



Your skills are needed next year as a photographer on the Central High Register and Yearbook staffs.

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- 124 Birth Control - How Well Does It Work?
- 125 Which Method Should I Use?
- 126 Is There A Safe Time Of The Month?
- 129 Birth Control Information For Men
- 116 Natural Family Planning
- 115 Condoms and Foam
- 117 The Pill
- 118 How To Take Your Birth Control Pills
- 119 Problems With The Pill
- 120 The Diaphragm

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- 130 How To Get A Pregnancy Test
- 131 Symptoms of Pregnancy
- 336 Alcohol and Pregnancy
- 132 Drugs and Medication During Pregnancy
- 133 Teenage Pregnancy
- 215 Adoption: A Loving Choice
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- 136 The Pelvic Exam
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Decrease in college students

Application process takes time

Justin Kerr

Springtime. Time to lie out in the sun and start to think about summer plans, time to dust off the bicycles and re-tape the baseball bats.

For most Central High School seniors, it is also time for the daily rush to the mailbox to look for notice from the college or the colleges to which they applied.

Either a thin letter with a rejection notice or a fat package filled with acceptance forms may greet them; however, in past years, the methods of acceptance and the qualities of the applicants have changed. The application game is not what it once was.

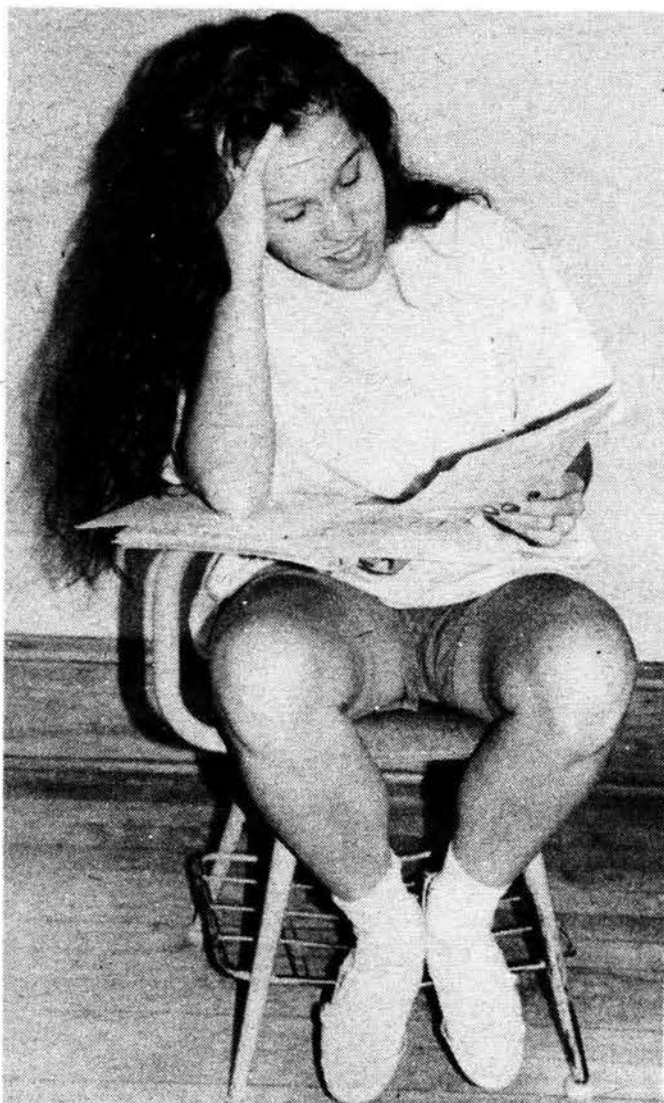
This is partly due to the decrease in the numbers of potential college-bound high school students. According to a 1982 seminar announcement from the American Association for Higher Education, "a 23 percent drop in college-aged people will occur over the next 15 years."

An article in the *Wall Street Journal* predicted that "by 1994, there will be at least 37 percent fewer graduating high school seniors than in 1980 in such Northeastern states as New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut.... Mid-western states...also will be hard hit with declines exceeding 30 percent."

Central, however, has not been affected by this trend, said Mr. Steve Nelson, head guidance counselor. "This [the decreasing numbers of college applicants] is not true at Central."

Despite the demographic trough of college-aged students at most other schools, "applications at a number of schools are up," said *U.S. News and World Report* in its 1987 ranking of America's best colleges.

"The competition for available spaces at the nation's most selective



Karen Smith

Jackie Dickes, senior, rumages through college paraphernalia. Many seniors have a tough time choosing what college or university to attend.

colleges has never been stiffer."

As an example, Harvard University, one of the most prestigious universities in the nation, had the largest number of applicants in its 351-year history.

Said *U.S. News and World Report*, "of the 14,215 who sought admission to the class of 1991, only 15 percent were accepted."

Again, Central differs

from the norm, Mr. Nelson explained. "Although some students take a shotgun approach, most of them have a select few colleges that they apply to."

He added that the students who apply to such universities as Stanford and Yale "do it primarily because of prestige."

One disturbing trend that some college presidents have noted is the decline in

applications from black and Hispanic students.

Stated Daniel Chamberlain, president of Houghton College in Upstate New York: "The percentage of minority students is increasing in our society and decreasing in our colleges."

"We must do more to prepare such students for college and also provide them with incentives and assistance for attending college."

Mr. Nelson stated, however, that some people are taking measures to help minority students. He cited such Omaha programs as Upward Bound, "a college preparatory program for talented minority students," and a summer program through UNL.

Another trend which Richard Moll notes in *The Public Ivys* is the movement away from private, often more expensive colleges to the large public universities.

"Although students pursue admission to the most costly private universities to 'know they could have gone,' more and more often the matriculation deposit is paid at the less expensive public institution of similar quality and rising prestige."

Central, as with the rest of the demographic trends, does not seem to follow this path.

Said Mr. Nelson: "I have seen no movement from private to public [at Central]."

He added that although there were no existing statistics on the number of Central students applying to either private or public institutions of higher learning, "around 19-20 percent of the students [at Central] applied to 'highly selective' schools."

As advice for sophomores and juniors who are still taking part in the selection process, Mr. Nelson advised them to "start planning now; start collecting college handbooks; use the career center. Start working on your college plans now."

In briefs

A Cappella

Central's A Cappella Choir and CHS Singers recently attended The Worlds of Fun Festival of Choirs, May 14 and 15. A Cappella received a "1" in division class A. CHS Singers also received a "1" rating.

Journalism Winners

At the final state journalism competition, four seniors received high honors. They were: Alex Zinga, first place in yearbook layout; Tess Fogarty, first in photography; Joel McCulloh, first in entertainment; and Lance Grush, third in sports writing.

At the Creighton University competition senior Rob Glasser won the By-Line Award in the best writing category. Runners-up included: seniors Renee Besancon, editorial writing; Doug Warden, editorial cartooning; Jonas Batt, front-page layout; Tess Fogarty, photography; and junior Johnny Musselman, sports writing.

Honors Night

Central High School's Honors Night was held Monday, May 23. The program announced senior recipients of various scholarships.

Senior Picnic

The annual senior picnic will be held Friday, May 27 at approximately 11:30, at Elmwood Park. Senior Class officers will announce Senior Testaments winners at the picnic.

Chemistry Finalist

The final results for the Chemistry teams leaves the first year team of Rick Pallat, Ziqiang Wu, Dan Everding, Lisa Hobson, Angie Plandl, Larry Rock, and Eric Troy fourth place in the nation. The AP Chemistry team of Jim Kemp, Allen Klopfer, Eric Rihanek, Todd Weddle, Sevrin Huff, Lance Grush, and Steve Likes stands fifth overall in the nation.

Buffett Awards recognize Central teachers

Ann Kay

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How did two Central High School teachers win \$10,000? No, it was not the result of manila envelopes displaying pictures of Ed McMahon.

Mrs. Marlene Bernstein and Mr. John Waterman recently received the Buffett Award. The Buffett Award recognizes 15 teachers from the Omaha Public Schools

district with \$10,000.

The award is based on recommendation letters from people in the OPS society.

Mr. Waterman, math teacher and department head, joked that winning the money made him feel "overwhelmed with greed." He has no real plans on how he will use the money except to "blow it," he chuckled.

Mr. Waterman said that in all seriousness feels that the program is "terrific. I'm in full support of recognition of teachers in any form," he said.

He added that, "teachers tend to be a neglected animal in this society, the more recognition they receive the better."

Mr. Waterman credits his achievement to "the fact that I've had several students over the years who feel appreciative for having me as a teacher."

Mrs. Bernstein, English teacher, said in jest, "It's about time." When the call came, informing her of the award, she thought her husband was playing a joke on her.

Her plans for the money? She intends to "get a white, neon whale." She hasn't decided yet what she will do with the rest of the money.

"Today, I'd like to get my room air conditioned or buy myself a department so I can be department chairwoman," she said.

In addition to these expenses, Mrs. Bernstein plans to rent a silver turbo Porche Targa and drive her

husband down to Kansas City. "My husband says we're going to pay my cleaning bill."

Thoughtfully, Mrs. Bernstein said of the Buffett Award, "I think it's great. One of the side effects is that I've heard from a lot of my students that I haven't heard from in a long time."

Mrs. Bernstein attributes her winning to the fact that "my kids are great writers."

She added, "At Central there are so many great teachers, the faculty has overwhelmed me with letters and notes; that is gratifying. I felt like I was winning for Central."

"I'm grateful the award is more than one year, that takes the pressure off," concluded Mr. Waterman. He added that the fact that the awards are given every year allows more teachers to win.

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Central family decides to "love" Honduran orphan

Joel McCulloh

"Her name is Rebecca Emilia Pollreis Deitrich, but when she comes to America, we'll call her Emilia," said Stephan Deitrich, Central High School junior, grinning proudly. Stephan and the Detriech family are adopting a three and a half year-old girl from the country of Honduras.

"My mother has always wanted to adopt a child, but my father was against it," Stephan stated. "Now that my parents are divorced, she wanted to do it, but she didn't have the money." Just recently, the Deitrich family inherited a sum of money, and the adoption process began.

For the last year and a half, they filled out papers and applications which were processed for the Deitrich's dream. The family had to adopt from a Latin American country because other countries look down on divorced families. There was also the option of adopting an American child, but "an American orphan has a chance; the children in Latin America don't have a chance. They die at an early age or become slaves their entire lives," Stephan explained.

"An American orphan has a chance; the children in Latin America don't have a chance."

Stephan continued, "Emilia is a bit malnourished, but a few weeks in America should change that."

"We applied to countries such as Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Honduras and Guatemala," said Stephan. But Honduras was the

first country to respond and the Detrieche took it.

They planned to visit Emilia before her arrival in the United States, but many times the departure dates were cancelled. Finally, on April 31, Ms. Deitrich was able to visit Honduras and meet little Emilia for the first time. Stephan had planned to accompany his mother, but because of current political problems in Honduras, officials advise that minors not go.

"One time my mother bought Emilia a bag of chocolate, and she had to show her that it was food."

Emilia is currently living in a state run orphanage in Honduras, and according to Stephan, it "isn't a very nice place. There are about 150 children, and they sleep on the floor without blankets or pillows, and the meals consist of rice and water."

Being in an orphanage, the children are deprived of many things to which Americans are accustomed. "One time my mother bought Emilia a bag of chocolate, and she had to show her that it was food," Stephan said. "When she finally ate some of it, she would not let go. Emilia slept with it, and the next morning it was all melted, but she still hung on."

"Emilia also got her very first toy," he said. "My mom say her looking at it in the store, so she bought it for her. And now she clutches on to that."

"Emilia knows who we are," said Stephan. "She has a picture of the family, and her dogs. It will take a while to adjust, but we'll just have to love her."



Jill Ogden

Junior Stephan Deitrich shows *Register* staff member Joel McCulloh a picture of his new Honduran sister.

Competition honors heritage

Central students participate in Afro-Olympics

Jennifer Andersen

The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, ACT-SO, held its eighth annual competition at the University of Nebraska at Omaha on April 23.

Many Central High School students participated in the event which the Omaha branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sponsored.

Over 50 contestants from various parts of Nebraska competed in 24 categories under the areas of performing arts, humanities, science, and visual arts.

Of the 50 contestants, 14 were first-place winners, including two Central students, senior Khea Newby and junior Monica McSwain.

These two earned a trip to the eleventh national ACT-SO competition July 9-10 in Washington, D.C.

"I'm really excited for the competition," said Khea. She won first place with her poem "Special Thanks to All Afro-Americans" in the Nebraska contest. This will be her second year at the national event.

Monica's first place at the state level was from the dance competition. She performed a modern ballet spiritual, and she will perform it again at her third year at nationals.

The contestants have the opportunity to win scholarships for their achievements.

At the national competition, the contestants have the opportunity to win scholarships for their achievements: \$1000 for a first place, \$750 for second, and \$500 for third.

Monica, who will dance in the performing arts competition, said, "The biggest competitions are in the areas of dramatics and vocal [music]." She added that there are as many as 1000 contestants in one of the 24 categories.

"I'm really looking forward to it [competition]," Monica said. She added, "It's a really big event with all the contestants staying within the same area; they also have celebrities as speakers."

At the state competition, Central High School also received three special recognition plaques for seniors Patrice Pittman and Khea Newby, and junior Monica McSwain.



Laura Grillo

Senior Khea Newby (left) and junior Monica McSwain take a moment from their preparations for ACT-SO nationals to pose for a picture.

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Damn Yankees are up in the ninth



Washington

Senators

gather around

to discuss the

game, and

women. The

Upstairs

production of

Damn Yankees

includes actors

(from left to

right), Michal

Simpson, Thom

Davis, and Ray

Johnson.

"PEEEEEANUTS, CRAAAAAACKER JAAAAACKS." After a few rounds with no business, he finally interrupted his call to inform the audience that, "I am REEAL."

And what would a baseball game be without the singing of the National Anthem? The entire audience rose and turned to Old Glory and sang with the same earnestness as the cast.

Damn Yankees is showing at the Upstairs Dinner Theater until June 4.

This delightful stage production includes the talents of Central High School's own Thom Davis, senior. Thom had roles in the Central productions of *Grease*, *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*, and *The Sound of Music*. He also has appeared in many other Omaha area productions.

If you are looking for a fun and slightly obnoxious evening with a touch of that good old American feeling, *Damn Yankees* is the place to be. And if you *do* go, there is one thing to remember. Don't cheer for those damn Yankees.

Joel McCulloh

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, Chevrolet...the list of summer items that give America that flair of freedom.

And when the summer months roll around, baseball is the sport on everyone's TV screens. But it doesn't stop there.

Baseball fever has hit the Upstairs Dinner Theater with their latest production of *Damn Yankees*.

The story of how the Washington Senators steal the pennant from the Yankees revolves around the life of Joe Boyd. Boyd sells his soul to

the devil and becomes star baseball player Joe Hardy.

More of a musical than a play, *Damn Yankees* doesn't limit itself to the stage. Members of the cast wander through the audience, which includes the typical old single ladies who never are satisfied

with their seats and are always climbing over others in an attempt to get comfortable.

Along with the annoying old ladies is the mood-setting "peanut man." A short blonde, dressed in traditional clothing, walks the aisles hollering,

Lucas becomes redundant with Willow fantasy

Justin Kerr

"Forget all that you know, or all that you think you know..."

So begins the catch phrase to George Lucas's latest film, *Willow*. Why should we forget all that we know?

In all probability, Lucas really wishes us to forget that we have ever seen *Star Wars*, his major box-office success and impetus for spawning one of the largest toy phenomenon to date; *Willow* being basically *Star Wars* in a

swords-scorcery genre.

The protagonist, Willow Othgood, like Luke Skywalker, leaves his home on a quest to rescue a princess.

The dark queen, her death-masked, Darth Vader-like henchman general and her hordes of evil beasts hinder Willow.

Forget you ever saw Star Wars; Willow is basically Star Wars in a swords-scorcery genre.

Two brownies, the comic-relief fantasy world replacements for R2-D2 and C-3PO, a swashbuckler named Mad Martigan (basically Han Solo with a cutlass instead of a zap gun), and a host of other creatures assist him.

This movie also suggests *Star Wars* in that, if any profits at all are made at the box office, sequels will probably follow, and, if Lucas really does have a hit, we soon will be seeing small children running around with *Willow*

action figures, *Willow* magic swords and anything else toy makers may decide to dump on the pre-teens of America.

from other sagas, but failed to come up with anything terribly new or original.

If fantasy's your thing, then you will probably enjoy this movie. Lucas draws on all the classic and contemporary fantasy elements: from the Brothers Grimm to the aforementioned *Star Wars*.

Many Biblical elements also present themselves: the babe escaping death by floating down the river echoes back to the story of Moses.

It seems Lucas borrowed many, many ideas

Willow does, however, entertain, simply because it is so seldom that the film industry releases a passable fantasy film. Like most films in this genre, many things could easily have gone wrong, but Lucas seemed to be in control.

All in all, *Willow* is a good film (getting \$3.75 on the \$5.00 ratings scale), but if you hate swashbuckling adventure, magic and movies which make toy makers slobber on their shirts, then *Willow* is not for you.

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Bad breaks hurt chances of sweep Ivy leads Lady Eagles to third consecutive state track title



Chelsea O'Hara

Senior Tommy Smith begins the 300 hurdles race in District A-2 competition at Bellevue West. Smith qualified for state by placing second at districts with a time of 41.4 seconds.

Lance Grush

The Lady Eagles' track team won the Class A state Track Championship last weekend for the third straight year, while the boys team finished third for the second year in a row.

"I felt they (the girls team) probably competed the best they have all year," said Head Coach Joe McMenamin. "We scored in almost all of the events we qualified in."

95 points in state, more than double the score of the second place team

The girls' team scored 95 points in the meet, which more than doubled runner-up Lincoln High's score of 44

points. The team won gold medals in six of the fifteen events with senior Mallery Ivy leading the way with four gold medals, bringing her career total to fourteen.

Senior Heather Jones won the 100 high hurdles while setting a new state record with a time of 14.88 seconds. Jones and sophomore Kim Osler had been extremely close all year long with Osler barely defeating Jones at the District Meet.

"I felt Heather had a little bit of an edge since she had the experience of competing at state last year," commented McMenamin. "They both ran extremely well."

The girls' 400 meter relay team also broke a state record with a time of 48.42 seconds. The team consisted of seniors Ivy and Delicia Edwards, sophomore Teresa Watson, and freshman Tiffany Phillips.

Several young team members placed high in the several events at the state meet Saturday. Watson won fourth in the 100, Osler in the 100 high hurdles, and Angie Green in the 400 are a few.

Green, who placed second in the 400 behind Ivy, said "I ran the best time that I ever have in the 400." She also said "I felt good about the team's performance. I knew that we'd win because we didn't lose too many from last year's team."

Green also competed on the varsity team last year as a freshman.

Junior April Morris, who owns several state powerlifting records, gave the Lady Eagles points in the field events by placing fourth in the shot put and fifth in the discus.

The field events had to be moved indoors (at Boys Town) because of the heavy rains which delayed the meet on Saturday for 45 minutes. Morris had already had "a great throw" in the shot, according to Coach McMenamin, when they decided to move it indoors.

"The weather conditions were kind of bad," commented Morris. "If it would have stayed outdoors I feel I would've done better." Morris had hoped to defeat Amy Paulsen of Norfolk, who took the gold in the shot put and the discus.

"My goal was to beat Amy Paulsen. It really kind of hurt me when we changed locations," added Morris.

Calvin Jones' injury hindered boys' relay team

The boys team suffered a major blow to its title hopes when sophomore Calvin Jones suffered an injury to his hip shortly after he began his leg (the second leg) of the 400 meter relay. McMenamin said that the injury "was really a blow to our title hopes."

The Eagles 400 meter relay team had the best time in the state going into the meet, a 42.7, which they had done twice. "It really made a major difference in the meet," added Coach McMenamin.

Jones had qualified for the finals in the 100 and 200 meter races, which he was unable to compete in because of the injury. "Calvin had defeated James Hunter in his heat on Friday," said McMenamin.

"He probably would've placed in both the 100 and 200," added McMenamin. The team still finished third in their heat, but was disqualified because of a technicality.

"We really had an outstanding year, both boys and girls."

"They disqualified us because the third leg of the relay went back too far to get the baton," said McMenamin. Chambers went back to take the baton from Jones, when he

saw that he was injured and limping. "It was good thinking and heads up play by David," added McMenamin, "but I guess he went back a little too far."

Seniors Jim Martin and Dan Stillmock led the boys team by winning gold medals in the 3200 meter run and shot put, respectively. Martin also placed fifth in the 1600 meter run, while Stillmock placed third in the discus.

"Dan and Jody both threw well," said McMenamin. Senior Jody Sharpe placed sixth in the discus competition with a throw of 164 feet, 10 inches.

"I just think we really had an outstanding year, both the boys and girls," said McMenamin. "Without a couple of bad breaks we could've won both state titles. They really competed well."



Jill Ogden

Senior Heather Jones practices running the high hurdles on Central's track. Jones won the gold medal (at state) in the 100 high hurdles by breaking the state record last Saturday with a time of 14.88 seconds.

Ivy concludes career at Central with four gold medal performance at state

Lance Grush

Senior Mallery Ivy's high school track career came to a close with the conclusion of the state track meet last weekend in which she won four gold medals, raising her career total to fourteen.

Ivy said she is overall pleased with her career at Central. "I'm pleased with it," she said. "A lot of the goals and accomplishments I had set for myself I accomplished."

...went to Memphis, Tennessee during (spring) vacation...

Ivy was lowering her times in the 100, 200, and 400 at nearly every meet until

Spring Break. Ivy's family went to Memphis, Tennessee during the vacation to visit relatives.

"I didn't know how much it would affect her."

One of her cousins had the chicken pox and Mallery later came down with them after returning to Omaha. She missed over three weeks of conditioning while she had the virus.

"I didn't know how much it (missing three weeks of training) would affect her," commented Head Track Coach Joe McMenamin. "She ended up breaking two state records. She really had a good meet."

Ivy has swept the gold



Chelsea O'Hara

Senior Mallery Ivy won four gold medals Saturday to raise her high school total to fourteen.

medals in the 100 and 200 meter runs all four years she has been at Central. She also

has swept the 400 meter run the past two years, and won all of her other medals in relay events.

Mallery first started competing in track when she was six years old. "I ran for Midwest Striders Track Club (from six years old) up until last summer," said Ivy.

She added, "I was thinking about running for Central in eighth grade, but that would have made me ineligible my senior year." The NSAA rule states that an athlete can

"...I was pretty satisfied with my times."

only participate in high school athletics for four years.

Ivy feels that her senior year was pretty successful considering that she caught the chicken pox. "Before I got the chicken pox I was pretty satisfied with my times," said Ivy.

"Mallery had the best meet she's ever had."

"My times dropped every time when I first tried to come back (for conditioning)," added Ivy. "I guess with the exception of being sick, it was a pretty successful year."

When asked about Ivy's performance at state, Coach McMenamin said "Mallery had the best meet she's ever had. She capped off a great four years."